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January 2011



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# The DAWN

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# The New Year:

## A Time of Anxiety and Uncertainty

*“That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness.”*

—*Zephaniah 1:15*

marks the closing features of this present Gospel Age. The time in which we are now living was long ago prophetically foretold to be filled with trouble, distress, wasteness [destruction], desolation, darkness, gloominess, clouds, and thick darkness.

The prophet again proclaimed, “Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.” (Zeph. 3:8) The fire of God’s indignation will ultimately burn

**AS THE WEARY AND SIN-**sick human family enters the new year 2011, they do so with various stages of anxiety and uncertainty. In our featured scripture, the Prophet Zephaniah has used several descriptive words that well illustrate the tumultuous and violent day that

up and destroy all unrighteousness, iniquity, and false teachings. Peter explains, “The heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”—II Pet. 3:7

## **OUR DAY IN PROPHECY**

Jeremiah also spoke of this time in prophetic terms, when he wrote, “Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about: all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD. Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it is the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her.” (Jer. 50:14,15) The Prophet Isaiah confirms, “It is the day of the LORD’s vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.”—Isa. 34:8

## **ANXIOUS TIMES**

The foregoing scriptures, together with many other prophecies, speak of our distressing day that the Prophet Daniel identified as a “time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation.” (Dan. 12:1) It is a time filled with a multitude of troubling issues, and there is increasing violence and turmoil among earth’s people. There is no peace, and the world yet awaits the long-promised establishment of Christ’s future kingdom of righteousness that will bring life and peace to all who will be obedient to God’s divine law.

Space allows but a few brief examples of the present distress of nations, but it serves to mark

our day as we turn a new page in the history of man and enter the first year of a new decade. The world's statesmen and religious leaders seek answers, and ways to curb the rising tide of discontent that now dominates the everyday scene of our time.

## **POPULATION GROWTH**

One of the most difficult problems that will face the poor groaning creation in 2011 will be the rapid acceleration of earth's population. Analysts who study these trends report that an average of 79,000,000 people are being added to the world's population every year. They point out that this is about 200,000 per day, and these facts have taken into account the average daily surplus of births over deaths. This is equivalent to adding a country the size of Germany every year to earth's population. From a human standpoint there is no remedy to provide the necessary resources to feed, house, and care for so many people. The fact is that the bigger the numbers become, the faster the numbers grow. We believe that this is another evidence of the closing features of this present Gospel Age, for without God's intervention this situation would be out of control.

To emphasize the dramatic reality of this increased rate of growth, it is estimated that the world's population reached 1 billion in the year 1804. It then took 123 years to reach 2 billion, in 1927. From that time forward the rate accelerated more rapidly, and in 1960 only 33 years later, records show that it was 3 billion. It only took another 14 years to grow to 4 billion in 1974, 5 billion in 1987, and 6 billion in 1999. It is expected to reach 7 billion

sometime in the next year or two. To this is added the sobering statistic that population growth is occurring faster in the poor and undeveloped nations of earth.

These facts present a formidable problem because they make all other problems in the world even worse and more difficult to deal with. Population experts warn that if this growth cannot soon be brought under control, future population will be limited by drastic means such as mass starvation, pandemic disease, or nuclear warfare. We can hardly imagine facing starvation on a scale never before seen, diseases that are out of control, or to experience a war that threatens to annihilate the entire human family. Yet, each of these projections are now a possibility and we will briefly consider them—mass starvation, pandemic diseases, and annihilating warfare.

## **STARVATION**

Experts in the field of agriculture report that the world's alarming growth rate is creating a perfect storm of circumstances that is now gathering momentum. These factors could lead to a worldwide food crisis of unprecedented magnitude if not quickly addressed and acted upon. Simply stated, worldwide food producers are barely able to keep up with the increasing demand of this exploding increase in people.

One of the contributing factors relates to the changing climate and weather patterns that are taking place. Weather statistics indicate that record-setting droughts, disease plagues, and crippling crop failures are occurring in all parts of the world

on increasingly dangerous levels. These and other factors are coming together to set the stage for a potentially devastating food crisis in the near future. Extreme drought conditions and record-breaking heat waves have been reported in many of the traditional agricultural areas throughout the United States during the past summer. This is coupled with new diseases, and farmers all over the country are reporting very poor harvests for the year.

## **NEW THREATS**

Agricultural scientists now fear that ‘Ug99—a devastating wheat fungus also known as ‘stem rust’—could wipe out over 80 percent of the world’s wheat crop as it spreads from Africa to all other parts of the world. Most Americans have never heard of this fungus, but it is considered by experts in the field to be a very serious threat to the world food supply. It is called stem rust because it produces reddish-brown flakes on wheat stalks. It is very deadly and there is no known cure for it. In a world already on the verge of a massive food crisis, this is frightening news.

It is not just the United States that is experiencing serious problems in growing food, because the news from the rest of the world is also very troubling. Rick Ward, coordinator of the ‘Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat’ project at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, reports that a significant humanitarian crisis is inevitable. Apparently, Ug99 has already jumped the Red Sea and has affected areas as far as Iran. This wheat rust is also poised to enter northern India and Pakistan, and the wind will inevitably carry it to Russia, China, and even to

North America. It moves in the air, and it can move in clothing on an airplane. He says it is only a matter of time before the wind carries it to North America, if it doesn't arrive here some other way first.

## **DISEASE**

The second projection that could cause great numbers of people to lose their lives is disease on a pandemic level. The best recent example of pandemic disease was during the 1918-19 influenza outbreak, known as the Spanish flu. Statistics show that it killed an estimated 20-40 million people, and has been cited as the most devastating epidemic in world history. More deaths were recorded in a single year than occurred during the Black Death Bubonic Plague of 1347-51.

One fifth of the world's population was infected. It was the most deadly for people aged 20-40 years, which was unusual because it would normally affect the elderly and young children. Figures indicate that 28% of Americans were affected and 675,000 died. Of the 43,000 United States soldiers who died in World War I, half were due to the epidemic. It was an unforgettable year of suffering and death.

## **NEW THREATS**

A recent report by the World Health Organization (WHO) states that the world is now facing a new and deadly threat on the scale of Aids, Sars, and Ebola, and warned that diseases are spreading more quickly than at any other time in history. New diseases are emerging at an unprecedented rate of one a year, and are becoming very difficult

to treat. The WHO paints a bleak picture of future health threats, with science struggling to keep up as diseases increasingly become drug resistant.

One important factor cited for this threat is worldwide passenger flights that now number more than 2 billion a year. The report explains this is a powerful mechanism for spreading diseases rapidly across continents. New diseases that pose a sudden warning in one part of the world are but a few hours away from becoming a reality somewhere else. They point to profound changes that have occurred in the way humanity inhabits the planet, said Margaret Chan, the director general of the WHO. She said, "The disease situation is anything but stable. Population growth, incursion into previously uninhabited areas, rapid urbanization, intensive farming practices, environmental degradation, and the misuse of antimicrobials, have disrupted the equilibrium of the microbial world. The rate of emergence of new diseases, in one year, is historically unprecedented." The WHO report identifies 40 diseases that were unknown a generation ago, and reveals that during the past five years they have verified more than 1,100 epidemic events worldwide.

## **WARFARE**

The third projection concerning population growth is warfare. The history of the twentieth century was dominated by war, revolution, and atrocities on a scale never before seen, and the most murderous ever recorded. It is estimated that the total number of deaths caused by, or associated with, its wars during this time period is 187 million people. Many students of the Bible believe that

gentile rule over Israel ended in the year 1914, and since that time we have witnessed a century of nearly unbroken warfare, with only a few brief periods without organized armed conflict somewhere in the world.

