

## *Δεφινιτε Σιγν Ποστο Οφ Τηε Ενδ*

Gene Hawkins

“The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, .....and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.....and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more....” Isa. 2:1-5

These verses are truly marvelous, wherein we are given a brief glimpse into the future. Isaiah informs us that the temple at Jerusalem is to be restored and will become the gathering center, both for Israel and the nations, as they are drawn to this special mountain desiring instruction, to walk in His Ways. Neither shall those nations “learn war any more.” It is rather interesting that The Church proclaims, rather loudly today, that their efforts are going to produce this glorious state before Jesus comes again. Some are under the illusion that they will bring the nations to repentance and present them to Christ on a “silver platter.” However, the rest of this chapter details the tremendous difficulty that Israel, and the world, will go through because of the attitudes of pride and arrogance summed up in verses 11-12. “The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low.” This is the overall atmosphere of rebellion against God which requires the drastic measures of the great tribulation. If the whole world were brought to their knees before the return of Jesus, as some proclaim, there would be no need for the tribulation period at all. But alas, such is not the

case, and Daniel gives us some specifics as to how the world is drawn into judgment rather than deliverance. His vision, described in chapter seven, seems to record “moving pictures,” of rapidly changing scenes, as the prophet “...beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.” Dan. 7:9-10 The thrones, which were “cast down,” literally means that thrones were “hurled down, (causing to fall).” The word also indicates that such thrones were “set up,” (“imposed”), and this meaning seems a clear reference to the thrones “set up” for the 24 elders who will reign with Christ, (Rev. 4-5). Those thrones which are “hurled down” are none other than those occupied by the leaders of nations on the earth, thrones that will be brought down, when Jesus is crowned King of kings and Lord of lords in heaven. This simply tells us that the moment Jesus is officially enthroned in heaven, every earthly power will be ruling in usurpation. Their own pride and arrogance will not allow them to fall on their faces and accept His sovereignty and therefore the “fiery flame” of judgment and “his wheels of burning fire,” will speedily demonstrate His wrath against all unrighteousness during the tribulation period. This fullness of wrath must run its course before the world realizes the beautiful utopia described in our opening text.

Isaiah tells us emphatically that the temple will be the gathering center, not only for Israel, but also for the world during the millennial reign of Christ. Jerusalem will be the capital of only one nation, rather than the two being proposed at the present time.

News items outlining the desires and proposals of men today would contradict Isaiah’s prophecy, but God’s Word is true and will ultimately be fulfilled. The tribulation period will produce God’s purposes but current reports out of Israel tell us there is a long way to go before they are brought to fruition. One recent article in WorldNetDaily, portrays an almost unbelievable scenario with the following headline: **“Muslim Leader Wants Temple Rebuilt.”** This article continues: “In a historically unprecedented development, a

famous Turkish Muslim leader and a prominent group of Israeli rabbis have joined together on one of their declared goals, to rebuild the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. Adnan Oktar, who uses the pen name of Harun Yahya, is a controversial but highly influential Muslim intellectual and author with over 65 million of his books in circulation worldwide. Oktar recently met with three representatives from the re-established Jewish Sanhedrin, a group of 71 Orthodox rabbis and scholars from Israel, to discuss how religious Muslims, Jews and Christians can work together. An official statement about the meeting has been published on the Sanhedrin's website. Concluding the statement is the following call: Out of a sense of collective responsibility for world peace and for all humanity, we have found it timely to call to the world and exclaim that there is a way out for all peoples. It is etched in a call to all humanity: We are all the sons of one father, the descendants of Adam, and all humanity is but a single family. Peace among nations will be achieved through building the house of G-d, where all peoples will serve as foreseen by King Solomon in his prayers at the dedication of the First Holy Temple. Come let us love and respect one another, and love and honor and hold our heavenly Father in awe. Let us establish a house of prayer in His name in order to worship and serve Him together, for the sake of His great compassion. He surely does not want the blood of His creations spilled, but prefers love and peace among all mankind. We pray to the Almighty Creator, that you hearken to our Call. Together – each according to his or her ability – we shall work towards the building of the House of Prayer for All Nations on the Temple Mount in peace and mutual understanding.”

Over the years, we have heard a number of reports in regard to the building of the temple. One report, which was later revealed to be erroneous, announced that materials were already being gathered for it. Others have voiced concern over the time it would take for such a project, but “During his meeting with the Sanhedrin rabbis, Oktar expressed his belief that the Temple could be rebuilt in one year: It could be done in a year at most. It could be built to the same perfection and

beauty. The Torah says it was built in 13 years, if I remember correctly. It could be rebuilt in a year in its perfect form”

The temple announced by Isaiah will not be the one described here, and we would note in all the rhetoric of these men, proclaiming a “way out for all peoples,” there is not one word in regard to Christ and His Redemption, which is a prerequisite for establishing the True Temple. These reports simply set forth the proposals of men and it remains unclear as to whether the desires of Mr. Oktar and the Sanhedrin will ever come to pass.

We do wonder if perhaps these developments might contribute to certain aspects of end time prophecy, especially in regard to the taking away of the daily sacrifice. Daniel clearly defines that cessation as THE EVENT, which will provide the catalyst to initiate the judgments to be poured out during the awful week of Daniel 9:27. Scripture is very specific announcing that there will be exactly 1290 days from the time the daily sacrifice is eliminated to the midst of the week. Dan. 12:11 Since the first half of the tribulation period lasts 1260 days, the evening sacrifice will be taken away 30 days prior to the beginning of that seven year period.

