



By Gene Hawkins

“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye

may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” II Pet. 3:1-4

God committed the governmental affairs of this world into the hands of the Gentiles in 606 B.C. when He ordained Nebuchadnezzar as the leader of the first world empire. Since that time, three empires have come and gone and we are now in the final days of the fourth. This same Roman regime was in power when Jesus walked the earth, and today we are witnessing its revival, just prior to the time when Gentile times will come to an abrupt halt as seen in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream image. This first monarch had watched his dream image unfold “..... till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.” Dan. 2:34 Time wise, the feet and toes of this image mark the final remnants of Gentile times and we are witnessing those events today. The Stone here is none other than The Son of God, Who is very soon to crush the last vestiges of man rule and take over the affairs of this world.

Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream but God also gave him one of his own. He too saw the four world empires, but from God’s perspective they are revealed as beasts. The prophet was greatly troubled by these beasts, but was especially intrigued by the “fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and

before whom three fell;....” Dan. 7:19,20 The visions of both these men depict exactly the same time period, but we must not confuse the ten toes which Nebuchadnezzar saw, with the ten horns that Daniel beheld. They are not the same, the reason being that the ten horns are reduced to seven, while the ten toes remain intact, and correspond with the ten kings who will reign only “one hour” with the beast and destroy “the whore” in Rev. 17:12-16. The ten horns speak of a ten nation coalition that will be reduced to seven and we are surely approaching the time when that bloc of nations will emerge. It is very likely, in view of the global economic crisis that these nations will be joined together by a common financial bond, and thus we see them keeping a watchful eye on one another’s monetary system. It is easy to see how one ambitious nation could assume dominion over another, using money as leverage.

We are now in the last of the last days prophesied in scripture. Peter announced “the last days” at the beginning of the Church Age on the Day of Pentecost. Acts 2:17 Our present text describes the general climate of this world at the end of the age, the foot portion of Gentile Times, as that of “scoffers (mockers) walking after their own lusts”, indeed a lust for power, with a total denial of the soon coming King of kings. Such a lust prevails in this country and around the world as men literally clamor to exercise dominion over one another. Recent congressional elections in the U.S. have changed the balance of power and news media are filled with assertions that major changes will be forthcoming to “restore” America, and “take back our country.” Newly elected senators and house representatives, many from the “tea party” movement, are filled with hope and enthusiasm that they will be able to repeal some of the laws, such as health care reform, that have already been implemented. Some reluctantly agree that many proposals designed to jump start the staggering economy, may have a very long term and negative impact on certain groups or individuals, but the ray of hope they offer is that these changes will not be fully realized until 2050. This is in fact another way of saying “where is the promise of His coming?” It supposes that this world will continue indefinitely, but that idea is an absolute myth in light of God’s Word. We can, and must,

pray earnestly that God will indeed provide for His Own during these times when government policies have made life very difficult for the masses, and if He uses this new congress to bring relief to a very staggering economy, we must rejoice because we know that He had a definite purpose in mind when He put these individuals into such a place of power. However, let us also be very much aware of the fact that many of the policies implemented in this country and around the world are not going to be repealed because they have been designed to bring about the one world government prophesied by scripture.

Men today are following the same pattern as those present when Jesus came as that Tiny Infant at His first advent. There were very few who were looking for that blessed event, even though scripture had prophesied in ages past, that “a virgin shall conceive and bear a son...” (Isa. 7:14) and The Promised Redeemer would surely come. Likewise, the scoffers to whom Peter refers, reject “the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:” choosing rather to pursue plans and purposes for their own lives, and the affairs of this world. These thoughts and intentions are in no wise limited to the political leaders of our day. Christendom itself acts as though the coming of Jesus is only a myth that may perhaps come to pass at some distant future time. Multitudes of religious leaders continue to assert their intention to “revive” the world and present it as a gift to Jesus, but that is extremely unscriptural. The scene painted by Peter, along with many other citations, in no wise conveys such a message. It rather tells of gross unbelief, as men repeat the atmosphere which prevailed in Judges 21:25 when “.... there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” So today, just prior to the time when The King will appear, men have chosen to pursue their own political and religious lusts and purposes, rather than listen to the counsel, warnings, and instruction of God’s Word.

Jude likewise announces the day of the mocker. “These are murmurers, complainers,and their mouth speaketh great swelling words,..... But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord

Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.” V. 16-18 “These” is a reference to the enemies of “the faith” (V. 3) recorded throughout this chapter. Jude presents a whole catalog of indictments against them, just a few of which are seen in the following list. They are described as “...ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” V. 4 They are declared to be “filthy dreamers” V.8, “speak evil of those things they know not V. 10, “spots in your feasts of love,” and “clouds without water” in V. 12 “These” mockers define both the political and religious systems of our day but Jude seems to enlarge on the religious connotation, as they are gathered directly against “the faith.” They can easily be described as “filthy dreamers” who defile or “stain, tinge, or dye with another color,” the blackness of the flesh. There are many in Christendom who deny the glorious truth of God’s Word and to whom these characteristics could apply, including proponents of the law who tend to “color over” the old Adamic nature. However, the gathering Muslim phenomenon sweeping this nation and the world, is especially applicable “in the last time.” V. 18 They are “spots” in genuine feasts of Divine Love for they deny the only True God. They are “clouds without water” because they have eliminated the water of The Word, with the Koran, and they are especially guilty of “denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” V. 4

Islam is the fastest growing religion of our day, and it does make an absolute mockery of all the tenet’s of “the faith,” that is “the faith of the Son of God” found only in The Word Of God. The promoters of this ungodly movement are becoming extremely aggressive in their efforts to dominate America and establish Islamic Sharia Law. Several news sources including the Huffington Post, OneNewsNow and the Oklahoman report that Oklahoma voters were stunned recently when “U.S. District Judge Vicki Miles-LaGrange used a temporary restraining order to block the state’s constitutional amendment that prohibits courts from considering international or Islamic law when deciding cases. This article goes on to

report that this suit was filed by the Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and that the organization's co-founder Omar Ahmed, "told two California newspapers in 1998 that he wanted the Koran to be the highest authority in America." The current communications director of CAIR, "Ibrahim Hooper told the Minneapolis Star Tribune in 1993 that he hoped America's government would be Islamic sometime in the future."