As we contemplate the terrible carnage that could take place during any future war with the use of weapons of mass destruction, we may compare it with the total casualties suffered during the two World Wars that have taken place since 1914. During World War I, there were approximately 37 million casualties. Although the figures vary, it is estimated that there were about 16 million deaths, and 21 million wounded. This includes both military personnel and civilians. It is further stated that the allied powers lost about 6 million soldiers, while the central powers lost about 4 million.

As appalling as these estimates of human tragedy and carnage are, they pale in comparison to those for World War II. The total number of killed is thought to be in the range of 50 to over 70 million people, making it the deadliest war in the history of the world. Civilian dead are believed to be from 40 to 52 million, including 13 to 20 million from war-related disease and famine. The total number of military dead is from 22 to 25 million, including deaths in captivity of about 5 million.

## **NEW THREATS**

Most people will agree that we are now living in very dangerous times. It is the great ‘time of trouble’ spoken by Daniel the prophet, and Apostle Paul referred to the ending of this present Gospel Age as “perilous times.”—II Tim. 3:1

The United States is now conducting two wars in the Middle East, one in Iraq, and the other in Afghanistan. The situation in Pakistan, which is a nuclear nation, continues to grow worse, and Iran has been engaged in developing nuclear weapons. There seems to be no easy solution to the many serious issues that confront the nations.

At the time of this writing, news reports confirm that North Korea has fired scores of artillery shells at its neighbor South Korea. It was the heaviest attack since the Korean War ended in 1953. South Korea fired back and sent a fighter jet to the area, a disputed island near the divided border. Tensions remain high as diplomats and military personnel in South Korea and the United States meet to discuss the most positive and effective way to respond to the provocation. North Korea has developed and tested nuclear weapons, and is aggressively pursuing the design of long-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads great distances.

There are new and disturbing reports related to the increasing nuclear cooperation between North Korea and Iran. Iranian missile experts were recently in Pyongyang to attend a military parade, where new intermediate-range ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads more than 3,000 km were put on display. North Korea also revealed that it has built a hitherto undetected centrifuge plant to enrich uranium. Reports indicate that it bears a striking resemblance to Iran's centrifuge plant at Natanz.

North Korea already has a stockpile of plutonium sufficient to make between four and eight nuclear weapons. The start-up of a uranium fuel cycle will

give it alternative bomb-making material for its own arsenal, or to sell. A North Korean analyst based in Seoul said, it's a protection racket. Their message is that we can make a lot of trouble, so it's much cheaper to pay us off. Siegfried Hecker, former head of the Los Alamos nuclear weapons laboratory in the United States said the risk of North Korea exporting weapons material was more troubling than the country's own possession of nuclear bombs. He said they had 2,000 centrifuges, or about twice as many as Iran, and that he was worried about their cooperation with Iran. He urged the present United States administration to set three red lines for the North Koreans: no new bombs, no bigger bombs and no exporting of nuclear material. Hecker also said a military attack is out of the question, that tightening sanctions is at a dead end and that the only hope appears to be engagement.

The deepening ties between Tehran and Pyongyang however, make it very likely that North Korea's demands will be very high. The nuclear power and missile research institutes in North Korea and Iran are acting essentially as one body. North Korean nuclear and missile scientists are in Iran, and Iranian scientists are in North Korea. They share everything. Thus do we read, "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."—Luke 21:26

## **AMERICA'S POLITICAL SCENE**

The midterm elections that were held in the United States in November, 2010, indicate that many American citizens, perhaps motivated to

some extent by the so-called Tea Party activists, had become disillusioned with their new president and his administration. President Obama's program was to change the direction of the country, but, as a result of the voters' decisions, he suffered a major political defeat and the loss of a great deal of power.

Political analysts recall that as a candidate for president two years ago, Obama campaigned on a promise of change. At that time, his supporters believed that this included immediate action to turn the failing economy around and to prevent a major financial depression. Instead, they say, he became preoccupied with implementing his radical liberal agenda as quickly as possible, and that took precedence over everything else.

These experts explained that many of his supporters began to openly express surprise and dissatisfaction that he was not acting more quickly on his campaign promises. Others began to believe he was not capable of making serious and definitive decisions on many important issues. Thus, his vision of a new postpartisan and postracial era became bogged down in controversy from within his administration. Some say that he is becoming more and more like all of the other politicians that he claims he is not like, and that he must find a way to work with Republicans to get things done for the American people.

They also point out that at both the federal and state levels in the midterm elections there was a political upheaval as Republicans won races at an historic level. Critics say that Americans believe their government is becoming too intrusive in their

lives, and that his policies have only increased the national debt. According to these, the midterm election results reflect a rejection of the president's legislative agenda that include healthcare, Cap-and-Trade, massive bailouts, a wasteful stimulus bill and an anti-energy agenda. To some, it also points to a failure to recognize the increasing threat of Islamic terrorism on American soil, and a foreign policy that is less favorable to America's traditional allies, such as Great Britain and Israel, while appeasing its enemies.

### **CHRIST'S FUTURE KINGDOM**

There is little doubt that many of this country's political leaders are upright individuals whose aim is the welfare of the American people, but they are unable to overcome the many obstacles to success. President Obama also is dedicated to his policies which he believes are for the betterment of the nation. However, we know that our loving Heavenly Father has the ultimate program that will provide life and blessings to all people.

Students of the Bible point to God's great "Time Clock of the Ages" that continues to mark off the dramatic and foretold closing events of this present Gospel Age. Soon the complete number of those who have responded to the heavenly calling will be brought together and will share as members of the Christ in blessing all the families of the earth.

At that time, the prayers of his faithful will be answered, and the glory of his power will be manifest in the overthrow of all unrighteousness and human institutions based on pride and selfishness.

Under the administration of Christ's future kingdom, there will no longer be any fear to find solutions for too many people, or that mass starvation, pandemic diseases or nuclear warfare will destroy the earth and its people. God has all things under control, and through his Prophet Isaiah has promised, "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."—Isa. 40:4,5

As we enter another new decade, let us renew our consecrations and increase our faith in the wonderful hope of our high calling in Christ Jesus. Let us keep before our mind's eye the wonderful vision that inspired John to write, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."—Rev. 21:1,2

John further wrote, "I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."—vss. 3-5

*“Your Father knoweth what things ye have  
need of.”—Matthew 6:8*

*Our Father knows what things we need  
Each step along the way,  
His eye of love doth never sleep,—  
He watches night and day.*

*He knows sometimes, like ripening grain  
We need the sunshine bright,  
Again He sends the peace that comes  
With shadows of the night.*

*Sometimes our pride would fain unfurl  
Ambition’s flaunting sail,—  
Ah! then He knows we need to walk  
Humiliation’s vale.*

*Sometimes He takes our eager hands  
And folds them on our breast,  
He gently lays our work aside,—  
He knows we need to rest.*

*Sometimes we need companionship,  
Sometimes, “the wilderness,”—  
How sweet to feel He’ll know and give  
The state that most will bless!*

*Then let us leave it all with Him,  
Assured that, come what may,  
Our Father knows just what we need  
Upon our pilgrim way.*

*—Poems of the Way*

# I Am Your Redeemer

**Key Verse:** *“I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.”*  
—Isaiah 44:22

**Selected Scripture:**  
*Isaiah 44*

## IN TODAY'S LESSON THE

Prophet Isaiah instructs Israel—God's chosen people—to recall the fact that their standing before God was only through his divine care and providence. It was God who had, as Isaiah states, “formed thee from the womb.” (Isa. 44:2) It was also God who blessed them and provided for their needs, “For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty,

and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring.”—vs. 3

Particularly worthy of note in this chapter of Isaiah is the fact that the prophet speaks four times of God as Israel's Redeemer. The first of these references is in verse 6, “Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.” To redeem means to buy back, thus paying the debt of one who cannot pay it himself. In this verse the prophet reminds Israel that their first responsibility in recognizing God as their redeemer is to appreciate that there is no other God beside him. As the one who had purchased them by establishing his covenant with them, he alone was to be their king, and they were to serve no other.