The great question today is whether or not this special sacrifice is even now being offered. If it is, it surely has not been publicized. The closest thing, we have heard, is that there was a “blood sacrifice” made of the paschal lamb when Israel celebrated the Passover. It was extremely controlled, as animal rights advocates demanded that the animal be “sedated” prior to being killed. However, in view of the statements made above, and those made politically in recent months regarding a “two-state” Jerusalem, we would wonder if such “religious considerations” might be among the negotiating points and compromises made to bring about a peace agreement in the middle east.

We would also note, that while some have concluded Israel must have a temple to offer the daily sacrifice, we do have record that they “builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon,” **before** the temple was rebuilt under the leadership of Ezra after the Babylonish captivity. Ezra 3:3

If indeed the temple will be rebuilt in hopes of restoring the daily sacrifice, recent reports would certainly discourage any immediate realization of it. The Associated Press reported on October 26, 2009, that “Hundreds of Israeli police are patrolling Jerusalem's most volatile shrine, a day after fierce clashes with Palestinian protesters. The hilltop compound claimed by both Arabs and Jews was quiet Monday, but there was a massive police presence on high alert. On Sunday, officers armed with batons and stun grenades faced off against masked Palestinians hurling rocks and plastic chairs. Conflicting claims to the plateau, known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, lie at the heart of the Israel-Palestinian conflict. In the past, even low-level scuffles there have degenerated into drawn-out conflicts. Israel has controlled the site since 1967, but has left day-to-day administration to a Muslim clerical body.”

‘Harretz’, reporting on the same incident states: Following a conflagration of violence at Temple Mount in Jerusalem on Sunday, Hamas political leader Khaled Meshal declared that "Jerusalem's fate will be decided with jihad (holy war) and resistance, and not negotiations." Jordan’s Minister of State for Media Affairs and Communication Nabil Sharif said in a statement. "Jordan, out of its historical responsibilities in being the custodian of the holy places in Jerusalem is extremely worried about what is taking place and warns against going ahead with this provocative behavior on the part of Israeli troops," Sharif also urged "an immediate end to such dangerous practices which threaten to derail all opportunities of peace and stability in the region.”

Thus the conflict and unrest continues as both Jews and Muslims lay claim to this hallowed site. Political and religious leaders are working feverishly to solve the major problems surrounding the difficulty in bringing these religious factions together, and while some Christians may be waiting for some “sure” sign to get ready to depart out of this world, we are plainly told that our lives are actually to be “consumed” with the desire for Jesus’ return. We must understand that we cannot wait for any sign, such as the taking away of the daily sacrifice, to prepare our hearts for sudden departure. Scripture

does not tell us that He will come for the select group known as the bride of Christ, at the exact time this ritual is removed from Israel's observance, and it could very well be that she is transported out of this world before it even begins.

Ours is not to know exactly when,  
But hold our watch for His coming again.

It is high time that men should realize the urgency of our day and heed the multiple admonitions Paul gave in I Thess. 5:1-6 "But of the times and the 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....when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them,.....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,..... not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch.....For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.....let us, who are of the day, be sober, ....For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, ..... that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." Paul designates two specific groups here, as he differentiates between "ye, we, and us" and they, them, and others." Those with whom the apostle would identify, are designated as children of light, sober, awake, of the day, with perfect knowledge that Jesus is coming. The other group, who are also Christians for they are only sleeping rather than being dead in trespasses and sins, seem to be completely oblivious to the signs manifest all around them. We must choose NOW, the company of which we will be a part!

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- \* Reputation is what others think you are: character is what God knows you are.
- \* We may face situations beyond our reserves, but never beyond God's resources.

## WHAT IF JESUS HAD NOT COME?

Paul N. Smith

*“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” -- Luke 2:8-14*

These words will be read, quoted, and sung over and over during this Christmas season, yet with all the repetition, they will never lose their significance or glory. The Lord chose to announce the birth of the Savior to a few lonely shepherds. He did not choose the town herald, or any of the religious groups. These shepherds were “highly favored!” How did they react? Immediately they said, “Let us go at once.” The Message of the angels moved them, it does the same for us today. Our hearts are stirred at every mention of that special night when Jesus was born.

THERE ARE A FEW SHEPHERDS AND SHEEP NOW ABIDING IN THEIR OWN FIELDS WHO WILL HEAR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS RETURN! The sheep in that long ago time also saw the light and heard the sound, but could not really appreciate the event. Not so today. All those who are looking for Jesus to come, shepherds and sheep alike, will hear the voice of the Savior.

What a glorious parallel! The Lord chose not to tell this wonderful news to the high priest, or elders, or the scribes. They were in no spiritual condition to understand the meaning. They were not expecting the Messiah to come in such a humble way; in fact, they were not expecting the Messiah at all! A similar situation exists now. The Lord Jesus Christ is coming

again, but how many are really looking for Him to come today? Will He announce Himself to the heads of the world? Will He send an ambassador to the U.N. telling the leaders of a coming King? No, indeed! His voice will be heard by a few “shepherds and sheep” alone on the hill sides of Christianity. They will be “outside the city,” away from the camp of religious activity.

But what a wonderful Message they will hear! The time will come when they will be able to glorify the Lord as he deserves. Christ’s second coming will herald the day of promised peace to this strife-torn world. Good will toward men will be seen then. A happy day awaits the few who watch the skies, for we never know what strange and wonderful sights we may behold.