Then there is this item from the Associated Press. "MURFREESBORO, TN. - A judge refused Wednesday to stop construction of a proposed mosque in Tennessee that was opposed by some local residents who tried to argue that there was a conspiracy by Muslims to impose extremist law on the United States. Rutherford County Chancellor Robert Corlew ruled after closing arguments that he could not find that the "county acted illegally, arbitrarily or capriciously" in approving the plan. But much of the questioning from plaintiffs' attorney Joe Brandon Jr. during seven days of testimony since late September was about whether Islam qualified as a religion. He pushed his theory that American Muslims want to replace the Constitution with extremist Islamic law."

We do not doubt that these reports and a host of others will be broadcast as these enemies of the faith persist in their quest to dominate the world both politically and religiously. If men do not have the hope of Jesus' soon coming to anchor them during these very troublous times, they will either succumb to great fear and frustration, or simply ignore the very prominent signs announcing that glorious event choosing instead to believe that "it will never happen in my lifetime."

Jude has a much better idea. "Jude 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty,
dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. V. 20-25.

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**Testimonies From 1932**

A fellow wanted to sell me a pair of shoes that he said would make me feel like **I was walking on air. I have** had that kind of shoes for fourteen years; ever since I have been saved and raised up with Christ and made to sit in heavenly places with Him.

-Joseph Yost.

I praise the Lord that when we move to the sky we will not have any pianos to move, nor any steps to climb.

- Warner Furrell.

When I was getting ready to come down here I heard the birds making a lot of noise. I did not know what it was all about; but thought they were getting ready to move. God is gathering His people together and I believe we are getting ready to move.

-E. I. Sherman.

I praise the Lord that when we move up to heaven, we will never have to pay rent. It was all paid on Calvary.

-Sister Burnett.

**COMMUNION**

Don't neglect the quiet hour  
For the soul that truly seeks  
Knows the thrill of holy power --  
Hears the Father when He speaks.

In prayer, by faith, His voice is heard;  
Our inmost soul is strongly stirred;  
All loosened cords are brought in tune,  
And we with God Himself commune.

-- J. L. Spicer

## “ABOUND IN HOPE”

Paul N. Smith

“NOW THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, THAT YE MAY ABOUND IN HOPE, THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST” - Romans 15:13

The Apostle Paul knew very well the experiences in the Christian life. So he prayed that “the God of hope” might fill us with “joy and peace in believing,” that we might “abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” We need to “abound in hope” of Jesus’ second coming.

Why is it so imperative that we believe this? Some people take this hope for granted. They affirm that Jesus is coming again, but are not concerned whether He is coming now, or a hundred years from now. He wants us to “abound in hope,” and to make it real in our lives. There are many reasons why we should believe in the second coming of Jesus Christ. He does not want us to be caught unawares of this time, as so many people will be.

“Let not our heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in Me” - John 14:1. Jesus’ words give the first reason why we should have the hope that He is coming soon. It is a cure for troubled hearts. There has never been a time when so many people’s hearts are distressed. The mental hospitals and the psychiatrists’ offices attest to this fact. If people’s hearts are troubled, their minds are disturbed. They seek many means in an attempt to straighten out their lives.

If you have a heart that is upset, if you have a heart that is filled with anxiety, here is the answer: “Let not your heart be troubled.” How could He make such a statement? “In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” He has prepared a place for everybody. There is enough room for all who will avail themselves of this opportunity. Jesus said, “Ye believe in God, believe also in Me.” Believe what Jesus is telling you, that there is room for you. Jesus went to the Cross, where He laid His life down for all humanity. He gave Himself for people whether they are rich or poor, black or white, to prepare a place for us all. And there is room for us!

Some of you do not have a home of your own. You may not own anything. Do not let that bother you. You have a mansion that is being prepared just for you, and it will suit you perfectly.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” Here is a wonderful promise. He is saying, “I will not forget you; I will come again and receive you unto Myself,” He is not going to leave us here on this earth. If Jesus says He will come again, He WILL come again, and He WILL receive us unto Himself. He does not want to be separated from us, as He says, “Where I am, there ye may be also.” Some people try to tell us that we are going to stay here on the earth. Oh, No. We are not going to stay here. The church is a heavenly people, and is going to be where Jesus is. Jesus is going to be in Heaven. He may take a trip to earth, but His residence is in Heaven. Do you have a troubled heart? Have you some anxiety in your heart? Is your future uncertain? Do not worry about it. Here is good news: “I am coming again!!”

“The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And, if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” - Romans 8:16-18. The hope of Jesus’ coming gives us strength and patience, we realize that in this Christian life there is suffering. Some of it is brought on by ourselves, by our own foolishness. Some if it is brought on because we suffer with Christ. If we did not have a hope beyond this life, we would become discouraged. Some say, “If this is all there is to the Christian life, then I do not want any of it. If all we are going to do is suffer and die, it is not worth it.” Paul is saying that the suffering of this present life cannot be compared with the glory that is going to be revealed in us. There is going to be a glory that will replace the suffering. The suffering is just for a little time, for a moment; but the glory will last forever. You cannot put both on the same scale.

“And not only they (that is, the whole creation). But ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption (that

is, our sonship), to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" - Romans 8:23-25. This hope gives us strength for suffering. Why? Because we know that this suffering will not last forever. He will also strengthen us through the trial, with the thought that perhaps He will come today. We know that He is coming soon. The signs all point to the very fact that Jesus is coming soon; and this hope gives us strength to go through a time of trial.

