



“Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly

and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest 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. Daniel 2:31-34

“In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” Judges. 17:6

JESUS IS COMING! is the message which has been recorded on the pages of “Grace and Glory” for a number of decades. One issue even suggested that Jesus would be enthroned in 1933. This would have been during the horrendous reign of Adolph Hitler who could certainly be equated with the antichrist, for he too was driven by complete hatred for the Jews. Conditions brought on by the great depression following the stock market crash of 1929 and the privations experienced world-wide due to the effects of war could certainly be construed as harbingers of the great tribulation. The above text however, when compared with history and present day conditions that are rapidly unfolding in this world, reveal that one key element of end time prophecy was missing during that very devastating time ---WORLD-WIDE DEMOCRACY.

Nebuchadnezzar’s dream image, which was interpreted by Daniel, shows that God committed the world governments into the hands of The Gentiles in 606 B.C., with Nebuchadnezzar being the head of gold. Each subsequent regime was found inferior to its predecessor, as depicted by the gold being followed by inferior metals. The final throes of Gentile Times, is represented by the “feet and toes” portion of the image. It is composed of iron mixed with clay, and Daniel interprets the meaning of this combination in V. 41-43. “And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall

mingle themselves with the seed of men (seed not of any royal line) but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.” Verse 44 indicates that that Christ shall set up His kingdom “... in the days of these kings...” meaning that the coalition represented here is the very last vestiges of these Gentile Times. When Jesus takes His throne in heaven, every earthly authority will be ruling in usurpation. We believe that these ten toes are exactly the same as the ten horns on the beast which John beheld in Rev. 17. Those kings are said to reign with the beast only one hour and are responsible for the demise of the great whore. They seem to fit the criteria of the various terrorist groups around the world “which have no kingdom as yet.” Rev. 17:12

The iron in the feet and toes of this image depict the strong imperial rule of a monarchy. The clay represents the very weak government of democracy. It is this mixture which is taking place in the world before our very eyes, and it is rather significant that this very cradle of end time democracy is unfolding in the Middle East, surrounding Israel wherein all God’s dealings with this world are centered.

Imperialism, is the strongest form of government that exists. God’s Theocracy is unbending Imperial rule, but when a monarchy on this earth is out of control, the result is very often a barbaric dictatorship, of which there have been many down thru the ages. Hosni Mubarak basically had such a tyrannical government and has been deposed. Other like regimes, prevail in the Middle East, and even now are being toppled. The most prominent at this writing is Moammar Gadhaffi, who is turning his guns on his own people trying desperately to retain his power. Other nations such as Syria, and Saudi Arabia are watching closely, wondering if they are going to be next in this tidal wave of democracy.

Democracy, which has been touted as the government of freedom, but “a government of the people, by the people, and for the people,” is in fact extremely weak, and when it is out of control, the result is chaos, and confusion. The opening text from the book of Judges is often used to portray the uncontrolled fleshly appetites of men who elect simply to follow their own ways, rather than the Way God would lead through Christ Jesus, and that application is most assuredly correct. However, we

would notice that the exact context of that citation is political. “There was no king in Israel,..” and thus “every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” The days of the Judges prevailed just prior to the days when Israel “demanded” and subsequently were given a king. Up to that time, there was no central authority, as would be ordered by such a monarch. America is undoubtedly the world’s oldest and most successful democracy, and while her leaders have been chosen by vote of the people (God still sets up kings and He puts them down even in a democracy) there has been a “symbolic” king from the time this country was founded. It is called “The Constitution,” and every President, who was ever elected, has been required to take the oath of office, swearing to uphold that revered document.

Sadly, we have reached a point in this society when The Constitution is fast being ignored as “the rule of law.” This was quite evident recently when some members of congress took turns “reading it from the floor,” suggesting that some had forgotten what was recorded therein. Some pieces of legislation adopted into law by the current administration have been declared by more than one constitutional judge as being “unconstitutional,” yet at this present time, appeals are being advanced one after the other, to overturn those decisions. The government “of the people, by the people, and for the people,” has apparently been hijacked by a few, choosing to do “that which is right in their own eyes,” in order to accomplish their own agenda. This approach has created tremendous chaos and confusion. America was told before the health care legislation became law that “we have to pass it before we can find out what is in it.” We can hardly imagine anyone agreeing to “buy” such an expensive commodity without knowing what they were getting, but this is exactly what happened, and again, confusion and chaos prevail. President Obama’s recent trip to Brazil produced another clear cut example of contradiction and confusion, when he lauded Brazil to the skies for taking the initiative in drilling for oil off their own coasts, declaring that America would be their best customer. With skyrocketing gas prices, Americans are hard pressed to understand why moratoriums have been issued against drilling anywhere in this country due to the threat of global warming, yet that global threat does not seem to apply in Brazil. Furthermore, China seems

intent on drilling off the coast of Cuba, just a scant ninety miles from American shores, yet we hear not one whimper of protest decrying the damage to the environment which would promote global warming. The current battle “battle over the budget,” is also a futile exercise in the key words of democracy --- debate and compromise, neither of which seems to be working. Law makers make claims and counter claims, insisting on their own way, lest they shut down the government. (Some have suggested that would be no big loss anyway because they are not doing anything.) One recent, almost laughable argument in this debate was that “we must raise the debt ceiling so we can lower the multi-trillion dollar deficit.” Such thinking is only an attempt to go right on spending and put the problem off until a later date. Scripture is very plain that this “partly strong and partly broken” mixture of iron and clay will continue until this final phase of Gentile times is ended, and it matters not what political party is in power. We are confident that the wheels of this democracy have already been set in motion and the confusion and chaos, illustrated by these examples, will only get worse.

This same uncertainty also prevails world-wide and the world’s leading democracy has done nothing to quell it. A number of nations expressed the opinion that Gadhafi “has to go,” yet many were reluctant to establish a “no fly zone” in order to protect the Libyan people, and the debate raged on. Eventually such a zone was established, but the U.S. deferred to France in taking the lead. Next “U.S. and European bombs battered Gadhafi” after which Nato “agreed at a meeting in Brussels to take over the mission. The decision effectively relieved the United States of leading the fight and ended a week of **squabbling** among the allies over the issue.” (K.C. Star 3-28-11) Quite simply it seems that no one knows who is in charge, and after all this, chaos still ruled as msnbc.com reported that “a Libyan ‘citizen journalist’ in the city of Misrata made a desperate last plea for international help... Large numbers of people are dying he said, ‘where are you people?’ I am going to post this warning one last time...Misrata is calling you!...Where is Sarkozy? Where is Obama? NATO is doing nothing.”

Former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton declared recently that Libya has become a “quagmire” (a most dreaded word for any head of state) due to lack of direct attention. Others have

described it as “a humanitarian disaster.” Mr. Bolton went on to define the problem as being one where some simply will not take the decisive action which is needed. This is a classic example of “ruling by committee,” where no one in particular is in charge, and it is one major hazard of democracy.