THE RELIGIOUS WORLD IS NOT WATCHING FOR THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. They are oblivious to this cardinal truth, which Christians hold dear. Organized Christianity has sunk down to its lowest ebb since the beginning of the Church. You may ask, “what about the dark ages?” That was a low spot in the history of the Church, but only because the Scriptures had been hidden from the people. The Gospel is freely preached today in every conceivable manner, and yet, many church members do not believe in the literal return of Jesus Christ. Most religious people are unaware of the nearness of His return. They are sitting in the devil’s lap, listening to his words of deception and blasphemy. They have a name that signifies they are alive (Christian), but in reality they are dead. They boast in their attainments, riches and power, but the Lord’s emphatic declaration of them is: “Thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked” - Revelation 3:17. Millions of professed Christians are being led into that great amalgamation of iniquity known as the “World Council of Churches.”

THIS TIME OF YEAR AFFORDS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS TO THE TRUTH. The attention of the world is being focused on this special day. Hearts are more mellow, and perhaps the Scriptures will make an impression on them. The Word of God speaks louder and more effectively than fancy verses and decoration. The



Scriptures reach the tender spots in the hearts of men. We can avoid the excessiveness of commercialism and enter into the joyous celebration of our Lord and Savior. We can make the earth ring with our praises, as did the heavenly host on the hillside outside Bethlehem.

WHAT IF CHRIST HAD NOT COME! HAVE YOU PONDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF CHRIST WAS ENTIRELY OUT OF YOUR LIVES? The world was in darkness before Jesus was born. There had been no open vision or prophecy for some 400 years. The prophets had foretold the coming of the Messiah, but there were only a very few who still believed their words. What would have happened if the prophecies had been left unfulfilled? It would indicate that either God could change His mind, or else Satan had resisted His purposes too strongly. It would have meant that God was unable to keep His promises! Unthinkable, of course! But it emphasizes the importance of the birth of that little Baby in Bethlehem.

IF CHRIST HAD NOT COME, WE WOULD HAVE NO NEW TESTAMENT. We would not be able to read the beautiful and stirring account of the birth of the Savior. We would not have the touching scene of Simeon lifting the Baby Jesus in his arms and praising the Father -- "Lord, now let Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word; for my eyes have seen Thy Salvation!" - Luke 2:29-30.

We would not be able to read of the powerful and effective ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. We could not have known the love and compassion of God, which were manifested in His Son. We could not have seen him weep with Martha and Mary when their brother Lazarus died. We could not have felt His tender compassion as He touched the bier that held the widow's only son. We could not have known the power that flowed through Him as the woman touched the hem of His garment. We could not have known His justice in dealing with men, if he had not stooped on the ground and written in the dust with His finger and forgiven the sinner who wanted forgiveness. We could not have known His concern for each lost soul searching for the Truth, if He had not sat on the well and spoken to the woman who came to draw water.

We could not have understood the meaning of Christian servitude, if He had not illustrated its beauties in many ways, but none more revealing than at the last supper when He knelt and washed the disciples' feet. We could not have known the agony one could feel, if we were unable to read of His battle in Gethsemane. We could not know how important His decision was there when He cried in agony and yet peaceful resignation, "Nevertheless, not as I will..." We could not know divine forgiveness if we had not heard Him as He hung on the cross, suffering from the physical mistreatment and rejection of His own countrymen, cry out to heaven, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

He knew what he was doing and why He had been born into the world. He knew that it was the only way to atone for mankind's sin. The Father's will was His will, and nothing could stop Him from going all the way, even to the cursed death of the cross. He bore all our sins, paid all our debt to God, and appeased the wrath of a Just God.

**THINK OF THE CONSEQUENCES IF CHRIST HAD NOT COME!** The world does not realize just how important the coming of Christ was. His birth was a great step in God's plan for humanity. Nothing could go wrong or the whole plan was worthless. The right maiden had to be found; the right husband for her, who would understand God's strange ways. The stable had to be ready, the inn had to be overcrowded, the shepherds had to be on the hillside, the heavenly host had to be ready. *All was in order*, and the Blessed Event took place!

The next great step was His earthly walk. The world could not stop Him, the flesh could not interrupt nor distract His steady march, the devil could not defeat Him. He strode straight to the Cross, where atonement was made. His second coming to this world and subsequent reign are dependent on His first coming. We cannot entertain the hope of His soon appearing without commemorating His birth.

**IF CHRIST HAD NOT COME, WHAT WOULD WORLD CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN LIKE?** Sin has all but wrecked the world, even after two thousand years of Christian influence. It staggers the imagination to try to conceive to what lengths man would have already gone without Christ.

There would have been judgments far greater than what the world has already experienced. Men would have already destroyed themselves and the planet on which they live.

There would be no joy in the world today if Christ had not come. There would be no singing the praises of the Lord; there would be no smiles on faces, no laughing children. There would be no place of worship, no praying, no praising the Lord for all He has done. There would be no surging expectancy in the hearts of Christians of Jesus' return. There would be no hope, no faith, no love. There would be no reason to read Paul's Epistles, for they would not have been written. He would have died still Saul of Tarsus, the Pharisee and hypocrite. We could not read of the thrilling glimpse into the future through John on Patmos, because there would be no Judge gloriously arrayed, there would be no golden throne, no wedding supper, if Christ had not come.

**BUT CHRIST DID COME AND WE ARE HAPPY!**

He came in fulfillment of the Scriptures, despite the combined opposition of Satan and men. By coming into the world as a human being, He proved the infallibility of God's Word. He established God's throne of Justice forever. Not one jot or tittle of God's Word will ever be deleted, because He came as foretold. Our hearts tell us that He lives today. Our spirits testify that what God has promised He is able to perform. Our souls tell us that Jesus loves us and longs to return for His waiting ones. We know that Jesus is coming again because He came the first time. We have no reason to ever doubt that Jesus will return. And the signs all point to the nearness of that Advent.