God, through the prophet, continues in this regard by speaking of the vanity and uselessness of having other

gods, and making graven images. “Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any. They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed. Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing? Behold, all his fellows shall be ashamed.” (vss. 8-11) Isaiah further says that those who disobey in this regard “have not known nor understood: . . . And none considereth in his heart.”—vss. 18,19

God desired better of his people Israel and, in verse 21, reminds them that they are his servants, they were formed by him, and he would not forget them. In our Key Verse, we find the second reference to God as Israel’s Redeemer. Here he states that his redeeming power was such that their sins, typically speaking, had been blotted out; and he encouraged them to return to him. Verses 23 and 24 contain two more references to God, the Redeemer of Israel. “Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it: . . . the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel. Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself.”

Although Israel’s typical kingdom was cut off due to their continued unfaithfulness, God promised, once again through the prophet, that he would raise up a “shepherd, and [he] shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.” (vs. 28) Although this verse identifies Cyrus as this ‘shepherd,’ he was merely a picture of a much greater shepherd—God’s son, Jesus—whom he sent to carry out the greater redemptive work on behalf of both Israel, and the entire world of mankind. As a result, not only Israel, but “all the nations of the earth [shall] be blessed.”—Gen. 22:18 ■

# Turn to Me and Be Saved

**Key Verse:** “*Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*”  
—*Isaiah 45:22*

**Selected Scripture:**  
*Isaiah 45*

**CHRISTIANS MOST OFTEN** think of Jesus as their Savior and, indeed, the Scriptures are replete with such statements, for example, “Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11) However, the Bible also speaks of God himself as the Savior of mankind. Although this may at first seem difficult to understand, there is no conflict to think of both God, the Father, and his son, Jesus Christ, as saviors, when the Scriptures are properly understood. Today’s lesson points out, in prophetic words, how God and Jesus, separate and distinct beings, are both to be considered as saviors.

The first point when considering this subject is that God and his son Jesus are, in fact, two separate beings and not part of a triune god. In our lesson, this is shown by comparing verse 1 with other verses in the chapter. “Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him.” (Isa. 45:1) “Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour.” (vs. 15) It is clear from verse 15, as well as others in this chapter, that God himself was the Savior of Israel. Verse 1, however, speaks of Cyrus as one anointed by God to do things on his behalf. We know from other

supporting scriptural accounts how God used Cyrus, the great Persian king, to save Israel and allow her to rebuild the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem (see Ezra and Nehemiah) following her 70 years of appointed captivity. Both God, and his anointed instrument Cyrus, acted jointly, and in cooperation with one another, to be Israel's typical savior. At the same time, none for a moment would conclude that God and Cyrus were one and the same person, or being. They were separate, distinct, yet worked together for the accomplishment of the same goal.

The above application to typical Israel has a much larger fulfillment. Cyrus was used as a picture, or type, of Jesus Christ, the son of God. The word 'Christ' means anointed and, as Cyrus was anointed by God to fulfill his saving work on Israel's behalf, Jesus was also anointed to fulfill a much larger and all-encompassing 'saving' work. This work was not merely the saving of one nation for a limited period of time, as was the case with Israel. God and his anointed son Jesus, working jointly and in complete cooperation, engaged in the saving of all mankind from sin and eternal death, and provided the means whereby all will be given an opportunity for eternal life in Christ's coming kingdom.

Jesus' role as Savior was to provide the ransom price—a perfect human life, to correspond to the life forfeited by Adam through sin, thus plunging the entire human family into death. This price was provided by Jesus' death as a perfect man, thus taking the place of, and releasing, Adam and his progeny from the penalty of death. However, Jesus' death by itself could not fully accomplish the saving of mankind. God's specific role then came into play. He, by his own mighty power, raised Jesus from the dead, which allowed the ransom payment to be made into the hands of justice, and made sure the arrangement whereby in due time, all that have died will receive a resurrection (John 5:28-29, *Wilson's Emphatic Diaglott*) and thus be saved by the joint operation of the Father and the Son. ■

# Reassurance for God's People

**Key Verse:** *“Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The LORD hath redeemed his servant Jacob.”*  
—*Isaiah 48:20*

**Selected Scripture:**  
*Isaiah 48*

brow brass; . . . Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb.”—Isa. 48:1,4,8

The above words describing Israel as ‘a transgressor from the womb’ are particularly applicable on a much larger scale to all mankind, currently in a condition of sin as a result of Adam’s disobedience. As the Psalmist states, “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” (Ps. 51:5) Apostle Paul confirms these words, saying, “As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed

## **ISRAEL, GOD’S TYPICAL**

chosen people, was symbolic of mankind in general due to the fact that they, like mankind, failed in many ways to live up to God’s perfect law. Note these words from selected verses of this lesson. “Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, . . . and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness. . . . Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy

upon all men, for that all have sinned.” (Rom. 5:12) The fact that Israel found themselves in the same condition as the rest of mankind, laboring under the sentence of death, even with the special favors bestowed upon them as God’s chosen people, is proof beyond a doubt that a special arrangement was necessary whereby redemption could take place for anyone, whether Jew or Gentile.

This arrangement is described by Paul with these words, “When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law.” (Gal. 4:4,5) Apostle John adds, “He [Jesus] is the propitiation . . . for the sins of the whole world.” (I John 2:2) Jesus died as a corresponding price, a ransom, for Father Adam. Hence, all in Adam’s loins, Jew and Gentile, are to benefit from the redemptive work. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”—I Cor. 15:22

The Key Verse of our lesson reminds us that Israel, in type, after a period of captivity in Babylon, was instructed by God to flee and go back to their homeland, rebuild the walls of their great city Jerusalem, and build again their Temple of worship to God. The verse says this was made possible because ‘The LORD hath redeemed his servant Jacob.’ In the larger picture, mankind, in Christ’s coming earthly kingdom, will also be given the opportunity to return to their homeland—earth—to rebuild the walls of their character, and build again their individual temple (symbolically speaking) of worship to God.

The kingdom arrangement for Israel and all mankind’s recovery from sin will begin through the great work of the resurrection of the dead, but this will only be the start. These beautiful words of the prophet describe the work and conditions of this kingdom: “An highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; . . . the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, . . . they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”—Isa. 35:8-10 ■

# The Servant's Mission in the World

**Key Verse:** *“He said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.”*  
—Isaiah 49:6

**Selected Scripture:**  
*Isaiah 49:1-6*

“He hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me.” (Isa. 49:2) In these words also, we see Jesus prophetically spoken of. John the Revelator states concerning the glorified Jesus, “Out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword.” (Rev. 1:16) This symbolic language is full of meaning. First, it shows that Jesus, as God’s appointed servant, is his mouthpiece, speaking only those things that come from God. Second, the words which proceed out of Jesus’

**TODAY’S LESSON IS A** beautiful prophecy of the work of God’s son, Jesus, who made himself a servant to all. “The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.” (Isa. 49:1) Here we see, in prophecy, God’s son Jesus as one called from the womb of his mother Mary. Confirming this are these words, “The angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.”—Luke 1:30,31

mouth are pictured as a 'sharp twoedged sword.' This shows that it is not God's intent to use carnal weapons to subdue this present evil world. Rather, his word of Truth, as given by his glorified Son, will be the sword which slays the false teachings of Satan, and the traditions and superstitions of fallen men.