Some heads of state have taken roles of leadership in recent years, and have been very disrespectfully labeled as “cowboys” or “mavericks” by both local politicians and the international community. According to Mr. Bolton, this leadership is missing in the current Libyan crisis. He indicated that many have declared “Gadhafi must go,” but no one is willing to risk taking steps to bring it about.

All this exposes the tremendous weakness of democracy, yet according to God’s Word, this atmosphere is upon us, and such a climate will prevail until the antichrist does take control and impose the harshest degrees of imperialistic iron. We have no doubt that Libya will fall, along with some others in this area, but we know from scripture that it will not lead to peace, tranquility and freedom.

We would reiterate our perception that the kings represented by the toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s image represent the religious terrorist groups which are so very prominent in the Middle East. Their common goal is the destruction of Israel and even now they are waiting, in the wings of a fallen Egypt, to assume control of that nation through the “voting channels of democracy.” They are known as “The Muslim Brotherhood,” and should the monarchs of Libya or any other nation fall, they will be there, ready to pounce upon the opportunity to seize power.

Meanwhile, Israel has her own troubles and threats, with another flotilla bound for Gaza under the guise of humanitarian aid. Israel is in no wise convinced of that premise. “Speaking at a lunch with EU heads of mission in Jerusalem,” Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said “We are aware that there is an attempted provocation in May, possibly early June of a another so-called flotilla, not a peace flotilla but a provocation, a deliberate provocation to seek to ignite this part of the Middle East.” (YNET news.com) Israel believes strongly that this is only a ploy to smuggle weapons into Gaza with which to attack her. The numerous nations involved in this flotilla, along with

references to carrying out their endeavors predicated upon “elections in Turkey,” strongly suggest a **democratic** effort. “Today’s Zaman” reports that “Participants in the Freedom Flotilla 2 convoy will include Turkish, Algerian, Scottish, Spanish, Dutch, Irish, Italian, Swedish, Norwegian, Jordanian, Malaysian, Indonesian, Swiss, US, Canadian, British and French nationals, and include lawmakers and journalists. Turkish charity Humanitarian Relief Foundation (İHH), which owned the Mavi Marmara,” (Freedom Flotilla 1) “said its activists will be among the passengers of the Freedom Flotilla 2...” This new flotilla, called Freedom Flotilla 2, is expected to sail to Gaza in the coming weeks, “a year after a raid by Israeli forces on a similar mission that left eight Turkish citizens and one American citizen dead. About 15 ships are expected to take part in the mission...”

There is no doubt that Israel will eventually be left standing alone. We do not know at this point what compromises she will be forced to make in bowing to the nations, but eventually this embattled nation will sign the “covenant with death,” (Isa. 18:15,18) prophesied by Dan. 9:27. Scripture does very plainly announce that she will enter into such an agreement only to be betrayed and finally, completely isolated, but this is means by which she will finally be driven her to the feet of The Messiah. She will suffer many atrocities before this happens, and thus the things we see now, are only the beginning.

America, the Church, Israel, and the world at large, are all in deep deep trouble. Statesmen will not reverse the corrupt global political systems. Preachers will in no wise revive the sleeping Church, and Israel will not escape the wrath of the antichrist. If one is joined to this world in any manner, the outlook is extremely bleak, but for those whose affections are already set on things above, this should be the most exciting times of our lives. The bulk of the Church will endure a part of the tribulation period, for Rev. 7:14 plainly declares that the innumerable company “... are they which **came out** of great tribulation.” But those whose hearts are attuned to the message, “Behold I come quickly,” Paul’s admonition in Rom. 13:11 will strike hope, and anticipation, rather than despair and gloom: “And that, knowing (because God’s Word declares it) the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.” Hebrews 9:28

likewise chimes in with this great bulwark of hope. “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” The salvation here is not simply deliverance from the guilt of sin, but deliverance out of this world, specifically **“for those that look for Him!”**

Christ Is Coming

Maranatha! Maranatha!
Hear the blessed Advent chimes.
Peace and joy and comfort bringing
To the earth and to all climes.
Let the bells ring out the story--
Christ, the Jew, brings Jewish times.

Maranatha! Christ is coming!
Eve in Eden heard the sound,
Peeling forth redemption's glory--,-
Pardon, hope and blessing found.
Maranatha! Maranatha!
Let the glorious news abound.

Maranatha! Maranatha!
Christ is coming back again.
Advent bells repeat the story.
Tell it out in sweet refrain,
Everywhere to world in sorrow
-Christ will bring surcease from pain.

Mary M. Bodie

LITTLE BUT MIGHTY

Mary M. Bodie

"THERE BE FOUR THINGS WHICH ARE LITTLE UPON THE EARTH, BUT THEY ARE EXCEEDING WISE: The Ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer; The Conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks; The Locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands (or groups); The Spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces." Proverbs 30:24-28

Solomon the wise man gives us some data concerning four little creatures of the earth which he considers and declares are exceedingly WISE. And he especially points out a trait in each class whereby he excels others in wisdom. Solomon may not have been especially interested in insectology, nevertheless he is teaching us some marvelous truths concerning Christians, and traits of spiritual overcoming.

The ANTS refer to these saints in that they prepare for the future; the CONIES, in that they make their home in Christ, the Rock; the LOCUSTS, in that they have no visible king (are not organized), yet they gather together in groups being led of the Lord, their Head and King, and obey His will; the SPIDER, in that they lay hold of eternal realities by faith and are in the palaces of the King of kings, in the heavenlies.

At the present moment, the ANT is our theme. We would search out some of the exceeding wise traits- which make her such a wonderful representation of believers who are really progressing in the spiritual life. These characteristics are so varied, and in their relation to Christians, so striking that we are amazed.

ONE. The ant prepares for the future. We are exhorted to consider the ant. Solomon says, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard. Consider her ways and be wise which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in summer and gathereth her food in the harvest" Proverbs 6:6. The ant thus manifests her wisdom. She knows that a day of need approaches and she lays up in store for that time. She takes advantage of the opportunity, redeems the time, as it were; for she realizes that the day of want will soon be at hand, and if she does not make preparation, the whole family of ants will be destroyed. She always considers OTHERS, that is one of her outstanding traits.

Likewise should men provide for the future, not necessarily in material things (that too is wise):but in spiritual things, men should be on the alert. We should diligently consider the ant in this respect, laying up for ourselves treasure above where moth cannot enter, nor rust corrode. Jesus exhorted to this diligence and wise play, though it neces-

sitates a wide outlay at the present, which to dumb and foolish folk appears unwise Matt. 6:19. The world is forgetting God. Men appear oblivious to the fact that they must meet God and that they need a sacrifice in their hands, which they are neglecting to procure. They refuse to believe that the hour of need is approaching rapidly, or will ever come to them.' And many Christians likewise are lazy and sluggish in their service for the Lord. They do not consider the ant and lay up for the future. Few are alive and alert to their responsibilities in this regard. They do not hold their life-day sacred as the ant, therefore are not buying up the opportunities for enriching themselves eternally. The end of their lives will come and find them bankrupt. They will enter heaven with empty hands no trophies to lay at Jesus' feet - no reward for all eternity. How sad! The next point gives us further data.