Our spirits are sobered somewhat by the fact of so many young men and women serving in foreign lands just as the Christmas season arrives. We wish for peace in this world, but more importantly, peace in every heart. If each individual had God's peace in his heart, there would be no need for armies and weapons and peace-keepers and war. The dove of peace has not yet landed in Israel. The raging waters of hate and murder still wash over the land of Palestine, and there is no resting place for that gentle creature in that land of terrorism.

LET US LIFT OUR HEADS FOR OUR REDEMPTION DRAWS NEAR. Let us shout and laugh, let us shake off the lethargy and stiffness and give our whole being to the praising of God. Let us reach out to the sinner and tell him why we are so joyful. Let us tell each other that there is no reason to be worried about anything. Let us demonstrate that the excesses of this season do not touch us. We have been freed to worship our Savior. If the world chooses this time for their empty frivolity, we can outdo them in worship and yielded-ness to God.

What a joy to be in the presence of His love. Since Jesus came, we can walk with Him, talk with Him and obey Him. We have never seen Him, yet we know Him. We have never talked with Him face to face, yet we have wonderful fellowship together. We will know Him when we see Him. There will be no need for "St. Peter" or an angel to point Him out to us. Our hearts will tell us who He is. Our eyes will have their earthly scales removed and we will really see! We will be held in His eternal embrace. We are in a hurry for that day to come, but we must wait for Him. And we will!

#### HIS WILL BE DONE

*"His will be done," we say with sighs and trembling.  
Expecting trial, bitter loss and tears;  
And then how doth He answer us with blessings  
In sweet rebuking of our faithless fears.*

*God's will is peace and plenty, and the power  
To be and have the best that He can give,  
A mind to serve Him and a heart to love Him,  
The faith to die with, and the strength to live.*

*It means for us all good, all grace, all glory,  
His kingdom coming and on earth begun,  
Why should we fear to say: "His will--His righteous,  
His tender, loving, joyous will--be done"?*  
-- Annie Johnson Flint

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## COMING GLORIES

*“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 8:18)*

The glory of God is one object of the Christian hope. “.....wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” - Romans 5:2. “Christ in you the hope of glory” - Col. 1:27. “The salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory” - II Tim. 2:10. These are a few of the words of God upon which we may base our hope of glory, a glory more glorious than any earthly glory. In what does the glory of God consist? How is it realized?

1. The Glorious Coming of Christ. “The Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father, with His angels.” “He shall come in His own glory.” “They shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” “The Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him.” See also Titus 2:11-14; I Thess. 2:19, and 4:13-18.

2. The Glorious Resurrection and Translation. “So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory” - I Cor. 15:42-43. “We look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change the body of our humiliation that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body” - Phil. 3:20-21. “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” - Col. 3:3. “As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness, I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness” - Psalm 17:15. See also I Cor. 15:49; I John 3:1-3.

3. The Glorified Earth. “Let the whole earth be filled with His glory” - Psalm 72:19. “But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord” - Numbers 14:21. “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” - II Peter 3:13. See Rev. 21:1-15; 22:1-5.

4. The Glorious City. “And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as

a bride adorned for her husband” - Rev. 21:2. “Having the glory of God....and the city had no need of the sun....”- Rev. 21:11-23.

*There is the city in splendor sublime;  
O how its turrets and battlements shine!  
Pearls are its portals, surprising bright,  
Jasper its walls, and the Lamb is its light;  
Angels stand beck'ning us onward to share  
Glory unfading -- we long to be there.*

5. The Glorious Reign. “If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him” - II Tim. 2:12. “And the seventh angel sounded, and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever” - Rev. 11:5. See Daniel 2:44; 7:27; Luke 1:32-33; I Cor. 15:24-28.

-- W. S. Bowden

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### **CHRISTMAS WITHOUT CHRIST**

*Christmas without Christ to me is a dismal day.  
E'en the bright tinsel'd make-believe turns to a somber gray.  
There is no meaning to this season of the year,  
If Christ is forgotten midst its gaiety and cheer.*

*Christmas without Christ! The cold winter winds'd sweep down  
And chill the bones and squash the soul, furrow brows in frown,  
But the timeless, cheering story in God's faithful Word,  
By shepherd's and regents great, its message still is heard.*

*Christmas without Christ leaves a void that naught can fill.  
No wine, no song, no gift however great can bring a thrill  
As this -- “Unto you a Savior is born this day.”  
This brings peace to sad hearts and bids joy to stay.*

*Christmas without Christ. Unthinkable! Yet 'tis true  
That some will celebrate the day, unsaved. If they knew  
The joy that Christ our risen Lord alone, could bring,  
They, too, would leave their gloom and lift glad voice to sing.  
Paul N. Smith*

**BRIGHTEST AND BEST  
OF THE SONS OF THE MORNING**

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid!  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid!

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Say, shall we yield Him costly devotion,  
Odors of Edom and offerings divine,  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure;  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

-- Reginald Heber

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- \* "When I look back on my worries, I remember the story of the old man who said on his deathbed that he had had a lot of trouble in his life -- most of which never happened." (Winston Churchill)
- \* You cannot be envious and happy at the same time.
- \* A gossip is a fool with a keen sense of rumor.
- \* When you throw mud, you are always left with dirt on your hands.
- \* We will have no interest in worship if we have nothing invested.
- \* It is hard to get ahead if you spend all your time getting even.