He gives us the patience to wait for His coming. This takes strength. We endure the trials, and we wait. Others say, "Oh, Jesus is not coming. Do you really believe that story? How do you know that He is coming?" We believe in our hearts that Jesus is coming soon. We do not let their words or attitudes bother us one bit. The spirit of the world is absolutely against every thing concerning Christ and His coming. Men's attitude today is that we are going to live forever in this world, and that it is our responsibility to change everything. Men are changing the world all right, but for the worse. It is not getting better. Anybody with even a spoonful of common sense knows that, although men are trying. What is our hope? Jesus is coming soon. That is why we need to believe it. We need that hope for the strength that it brings. We need the patience that it brings in our lives to go on and declare the Truth.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." The coming of the Lord is comfort for those who are in sorrow. We do not need to look very far to find someone who is in sorrow, or who is lost and is ready to pass over to the other side. Why does this message comfort: "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." I like the way this is translated. Those who SLEEP in Jesus, God will awaken from that sleep. He is going to lead them out of the grave. "For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout." You can depend on this happening, because it is the

Word of the Lord. How is He going to shout loud enough to be heard here in Kansas City, and also in Africa, China, and all around the world? The Holy Spirit will amplify that Voice to the hearts that are listening. "With the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" - I Thess. 4:13-17. Plainer words you could not want! We will be caught up! We are not going to be changed and then left here in this old war-torn world to go through the tribulation. I should say not! We are going to be caught up to "meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord!" Where in the air? I do not care! But it is so, nevertheless. We are going to be with the Lord forever; and as the song goes, "Where Jesus is, 'tis Heaven there."

"Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

When someone is in sorrow, this is the best way to comfort them. Jesus is coming again. When we want to send someone a note of comfort, we often do not know what to say. The best message to give them is that Jesus is coming again. He will raise the dead first. We have some dear loved ones that have gone on before us, but we will see them. They will be brought up out of the graves. We do not need to wonder how God is going to do it. He did not ask us to figure out how, He asks us to believe that He is going to do it. Some of the graves will be opened; and out of that pitiful handful of dust, God will fashion a new body. He has power that we do not even know about! He has power that we have never seen manifested. This great power has never been shown, except at Christ's resurrection.

When He comes again, all of the dead in Christ around this world who died in faith will be raised. Out of the dust of the earth, glorified bodies shall emerge; and then those of us who are alive and remain shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Together we will be caught up. Praise the Lord! Isn't that powerful? How can anyone be sorrowful and think about that? Some people are afraid to live, but are also afraid to die! We who have this hope really do not care. If we go by the way of the grave, think of the wonderful victory of being raised. Think of the victory of being alive, and realizing we are being changed. Either way would be a wonderful way to go.

But let us who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love: and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath (that is, to the day of tribulation), but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, 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" - I Thess. 5:8-11. This message is an encouragement and an edification to those who are children of the day. This message is for the people who are looking for the Lord to come. They are not of the darkness, and that day will not overtake them.

Putting on that helmet means you believe Jesus is coming soon. Do not even entertain the thought that you will be here for the tribulation. Believe that the Lord is going to take you out before that time. It is not going to bring any glory to you to say that you are going to suffer through the tribulation. Some people are looking forward to being martyrs. God has not called us to be tribulation martyrs. He has called us to be caught away with Him. He is going to keep us out of that hour of tribulation. So He says, "Wherefore comfort (encourage) one another with these words." Day by day we need encouragement. Others seek an answer to their problems, but we have the answer. This message will also edify, which means to build up. It carries the thought of building a house. We can build one another up, instead of tearing down. If someone is not walking right, the best way to speak to him is to tell him that the Lord is coming soon.

"And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself even as He is pure." - I John 3:3. "Purify" means "to prepare oneself by purification for a festival." The Children of Israel had to prepare themselves on certain feast days, or when the Lord was going to come and speak to them the Lord is preparing for us a place, and the message of the coming of the Lord will prepare us for that place. And that festival day for which the Lord is preparing us is the marriage of the Lamb.

"His wife hath made herself ready." The Bride prepares herself for His coming, by believing the Word of God. If you REALLY believe that Jesus could come today, it will change your life. It is the hope of the coming of the Lord that purifies us and makes us ready. We are going to be like Christ. He will

be satisfied with us. Oh, that we would satisfy Him! He is the One we are going to live with forever and ever.

This message grips our hearts and makes us different. It really does. We begin to walk differently, talk differently and act differently. Thank God! He is coming again and it is soon. We do not know just when, but it cannot be very long, because when the nations say "Peace and safety" then the sudden destruction comes upon the world. We will be in Heaven before they declare that peace and safety. Hallelujah!

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The Hope Of Ages Born

A Savior is born, we are told,
In poverty's vale, lone and cold.
The long-looked-for glory,
Of centuries hoary,
Has come Divine grace to unfold.

The shepherds with wonder are held;
For hopelessness now is expelled.
The promise of ages,
The hope of the sages,
Has come with a Peace unexcelled.

Oh, hear ye the angels now sing,
Announcing the birth of the King
The Son of the Highest,
Has made us the mightiest;
And in our hearts joy-bells now ring.

My friend, if He comes to your heart,
He'll save you and quench ev'ry dart.
The Man of the ages,
Your welfare engages,
And from you, will never depart. -A. S. C.

The Savior of Men

Stephen D. Eckstein

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me, that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old (mimaihaulom Heb.), from EVERLASTING” --Mic. 5:2.