TWO. The ant has government without governors, and armies without generals. They have no visible head, nor any prearranged course of action, to pursue as far as visible order is concerned. Each ant is apparently a law unto herself; as to her guidance and work. She acts for the benefit of the whole colony, forgetting herself absolutely in her abandonment to the desire for the good of all. Without orders from any leader, they go about their tasks in the most perfect precision, sometimes working singly and again in groups. Neither superiors, nor inferiors are visible. In everything there seems to be harmony. Their communities are well arranged, and perfect order is manifested without any housekeepers in charge.. Also cleanliness prevails to the uttermost degree, far in excess of many human dwellings.

THREE. Ants wash and clean up their bodies, every evening befoe retiring to rest. Their forelegs are equipped with bristles similar to a tiny brush, which they use to remove all visible dirt; and then wash themselves with their . tongues which they use as wash-rags. Sometimes they lick each other, taking particular delight in this service. The one being washed, will stretch out and act very contented and happy, while being scrubbed and cleaned.

That is surely interesting as well as instructive. Saints are exhorted "to wash and be clean." Paul, bythe Spirit, wrote to the Corinthians, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate,.....and touch not the unclean." The Psalmist asked, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?: then answered his own question saying, "By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word." Psa.119:9. Also we are exhorted to cleanse others form all defilements of the flesh and spirit, and to restore one overcome by a fault, considering our own weaknesses at the same time Gal. 6:1. We are cleansed, and we cleanse others by "the washing of water by the word. II Eph , 5:26. But the saints are not always willing to be cleansed, as the ant. They do not take the washing so contentedly, rather refusing to acknowledge that

there is any dirt upon them. The ant knows she needs cleaning up, but the saints appear oblivious to their soiled condition, generally saying, "I am as clean as anybody else." The ant lays down and lets the other do the work, glad for the service; so should the Christian welcome those who are seeking to help him. Those who do so humble themselves, get a blessing, and are made a blessing to others. Let us consider the ant, and do likewise.

FOUR. Ants are among the bravest of all insects. They do not know fear in any sense whatever. An ant never thinks of herself, but is ever ready to be sacrificed for the good of the colony. Regardless of the size of the foe, which menaces the downfall of the community, she will attack and never retreat, remaining upon the field of battle until she is killed, or the battle is won. The welfare of the household is her consideration. Eggs of the ant family are her special concern. Each will pick one up and run to a place of safety at the first intimation of danger. Those eggs represent the next generation of their family, and instinctively they guard them as most precious.

What lessons for us saints in these natural things! We should stand and defend the Truth for the unborn generation, as well as for the young saints, as daringly as the ant. We should risk our lives, reputation, and all that we have, as absolutely as the little insect, that the Scriptures may be preserved for the young folk. Satan is against the Truth. He wars continually to defeat those who are in the lead and whole-hearted for the Lord. If they do not stand and withstand his devilish wiles, the flock of God is menaced, and off times young saints fall into error and their usefulness is destroyed, and their reward hereafter lost. It appears that some believers lack even ant-sense in this respect, much less spiritual sense. Paul said to the Philippians, "All seek their own," and so it may be said today, which is a great contrast to the ant who ever seeks the welfare of the color.

FIVE. Ants are builders as well as farmers. They have underground homes that are marvels of ingenuity, with rooms for nurseries and granaries in which they rear their young and store their food. They also have gardens where mushrooms and ant-rice are grown. They seem almost human in their working and living. Many vital and necessary lessons they can teach us, if we have ears to hear and spiritual sense to consider their example.

They are unusually active and vigorous, the very opposite of lazy; never letting down, or slowing up, or quitting the job until it is finished. Their life-day is only a span, but they endeavor to make the most of it in every way and every day.

SIX. Ants are very fond of sweets of all sorts. They collect honey from flowers and plant-lice, scale insects, and other sources. Some ants gorge themselves with honey until they appear as animated

balls of amber. These are then seized by others and taken to specially constructed chambers of the house where they hang from the ceiling by their forelegs, in ranks, giving it the appearance of a well-ordered cellar. Into these rooms, the honey dew gathered outside is disgorged at the demand of the needy inhabitants. The manner of the gathering of this saccharine substance may be likened to the rumination of cattle. They lay it up in what is called the social pouch, or crop, and it is disgorged as needed. This pouch explains the greater part of this ant's life-career, a life of absolute service. It is completely separated from the stomach, and contains no digestive glands; therefore the fluid which is accumulated therein, is preserved intact. The pouch looks like a flagon, and its contents are reserved entirely for the community. In fact these insect bonbons have one sole function - living reservoirs of sweets for others. They are voluntary prisoners, and never again see the light of day; but they are completely at the service of the working army, always giving but never getting, yet apparently rejoicing in their service.

Is that not interesting and instructive when seen in its spiritual value? Some saints gather the sweets of the Word, the honey and the honeycomb, for others who are too busy working to obtain much for themselves. These reservoirs fill up on the precious things contained in Scripture, like the diligent ant, and thus serve the whole church. God has gifted some saints as teachers to serve others. They act as storehouses of the sweets of the Word, even as the little ants giving up their lives for the good of all the saints. They live not for themselves, but sacrifice, that others may be fed and flourish spiritually. Like the beloved Apostle Paul, they count not their lives dear unto themselves, but lay down their lives upon the altar for the perfecting of the church. They are voluntary in their surrender to serve the people of God; though like the ant, they toil in the shadow, unknown and alone.

SEVEN. Ants rear and protect certain other insects who in return provide them with sweets. These are called "aphids," or plant-lice. The ants bring their eggs into, their houses in winter and care for them until spring, at which time they either carry them down deeper into the ground, or bring them up to the surface. They are governed in their course by the amount of plant life to be found to feed the young. If there is little life, the eggs are not allowed to hatch. The ants carry the young aphids, tender roots and leaves to eat, and protect them from all insect bugs. In return, they secrete honey dew for the ants. Some species care for insects that act as bootleggers, providing them with narcotics and intoxicants, which they procure from corn and other grain, and the ants enjoy these stimulants. If it were not for the protection accorded these insects by the ants, their family would be decreased, if not utterly exterminated.

Likewise God has decreed that the saints should protect the helpless, comfort the feeble minded, do good as we have opportunity, and we will receive a blessing for all such giving. We will be stimulated and intoxicated by the Spirit, who will fill us with the wine of heaven, as we help others at our own expense, going about doing good, as did our Great Example. He was fed, stimulated and refreshed by the unnamed woman whom He blessed at the well, giving her the Living Water and getting even more than He gave- John 4:31-35.