The importance of the Key Verse of our lesson is attested to by the fact that these words are quoted in three different places in the New Testament. When the devout Simeon came to Jerusalem to see the child Jesus, he testified, "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." (Luke 2:30-32) As Paul and Barnabas began their ministry in the gospel, they also recalled the prophet's words, stating, "So hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth." (Acts 13:47) What a faith-strengthening confirmation is given by Paul and Barnabas to the prophet's words that this salvation will not just be for a few, but 'unto the ends of the earth.'

The third New Testament reference to our Key Verse we find late in Paul's ministry, as he stood before King Agrippa and testified of his commission to preach the gospel of Christ. He states, "I continue unto this day, . . . saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles." (Acts 26:22,23) So logical, so reasonable, was Paul's testimony before King Agrippa that the king made this remarkable statement in response to Paul: "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." (Acts 26:28) How we look forward to the time when Agrippa, and all mankind, will not only hear, but understand and appreciate the words which proceed from God out of the mouth of his servants. ■

# Healed by His Bruises

**Key Verse:** *“He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”*  
—Isaiah 53:5

**Selected Scripture:**  
*Isaiah 53*

## **THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH**

53 is one of the most soul-searching in the Bible, as it details the suffering and ignominy which Jesus endured during his life on earth, all the way to his death on the cross of Calvary. How important is the opening verse, which asks, “Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?” (Isa. 53:1) The verses which follow give the impression that Jesus’ life indeed was a failure. Few, seemingly, would

desire to believe such a report, and follow one who appeared to have little human appeal. “He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”—vss. 2,3

God points out through the prophet that while to most Jesus had little appeal, he was actually carrying their burdens, griefs, and sorrows. “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.” (vs. 4) Although it was perhaps not necessary for Jesus to bear all these things in order to provide the ransom, or corresponding price, as the means for redeeming Adam and his race, yet

in God's wisdom he saw the need of his Son to go through such difficult experiences that he might become truly sympathetic to man's many problems. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."—Heb. 4:15

Our Key Verse provides an important truth, that Jesus' 'wounding' was not because of any sin on his part, but for 'our transgressions.' His 'bruising' was 'for our iniquities,' not his, for in him was no iniquity of any kind. Jesus was "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners." (Heb. 7:26) The chastisement he endured provides "peace with God" (Rom 5:1) to those who have accepted the merits of his sacrifice, and his sufferings provide a means of healing to those who put their trust in him.

This prophecy also shows the humble attitude of Jesus, even in the midst of severe trials. "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." (Isa. 53:7) What a wonderful example is set before us of quiet submission to God's will. The Lord's consecrated people should continually remind themselves of their Master's 'lamb-like' character, especially in times of trial, persecution, and suffering for the Truth's sake.

God provides a glorious conclusion to this prophetic view of his Son's earthly ministry and its ultimate results. "He shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death." (vss. 10-12) Truly we can say, as the words of the hymn express, "Hallelujah, What a Savior!" ■

# In Season and Out of Season

*“Preach the word;  
be instant in  
season, out of  
season; reprove,  
rebuke, exhort with  
all longsuffering  
and doctrine.”  
—II Timothy 4:2*

**THE APOSTLE PAUL’S** second letter to his beloved Timothy was written during his second imprisonment at Rome. He was to soon end his consecrated course in death, and these are among his last written words. His

wise admonition and counsel represented many years of experience and hardship in the narrow way of sacrifice, and in preaching the Truth to those who had an ear to hear his message. His words thus take on added meaning and perspective, and are worthy of our deep consideration, study and meditation.

## **PAUL’S LOVE FOR TIMOTHY**

The apostle loved his younger brother Timothy very much, even referring to him as a son. As he began this final letter, he opened his heart to him and wrote, “To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank God, whom I serve

from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy.”—II Tim. 1:2-4

It was not uncommon for Paul to address Timothy as a son. He had done so in his first letter on two occasions (I Tim. 1:2,18), and once again in his second letter, when he said, “Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” (II Tim. 2:1-3) He had also spoken of him as a son in a letter written to the church at Corinth. He explained to them, “For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.”—I Cor. 4:17

## **TENDER MEMORIES**

Paul recalled many tender memories and his longtime association with Timothy and other members of his family. We read, “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”—II Tim. 1:5-7

## **A PARTAKER OF AFFLICTIONS**

The great apostle was in a Roman prison awaiting his inevitable fate. It was surely an ‘out-of-season’ experience for him to continue being faithful even unto his death. Yet, as an encouragement to his younger brother walking in the narrow way he took the opportunity to write to him. He told him, “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God. Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”—vss. 8-10

Timothy gladly received the wonderful message and further counsel from the apostle. “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.” (chap. 2:4,5) “It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.” (vss. 11,12) “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”—vs. 15

## **OUR FEATURED TEXT**

Our featured scripture is taken from chapter four of Paul’s letter, and he began this portion of

his letter by saying, “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”—II Tim. 4:1-5

### **LONG SUFFERING**

Paul’s opening words ‘I charge thee’ were assertive and add solemn emphasis to the testimony that he was about to give before our loving Heavenly Father and Christ Jesus. He knew he was about to die soon, and in this connection he spoke of both those who were in their graves and those who were yet living at that time. He confirmed that they were all to be judged at a future time at the appearing, or manifestation [*epiphania*, Greek], of Christ’s kingdom.

Sound advice was given to Timothy that he should be ready to preach the Truth at all times and places, even under inconvenient and uncomfortable circumstances. However, he cautioned him to not intrude himself upon others if it was not a convenient time for them to receive his words. Perhaps an opportunity to proclaim the glad tidings of joy might be made available to him at another time. It would be more appropriate to use patience in such an instance.

## REPROVE

Timothy was encouraged to reprove, rebuke, and exhort when preaching the wonderful doctrines of Truth while exercising much longsuffering. To ‘reprove’ suggests the delicate art of exposing a particular error of belief or personal behavior, and then carefully seeking to correct it.

In the apostle’s letter to Titus, he used the same word on three occasions that indicate the proper manner for reprovng. In the first instance, Paul wrote, “holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute [reprove] those who contradict.” (Titus 1:9, *New American Standard Bible*) Again he pointed out, “This testimony is true. For this cause reprove them severely that they may be sound in the faith.” (vs. 13, *NASB*) The third time he chose this word he wrote, “These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.”—chap. 2:15, *NASB*

In connection with the importance of reprovng, Jesus said, “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” (Matt. 10:16) The Apostle Peter also admonished, “Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”—I Pet. 3:15

## REBUKE

Paul also included the word rebuke in his letter to Timothy. To ‘rebuke’ means to censure, admonish

or to forbid a certain thing. It is used in a wide variety of ways in the New Testament. For example, when Jesus began his earthly ministry he explained to his disciples that it was necessary that he encounter much hardship during his ministry and that he would suffer many trials before being put to death at the hands of Israel's religious leaders. However, he assured them that he would not remain in the grave, but that his loving Heavenly Father would resurrect him after three days.—Mark 8:31

The scriptural account of this particular instance includes two references where the word rebuke was used. We read, “He [Jesus] spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. But when he [Jesus] had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.”—vss. 32,33

Peter loved Jesus very much, but he had to learn to not contradict, or correct, our Lord. Jesus rebuked his disciple to teach him a very important lesson. He made the distinction between our Heavenly Father's ultimate purpose, and that of human wisdom and the opposing spirit of evil and the Adversary.

The word rebuke was used another time when Peter's mother-in-law was sick with a severe fever. They called for the Master to come and help heal her sickness. “He stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.” (Luke 4:39) We are not told the details of how she (Continued on page 35)

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*(Continued from page 31)* ministered unto the others. However, this action showed the remarkable power that Jesus was given, which serves to illustrate the greater healing power that will be available to him for the whole sin-sick world during his future kingdom.