The shepherd's hearts were full of longing and expectation about the coming of the Messiah. In a still night, all of a sudden an Angel appeared, surrounded by a wonderful night. The Shepherds were astonished and fear took hold of them. But an angel spoke to them and said, "Be not afraid; for behold. I bring good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" - Luke 2:10, 11. The shepherds believed and hastened to Bethlehem to see the wonder. They were overwhelmed with a spirit of exaltation for being permitted to see the marvelous grace, "which the Lord had made known to them." A babe was born in the city of Bethlehem, which was situated in an oppressed and conquered province. He was poor and "wrapped in swaddling clothes." These visible manifestations have proven the simplicity of God's wisdom and glory, and that He does not delight in the visibility of costly vesture, gold, precious stones and pomp, but in the MYSTERIOUS POVERTY.

We plainly see the glorification and matchless love of God in the fulfillment and meaning of the glowing words of the Apostle Paul, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might become rich" -2 Cor. 8:9. This miracle shows the glory of God in His condescending grace. In Jesus, we see what we shall be by following Him. We realize our shortcomings, our sinfulness and our forlorn state; but through the mercy of Christ, we may rise to become sons of God, heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. Christ as Saviour brings us redemption. "Unto you is born this day a Saviour," said the angel to the shepherds.

As pious Jews, they felt themselves more or less sinful and longed for communion with God. Behold, what great joy vibrated in the shepherd's hearts. They could not conceal their lofty thinking. To them, Christ was made known, and not only to them, but later also to the whole nation.

The high priests wanted to shut the mouths of the disciples as they proclaimed the Gospel; but they pressed themselves through, because they were without fear, being clothed with the power of God and filled with the Holy Spirit. Peter said of Jesus, "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"-Acts 4: 12. The Lord appeared as the very God, yet very Man, not only to reveal the Father, but also to give to us the life of the Father that we might become children of God and belong to the family of the living God.

We also notice that the Apostle Paul, after his conversion, became a different man and could say, "CHRIST IS MY LIFE." What wonderful and comforting words, so profound, so abiding in influence, that it still prevails in the full-overcomers. Not our will, or self-love, but Christ should dwell and reign in our thoughts and in our whole being. Such lives bear the fruit of the Spirit--love, joy, peace, of which the world knows nothing. That is the outgrowth of a union with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Those of us who grasp the significance of the miraculous birth of Christ and God's unexampled creative power, realize that those extended arms are still inviting souls to come to His saving embrace for victory over sin and for life eternal. And as the shepherds glorified and praised God, let us also with the light of triumph, exalt and praise Him, who showed His long-suffering by His past dealings with Israel, and did not cast away His people. Pray that He may speedily make them turn from darkness unto the light that is in the Saviour, who is called Christ.

(Reprint December 1932)

The Lowly Christ

They borrowed a stable and a humble table
When Christ the Lord came down.
They borrowed a share in the manger bare
For the Babe of vast renown.
And the thorny crown,
And the cross so brown,
Were borrowed too
From me and you.

They borrowed an ass, the beast of the mass,
When they fled from Herod's frown.
They borrowed a cot and a house and lot,
In an old Egyptian town.
And the thorny crown
And the cross so brown,
Were borrowed too
From me and you.

He borrowed the bread and the hungry fed;
For naught had He of His own.
He borrowed the dishes as well as the fishes,
As they sat on hill unknown.
And the thorny crown
And the cross so brown,
Were borrowed too
From me and you.

He borrowed the boat and soon put afloat;
But Peter feared they would drown.
He borrowed the power that very hour,
And made the wind slow down.
And the thorny crown
And the cross so brown,
Were borrowed too
From me and you.

They borrowed a room on the way to the doom,
And that was not His own.
They borrowed the grave which the rich man **gave**
When they took the Savior down.
And the thorny crown
And the cross so brown,
Were borrowed too
From me and you.

Mary M. Bodie

REFLECTIONS

. . . From the Editor

“And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, ...Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.” Luke 2:25-30

The first coming of Jesus was a pattern of the manner in which He will return. Very few knew that He had arrived despite the fact that Isaiah had specifically prophesied “.....Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Ch. 7:14 The above text records the fact that Simeon was looking for the Redeemer, and recognized Him when He appeared, regardless of the fact that He was disguised as this small infant. Anna likewise rejoiced because she too knew upon Whom she was gazing. Though the shepherds were not said to have been anticipating this great event, their faith did spring into action as they responded to the heavenly choir of angels and “said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.” Luke 2:15

But for the most part, men of that day were oblivious to this great event which literally changed the course of history. Herod the king could have been as much as two years late in determining that the True King had arrived, since he slaughtered innocent children two years and under just to ensure that he disposed of the One Whose Star the wise men had followed.

We too are living in days wherein Jesus will once again, drastically change the course of history, and just as He literally came as a Thief at His first advent, He will likewise

THE REMNANT PRINCIPLE

Albert C. Astle

*"For who has despised the day of small things?"
(Zechariah 4:10)*

What prompted God to ask this question of Israel? The prophet Haggai tells us: "Who is left among you who saw this house in her first glory? How do you see it now, is it not in your eyes by comparison as nothing?" (Chapter 2:3). God is drawing a comparison between Solomon's Temple and Zerubbabel's Temple. God planned Solomon's Temple to appeal to men's eyes for a reason. He planned it to be beautiful, sensational, and spectacular. People came from all over the world to behold its beauty.

Zerubbabel's Temple was just the opposite. It looked like a barn, even though they called it a tabernacle. It was made out of cedar clapboard. Clapboard is the trimming off of logs before they are cut into lumber. In Zerubbabel's day the builders took these clapboards, the cheapest kind of lumber, and built the tabernacle. So, in Haggai, God is asking Israel how they compared the two temples. He knew how they felt because He said, "Is it not in your eyes by comparison of it as nothing?" Thus the question, "Who has despised the day of small things?"