EIGHT. Ants are slave owners. Several species raid homes of less warring ants and carry off the 1~a6 to raise as slaves. These latter have all the privileges of the native workers and form a large and important part of the colony. The Sanguine Slave Owners are active, and work with their slaves; while another class, becoming inert by years of idleness and being waited upon by their slaves, are unable to feed themselves. They would starve to death in the presence of food, if it were not for these servants who feed them.

Here too we may find something of spiritual value, The New Man is a slave-owner. He is admonished to not let the flesh reign, (Rom. 6:12) but to hold it simply as a servant. It is to obey him, the Lord of the house. It was revealed to Rebekah "that the elder should serve the younger" - Genesis 25:23. Some Christians do not obey these wise Counsels; hence serve the flesh and make provision for the flesh, which latter has been forbidden - Rom. 13:14. They are thus overcome, instead of being overcomers.

NINE. Ants have four ears. Their hearing therefore is very acute. They are cognizant of their enemies' approach a long time before they come into vision. Nature has made every provision for their safety because they live so much of their time in the dark.

In like manner, there is no excuse for Christians to be defeated by the devil. God's ample grace has provided for them an armor which is invincible and invulnerable. He has given to them spiritual hearing as well as natural ears, They may read His Word and hear His Voice thru its pages. "He that hath ears to hear" shall not be overcome in any measure. Like the little ant, he will know of the danger before it has come into view. God will prepare him for the fray, and enable him to be the victor if he heeds His counsel and listens.

TEN. Ants are most hospitable. The mendicant may not even be a fellow-citizen, provided she knows how to get into the good graces of the benefactor, which is simply to caress her. Nothing is more easily taken advantage of, than the ant's imprudent charity, as some might call her kindness. In lavishing herself, even on those who may be unworthy, she is simply following a bent of her being. Love is a law of her life. Half a dozen of these beggars will see an ant filled with honey returning to her nest. They will follow and feverishly stroke her

antennae. She satisfies them immediately, and they continue to stay around and partake again of the spoils which she has gathered. She apparently makes no protest giving all that she possesses, then trots away evidently happier than the others which she leaves in her home.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive," is the striking lesson seen in this trait of the ant in the light of Scripture. How marvelous a representation of Christians is the ant. They are exhorted to hospitality. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" - Heb. 13:2 - meaning that those did not know they were angelic visitors. We are urged to be charitable, even compassionate to the unthankful and the evil. The New Man has within himself this law of love. This bent to do good is the essence of his being, which would be in constant display if it were not for the old creation which sometimes is allowed to hinder.

Another thought on the spiritual side is, that we are to receive all the people of God, even though they do not agree with us in doctrine or even in practical Christian life. We are told to feed sinners and even our enemies if they are in need; and much more are we responsible to help believers. And here is more data concerning ants.

ELEVEN. Ants are far more sensitive to pleasure than to pain. "Amputated, or truncated, she does not deviate from her path, hastening toward her home as though nothing had happened. And if a sister ant accosts her, she stops and shares with her the delights of regurgitation." She buries her sorrow, as it were, and rejoices with the other who has no pain, even as the Christian is exhorted to do.

It is truly wonderful to study these little creatures and see the wisdom which Solomon perceived and admonished us to consider. Physically and organically the ant cannot be happy unless she is giving happiness to those around her. She has no other joy in life than that of duty accomplished. These are the only "joys that leave no regrets, but of which many have little experience. The ant lives in happiness because she lives in those of her kind that live around her. She lives in all of them and for all of them; and so should the saints.

TWELVE. Some ants have wings. In the springtime the queens and their lovers, as it were, come forth out of the ground, pair off and flyaway on their honeymoon; which like many in the natural is soon over. The males all die, but the females alight, pull off their wings, and commence founding new colonies. Their wedding finery and lovers are gone, but duty remains. They lay their eggs and care for them diligently, until new workers emerge and new families are on the way. Everything depends upon the female, after the nuptial night. She becomes fertile and may be the mother of millions.

What lessons of spiritual lore we may find here. Christ thru His death has made the church living and fruitful. Thru her, millions may

be born into newness of life. The Word of God is the Seed which is quick and energetic when mixed with faith. When it is proclaimed in the power of the Spirit, children are born; and new groups are assembled here, there, and everywhere. The work goes on, the church increases with the increase of God, and finally their great Lover and Husband will come from heaven and catch the whole family away to His home in the skies, where they shall' dwell with Him forever.

In the meantime let us consider the ANT, as we are cautioned, and learn from this little creature whom the Lord has endowed so wonderfully with wisdom, kindness, and love. The feats that she performs, the difficult tasks that she engineers, are colossal compared with her size. She is a miracle of muscle and militancy; and as a fountain of youth, ever giving and yet ever exhausted.