# Editorial December 2009

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” Matt. 1:24

There are a number of Names ascribed to Jesus, each indentifying Who He was and what He had come to do. Our present text specifically calls Him, Emmanuel, meaning “God with Us,” and it has a marvelous personal application for our own individual lives. It is a glorious fulfillment of Isaiah 9: 6. “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah, like Matthew, also makes this passage very personal, declaring “...unto Us a child is born and unto US a son is given:...” We know that Jesus came in obedience to accomplish the overall plan and purpose of His Father, some of which will not be completed until after the Millennium. However, He also came specifically for US, and Isaiah actually offers varying degrees of that benefit. So much of the world will be concentrating just on the “babe” or the “child” that is born, but it is imperative to our spiritual growth that we do not hold Him forever in that state. Luke 2 is a record of Mary and Joseph bringing the Infant Jesus into the temple to be “presented unto the Lord.” A man named Simeon, described as being “...just and devout,” a man who was “waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him,” recognized Who He Was and what He had come to do. “And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.” Though He was only a Small Child, Simeon knew that He was “thy salvation.” V. 30 Furthermore, “...Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” Just as Simeon saw God's Plan of redemption in this “small Bundle of Glory,” so we too





## Lessons in **HEBREWS** Continued

Ch. 10 Concluded & Ch. 11 part one

**Fourth. Solemn warning**--verses 26 to 31. This warning is not to saved people; but to enlightened folk who reject God's salvation, provided through the death and resurrection of Christ. Saved people never tread the Son of God under their feet, not count the blood of Christ an unholy thing; though they may fail God - vs. 29. All men have been sanctified provisionally by Christ's death (see verse 10); but some reject that divine provision, as did the Jews, who thus insulted the Spirit of grace. They sinned willfully; that is, they turned away from clear light and powerful Holy Ghost conviction. They were made to know that Jesus Christ was God's Son, whom He sent to redeem and save them; but they deliberately, willfully walked away from "the Light of the world." They looked for another one to come and offer himself up as a sacrifice for sins; therefore, Paul said, "There remaineth no more sacrifice for sins: - vs. 26. The scathing threats of judgment and fiery indignation and the sore punishment and vengeance mentioned here are for "adversaries" of Christ and His redemption. It is exceedingly unworthy of the love and mercy of the God of grace to ascribe them to saved folk, who lose out and backslide. The Apostle quoted Deut. 32:35, in which chapter we learn God's wrath expressed against His professed people the Jews. They had provoked Him by their unbelief and rebellion, just as they did in the time of Christ and of the early church. Similar doom awaits Christendom today, because she is apostatizing. But the judgment of God will not fall upon these who are actually born again; though some may be chastised for disobedience. If they do not judge themselves, they may be condemned with the world, and to that extent be hurt of the "second death," but never see the lake of fire. The Christ-rejecters, not backsliders, "die without mercy." Indeed it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God; but when king David unwisely numbered Israel and learned his grave mistake, he exclaimed, "I am in a great strait. Let us fall now into the hand of the Lord; for His mercies are great, and let me not fall into the hand of man" - II Sam. 24:14. Jonah expresses the spirit of legality, which would consign to hell every one whom they imagine has failed the Lord. He was displeased exceedingly and very angry

because God spared Niveveh when she repented in sack-cloth and ashes. He justified his disobedience by claiming to know that God was gracious, merciful and slow to anger and of great kindness. But the Lord says, "I will render vengeance to my enemies and will reward them that hate me" - Deut. 32:41.

**Fifth. Gracious Consolation** - verses 32 to 39. These eight verses comprise three striking facts -- a looking backward, a looking forward and the walk of the just. Paul reminds his Jewish brethren of the persecutions and hardships they suffered when the Holy Spirit was poured out at Jerusalem. He remembers their kindness to him during his two years imprisonment in Caesarea - Acts 24:23-27. For taking joyfully the spoiling of their goods, they should receive a better portion and an enduring substance in heaven. Spiritual possessions never fade away and never end. They abide forever. Our Kind heavenly Father also looks back, and as a remuneration for our sufferings and toil, He is preparing a future. Therefore, Paul exclaims, "**Cast not away your confidence**, which hath great recompense of reward" - vs. 35. God will not forget His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and to the Prophets, though blindness has happened in part to Israel for the past 19 centuries. He says to those who really believe, "Ye have need of patience, that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise," that is the return and revelation of the Son of God from heaven and their restoration to the land of Canaan. Verse 37 is a quotation from Habakkuk 2, where a unique vision is recorded, which the Apostle interprets as referring directly to Christ. He is the essential feature of the vision. It will be fulfilled by His coming.

The phrase, "**for yet a little while,**" is two (dispensational) days long - Comp. Hos. 6:2 with I Pet. 3:8. The church period, as an unforeseen epoch, has come in, because Israel as a nation rejected Christ. But now, that the church is about complete and the Gentile times are about fulfilled, very soon, "He that shall come will come and will not tarry." The prophet said, "The vision is for an appointed time; but at the end, it shall speak (or it hasteth and panteth toward the end), and not lie. Though it tarry (for 2520 years), wait for it; because it will surely come; it will not tarry or delay." This is also for our comfort; for our Bridegroom must come for us before He can come as King to the Jews. This is sovereign grace. Let us believe it and receive it and rejoice in hope of

the glory of God. **“Now the just shall live by faith.”** There is scarcely a more comprehensive statement in all the Bible than this. A minor prophet uttered it first - Hab. 2:4. Then Paul, who grasped its deep and full meaning, quoted it three times. It crowns the doorway of his illimitable treatise on the Exodus of the sons of God - Rom. 1:17. It slaps legality in the face on Gal. 3:11, and hushes its cold, stern voice forever. Finally, it graces Israel's exit from this age to the next, and our exit from earth to heaven. Hallelujah! Living by faith does not mean only that preachers should live without a stipulated salary; but it means that all saved folk should live as they began to live, i.e., by faith in God and His Word.