Let's call this day of small things, "GOD'S REMNANT PRINCIPLE." Even though Zerubbabel's Temple was small, according to God's remnant principle, there was something about it which made it uniquely greater than Solomon's Temple. That uniqueness is found in Haggai 2:7: ". . . I will shake all nations, and THE DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS (JESUS) SHALL COME: and I will fill this house WITH MY GLORY," saith the Lord of hosts." Also in Verse 9, Haggai says, "The glory of this latter house SHALL BE GREATER than the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts." Solomon's Temple was not built according to God's Remnant Principle, but Zerubbabel's was.

None of us is excluded from the question asked in Zechariah 4:10. Humans measure only by what their eyes can see and their ears can hear, and thus they were affected by Solomon's Temple. We all must overcome this! Israel could

not see the divine remnant principle at work in that little clapboard barn. However, the remnant principle was at work! I believe that almost all Christians do despise the day of small things. We're influenced by largeness, material grandeur, by personalities, by great oratory, and even by the tears and great dramatic skill of singers and performers. One fact establishes the remnant principle in Haggai and Zechariah, and this is the way God values spiritual success in each of our lives! This fact is in Haggai 2:7, "I WILL FILL THIS HOUSE WITH GLORY, saith the Lord of hosts." It is not the splendor which attracts the natural, but the PRESENCE OF THE LORD which makes the difference. I have no argument against great crowds if only the leaders of these great crowds would follow God's remnant principle; that is, to call the attention of Christians to our one and only Head, our Lord Jesus Christ! To the one power, the omnipotent power of God! To glorify God rather than the denomination, or the temple.

God's remnant principle has been in operation in nature since He created the earth. Visualize the remnant principle at work in the mighty oak tree. As great as the oak is, God established His remnant principle to make another oak. He does not use the entire tree to make another, He uses a LITTLE SEED from that great tree to make another.

One of the greatest examples of God's remnant principle at work among men can be seen in Abraham. Before he came on the scene, all mankind was one great sea of humanity. God separated Abraham from the main stream of humanity and formed one nation, Israel. When God institutes His remnant principle, He does His greatest work. Man's BIG THINGS hinder Him. Out of Abraham's "own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old ... the deadness of Sarah's womb," God worked His remnant principle. He called out Isaac, through whom He began to accomplish His great Covenant of Promise. This Covenant is for anyone who accepts Jesus as His Savior. Again God's remnant principle went to work and narrowed even Isaac to Jesse and David—and then who did we get?—Jesus Christ our Savior! Oh, behold the beauty and simplicity of the remnant principle! It opens up such a great challenge to us.

The remnant principle is at work in Acts 15:14: "Simeon has declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles (these are all nations besides Israel)—"TO TAKE OUT OF THEM A

PEOPLE FOR HIS NAME.” These people are what we call “The Church.”

God has done some of His greatest works through this Body of believers. God always works through remnants. Remnants are people He takes from the mainstream of humanity to accomplish His great purposes. The greatest measure of service a human can be to God is through this principle. It has always been that way. **MINOR NUMBERS MAKE A MAJOR DIFFERENCE.** We cannot gauge the spiritual success of any religious group by its numbers, by what we see with our eyes, or hear with our ears. Whether it is to all nations, to Israel, or to all life on this planet, God has used this principle for His great purpose.

LOOK AT GOD’S REMNANT PRINCIPLE AT WORK IN THE CHURCH! Listen to Matthew 18:20: “For where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them.” In spite of the thousands upon thousands who know the Lord Jesus Christ, yet when it comes to God’s really working in our midst, He always uses the remnant principle. He does His greatest work through the two or the three. There aren’t many groups in the religious world today who would even allow a group of two or three to exist, let alone call it a church. There are not many Christians who will ever take this chance. They accuse the small groups of not succeeding and never accomplishing anything, and that they might as well give up entirely.

According to Psalm 119:141, David was experiencing God’s remnant principle at work in his personal life, and this is the reason for his wonderful words. Here is a paraphrased version: “I am small and despised, yet do not I forget Thy precepts.” That is, “I am a remnant, I am small, I don’t amount to much, and I’m despised because of this, yet do not I forget Thy Word.” Do you see another ingredient which God works into the lives of those who are a part of His remnant principle? **IT IS HIS WORD!** First of all, the glory of the Lord is present, and now also His Word is at work. God always does His greatest work in the individual life by way of these two ingredients. Many times before God can get our attention, He singles us out from the masses. There is no telling what way He may choose to single you out to get you to the place where you will call on God for yourself. Even though all others may despise you, don’t forsake the presence of God and His Word

working in your life. Let God's Word be your greatest mainstay.

In God's remnant principle He uses, what I like to call, "The weeding-out process." He doesn't only weed out people, He also weeds out things from our lives. Those who will let Him weed things out of their lives become a part of His great work in this world. In Zechariah 4:6 we discover the Spirit of the remnant principle in this weeding-out process. "Then He answered and spoke unto me, saying, "Thus saith the Word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, saith the Lord of hosts."

If you want to be a part of God's remnant principle, you must know that it's by the power of God, the power of the Holy Spirit. There is no other way! We must be empowered and supernaturally quickened by the Holy Spirit. The majority of Christians take the exact opposite to the spirit of the remnant principle. They bring in all their "big guns." They marshall all their natural talents, their big names and "allow" God to use them. This is never God's way! He weeds out all the "self" and "I" from whatever He does. He desires to bring us to the place where it is all God, and where it is all His Grace.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 declares: "I returned and saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill." God weeds out all these natural talents. There is nothing wrong when a person possesses any of the natural abilities named in this verse, if one realizes that these THINGS are not what really make us who we are in Christ. All natural abilities are fine but must be brought into subjection to God and given to Him for His glory alone. Never forget—the glory of the Lord is in the remnant principle. Even if it's only a clapboard barn, yet that barn in God's eyes is far greater than Solomon's Temple because the presence of the Lord is there, the power of the Holy Spirit is working, and God's Word is working. Yes, we can run races and fight battles because we're strong in the Lord.