Giving as the morning that flows out of heaven,
Giving as the waves when his channel is riven,
Giving as the air and the sunshine are given,
Lavishly, joyfully, utterly giving.

~~~~~

God makes saints out of sinners,  
and that is a greater achievement  
than making a man out of dust.

# *A Caterpillar Story*

Anonymous

We read an item lately about a caterpillar which interested us. It was so appropriate of a Christian. The caterpillar was trying to get across a stream of water over which no bridge had been built, It tried and tried again; up and down it crawled along the length of the stream up to the water's edge, then back off, stop and start over again. Finally it seemed to realize the impossibility of its task. It stopped on a high place of the bank as though hopeless and ready to die. It began to make its shroud, as it were, which it weaved round and round its body. Then it lay perfectly still for weeks. But that is not the end. One day the sack or shroud began to be shaken off and out came a radiant creature, beautiful, daintily tinted and gorgeous, in place of the caterpillar. And now what about that stream that was too much for the poor crawling earthly worm? Ah, it is easy for the new winged creature that has arisen from the grave of the caterpillar. With the first trial of its wings the newcomer poised aloft in the air for a moment, gently glided away, out of the dust and over the water and way beyond the hill on the other side. Now it lives in another sphere, in an upper realm, and feasts on nectar from the flowers. No earthly, dusty food does it eat. When it alights, the ground is scarcely touched and where it travels, it adds beauty and grace to the scene. Do you see the marvelous truth taught by the metamorphosis of the caterpillar? It is the New Man emerging out of the old creation. We were raised up with Christ, out of death and the grave, which had closed its walls about us. The things that are too much for the earthly man, the first Adam, are easily undertaken by the heavenly Man, the Last Adam. The latter can rise above his earthly environment and, poised aloft by faith, soar above the sordid cares of life. As we count with God we too will be able to cross streams and hills of difficulty.

# REFLECTIONS

*...From the Editor*

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” II Tim. 2:15*

*“But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.” Mark 13:11*

These two citations, at first glance, seem to be quite contradictory to one another, but in reality they present a marvelous example of balance and of putting scripture into context. Some have, in time past, made the statement: “I never know what I am going to say when I get into the pulpit.” We might add: “and no one else knows what you meant, after you leave.” Paul, the chief apostle to the Church exhorted Timothy to “study to shew thyself approved unto God...” The word study meaning “to use speed, i.e. to make effort, be prompt or earnest:-- be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study,” is recorded here as the way to approve ourselves before God, and there is no substitute for it. Some take the citation from Mark’s gospel and assume that it relieves them of all responsibility in the “labor, effort, diligence or endeavour,” in seeking God through His Word. Mark 13 is in perfect agreement with Matt. 24 where Jesus answers the disciples’ questions about the end of the age when God finishes His dealings with the Church and begins to deal with Israel. The statements here, “when they shall lead you, and deliver you up,” are prophetic of the horrendous persecution of the Jews when the antichrist comes into power. They are told that they will need no premeditation, but to speak what shall be given “in that hour.” The reason: “for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.” That same thing is true today, but be it ever remembered that such a statement implies preparation. When Jesus gave promise of the Holy Ghost, He declared that “he (the Holy Ghost) shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26 That pattern of remembrance began even while

Jesus was still alive and shortly thereafter. Peter experienced it when the cock crew after he denied Jesus for the third time and he “...remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him,...” Matt. 26:75 The disciples also remembered His words to them when they came to the empty sepulcher, for He had said that “...The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” Luke 24:7

Such remembrance is the direct result of diligent study. The Holy Ghost can only bring to our remembrance what has already been learned, and it is He Who will fill our mouths at the proper time, with the proper and appropriate message. The disciples and others throughout the scripture had this advantage because they spent time in The Presence of The Lord, learning of Him and His purposes. That is still the pattern for our day and it is only in this manner that we too will be able to “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” II Tim. 4:2

### **Announcements:**

#### **2011 Living Waters Tabernacle Youth Camp July 4-8**

Youth Camp will be held at Ponderosa Retreat and Conference Center in Larkspur, Colorado, just south of Denver. Camp will begin with dinner Monday night and end with lunch on Friday. There will be Bible studies for all ages in the mornings, supervised recreation each afternoon, and church services every evening.

For lodging and registration, please contact Angie Siebert (303) 906-6809 or Polly O'Dorisio at (303) 935-3614. All forms and additional information are available at

[www.livingwaterstabernacle.com](http://www.livingwaterstabernacle.com). We invite you to join your brothers and sisters in Christ for this gathering to give glory and honor to God and to be strengthened and renewed by His Spirit.

#### **Major Gaffe April Grace & Glory**

There was a major blunder in the April 2011 issue of Grace and Glory as we neglected to put the “postage paid” information on the outside back cover. We did have a number of them returned marked “postage due.” We do apologize to those who may have been required to pay for the magazine and if you did not receive it at all, please let us know and we will send you a new one promptly.

# SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Garry Wilane

*“The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.” on II Corinthians 10:4*

*“Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness in this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in that day having done all to stand.” Eph. 6:11-13*

**P**raise the Lord! That’s a wonderful bunch of Scripture, isn’t it? The Apostle Paul gives here a natural illustration to show forth a Spiritual truth in. Twice -- once in verse 11 and again in verse 13 -- he says “put on the whole armor,” then, “take unto you the whole armor;” and that whole armor is all, not just a portion or a part or a piece.

Today, there is going to be a football game and they have even changed what we call today. Today now is now “Super Bowl Sunday, when 22 large men - equally divided – will be engaged in quite a wrestling match. No doubt, the referees will determine whom the winners are going to be, but wouldn’t it be something if they came out, some without helmets, some without shoulder pads, some without hip pads, some without knee pads. Would they not be most vulnerable?

We in the Spiritual would also be most vulnerable if we were to come out without the *whole* armor of God, for the enemy will strike wherever we happen to be weak. We would then we become a casualty, and the Lord does not want that. Thus, He prepares us first with “girding about thy loins with the truth;” praise the Lord! The Scripture says, in John 8:32 “You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” Praise the Lord for this, for the Spiritual man. The loin portion of the body -- the hip portion -- in the natural man is a place of great movement. That will be witnessed today in the game, no doubt. Many of you will be watching, and there will be running and walking and jumping and doing all sorts of things, but that is where there is a great freedom of movement. We shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free for the Spiritual warrior. Also housed in that area is a great amount of man’s strength, thus the loins are a symbol of power. Strength to lift and pull and do all of these things. The spiritual warrior is likewise the same, in the truth, in the Word of God. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me;” Phil. 4:13.

Next we are instructed to “Take unto you the breastplate of righteousness,” for a frontal protection. Of course, it protects the heart. Romans 10:10 says “For with the heart man believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” At the very moment we ask the Lord Jesus into our hearts, we become a new creation. His righteousness we then enter into, and from that time on we have peace with our Heavenly Father, and when He views us we are seen in Christ, in His beloved Son.

He then tells us to “Let thy feet be shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace.” We stand upon the Rock; the Rock Christ Jesus. He is our foundation; the chief cornerstone on which there are also prophets and apostles. We are going to build upon that foundation; the only foundation which is immovable. We will build something that is going to be a beautiful creation, one that will glorify Him.

Next we are to “Take unto you the shield of faith;” Praise the Lord! How many times have we heard this verse here in the last week of so? “Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” Whether it’s studying the Word at home, or here on Sundays and Wednesdays, or in Bible School, faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. The Lord has gone before us as that shield, protecting us. He took all our sins, our sorrows, our sicknesses, our diseases; He took all of that for us.