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God” - Deut. 8:3 and Matt. 4:4. Our entire career should be one of simple trust in the Lord, not only for spiritual things, but equally for material things. They who live by faith are not so likely to be cumbered with “excess baggage.” Multiplied troubles and tangles will be missed. When gazing one day into an Oregon sky, the Holy Spirit flashed over my thirsty spirit the meaning and content of this verse, which I have since been experiencing with exquisite delight and unbounded profit. By grace through faith I was saved. By grace through faith I now live. By grace through faith I shall be translated. **“But if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him”** In at least two other places, we read that God has a soul - Judg. 10:16 and Job 23:13. It speaks of life. Paul does not here speak of drawing back from an actual experience of salvation, but from light, or conviction, as verses 26 to 31 clearly prove. He says, “We are not of those;” we who are saved are of another company altogether. “We believe to the saving of the soul.” We do not stop with an intellectual assent that Christ died for sinners. We do not simply take a stand for Christ; but we believe with the heart that Christ died for us. Yes, more. I bring it right home to myself. I am the sinner who needs a Savior, and I believe that Jesus died for me and that He is the only one who can save me. I believe with all of my heart that Jesus Christ died for my sins and was buried and that He was raised for my justification.

This point needs to be emphasized; for the modern converting machine that induces men to take a stand for Christ, as one nation would persuade others by argument to



# THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

## CHAPTER 11

**“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”** - Vs. 1. The great place, power and fruitage of faith is set forth in this chapter. The faith of God made the promised future things so real to the Old Testament saints, that it was substance to them, as if they were enjoying those future blessings. Faith was the only evidence that they should possess them some time; but it was sufficient. Faith was the root of their blessings, and their conduct was the fruit of their faith. This is therefore a marvelous portion on faith. **“For by it the elders obtained a good report.”** That was the chief thing they received, a good report of what they accomplished through faith. Sixteen elders are expressly named in this chapter. We call them the worthies of faith in the hall of fame. Sarah and Rahab are also included in the number. Each of these 16 characters stands for a certain pronounced fundamental truth, which makes the chapter exceedingly precious and valuable, indeed indispensable. Abel and Enoch extend typically from the first to the second advents of Christ, from the cross to the crown. These 16 personages cover a period of 3,000 years. From Abel to Enoch is approximately 1,000 years. From Enoch to Abraham is another 1,000 years; and from Abraham to Samuel is still another 1,000 years. Abel is the first mentioned and Samuel is the last. Abel as the Prophet whose words never fell to the ground, never failed to be effective. He also typifies Christ as High Priest.

**“Thru faith we understand”** -vs. 6. That is no small saying. We can understand God's things, spiritual things, only by faith. If we try to grasp divine truth with our heads without faith in the Holy Spirit's illumination, we get nowhere. The Scriptures speak of seven different mysteries, which cannot be solved by human logic, or learning. The Great Teacher must open our minds and open unto us the Word - Luke 24:32, 45. In Ch. 1:3 we read that God “made the worlds,” or framed the ages by His Son. Here we read, that “by faith we understand that the ages were framed by the Word of God.” My mother taught me that God made the world out of nothing; and I believed her. The modernist claims that created things sprung from an embryo, and man from a monkey. Well, who made

the embryo? Who made the monkey? Who created the infinitesimal something from which the world evolved? Thank God! He is the First, and He is the first cause. Men have no faith; and of course they understand nothing. We believe God's Word, and we have a clear understanding, "so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." No, they were made out of nothing. God spoke them into existence by His own powerful Word.

#### **Their Distinctive Place**

**ABEL, the true offerer** is to the front. Redemption is the basis of God's plan of salvation. Abel stands for redemption at the portals of the Old Testament and of the human race. Two religious lines are set before us in sharp contrast, represented by Abel and Cain. The latter brought of the fruit of the ground an offering to the Lord, the results of his own efforts. He headed the line of the religions of works, or self-effort. There was no blood in his cabbage and turnips. He refused to admit that he was a sinner and deserved to die, as his parents had taught him. He tried to worship God without bringing a sin-offering as a necessary basis of worship, and without the forgiveness of his sins. He murdered his brother Abel, which proved that he was a sinner and typically a Christ-rejector. There is no salvation for anyone of the Cain line. **"Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof;** and the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering" - Gen. 4:4. God paid no regard to Cain and his offering. Abel's offering was a real sacrifice. It foreshadowed Jesus Christ, the one only sacrifice that God could accept. Abel acknowledged by his offering that he was a transgressor by practice and sinful by nature, and that he deserved to die, which he admitted by slaying a lamb in his own stead. Christ bore his sins. He died in the death of Christ. "By faith," he offered, "by which he obtained witness that he was righteous." Christian Science (falsely so-called), Unity and all kindred cults are in the Cain line; for they deny and decry the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. We cannot be too emphatic in maintaining a clean cut and pronounced distinction between these two lines. They are as different as God and Satan; for God is the Author of the blood atonement and Satan is the author of the bloodless and devilish theory.

**ENOCK the full overcomer. "By faith Enoch was translated."** In His wondrous plan, God swept across the

ages and saw a company of people taken to heaven without dying, of which His Son should be the glorified Head. Therefore, He sovereignly chose to translate Enoch, that he should not see death. He was not translated because he lived better than his righteous contemporaries; but because he accepted God's offer to thus favor him. He pleased the Lord by his walk of faith and by his persistent hope of being caught up. Search out the seven facts in Enoch's career here, in Gen. 5 and in Jude. Enoch was a full-fledged believer and a prophet. He seemed to see the bride company coming with the Lord. Verse 6 of our lesson teaches that faith in God's Word is the controlling feature of an overcoming life. No matter how religious and active a person may be, if he does not believe and conform to the Scriptures, God is not pleased with him; **"for whatsoever is not of faith is sin"** - Rom. 14:23. "The just shall live by faith" - Ch. 10:38.