God never requires natural skills. He will give spiritual skills. He will use natural skills only as we yield ourselves to Him and submit to Him. BUT HE DOES NOT REQUIRE, NOR NEED THEM! Why? Because God is sufficient for all things, for all battles, for all races. God is the Triumphant One! Oh God, teach us all the great lessons of your remnant principle!

Notice Judges 7:2-4. The Midianites had begun attacking Israel, and Israel had impossible odds against them. They called upon God to deliver them. Guess how He worked? Yes. THROUGH HIS REMNANT PRINCIPLE! Behold your God as He works triumph and victory, the only victory possible, through His remnant principle. "And the Lord said unto Gideon, THE PEOPLE WHO ARE WITH THEE ARE TOO MANY for me to give the Midianites into their hands." Notice the key word here, "The people who are with you are too many for ME

"! This is one of the glorious secrets of the remnant principle, IT HAS TO BE GOD! It must be His strength. HE must use you. He wants to motivate and guide. There must never be anyone else or any other thing than God and His Omnipotence. Notice the reason why, "Lest Israel vaunt themselves against Me, saying, My own hands have saved me." Any time you think there's safety in numbers, where the remnant principle is concerned, you're greatly mistaken. GOD SINGLED THEM ALL OUT.

"Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ear of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid let him return and depart early from Mount Gilead, and there returned from the people twenty and two thousand, and there remained ten thousand." Even 10,000 were too many! "And the Lord said unto Gideon, THE PEOPLE ARE YET TOO MANY." God does not need great crowds or armies for His great work. He narrows all His great works to the one who will depend upon Him and who will trust his life into His hand. Wherever you go and are enticed by great crowds and great names, BEWARE! Look for the presence of God, for the power of the Holy Spirit, and for God's Word of Truth taught ... and LIVED ... LOOK FOR THE GLORY OF GOD!

Consider this beautiful word "Remnant." It means small, and that is not all, it also means, "that which is left." After God gets through with His weeding out, He will use only that which is left. God may strip us of anything which could hinder our usefulness to Him. He wants to bring us to where we will say, "God, I need you." It's your glory and your triumph I really want!"

Even though two or three of us are meeting in the Name of the Lord, there is no hindrance to God.

Even in the Church the remnant principle is at work. The effect of this is THE BRIDE! Some wonder why we're small. It's because God's great purpose of an out-resurrection and out-translation is at work. Undoubtedly, this is why so many people leave us alone. We've really searched our hearts for the apparent smallness of our meeting. It is most certainly not any lack of success. Simply because the majority of Christians measure success by money, crowds, and material showiness, is no indication of God's estimate of success. GOD MEASURES SUCCESS ACCORDING TO HIS REMNANT PRINCIPLE. How much are we going to let God work in our lives? How much do we desire to really glorify God in our lives? When we're talking about the Bride of Christ, we're talking about the epitome of the remnant principle. In Matthew 24:14, Jesus says, "Many are called, but few are chosen." There's the remnant principle stretching out before us like a race course. In Matthew 22:2-14, we see God's weeding-out process at work.

The Bride Company is the result of the remnant principle. In I Corinthians 9:24, we discover the remnant principle: "Know ye not that they who run in a race run all, but one (a remnant) receiveth the Prize?" We call this remnant, "The Bride of Christ." What is the lesson? They give all glory to God. They know it's not by might, neither by power, but it's by the Spirit of the Lord. They know this race is not to the swift. Many of us may have to limp all the way to the finish line; however, the Holy Spirit enables us to win the Prize. We're not in competition against each other, but we're running against the obstacles which the world, the flesh, and the devil throw at us.

Now for the finale! In Song of Solomon 2:2, the remnant principle is at work. "As the lily AMONG THORNS, so is My Love AMONG THE DAUGHTERS." The Bride is the lily among thorns. What is the secret of the lily? Like the lily, the Bride neither labors nor toils, but seeks first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, then all these natural things are added unto them. Is it cruel to liken any Christian to a thorn? No! There are far too many Christians living according to the flesh and produce nothing but thorns. The cruelty is to Jesus who saved them from sin. The remnant principle is woven into the entire fabric of the wonderful portrait of Christ and His Bride in the Song of Solomon.

Oh, let God. Prepare our hearts! Revelation Two proclaims, "He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith." The Holy Spirit is literally shouting throughout God's Word to give God all the glory in our lives. The bottom line for us is found in John 3:30: "HE MUST INCREASE, BUT I MUST DECREASE." To borrow a thought from a wonderful song is such a fitting closing word, "Little is much when God is in it."

- Reprint from February 1995 -

LORD JESUS, COME

"Thy Kingdom come, O Lord," we cry.
"Make bare Thy arm and rend the sky.
Come forth, Thou Lion of Judah bold,
Jehovah's counsels now unfold.
Gird on Thy thigh, Thy sword so bright,
And cause the world to know its might.
On speeding wings of wind take sail,
And over anti-Christ prevail.

"Come quickly, Lord. Do not delay;
For error stalks upon its way,
While Truth is crushed and sits apart,
And justice weeps with broken heart.
Lord, cause the world to hear Thy voice,
Bring peace on earth; make men rejoice.
Take to Thyself Thy royal throne
And make the kingdoms now Thine own!"

--Mary M. Bodie

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To live here below like those up there; won't that be glory! But to live below with those we know, well, that's another story.

The more we count the blessing we have, the less we crave the luxuries we haven't.

Satan is never too busy to rock the cradle of a sleeping Christian.

Some people will trust God for the salvation of their souls, but they won't trust Him with the key to their cash boxes.

The Bible should do more than inform us, it should transform us!