Then we are instructed – here is a very important part of the armor -- “Take unto you the helmet of salvation.” Last Sunday afternoon, Ted gave a testimony of how the enemy, Satan, comes against him while he is studying the Word, and he will do that. He will come at you to distract you in any way that he can. He has done it with me many times in prayer at home, and I have to just cease praying and began praising the Lord and calling forth His name. James 4:7 says “Submit yourselves, therefore, unto God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Today there is a teaching, a false doctrine going forth, that you can lose your salvation. That is an awful thing to teach; an evil doctrine. And the strongest thing that I ever found concerning that is in I John 5:11-13: “For God has given to us eternal life.” He first said “Be this for a record;” he wants this recorded, doesn’t he? “And be this for a record that God has given unto us eternal salvation, and this salvation is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life, and He that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you whom believe that you have eternal life, and that this life is in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.” That’s the strongest Scripture I’ve ever found to put that false doctrine down for eternal salvation.

And then, there is The sword of the Spirit; “take unto you the sword of the Spirit.” Hebrews 4:12 says “The Word of God is quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword; piercing to the

dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Now I carry a pocket knife, and I sharpen it all of the time, because I like to have this sharp knife. I do not like someone to open my mail that just tears them envelopes, so it just looks ragged and awful, so I always get to the box before they do, so I can open it with my knife and it is a nice, clean cut. I cannot, however, separate the soul from the spirit, and I cannot separate the bone from the marrow. Only the Sword of the Spirit can do that; Praise the Lord! Judges chapter 3 relates the story of a judge named Ehud. He was commissioned by God to go on a mission, unto King Eglon, who is figurative of the world and its systems, and all that it is. Ehud sought, and was given, an audience with King Eglon, and he met him -- one-on-one -- and what Ehud saw! He saw probably beautiful robes, garments, colors, everything would be very inviting there; things very enticing to see these. The Scripture says that *Eglon* was bountiful and plentiful, and they were not talking about his stature going north and south, being a tall man. They were rather talking the other direction, and Ehud saw this and delivered from his right thigh - the Scripture says that he drew a dagger, (a sword) and he pierced that deep into the belly of King Eglon. He then saw what came forth, and Ehud made his escape. What came forth from that King’s belly was nothing but dirt, and that is what the Word will show forth when you use it to pierce the world to see what it is. It looks attractive from the outside; it looks enticing, but when pierced with the Word, you see it for what it is. Another example is found in II Samuel 23:8-10 surrounding a man by the name of Eleazar. This was a great day of victory for David’s army. They had slain many Philistines; but this one, the spearman, had killed over 800. Eleazar, who was a swordsman, had killed many, many people. The Scripture says, that his hand had become weary, and clave unto the sword to where they had become one. They were inseparable. Ehud’s name in Judges three, means “undivided,” and “union.” He too seems inseparable from his sword and likewise, this same trait is found in Eleazar’s life.

It can be in our lives also; it’s not just limited to one person. It union, the “making of one” between us and the Word of God; and that is wonderful! We have this mighty man of war, this soldier of the Lord; we have him standing upright. He is standing, thoroughly equipped from the crown of his head to the souls of his feet. He has the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith; his loins are girded about with the truth. His feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, and the sword of the Spirit is in his very right hand. But is he ready to go? He is not ready to go unless he has communication with his commander. And that is what the Lord wants from us. The following verses instruct us to pray always in the

Spirit, seeking the will of God, seeking the way He would have us to go. I am reminded of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm wherein we read that He will lead us in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. He will tell that warrior where to go, when to go, and how to go, and He will certainly tell us that, won't he? I believe that as that warrior, we could hear him say from II Corinthians 10:4 "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty to the pulling down of strongholds."

And each of us who are here this afternoon, can well say altogether, Yea, "...in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loves us." Rom. 8:37

*(This message was taken from an audio tape and edited for print. It was an excellent message and even more remarkable in that Bro. Garry is completely blind and stood alone behind the pulpit without the benefit of a reader, quoting all the scripture verses completely from memory and adding the entire commentary on them without being prompted by notes.)*

# Everlasting Atonement

Carl W. Romer

*"AND THE LORD SAID UNTO MOSES, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat ... that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat" -Lev. 16 :2.*

Exodus 26 calls this portion of the tabernacle where dwelt the Ark, the most holy place, while the front portion was called the holy place. The two portions were separated by a curtain structure called the vail. I call it a structure because it was more than just a curtain as we will see later. Aaron was to appear before the mercy seat of the ark once a year as we read in Lev. 16:34. The Lord specifies the month and the day thereof in verse 29, while verses 14 and 15 declare that Aaron was to take the blood of the bullock of the sin offering and of the goat of the sin offering and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward and before the mercy seat seven times.

The day came in the reign of Solomon when the ark dwelt in the temple. Notice that we read that the ark was not stored in the temple, but dwelled there, because it represented a Person. God in His plan, purpose and wisdom let the mercy seat be sprinkled once a year. But a day came when God hid that ark, perhaps that man might not mock Him and the holiness of Christ any longer. Israel's heart ceased to be right before God, so Israel's obedience through the priesthood became traditional ritual and hence mockery. It is so in Christendom today, in Church services and social Church activity and programs. For a similar reason, along with deeper reasons, Christ is hidden from the view of men today much the same as God saw fit when the time came to hide the ark from the view of Israel.

For many reasons the ark represents Christ. It was blood-sprinkled. A pot of manna was stored there, along with the word of God's law recorded on tables of stone, and Aaron's once dead rod that budded with life. Christ is the true bread (John 6:35), the Word of God (John 1:1), and the life (John 1:4). Christ is the beaten one and forget not that the mercy seat with the cherubims was a beaten work of gold. Furthermore where can we find mercy except in Christ? In other words through Him comes our source,

location or seat of mercy. It should be noted that the phrase "mercy seat" does not mean a place to sit. We speak of the seat of our government as being in Washington. We simply mean that our supposed representatives operate from there and thus authority and directive activity emanate from there. Similarly the Hebrew word translated "mercy seat" implies that it is the source from which Israel was covered in mercy. It carries the significance of being covered from sin, judgment penalty and other wrath. It even means that we are covered with forgiveness and remission of sins (remission means to send a thing back to the place from which it came, so remitted sins are saddled back upon the devil).

In Christ there is ample and thorough covering (Col. 3 :3). Hence the seat of covering becomes a seat or source or place of fellowship, for Ex. 25 :22 says, "and there will I meet with thee, and I will commune with thee ..." We of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ are told in Heb. 4:14 that "We have great high priest, that is passed into the heavens." Colossians 3:1 tell us that He is at God's right hand, while in Rom. 8:34 we see Him making intercession for us. Therefore the Apostle Paul in Heb. 4:16 forcefully exclaims: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

How came this glorious transition or change as to how we may enter the presence of God? Mark 15:37,38 declares that when Jesus gave up His spirit on the cross, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. That veil represented the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ. His side was pierced or "rent" on Calvary and it was then that our beloved mercy seat, Jesus Christ, was sprinkled and the veil (His previously unpierced flesh) was ripped open on that day -- our Father bade us come in -- "and we shall go no more out" (Rev. 3: 12). To honor His Son and to emphasize the wide open door, God ripped the veil of the temple thoroughly and completely. The torn edges of that actual cloth veil of the temple in Jerusalem looked like the pierced raw flesh of our Lord on the cross. A minister friend of mine made a veil in miniature for Bible lesson purposes. It was made as nearly as possible like the Bible description. While in storage, mice chewed it (most likely the Lord used this to show and impress what the torn or "rent" veil of the temple was like, and more so,