(Continued in next issue)

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### **ONE DAY TO LIVE**

*Had I but this one day to live,  
One day to love, one day to give,  
One day to work and watch and raise  
My voice to God in joyous praise,  
One day to succor those in need,  
Pour healing balm on hearts that bleed,  
Or wipe tears from sorrow's face,  
And hearten those in sad disgrace --  
I'd spend, O God, much time with Thee  
That Thou might'st plan my day for me.  
Most earnestly I'd seek to know  
The way that Thou would'st have me go,  
For Thou alone canst see the heart --  
Thou knowest man's most inward part.*

*-- Alice M. Muir*

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Our Benefit's In Christ Jesus  
Ty Robinson

“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” 2 Cor. 11:3

Seventy-four of seventy-seven Bible verses, containing the phrase "in Christ," are found in Paul's gospel! "In the Lord" is used forty-six times, and Paul records forty-two of them. The apostle writes "in Jesus" six of the seven times this statement is found in the New Testament. Many of these verses are associated with the benefits we have in Jesus Christ.

The key to begin our journey, and thus enjoy these benefits in Christ Jesus, is to first understand the importance of the little word "in." Pastor D. E. Hill noted this in his Bible, writing: "...the most vital word of all is "in," expressing the absolute impossibility of ever being, or ever doing anything in the light of eternity until we are in Him, and He in us, the Bible declaring: “..if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:...” 2 Cor. 5:17. Thus, to have any benefits at all in Christ Jesus, we first must accept Him into our hearts, as our own personal Saviour. The Philippian jailor asked Paul and Silas: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” Acts 16:30,31. Gaining salvation is just that simple, and is a part of “...*the simplicity that is in Christ.*” Peter, speaking before the Sanhedrin council in Acts 4, told of miracles done in the name of Jesus Christ, stating: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” V. 12. Paul likewise wrote in Romans 9:9 “...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” The apostle for this Church Age further instructs us: “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, ...To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Rom. 3:25-26

The experience of being born again, accepting Jesus Christ into our own individual hearts, is the beginning of a “benefit package” that really has no end! We discover initially that we “...are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus...” (Gal. 3:26) Rom.8:1,2 shouts loudly, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,...” because “.... the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death...”, while II Cor. 5:17 asserts: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” Additionally, the very moment we are saved, we should begin to realize that our benefit package contains some specific gifts of God. Rom. 6:23 notes that ...the wages of sin is death; but the Gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Thus eternal life is a free gift to those who are in Christ, bought, and fully paid for, by the precious shed blood of Jesus on the cross.

Eph. 2 further defines God’s gifts. “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ....hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,....” V. 2-10 Verse 6 and 8 plainly express the fact that even the faith we need to believe in Christ Jesus, is also a gift of God. I Tim. 1:14 also unfolds God’s Gifts as “....the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus, and Paul’s declaration in Romans 8 concludes that nothing “....shall

be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom. 8:35-39

Rom. 8:31-32 describe additional gifts, stating: “If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” In other words, since God is for us, He gave us the greatest gift of all, His only begotten Son, and in Christ Jesus He also has freely given us ALL THINGS! Paul expresses the same glorious truth in Eph. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who bath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:....”. Sheer glory awaits us as we wrap our minds around these benefits!

There are many other options in God’s benefit package in Christ, should we choose to receive them. These choices require different degrees of commitment unto our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The purpose of all these gifts is to enable us to “...grow up into him in all things..”. Eph. 4.15. This text, among many others, reveals several levels of growth of the sons of God, who are in Christ Jesus. Newborn believers are infants, “...babes in Christ”. 1 Cor. 3:1 Rom. 8:16,17 outlines precise differences in the development of the children of God, as Paul makes reference to “.....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.” Joint-heirs with Christ describe full grown mature sons of God who take full advantage of all things freely given them by God because of their faith in Christ, as noted in Rom. 8:32 above. We might not consider “suffering” a gift, but it is most assuredly a requirement of reigning with Him as a joint-heir, as His Bride. This is explained further in II Tim. 2:12 . “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him:....”

Achieving the “joint-heirship” level of growth in Christ Jesus, requires super natural help, and power, which can only come from receiving the Gift of the Holy Ghost. He is the All-important optional gift of God in Christ Jesus, that all full overcomers must receive. Jesus promise to the disciples in Acts 1:8, is also for us. “But ye shall receive

power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:..." . He was speaking of spiritual power, the kind of power that makes one strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might, (Eph. 6.10) the power that takes "...the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, to make them inherit the throne of glory:..." . 1 Sam. 2:8. Simply stated, it takes the help, and power of the Holy Ghost to take a believer in Christ, from immaturity, to the full grown level of overcoming necessary, to be a joint-heir, and part of the Bride of Christ!