# PAUL'S GOSPEL

## *IN THE SONG OF SOLOMON*

Alice S. Mooneyhan

### Canticle Three, Continued

#### OUR WARFARE IN THE HEAVENLIES

4:8 "Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon: look from the top of Amana, from the top of Shinir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards." This corresponds with Ephesians Chapter six. Let us also read about Abraham, who had come into the land of Canaan. After Lot had separated from him and had chosen that well-watered plain of Jordan, then God spoke to Abraham: "Lift up now thine eyes, and look from this place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever" - Genesis 13:14-15. That is a wonderful promise made to Abraham, but it is only a figure of the heavenly inheritance which God has spread out before us. Paul wrote: "God...hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" - Ephesians 1:3.

Now the Lord says, "Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon." He repeats, "with me." We could not go this route alone. He does not send us alone, because it is in the heavenlies where we meet the enemy. We are told of this spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6:11-12: "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Satan and his wicked forces are entrenched in the heavenlies. Our battle with Satan begins when we begin to take our place in the heavenlies with Christ. We must have victory over the flesh before we can actually possess the land of Canaan. The warfare of the Children of Israel in the wilderness represents the conflict of the flesh and spirit within us. After we get the victory over the flesh, then we come into the Canaan experience; here our warfare with Satan and his wicked spirits begins.

The word "Lebanon" means "white" and stands for purity. This woman is already "washed in the blood of the

Lamb." She is clothed with the righteousness of Christ. The next name we have is "Amana," which means "constancy" and "to be fixed," or "faithfulness." These are positions in the heavenlies that the saints occupy. We must be constant and faithful in the things of God in order to win the Prize. The next one is "Shenir," which means "coat of mail." This speaks of the armor which God provides. These are different phases of the truth with which we are clothed, and with which we can actually withstand "all the fiery darts of the wicked." Paul wrote, "having done all, to stand." This armor is invincible because it is the truth. The last name "Hermon" means "devoted" and "destruction." It speaks of the judgment that is in store for this world.

From these high mountains she beholds her vast inheritance in Christ. This is also the habitat of mountain lions and leopards, which speak of the temptations of the devil that lurk in heavenly places.

In the mountain of temptation (Matthew Four), Jesus was confronted with the "leopards and lions." The first temptation - "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread" - was a very small leopard. It did not seem so vicious, but it was a leopard nevertheless. It was no sin for Him to be hungry, for He was human, but it would have been a sin if He had been moved by Satan's suggestion, and not by the Spirit of God. He waited upon His Father, and He defeated Satan with the Sword of the Spirit -- "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeded out of the mouth of God."

The second temptation was a full-grown leopard. Seeing that only the Word of God could move Jesus, Satan quoted from the Scriptures. He is a crafty foe. He tries to defeat us by quoting the Word of God, but beware, he does not quote it correctly. Let us always find and read the quotation when we are in doubt. He omitted the very portion which kept Jesus in all his ways, when he quoted that verse - Psalm 91:11.

The third temptation was a roaring lion that bounded out at Him. Satan did not even say, "If thou be the Son of God." He apparently conceded that He was the Son of God, but he offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He would fall down and worship him. But Jesus knew something that the devil perhaps did not know, that all the kingdoms of the

world were to be destroyed. They are under the curse of God. All the world will be judged, and all things made new. In the Millennial Age when Christ reigns over the earth for a thousand years, Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit. Christ will have a newborn earth to reign over. It will be like the Garden of Eden. When Jesus came into the world and announced Himself as King of the Jews, He could find very few persons qualified to be subjects of His Kingdom. He said to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God" - John 3:5. So in order to get into the Kingdom of God, we must be born again. Christ did not want the kingdoms of this world from the hand of Satan. He knew that His reward for dying on the Cross would be to obtain the Kingdom from the hand of His Father.

#### THE DIVINE PRODUCT

4:9. "Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain of thy neck." This section of chapter Four shows the practical side of Ephesian truth. In this portion, we see the testings which are brought about by the Word working in her. "My sister, my spouse," are terms which express the purest love and deepest devotion of the Beloved. Although this woman of destiny is not fully separated unto Him as denoted by the fact that only half her gaze is fixed on Him, yet He is delighted and overcome. She is not yet fully surrendered to Him.

4:10. "How fair is thy love, my sister, my spouse! How much better is thy love than wine! And the smell of thine ointments than all spices!" The same eulogy which she gave of him in 1:2-3, is now given to her by her Beloved. This shows the transformation which has been wrought in her through her fellowship with the One who is altogether lovely. The Christ-life in us is a sweet savor to God.

4:11. "Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb; honey and milk are under thy tongue, and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon." It is not easy for us to believe that we are as precious to the Lord as this verse indicates. What a contrast there is between this and what we were by nature as given in Romans 3:13! ("Their throat is an open sepulchre, with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips.") What is meant by the

honey and milk under her tongue, which replaced the poison of asps? She has been reading the Word of God. She has been born of God and speaks the things of God which are good. The natural man uses his tongue to bring discord and trouble. James tells us that the tongue "is set on fire of hell." The tongue is the unruly member. It is only as we yield our tongue to the control of the Holy Spirit, that we can glorify the Lord and bring blessing to mankind.

4:12. "A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse, a spring shut up, a fountain sealed." These descriptions are wonderful. The first Adam also had a garden; it was planted by the Lord and must have been beautiful. This garden belongs to the last Adam, Christ. The saints make up His garden. We might even speak of each saint individually as a garden, and these lovely qualities are the different characteristics of Christ that are developed within the life of each believer. Sometimes weeds grow in the natural garden. The Lord is a good Gardner, however, and does not allow any Weeds in His garden.

These three figures show that this garden is for Him alone. "A garden enclosed." This enclosure shuts out all strangers. The Gardener alone has access there. He protects it from marauders and from anything that would destroy. "A spring shut up, a fountain sealed" continues the thought of personal ownership and personal pleasure in its use. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created" - Revelation 4:11. Even the saints themselves were created for His pleasure and delight. That is a wonderful testimony of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ and of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. "For we are His Workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" - Ephesians 2:10.