what the pierced side of our Savior was like). That veil of needlework, chewed, looked like raw pierced flesh.

Through the veil (our Lord's pierced side) the blood of our sin offering flowed out. The mercy seat (Jesus) was sprinkled, and the veil, (Jesus' flesh) which while unpierced kept us out of the most holy place, (God's immediate presence) was "rent" and ever since through Christ we, have had unlimited and unbroken fellowship with the Father at will.

This is why we referred to the veil of the tabernacle as a structure. Jesus as the Son of God is eternal, but the Scripture says, "a body hast thou prepared me." Yes, the Father constructed a tabernacle or fleshly body or veil in which our Lord walked here on earth. It was pierced, broken and beaten all for us. He is our beaten work of gold (divinity) beaten into a mercy seat for us. It is through His Son that God shows forth all mercy. That is proved by the Scripture which says that together with His Son He freely gave us all things.

In the case' of the ark we read in the verses quoted at the beginning that the blood was sprinkled upon the mercy seat eastward. That looked forward to the resurrection of the Son of God who was raised for our justification just as in the natural the sun rises in the East. Note that the blood was sprinkled seven times before the mercy seat. Seven is the number of divine perfection. This fact therefore pictures in type the all sufficiency of the ONE sprinkling, the divinely perfect ONE sprinkling that would take place on Calvary. Yes, the true mercy seat is a divinely perfect cover!

In the case of the ark, the sins of Israel were passed over by God for a year. But the next year on the same day of the month it had to be done all over again. Paul defines it in the book of Hebrews as remembrance of sins made again every year. The sprinkling was not forever and it did not actually cover sins. God just passed over them until the day of Calvary. So in Heb. 9:26 we read, "... but now once in the consummation of the ages hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." Never before had sin been actually and completely put away forever, but when our mercy seat, Christ, was sprinkled on the cross, it was an everlasting sprinkle never to be repeated. Sin was truly put away, behind God's back, into the Sea of Forgetfulness. The Apostle Paul told the Churches in Rom. 10:4 that Christ was the

end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth. Therefore after the piercing of the Savior's side, no more sprinkling should have been done. To do so is simply a mockery of God's eternal redemption.

The tabernacle and the temple along with the ark and other structures were for Israel and for the stranger who was willing to fulfill God's commands and be "as one born in the land," that is, as one born in the land of Israel's inheritance. But not so with Christ! God's promise to Abraham was that thru him all the nations of the earth should be blessed. So, all we Gentiles enter into the presence of God thru Jesus Christ. Romans 3:29 and 30 is a bold and forceful statement of this blessed fact.

But what did Israel do before the days of the tabernacle, and what did Gentiles, from the days of Adam to the cross, do that God might pass over their sins until Jesus came and was "sprinkled" with the blood of redemption? They did just what Abel did; "And 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. These offerings did not take away sin but God did accept them and pass over sin when they were brought in faith. What faith? Faith in God's promise (Gen. 3:15) to provide a Savior to deliver them from the effects and eternal judgment of God for sin. They looked ahead to Calvary and believed that they might be born of the Spirit in exactly the same way that we look back to Calvary (John 3:16), that we might be born of the Spirit -- and the result in both cases is the same -- the believer does not perish, but receives everlasting life. If it were otherwise, Christ would not have died for all men (but only for some). But He did die for all men, and we are told that it is not His will that any should perish.

Yes Abel had fellowship with God. The Scripture so states. God had respect to his offering-and Abel knew it. He was at peace with God. Fear was ruled out. Abel stood before God justified. How did it happen? Well my friend, Abel looked ahead and by faith entered into God's presence through the pierced side of his Savior -- that is, he counted on God's promise, and came before God as though Jesus were already pierced for him. See Hebrews 11:4. Is it possible that we are presuming too much! Oh no -- see Hebrews 11:13 where we are told that those Old Testament worthies of faith "not having received the promises (that is not having seen their fulfillment), but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, (the promises) and

embraced them, (the promises) and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."

How did Enoch get translated and how did he walk with God if these things were not so? Hebrews 11:5 declares that he did it by faith. Faith in what? God's promise of a Savior of course! Faith in what else? Faith in the testimony that God gave him where they had fellowship (Heb. 11:5)! Faith in what else? Absolutely nothing! If there had been anything' else the Scripture would have said so in order that we might; know how to further believe God. If we really believe God, our lives will be above reproach, for our beings will be so centered on Christ that the members of our body will not find loop holes to serve sin.

Coming back to Hebrews 4:16, we would like to say that faith brings us boldly to the throne of grace where we DO obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Need always exists -- need for continuing victory in our spiritual life and in our temporal life -- need for continued spiritual development -- need for continued and constant fellowship -- need for the saints of God whom we hold up in prayer.

### **Motoring To Glory**

**Mary M. Bodie**

Out of the heat of the city street,  
Out of its defiling air,  
We'll mount and soar to the heavenly shore  
In our airplane new and fair,  
To the land of day where the saints are gay,  
In that peaceful, pure abode.  
Free from sin and strife  
By river of life,  
We will motor on the golden road.

Our speeding boat on the air will float,  
By the Word of God most true.  
Our heart is light with the hope of the flight  
When we bid this old world adieu.  
And no danger scare will meet us up there,  
As our Pilot calls, "Arise."  
Away from the din,  
We will upward spin,  
To the city of God in the skies.

There'll be no stop in that glory hop—  
E'en as the lightning we'll speed.  
A record great will be marked on the slate,  
That no one will ever exceed.  
Oh, that golden plane with its wings of flame,  
Will ascend and roar and win.  
With its holy freight,  
It will reach the gate  
Of Jehovah's ce-les-tial Inn.

PAUL'S GOSPEL

*IN THE SONG OF SOLOMON*

A. S. Mooneyhan

(Christ In You The Hope of Glory Cont'd.)

6:5. "Turn away thine eyes from Me, for they have overcome Me." In 4:9, the Beloved had said, "Thou hast ravished My heart with one of thine eyes." In our present verse, she has both eyes turned fully upon Him. Everything else is forgotten. She is attracted only to Him. Such wholehearted devotion has overcome Him -- taken away His heart. Their love is mutual. She had given her heart to Him, and robbed Him of His heart.

"Thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from Gilead." Ephesians Four expresses God's purpose in Christ for us. In this chapter, the purpose has been fulfilled through her appropriation of God's provision. The hair speaks of strength through weakness and dependence upon another. Samson was strong when he took the place of weakness in letting his locks grow. He appeared to be effeminate, but his strength was in the Lord. The Apostle Paul also found that in his weakness, the power of Christ rested upon him; therefore, he took pleasure in infirmities, for only then could he draw upon the strength of the Lord. Such saints become mountain climbers of which the goats are symbolic.

6:6. "Thy teeth are as a flock of sheep which go up from the washing, whereof every one beareth twins, and there is not one barren among them." The teeth speak of thorough mastication of food. Missing teeth mean poor mastication, resulting in imperfect digestion.

What is her food? It is all the Word of God. "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeded out of the mouth of God" - Matthew 4:4. The cows and sheep graze for hours, then they lie down to rest and chew their cud. This speaks to us of meditation on the Word of God. In Psalm One, David pronounced blessing upon the one who meditates upon the

law of the Lord day and night, It brings prosperity and fruitfulness in spiritual things.

6:7. "As a piece of a pomegranate are thy temples within thy locks." The pomegranate symbolizes fruitfulness, because of the abundance of tiny seeds within it. This one who has filled her mind with the Word of God and meditated upon it day and night, will find a rich harvest in spiritual fruit. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God....But we have the mind of Christ" - I Corinthians 2:14-16. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" - Philippians 2:5. This refers to His condescension to our low estate. As a Man, He was meek and lowly. And only in a state of meekness and humility can we also become fruitful in the new creation.