Additionally, Jesus told His disciples several other benefits (if you will), of why it was important to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. First, He noted that the Holy Ghost was indeed a gift. John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever,....". He further instructs them that The Holy Ghost is "a comforter," a fact which is repeated in John 14:26. "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." This marvelous statement includes two more glorious benefits for us. (1) The Holy Ghost will teach you all things, and (2) will bring all things to your remembrance, meaning whatsoever things were said in the Word of God. An interesting study shows that more than two hundred scriptures use the phrase "all things," and many of them are specifically found in Christ Jesus. Rom. 11:36 makes this summation. "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen." Jesus also describes the Holy Ghost as The Comforter two more times, here in John. "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me ..." John 15:26. "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away. for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send him unto you." John 16:7 Both of these citations emphasize truth. Ephesians 4:2 adds: "...the truth is in Jesus." John 15:26 is only the first

of three verses, wherein Jesus Himself called The Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth. John 14:17 plainly informs us that He is the Comforter, "Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive,...". John 16:3 introduces Him as The Spirit of truth Who "...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." What a benefit the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth is, whose duties include guiding us into *all* truth, that we may fully know The Word of God, in the deepest and most intimate way; in order to apprehend Jesus! We can understand for ourselves, "...the simplicity that is in Christ;..." (2 Cor. 11:3); "...the grace that is in Christ Jesus;..." (2 Tim. 2:1); "...the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..." (Rom. 3:24) and indeed, all our benefits in Jesus Christ.

Another great benefit of receiving the Holy Ghost is found in Rom. 8:26-27. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought:....And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit,....". "He that searcheth the hearts..." is, none other than our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Jer. 17:10 and Rev. 2:23.

I Cor. 12-14 enumerate nine gifts of the Holy Ghost, given as additional benefits to the Spirit filled believer, and give instruction concerning them. The nine-fold fruit of the Spirit is found in Gal. 5:22. 23.

The above scriptures allude to one more function of the Holy Ghost, which is His most important mission during this Church Age, as He must identify those in Christ, possessing the greatest desire to achieve God's best. These are willing to follow Him through "thick and thin" as He leads them "... into all truth." They have said in their hearts, like Rebekah of old, "I will go," and are willing by faith to trust God for everything, anything, and all things; especially those things which seem impossible. These race course runners rely on the power of the Holy Ghost to

enable them to “...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus...” Phil. 3:14. Such Saints will be “...the joint-heirs with Christ...” mentioned previously, (Rom. 8:17) who are known also as the Bride of Christ, the one's who “...*hath made herself ready*..”. as noted in Rev. 19:7. How did she get ready to be the Bride of Christ? By availing herself of all things, all the benefits found in Christ!

The benefit package, we have in Christ Jesus, would not be complete without mentioning His retirement program, which is literally, out of this world! We are fully vested in it the very second we ask Jesus into our heart. Such a program has already been mentioned in Eph. 2-6, where all believers are seen, provisionally seated in the heavens in Christ. Rev. 4:6-8 describes one group “and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne..” These, known as the Bride of Christ, will reign con-jointly with Him, as noted in II Tim. 2:12 Rev. 7:9-17 describes another group of Saints in Christ before the throne, and this assembly is innumerable, called a great multitude in verse 9. This vast collection of Saints consists of those from this Church Age who have not taken full advantage of all of the benefits found in Christ Jesus as the full overcomers have done.

Now if any of this sounds too complicated, let us read again 2 Cor. 11:2, where Paul writes: “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. **But** I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” All the benefits in Christ, discussed above, are part of **...the simplicity that is in Christ**, but they must be claimed. “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:... .” Col. 2:6

# Jesus Loves Me

1860

*"That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."*  
*Ephesians 3:17-19*

Anna and Susan Warner lived in a lovely townhouse in New York City where their Father, Henry Whiting Warner, was a successful lawyer. But the "Panic" of 1837 wrecked the family's finances, forcing them to move into a ramshackle Revolutionary War-era home on Constitution Island on the Hudson, right across from the Military Academy at West Point.

Needing to contribute to the family income, Anna and Susan began writing poems and stories for publication: Anna wrote "Robinson Crusoe's Farmyard," and Susan wrote, "The Wide, Wide World." The girls thus launched parallel literary careers which; resulted in 106 publications, eighteen of them co-authored. One of their most successful joint projects was a novel titled 'Say and Seal' in which a little boy named Johnny Fox is dying. His Sunday School teacher, John Linden, comforts him by taking him in his arms, rocking him, and making up a little song: "Jesus loves me; this I know, for the Bible tells me so ...."

The novel became a best seller, second only to 'Uncle Tom's Cabin;' and when hymn writer William Bradbury read the words of John Linden's little song (written by Anna), he composed a childlike musical score to go along with them. "Jesus Loves Me," soon became the best-known children's hymn on earth.

Despite their success, the Warner sisters never seemed able to recover from the staggering financial reverses of 1836. Years later a friend wrote, "One day when sitting with Miss Anna in the old living room she took from one of the cases a

shell so delicate that it looked like lace work and holding it in her hand, with eyes dimmed with tears, she said, ‘There was a time when I was very perplexed, bills were unpaid, necessities must be had, and someone sent me this exquisite thing. As I held it, I realized that if God could make this beautiful home for a little creature, He would take care of me.’” For forty years, Susan and Anna conducted Bible classes for cadets at West Point, and both were buried with full military honors. They are the only civilians buried in the military cemetery at West Point. To this day, their home on Constitution Island is maintained by West Point as a museum to their memory.

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### MY TREASURE

*I've a Treasure more precious than silver -  
God's love that's been shed in my heart;  
Each day He's becoming more precious -  
More real than He was at the start.*

*As I sit at His feet as did Mary  
And feast in His words so Divine,  
I become more acquainted with Jesus -  
More sure that my Savior is mine.*

*This Treasure more precious than silver,  
More precious than finest of gold,  
Has shown me the wealth of "His Spirit,"  
That's why I have made Him my goal.*

*And, oh, how I seek to obey Him,  
And never to grieve Him again.  
He surely deserves our attention  
For He is our true loving Friend.*

*- Mary Rice Monroe -*

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