Another illustration of the word rebuke, and Jesus' miraculous power, occurred when he and his disciples were together in a ship. We read, "There arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."—Mark 4:37-39

In a grander sense, the great storm represents the consecrated little flock of the Lord's people who have battled the storms of life and the tempest tossed waves. This has been their experience throughout this present Gospel Age. However, this has a more particular meaning at the end of this age, and the great time of trouble and restless waves that are now upon the nations.

It was the Master who then said, 'Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.' The psalmist also wrote, "He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still."—Ps. 107:29

## **EXHORT**

Paul's final admonition to his beloved Timothy was to 'exhort.' This word is usually used in a

positive sense and, in his letter, he used it to encourage and urge his younger brother to pursue a course of action and conduct that would be pleasing to the Heavenly Father. He was to maintain this attitude of heart especially during his preaching activities.

When writing to the Thessalonian brethren, the apostle chose the same word exhort to encourage them to greater faithfulness in the Lord. He wrote, "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more." (I Thess. 4:1) Later, he told them, "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men."—chap. 5:14

In his letter to the Hebrew brethren, Paul also urged them by saying, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end."—Heb. 3:12-14

## **WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM**

The Apostle Paul's untiring ministry for the Lord and his people is unparalleled in the history and development of the Early Church. The accounts of his pilgrimages and writings occupy a major portion of the New Testament scriptures. He willingly suffered affliction and severe trials on behalf of the

true followers of our Lord Jesus. He was faithful to his ministry whether it was in season or out of season. He also encouraged those to whom he preached to share in the present sufferings of Christ and the grand heavenly calling.

In his letter to the brethren at Corinth, he said, "Being also co-laborers, we exhort you not to receive the favor of God in vain; (for he says, 'In a Season acceptable, I listened to thee, and in a Day of Salvation I assisted thee,' Behold! now is a well-accepted Season; behold! now is a Day of Salvation;)"—II Cor. 6:1,2, *Wilson's Emphatic Diaglott*

### **THE ACCEPTABLE TIME**

We have been invited to become workers together with God, and in the carrying out of his ultimate plan and purpose for the reconciliation of the poor sin-sick human family. The apostle has thus admonished that we not receive the wonderful grace of God in vain, but to fulfill our covenant of sacrifice faithfully even unto death.

The present Gospel Age is the acceptable time to offer our lives in total consecration to our loving Heavenly Father. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."—Rom. 12:1,2

### **FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH**

Having given our lives in consecration to God, "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance

of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”—Heb. 10:22-25

### **MINISTERS OF GOD**

Having thus received of the marvelous grace of God, let us heed the further admonition of the apostle. “Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by love unfeigned, By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”—II Cor. 6:3-10

### **TO DIE IS GAIN**

Paul’s greatest desire was to be faithful to his heavenly calling and share with our Lord Jesus in his future kingdom beyond the veil of death.

Nevertheless, he was willing to leave all matters pertaining to his earthly pilgrimage in God's hands. This is clearly shown in the letter he wrote to the church at Philippi. He told them, "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death."—Phil. 1:20

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you." (vss. 21-24) The apostle was hard pressed by the two aspects of God's providence, to live and continue to serve the special people of God, or to die and rest from his labors of love. By the Heavenly Father's wonderful grace, he permitted Paul to remain a little while longer in the flesh to serve the members of the Christ.

Out of the treasures of Paul's heart he continued to speak the words of Truth. With this spiritual hope imbedded deeply in his heart, he said, "Having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again. Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."—vss. 25-27

## **KEEPING THE FAITH**

He had faithfully kept the faith that was addressed by Jude. In his short epistle, he wrote, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3) The true 'faith' centers on the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus, and the merit of its application on our behalf. The apostle abided faithfully in the wonderful promises of God's Holy Word. He could therefore write to the church at Rome with encouragement. "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life."—Rom. 2:7

## **PAUL'S FINAL TESTIMONY**

Paul knew that he had come to the end of his consecrated walk in Christ Jesus, and that he was to soon give his life as a final sacrifice to the Heavenly Father. To Timothy, he thus acknowledged, "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."—II Tim. 4:6-8

He did not complain about his confinement in a Roman prison, or of the many trials and tribulations he willingly endured along the narrow way he had walked for so long. There must have been many times when he endured great affliction and

suffering, yet he went forward with the task that our loving Heavenly Father had given him to do. Neither did he take the opportunity to boast of his vast knowledge of the Scriptures, or his many accomplishments as the greatest of the apostles. His last testimonial serves as an inspiration to all of the Lord's consecrated people who are yet striving to obtain the prize of the high calling in Christ's future kingdom of Truth and righteousness.

As Paul closed his letter to Timothy, he recalled some of the disappointing circumstances he had experienced with certain brethren that had caused him much pain and had forsaken him. He wrote, "At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge." (II Tim. 4:16) However, he acknowledged that our Heavenly Father had been with him throughout his Christian ministry. "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion."—vs. 17

In Paul's letter to Timothy, he gave him wonderful counsel that was surely an encouragement to him at that time in the history of the Early Church. However, it has also been a source of rich blessing for the Lord's people throughout this present Gospel Age. "The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."—vs.18

We are encouraged to renew our determination to be faithful to our heavenly calling, and to take every opportunity to defend the Truth, especially

as the days in which we now live become more violent. Let us endeavor to do this whether it be in season or out of season.

### **IN DUE SEASON**

“Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”—Gal. 6:9,10 ■

## **WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING TEXTS**

**JANUARY 6**—“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”—Psalm 90:12 (Z. '01-333 Hymn 74)

**JANUARY 13**—“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”—I John 2:1 (Z. '01-233 Hymn 213)

**JANUARY 20**—“If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?”—Hebrews 12:7 (Z. '95-107 Hymn 335)

**JANUARY 27**—“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”—Proverbs 4:23 (Z. '99-140 Hymn 198)

# Jesus the Good Shepherd

*“I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.”*  
—John 10:14,15

## **IN THIS SCRIPTURE, THE**

Apostle John has recorded the comforting and tender words of Jesus when he spoke of himself as ‘the good shepherd.’ By assuming this meaningful title, he also made clear his willingness to lay down his life for the sheep—his true and faithful followers. He said, “There-

fore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”—John 10:17,18

## **NO OTHER NAME**

John began this tenth chapter of his gospel with our Lord’s warning to those who would seek another way than the door which had been provided for them, and would, therefore, not receive the

Heavenly Father's approval and blessing. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."—John 10:1

When Peter rose to speak to the rulers, elders, scribes, and the High Priest of Israel, along with the others, he addressed them directly, "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."—Acts 4:10-12

The Apostle Paul also reminded the Hebrew brethren that Jesus not only gave his life for the sin-sick world, but that he also opened a new and spiritual way for his very special followers. In his letter to them, he said, "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh."—Heb. 10:19,20

## **THE DOOR**

In John's gospel, from which our featured scripture is taken, we learn that Jesus spoke of a special door that would be opened to his faithful followers who had responded to the new and living way. He taught them, "He that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter

openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.”—John 10:2-6

### **THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

There are many illustrations and lessons in the Scriptures in which our Lord Jesus is shown as leading his people, and his loving care over them. However, in none of these is shown the profound and tender relationship more impressively than in the illustration of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, and his faithful followers as sheep. Because of the special nature of this symbol, it has been readily accepted as one of the most beautiful images in the Bible that relates to this special characteristic of our dear Lord and Savior.

Thus we see Jesus immediately exercising his shepherding care over his disciples after his resurrection from the dead. It is further evident that he intended that this title and office as the Good Shepherd should be a continuing one throughout the call to the Christ during this present gospel Age. The Apostle Peter brings this thought to our attention in his letter to the brethren after Christ's resurrection. He speaks of it as the present commission of our Lord, and in reference to Jesus as a shepherd to his people, he wrote, “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that

we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”—I Pet. 2:24,25

The Apostle Paul, when speaking of Christ, also said, “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”—Heb. 13:20,21

## **ASPECTS OF THE RELATIONSHIP**

There are important aspects concerning the relationship that exists between Christ Jesus and his people, and this is shown by his having a living fellowship with his little flock of followers. This intimacy is more clearly appreciated when we become familiar with the pastoral life and duty during the time of our Lord’s First Advent.