6:8. "There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number." This verse shows the Bridal company which will be present at the wedding in the air.

The queens, no doubt, represent the Old Testament overcomers, who are friends of the Bridegroom. These will be guests at the wedding. "And I say unto you, that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the Kingdom of Heaven" - Matthew 8:11. "He that hath the bride is the Bridegroom: but the friend of the Bridegroom, which standeth and heareth Him, rejoiceth greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice; this my joy therefore is fulfilled" - John 3:29. John designates himself as a friend of the Bridegroom.

The concubines speak of another group of saints who will have fellowship with the Lord, but not in marriage. They will be the servants -- the second rank in the Church. Martha represents this class. Her pleasure was in serving the Lord. That is a worthy desire, but it is not the closest place of fellowship. Faithful servants will reap a reward for their labors, but will not occupy the highest place of honor.

The virgins represent the third rank in the Church -- friends of the Bride. This group is identical with the 144,000 out of Israel. Lazarus represents this group in John 12:2. He was "one of them that sat at the table." they

will be the New Testament guests at the wedding, while the queens will be the Old Testament guests.

6:9. "My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines and they praised her." Though we acknowledge all believers as being in the Body of Christ, yet only a part of the church will so yield to the Lord that He can say of them, "She is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her." This choice group of saints is identical with the Philadelphia Church of Revelation Three, the Church of brotherly love. There is no blame against this church, but the Judge praises her for her dependence upon Christ, and for her faithfulness to His Word and His Name, and for patiently waiting His coming. This church will be caught up when the first trumpet sounds.

In Colossians 3:12-14 we have a description of her "everyday clothing." These are comfortable and durable garments which eventually will be turned into wrought gold, as seen in Psalm 45:13-14: "Her clothing is of wrought gold." All of the other saints acknowledge and praise the Bridal company because of her sincerity, her faithfulness to God and her devotion to Christ.

6:10. "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning?" This seems to be an exclamatory question of wonderment at the majesty and glory of this matchless woman. This reminds us of II Samuel 23:4: "A morning without clouds." This is a hint of that glorious day when Christ shall reign. Clouds speak of trouble. The Bride is also like a "morning without clouds," because her troubles will be past.

"Fair as the moon, clear as the sun." As the moon reflects the light of the sun, so this fair one will reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Not only does she reflect His Light, but she will shine with sun glory. Christ is the Light within her, and she will be glorified together with Him.

And terrible as an army with banners." This describes the culmination of the fight of faith which the

overcomers relentlessly wage against the powers of Darkness. The organized forces of the “the great dragon, that old serpent, called the devil and Satan,” will be cast down to earth - Revelation 12:9. This victorious army will occupy with Christ that heavenly sphere from which Satan will be cast down

6:11. “I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley.” This is the Second Inspection Tour. The first inspection is given in 2:8, which seems to have been fulfilled about the time of World War I in 1914-1917. We are sure that God was moving among nations in behalf of His people Israel at that time, and He was also inspecting the Church and the nations. The Bride was not ready for translation then. We are living fifty years later (when this article was first written), and “the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” He will shortly come down to inspect His garden, and to gather the fruits of the valley. We were impressed in Colossians 3:12 with the lowliness of the corrected saints: “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.” These are the fruits of the valley which He will find in His “garden of nuts,” or “garden of separation” as one translation gives.

“And to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded.” Both “the fullness of the Gentiles” and the restoration of Israel are spoken of here symbolically. God’s purpose for Israel will be resumed at the end of the Church Age. Also “the times of the Gentiles” and the captivity of the Jews coincide. When the nations’ tenure of office is ended, dominion will be given to THE JEW, Jesus Christ, who will restore the kingdom to Israel. In this verse, the vine speaks of Israel: “For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah His pleasant plant” (Isaiah 5:7)

When Jesus cursed the fig tree, it immediately withered. This is a figure of Israel, after the flesh, which was cursed by the law and will never bear fruit unto God. The pomegranate represents the hope of Israel as a new creation. Israel will be restored under the Covenant of Promise to Abraham, and will fulfill God’s purpose for them,

as is stated in I Peter 2:9: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

6:12. "Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadab." This seems to indicate the suddenness of the Rapture, for this surely speaks of translation which will be "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye" (I Cor. 15:52). Amminadab means "my willing, or princely people." We read in Psalm 110:3: "Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power." Those who reign with Christ and will judge the world, must judge themselves now by the Word of God. We must reign over every circumstance here on earth, if we would reign with Christ in heaven. We must be princes now in order to be kings then. We must have the Spirit of Christ, saying, "Not my will, but Thine be done."

The Apostle Paul expresses this attitude as, "being made conformable unto His death" (Phil. 3:10). For such saints, there will be no waiting to get ready for translation when the Lord comes, for they will be ready, watching, and longing. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, 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. 4:16-17).

6:13. "Return, return, O Shulamite; return, return, that we may look upon thee." This seems to be the cry of the believers who will not be ready for translation when the first trumpet sounds. This verse confirms the teaching that there are ranks in the resurrection of the Church. In I Cor. 15:22-23,

Paul states that the whole Church was espoused to Christ, but as the serpent beguiled Eve, so many saints have been "corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." They have failed to hold Christ alone as their Head; they have failed to judge themselves by the Word; they have failed to walk in the power of the Spirit. They have not run according to the rules; therefore, they will not win the Prize.

The saints who will be left on earth after the first rank is translated will sadly miss the ones who have gone. The night of darkness will begin, for “the children of the day” will have been taken out of this world.

“What will ye see in the Shulamite? As it were the company of two armies.” What is meant by the company of two armies? This might refer to the group consisting of resurrected saints and those who are alive and remain, who will be changed and translated. Or, it might refer to the overcomes in their twofold capacity of kings and priests. “And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father” (Rev. 1:6). In revelation Four, the dual office of these saints is expressed by the twenty-four elders (kings) and the four living creatures (priests). The crowns of the elders indicate their official place as reigning with Christ. The four living creatures symbolize four different characteristics of Christ in the saints: as a lion (kingly), as a calf (sacrificial), as a man (human), and as a flying eagle (Divine). The eyes represent the full vision - perfect spiritual vision by the Spirit of God. The wings speak of their perfect mobility. The living creatures lead in the worship of the Lamb. This shows their priestly character.

(To Be Continued)



### **A Lesson From Mary**

“And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.” Luke 10:39-42

I have been meditating on this portion of scripture for some time, and heard it recently in a sermon a little while back.

As we all witness the many trials taking place in the lives of the saints right now, how precious is the time sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to His Word. There is comfort in our hearts, when we see or go through these things, because that Word cannot be taken away in time of trial. There may have come a time when Mary did serve. We are not told. The one thing that I am certain of is that she had that time

of sitting at Jesus feet learning the Word to comfort and guide her, the rest of her life on this earth whatever she did.

Our time here is short. How very needful it is to sit at Jesus feet learning of His precious Word, ever watchful and in tune to hear His call to glory in a twinkling of an eye.

Wade Kemper