4:13-14. "Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard, spikenard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; Myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices." Such a description of saints! A garden of fragrant trees. If we would realize how precious we are to the Lord, we would respect one another more than we sometimes do. We should look at one another as being in that wonderful group which is aspiring to be the

Bride of Christ. We are well-pleasing to Him, because He sees that we desire this place with all our heart. We generally look on outward appearances. Let us judge others by our own selves. Our heart is perfect toward the Lord. We desire to walk in the Spirit. We long to win Christ. And, no doubt, the others do too. If we see some manifestations of the old creation in others, let us not judge that they do not want to win Christ, but let us remember that they have the same weaknesses we do. Oh, how frail we are! How full of faults we are in the natural! We carry around this body of death with us and will as long as we live. But, thank the Lord, as we get our eyes off ourselves and onto Christ, we become more and more like Him. We are taught in II Corinthians 3:18 that as we gaze upon Him, we are transformed; we "are changed into the same image from glory to glory," as we behold the Lord. Let us not look at things in the world and try to pattern ourselves after them, but let us follow our pattern, Christ. As we yield to the Spirit, that Life will be manifested in us, and it will be a sweet savor of Christ in the lives of one another. Praise the Lord!!

(To Be Continued)

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## **Peace On Earth. . . Goodwill To Men**

*Christmas -- it's that time of year again*

*When some remember Peace on earth, Goodwill to men;*

*A pity ALL men can't in some small way*

*Remember Peace on earth, Goodwill through every day.*

*And then, perhaps, throughout the world, there'd be less  
strife*

*And so much useless waste of precious life --*

*Disease and poverty and hunger fade --*

*If men through Peace and Goodwill greater efforts made.*

*But men, of self, these joys will not afford;*

*The key is only found in CHRIST THE LORD!*

**Frank Roberts**

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## THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, Keeping watch over their flock by night.” (Luke 2:8)*

*“Jesus said: I AM the Good Shepherd; the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.” (John 10:11)*

It was Christmas Eve, 1875. Ira D. Sankey was traveling by steamboat up the Delaware River. It was a calm, star-lit evening, and there were many passengers gathered on deck. Mr. Sankey was asked to sing. He stood leaning against one of the great funnels of the boat, and his eyes were raised to the starry heavens in quiet prayer. It was his intention to sing a Christmas song, but he was driven almost against his will to sing “Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us.

There was a deep stillness. Words and melody welling forth from the singer’s soul, floated out over the deck and the quiet river. Every heart was touched.

After the song ended, a man with a rough, weather-beaten face came up to Mr. Sankey and asked, “Did you ever serve in the Union army?”

“Yes,” answered Mr. Sankey, “I began in the spring of 1860.”

“Can you remember if you were doing guard duty on a bright moonlight night such as this in 1862?”

“Yes,” answered Mr. Sankey, very much surprised.

“So was I,” said the stranger, “but I was serving in the Confederate army. I saw you standing at your post and said to myself, “That fellow will never get away from here alive.” I raised my musket and took aim. I was standing in the shadows, while the full light of the moon was falling upon you. At that instant, just as a moment ago, you raised your eyes to Heaven and began to sing. Music, especially song, has always had a wonderful power over me, and I took my finger off the trigger.

“Let him sing his song to the end,” I said to myself. “I can shoot him afterwards. He’s my victim at all events, and my bullet cannot miss him.” But the song you sang then was the song you sang just now. I heard the words perfectly. When you had finished your song it was impossible for me to

take aim at you again. I thought, The Lord who is able to save that man from certain death, must surely be great and mighty, and my arm of its own accord dropped limp at my side.”

“Since that time I have wandered far and wide, but when I just now saw you standing there praying as on that other occasion, I recognized you. Then my heart was wounded by your song. Now I ask that you help me find a cure for my sick soul.”

Deeply moved, Mr. Sankey threw his arms about the man who in the days of war had been his enemy. And that night the stranger found the Good Shepherd as his Savior.

(From “It Happened on Christmas Eve.)

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Christ The Lord is Born This Day

The angel said, Fear not,
I bring tidings of joy your way,
A savior, which is Christ the Lord
Is born unto you this day.
The Babe is wrapped in swaddling clothes,
In the city of Bethlehem,
The heavenly host sang glory to God,
Peace, good will toward men.

The shepherds said, Let us go,
To Bethlehem, and not tarry.
They came with haste and saw
The Babe, Joseph and Mary.
Then the shepherds made known,
What they saw in Bethlehem,
They glorified and praised God,
For what was told to them.

The wise men came to the house,
And took their treasures in.
They not only worshipped Jesus,
But gave their gifts to Him.
So, what is a real Christmas?
Like the angels, let us sing.
Then worship and give our gifts
To Our Savior and Coming King.

-- Harry Todd

THE NEGLECTED GUEST

John Wright Follett

I do not know the reason - false or true -
That ruled the heart of him who kept the inn.
It was enough howe'er to shut the door,
And answer that there was no room within.

How little did the keeper realize
What privilege and honor waited there,
Brought by the strangers to his very door,
If he but open it and room prepare.

It was not that he sought to do them harm;
In turning them aside he had no plot.
His time of visitation waited him
But, dead to Heaven's touch, he knew it not.

What reason rules the keeper of your heart?
Are all the doors unbarred and opened wide?
Is room prepared for Him who waits without?
Or do you answer still, "No room inside"?

It is not that you wish to do Him harm;
It may be that you hold Him in respect.
But even so, if He remain outside,
You suffer fatal loss in such neglect.

Then open wide the door and make Him room.
He comes to give you peace where woe has been.
Let open hearts be made His natal place,
That He might reign as King within the inn.

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