In our Lord’s time, a shepherd would never leave his flock. He lived with his sheep during the daytime and slept near them during the night. His eye was ever on them, and he became very familiar with their every need. He incurred personal risks and inconveniences for their safety and welfare continually. This included a sense that his interests and that of his sheep were one and the same. The hazards and the hardships of the flock were shared by him. When they suffered, or were in want, he took it upon himself to see to their every need, and he was never happier than when he saw

them satisfied and at peace. So close and sympathetic was the union between the shepherd and his sheep that their feelings were what he felt, and his will was their will. Together they became one body, he the head and they the members, and the interest of the one was the interest of the other.

### **A LIVING FELLOWSHIP**

This living fellowship is the same relationship that our Lord has with all of his people during this present Gospel Age. Jesus, as our good shepherd, has experienced his people's burdens, and is aware of their varying degrees of exposure to the sentence of sin and the dying process. He gives himself continually to their everlasting spiritual welfare and peace.

As the greater and more glorious David who watched over his sheep, Jesus stands to defend his flock against the lion and the bear, and anything that may seek to injure his flock. The Good Shepherd cares for his sheep and his heart is drawn towards them. All of his dealings with regard to them are conditioned by an undying affection for them. If any are fearful, or weak, or in need, his eye is ever watchful to notice it, and he is always ready to provide the necessary help for those who need him most.

### **DEFENDER OF THE SHEEP**

We have Jesus' own beautiful promise in the context of our featured scripture. It is recorded, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to

pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one."—John 10:27-30

The landscape was intensely rugged, and there were many dangers from the weather, robbers, and wild beasts. A good shepherd is also the faithful defender of his flock. He stands by them in every peril and defends them on every occasion. Christ has loved his people even to the point of dying for them, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."—John 15:13

## **THE SHEEP**

From the other point of view, we note that if Christ is recognized as the Good Shepherd, then also are his people illustrated as the sheep. Sheep are very defenseless creatures by nature, and could very well perish if someone was not looking after them. Sheep have many enemies that are much more powerful than they are, and they must have a keeper.

This puts in perspective the true nature of our weaknesses, and foresees the condition of our lost and exposed estate if we did not have this relationship with Christ.

It was in this helpless and lost condition that Christ found his people during the time of his First Advent. "When he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd." (Matt. 9:36) Jesus explained the very nature of God's wonderful providence as it was made known to him. At the proper time, the Good Shepherd was sent from on high, and began the assembling of his flock—the elect of God who were called to be fellow heirs of his own glory.

## SELECTED FROM THE WORLD

The children of God have been selected out of every sorrowful state known in this sin-sick world, and have become a people gathered unto him. He bought them with his own blood and graciously offered himself to them as their true Shepherd. He has drawn them by his loving spirit, and they have learned to know him and to confide in his marvelous wisdom and goodness. They have separated themselves from the rest of the world to be one with him as their ever-blessed Lord and Master. They have learned to appreciate his great sacrifice on their behalf, and have been blessed with a personal acquaintance with him. They are his and they are safe in him.

Jesus said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me."—John 6:44-46

This has been true of all who have received the message of the heavenly calling in Christ Jesus during this present Gospel Age. They are the true sheep that have recognized the shepherd's voice and have been led by him who gave his life for them. "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."—Luke 12:32 ■

*"Thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory,  
and the lifter up of mine head."  
—Psalm 3:3*

# Pilgrim Trip Report

September 2010

Brother Joe Panucci

**ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2010**, I arrived in the northern Italian city of Lumezzane. I had planned to visit with my cousin and her family, but upon my arrival they informed me that she had been taken very sick and was in the hospital. That night we were notified that she had died, and I was very saddened to learn that I had not been able to see her again.

## **FUNERAL AT LUMEZZANE**

The funeral arrangements were made and my cousin's body was brought to the family's house for the funeral. Most Italian people feel very close to their family members and prefer to have funeral services in their homes. Since my cousins are familiar with my religious beliefs and receive the Italian *Dawn* magazine and appreciate the Truth, they told me that they would like to have me give a discourse on this sad occasion.

With the Lord's help this gave me a very good

opportunity to present the message of hope in the presence of 275 people who came to the funeral service. This number included two priests, city officials, and the mayor of the city. My relatives are business people and well respected by the people of the city. After the service, a number of people approached me and asked questions in relation to our beliefs.

### **VISIT AT FLORENCE**

My next stop was at Florence, Italy to meet with the brethren in that area. A week before my arrival, they had made arrangements with one of the hotels in the city to present the film “For This Cause” which is now available in the Italian language. During the week, the film was advertised in the local papers, as well as through cards that were handed out to the public.

Attendance at the meeting was excellent and well received by the audience. Among those attending was a family of four. During the presentation, a woman in the group became very emotional. After the meeting, we learned from her that when she was a young child during the war, all of her family had perished in concentration camps. Also in the audience was an Italian university professor who expressed his appreciation for the Truth presentation. He later wrote a letter to the brethren saying, “I wish to express my appreciation for the presentation of the film. It was a biblical and prophetic presentation; and it was my privilege meeting sincere Bible Students with such a knowledge of the Bible.” The letter was a strong encouragement for the local brethren.

## **BRETHREN IN AGRIGENTO & CANICATTI**

From Florence, my next stop was Agrigento, Italy to visit the brethren there. During my visit, we conducted three Bible meetings. On the fourth day we met to discuss the best way to promote the Truth in that part of the country. Most of the brethren in Agrigento are young and very zealous in their love of the Truth.

I also travelled with four others from Agrigento to Canicatti to visit with the brethren in that area. By themselves, they had built a beautiful meeting hall with all the conveniences, not only for worship but also for cooking and fellowship. Two discourses were given there, as well as a testimony meeting. The Italian brethren appreciate the cooperation of the Dawn brethren for printing the Italian *Dawn* magazine and other Truth literature. They appreciate the labors of love of those who share in the preparation of the Dawn publications.

Due to scandals in the church, not only in Italy but also in other countries, many people are looking in other directions for their religious needs. This situation has helped to create a good opportunity for the Lord's people to promulgate the Truth. The Italian brethren have organized themselves well for the distribution of literature to various locations in the country.

Brethren who live in northern Italy distribute literature in the Milan and Treviso areas. Those in the center of the country distribute literature in Florence, Rome, and Naples; while those in the south take care of the Agrigento, Canicatti, and Sicily regions. Between all of the regions in the country they have distributed over 10,000 pam-

phlets entitled “Why God Permits Evil” in the past two months.

## **DEPARTURE FROM ITALY**

The day before I departed from Italy, a religious minister from Florence invited us to attend his church. We held a long discussion about the Truth with him and some other members of his church. We presented the message of Truth and he truly appreciated some of the thoughts. By the Lord’s grace, we were able to provide him and his congregation with a presentation of “For This Cause” and he desired to have a copy to give to his church. He also expressed a desire to receive the Italian *Dawn* and other Truth literature. We found the man to be very humble and in the spirit of appreciation about the Truth as it is presented in the Bible.

In this same church, we noticed over 150 Chinese-language Bibles on their bookshelf. We asked the minister about this, and he told us that about 150 Chinese Christians share the hall with them and have a two-hour study of the Bible each Saturday.

We are very thankful to our Heavenly Father for the opportunity and privilege he has granted us to meet so many dear brethren and friends from different parts of the world. It is a great joy to share with them some of the precious Truth as it has been revealed to us by our blessed Lord. ■

*“As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”*  
—Proverbs 25:25

# Statistical Report

For the year ended September 30, 2010

**THE DAWN IS** pleased to provide this annual report to our readers. It is a pleasure to have continued with the work in which so many have cooperated during the past year. During the fiscal year 2010, the Dawn was able to maintain and, in some cases, increase its witness work as compared to the prior year. Although we had budgeted to reduce our cash and reserves by up to 10% if necessary, in 2010, in order to carry on our witness work, we were actually able to limit this reduction to 5.5%. The Dawn made some additional purchases of new equipment in 2010, continuing to upgrade and increase the efficiency of day-to-day operations. Total revenues, excluding bequests, were 13% below budget for the year, operating expenses were 4% above budget, and witnessing expenses were 30% under budget. In total, we had a net loss, excluding bequests, of \$254,185, compared to a budgeted loss, also excluding bequests, of \$340,000, a favorable variance of \$85,815. The table on the next page shows receipts and expenditures for the past year:

We have budgeted to increase witnessing work in 2011 by an aggregate of about 60%, but to limit to no more than \$350,000, or 13%, any reduction in total cash and reserves during the year. Further

Income	Receipts	Expenditures
All revenue other than bequests	<u>\$221,259</u>	
Expenses		
Radio (domestic and foreign)		\$ 77,917
TV (includes spots and recordings)		20,094
Other Media and Internet		44,921
Pilgrim Service (domestic and foreign)		4,564
Other Foreign Support		16,780
Shipping/Mailing (domestic and foreign)		73,674
Outside Printing		6,385
Shop Operating Expense		44,149
Plant Operating Expense		126,971
House Operating Expense		<u>59,989</u>
Total Expenses		\$475,444
Less Income	<u>221,259</u>	
Net Loss before Bequests	\$(254,185)	
Bequests	<u>115,460</u>	
Net Gain after Bequests	\$(138,725)	

increases in witnessing efforts will be considered if revenue or bequests exceed budgeted amounts.

The Truth which was proclaimed by the apostles and others in the Early Church is still being declared today. The faith once delivered unto the saints is still believed by faithful children of God who are willing to spend and be spent witnessing it far and wide. This message which Jesus described as the gospel of the kingdom is being proclaimed today in the United States, Canada, the British Isles, Europe, several African nations (including Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa,) South and Central America, (specifically Panama, Brazil, Peru,) Australia, New Zealand, India, Asia, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Poland, Romania, Moldova, Russia, Philippines, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Trinidad, China, and other countries! Various media

is used including television, radio, 30-second commercial spots, the Internet, and a variety of magazines, almanacs, and other printed media.

The Dawn recorded lecture service and Dawn video service continue their work, and the Dawn web site continues to bring in requests for literature from around the world. In the past 12 months, the web site has again exceeded 1.5 million visits. The Dawn web site now includes four booklets in the Chinese language. The Google and Yahoo Internet keyword ads provide thousands of requests for literature from around the world, both in English and Spanish languages, more details of which are provided below.

*Hope* booklets continue to be provided to funeral directors throughout the United States, as well as many individual ecclesias, bringing a message of comfort to those who have lost their loved ones in death, and many reorders have been filled during the past year.

The Dawn Devotional Radio internet radio station at Live365 continues to provide witnessing and Truth programs 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Since its launch in November 2006, individuals have listened to the station for nearly 9,000 hours, averaging nearly 70 minutes per occasion.

During the past year, the Dawn continued its keyword advertising on Google and Yahoo for 19 booklets in English. The number of individuals viewing a web page offering one of the booklets grew 83% to 84,583, with responses as follows: Read the booklet online—8,349 times, downloaded a PDF version of the booklet—5,574 times, and requested a copy of the booklet be mailed to them—

7,032 times. The increased number of responses was due to an increase in the budget and hence, the amount of advertising the Dawn was able to do.

In November 2010, the Dawn started advertising 16 additional English booklets on Google. These booklets are: *Christ's 1000-Year Kingdom*, *Three Keys to the Bible*, *The Blood of Atonement*, *God Has a Plan*, *God's Plan for Man*, *God's Remedy for a World Gone Mad*, *Israel in History and Prophecy*, *Born of the Spirit*, *Future of Israel and the World*, *The Grace of Jehovah*, *Hope Beyond the Grave*, *The Light of the World*, *Paradise Without Pollution*, *Peace Through Christ's Kingdom*, *Reincarnation versus Resurrection*, and *Spiritualism—Its Claims*.

During the past year, the Dawn has also continued its keyword advertising on Google and Yahoo for 9 booklets in Spanish. The number of individuals viewing a web page offering one of the booklets grew 93% to 92,191, with responses as follows: Read the booklet online—13,237 times, downloaded a PDF version of the booklet—6,541 times, and requested a copy of the booklet be mailed to them—7,319 times. As with the English booklets, the increased number of responses was due to an increase in the budget and hence, the amount of advertising the Dawn was able to do.

Combined, all of the witness efforts we have been privileged to engage in have proven fruitful with many responses coming in as a result. We have taken this as an indication that the message of Truth is indeed giving hope and comfort to people throughout the world in these days of economic, social, and political turmoil. For this, we are very thankful to the Heavenly Father. We are also

thankful for the many willing hands and hearts of brethren throughout the world which have assisted directly and indirectly with the work of the Dawn during the past year. Without this help, the work could not continue.

As we look ahead to 2011, it is with confidence that he who led us once will lead us still. The work is the Lord's, not ours. Let us rejoice in whatever privilege of service he may entrust to us as individuals and collectively. Above all, let us continue to look to him for his guidance and blessing as day by day we seek to know and to do his will. ■

*“We are labourers together with God:  
ye are God’s husbandry,  
ye are God’s building.”  
—I Corinthians 3:9*

## **OBITUARIES**

*The following brethren have recently finished their Christian course. We wish to express our sincere sympathy to their family and friends in the loss of these dear ones.*

Sister Doris Freer, Sacramento, CA—Age, 85

Sister Gloria Luce, Austerlitz, NY—October 12.  
Age, 86

Sister Mary Geisinger, Phoenixville, PA—November 9. Age, 82

Brother August Tornquist, Staten Island, NY—November 17. Age, 91

Sister Violet Grable, Akron, OH—December 9.  
Age, 84

# General Convention Bulletin

June 25-30, 2011

**THE 2011 GENERAL CONVENTION** returns once again to the facilities of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. **PLEASE NOTE THE ABOVE DATES.** Air conditioned hotel-like rooms with private bathrooms in the Living-Learning Center (LLC), family-style apartments (also air conditioned) with private bathrooms (APTS), and housing with two rooms sharing one bathroom (not air conditioned) in other facilities will be available on campus. A child may sleep on a bedroom floor at no charge in his own sleeping bag if both beds are occupied. If a child is alone in a bedroom sharing the bathroom with other adults, the double occupancy rate will apply to all family members.

All room and meal costs for children 12 years old or younger will be paid by the convention. In addition, 100% of the cost of those from ages 13 through 17 will be refunded if the young person attends at least 75% of the studies for his or her age group. This subsidy does not cover meals paid in cash at the door.

A complete pricing table and registration form is provided for your convenience immediately following this announcement. We are pleased to announce that prices for 2011 will not increase

from 2009 and 2010 levels. We encourage you to register early.

The convention theme text is taken from the words of II Corinthians 4:8, “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair.” Additionally, a panel will consider “The First Resurrection;” a dialogue will be held on “Change in Our World;” and a special discourse will be given on the subject, “The Way of Holiness.” (Isa. 35:8) We encourage you to make your plans now to attend this year’s General Convention. ■

	Ages	18 & up	***13-17
Breakfast		\$7.00	\$6.00
Lunch		8.00	7.00
Dinner		11.00	10.00
Total, three meals		\$26.00	\$23.00
Lodging (per night)			
**dbl occ (LLC or APTS)		\$30.00	\$25.00
dbl occ (non-LLC or APTS)		\$25.00	\$23.00
**single occ (LLC)		\$55.00	n/a
single occ (non-LLC)		\$30.00	n/a
PKG: 7 nights, 18 meals			
**dbl occ (LLC or APTS)		\$325*	\$290*
dbl occ (non-LLC or APTS)		\$195*	\$160*
**single occ (LLC)		\$460*	n/a
single occ (non-LLC)		\$235*	n/a
If no breakfasts, deduct—*\$35    **Air-conditioned ***100% of these costs will be refunded if the young person attends 75% of the studies for his/her age group			

# General Convention Registration

1425 Lachman Lane — Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

E-mail: Nekora@aol.com (310) 454-5248

	Brkfst	Lunch	Dinner	Bed
Friday, June 24, 2011				
Saturday, 25th				
Sunday, 26th				
Monday, 27th				
Tuesday, 28th				
Wednesday, 29th				
Thursday, 30th				

Check for package: 7 nights, all 18 meals   
or 7 nights, 12 meals (no breakfasts)

Check:  private bath or  shared bath  
 double occupancy  single occupancy  
 interested in APTS

Names and ecclesia name (age if under 18)

Address:

## **SPEAKERS' APPOINTMENTS**

*The speakers listed below are routed through the Pilgrim Department of The Dawn. Their visits are furnished free upon request. Write to: The Dawn Pilgrim Department, East Rutherford, NJ 07073. A visit will be arranged whenever possible.*

### **K. Fernets**

Anglesea, Australia

January 22-25

*The speakers listed below are invited by individual classes, or their services have been arranged by their home classes:*

### **M. Nekora**

Chicago, IL

December 31-January 2

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## **“Dawn Devotional Radio” Internet Radio Station**

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year

—Web Address—

[www.live365.com/stations/dawn\\_radio](http://www.live365.com/stations/dawn_radio)

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*“His Word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.”—Jeremiah 20:9*

*Let us who are privileged to remain to this time of favor, blessing and enlightenment give glory to the Lord, and see to it that the loving disposition of John is manifested in us, and also his energy, his zeal. Let us be full of energy, full of sacrifices which love prompts, that we may glorify the Lord in our bodies and spirits which are his.*

—January 11, Daily Heavenly Manna

# CONVENTIONS

*These conventions are listed by request of classes who sponsor them. So your convention can be placed in these columns in time, make your request in writing three months before the date of the convention to Dawn Magazine, 199 Railroad Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073.*

**CHICAGO CONVENTION, December 31-January 2**—Addison Park District, 120 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101. Accommodations, contact S. Alexander. Phone: (630) 585-7369. Other information, contact S. Morgenstern. Phone: (630) 561-4671

**AUSTRALIA GENERAL CONVENTION, January 22-25**—Wilkin Baptist Camp, 57 Noble Street, Anglesea, VIC 3230, Australia. Contact R. Charlton, randscharlton@bigpond.com

**SACRAMENTO CONVENTION, February 18-20**—Holiday Inn Express, 2224 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95821. Contact J. Freer, 8012 Vintage Way, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Phone: (916) 879-4655

**SOUTHWEST CONVENTION, February 26,27**—Boys & Girls Club of Scottsdale, 8250 E. Rose Lane, Scottsdale, AZ (same location as previous convention). Room reservations, contact G. Nicolosi. Phone: (602) 821-5599. Other information, contact C. Humphreys. Phone: (480) 226-9076

**FLORIDA CONVENTION, March 5-7**—Magnuson Grand Hotel (same site as last year, hotel name changed), 230 West State Road 436, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714. Room reservations, call (407) 862-4455, and specify “Florida Bible Students” for special rate, until February 20, 2011. Other information, contact, M. Balko. Phone: (407) 339-7580

**FRESNO PRE-MEMORIAL CONVENTION, April 1-3**—Fresno Quality Inn, 4278 W. Ashlan Avenue, Fresno, CA 93722. Contact R. Evans. Phone: (559) 291-4710

**COLUMBUS PRE-MEMORIAL CONVENTION, April 2,3**—Der Dutchman Restaurant, 445 S. Jefferson Avenue, Plain City, OH. Phone: (614) 873-3414. Contact E. Crisan, 1357 Clydesdale Avenue, Columbus, OH 43229. Phone: (614) 843-0655

**GREATER NEW LONDON PRE-MEMORIAL CONVENTION, April 3**—Bayview Lodge, 32 Society Road, Niantic, CT. Contact V. Grillo, 154 Case Street, Norwich, CT 06360. Phone: (860) 823-7099

**DETROIT PRE-MEMORIAL CONVENTION, April 9,10**—Holiday Inn - Troy, 2537 Rochester Court, Troy, MI 48083. For reservations, phone: (248) 689-7500. Specify “Detroit Bible Students Ecclesia” for special rate. Other information, contact P. Nemesh, 2183 Babcock Drive, Troy, MI 48084. Phone: (248) 649-6588

**ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION, April 22-24**—Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel, 2910 Yale Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106. Contact S. Thomasen. Phone: (505) 268-8170

**BOISE CONVENTION, April 22-24**—Owyhee Plaza Hotel, 1109 Main Street, Boise, ID. Contact D. Allers, 7558 W. Hathaway Lane, Boise, ID 83714 by April 1. Phone: (208) 375-6873

**BIBLE STUDENTS GENERAL CONVENTION, June 25-30**—University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Johnstown, PA. Contact M. Nekora, 1425 Lachman Lane, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. Phone: (310) 454-5248

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make for peace, and things wherewith  
one may edify another.”*

*—Romans 14:19*

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**THAT THE CHURCH IS “THE TEMPLE” OF THE LIVING GOD** —peculiarly “his workmanship;” that its construction has been in progress throughout the Gospel Age—ever since Christ became the world’s Redeemer and the chief “corner stone” of this temple, through which, when finished, God’s blessings shall come “to all people,” and they find access to him.—I Cor. 3:16,17; Eph. 2:20-22; Gen. 28:14; Gal. 3:29

**THAT MEANTIME THE CHISELING, SHAPING, AND POLISHING** of the consecrated believers in Christ’s atonement for sin progresses, and when the last of these “living stones,” “elect and precious,” shall have been made ready, the great Master Workman will bring all together in the first resurrection; and the temple shall be filled with his glory, and be the meeting place between God and men throughout the Millennium.—Rev. 15:5-8

**THAT THE BASIS OF HOPE FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD** lies in the fact that Jesus Christ, by the grace of God “tasted death for every man,” “a ransom for all,” and will be “the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world,” “in due time.”—Heb. 2:9; John 1:9; I Tim. 2:5,6

**THAT THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH** is that she may be like her Lord, “see him as he is,” be a “partaker of the divine nature,” and share his glory as his joint-heir.—I John 3:2; John 17:24; Rom. 8:17; II Pet. 1:4

**THAT THE PRESENT MISSION OF THE CHURCH** is the perfecting of the saints for the future work of service; to develop in herself every grace; to be God’s witness to the world; and to prepare to be the kings and priests in the next age.—Eph. 4:12; Matt. 24:14; Rev. 1:6, 20:6

**THAT THE HOPE FOR THE WORLD** lies in the blessings of knowledge and opportunity to be brought to all by Christ’s millennial kingdom—the restitution of all that was lost in Adam, to all the willing and obedient, at the hands of their Redeemer and his glorified church—when all the willfully wicked will be destroyed.—Acts 3:19-23; Isa. 35