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April 2010



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# The DAWN

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# Horror in Haiti:

## Unprecedented Devastation

*“Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.”*

—*Isaiah 29:6*

**IN THE TWENTY-NINTH** chapter of Isaiah’s prophecy, he foretells God’s condemnation against the people of Ariel, and his coming righteous judgments which would be meted out at the hands of the mighty Babylonian Empire. The word Ariel was sometimes used as an ancient symbolic name for Jerusalem. It is also used in connection with the lion of God. (Ezek. 43:15,16, *Marginal Translation*, and *Strong’s Bible Concordance*, #739,740). The prophet used powerful and destructive symbols in connection with God’s judgments. These were thunder, earthquake, noise, storm, tempest and fire.

God’s temple and sacrificial altar were located at Jerusalem and David resided there. In symbolic terms, Isaiah described the foretold devastation. “Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city [the lion of God, *Marginal Translation*] where David dwelt! add ye

year to year; let them kill sacrifices. Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel.”—Isa. 29:1,2

## **SEVERE UPHEAVAL**

When Jesus’ earthly ministry was coming to a close, his disciples asked him what sign would mark his future Second Presence and the end of this present Gospel Age. In his answer, he used various symbols that included the term earthquake. “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.”—Matt. 24:7,8

Jesus used the word ‘earthquake’ to illustrate the great worldwide revolution that would take place when he returned invisibly to earth. He explained that this shaking would ultimately remove the present kingdoms and institutions of this earth, and thus make way for Christ’s long-promised kingdom.

## **EARTHQUAKES**

The Prophet Isaiah and our Lord Jesus both used symbolic language to illustrate destruction, and ‘earthquake’ was one of the most devastating. In its natural occurrence an earthquake is a very destructive phenomenon. It occurs as a result of a sudden release of energy, usually caused by a rupture along a geological fault located in the earth’s crust. Tremors then create seismic waves that manifest themselves by shaking and/or displacement at the surface of the earth. The closer to the surface the more destructive is the movement produced. If the epicenter is located under water the ruptured seabed may cause huge waves known as a tsunami.

Giant tectonic plates cover the entire earth like a jigsaw puzzle. Two of these are found in the Caribbean Sea, and are known as the Caribbean, which is contained on its own separate smaller plate, and the North American. These two slabs creep past each other about 0.8 inches per year, with the Caribbean plate moving eastward in relation to the North American. There is also a South American slab in the region that moves westward.

Studies conducted by the Geological and Planetary Sciences (GPS) indicate that the last major earthquake to occur along the Enriquillo-Plantain Garden fault in the Caribbean Sea was in 1751. They calculate the accumulated strain over this period of time at 1.7 meters, and as evidence of the tectonic movement in the region.

## **HISPANIOLA**

The nation of Haiti is located on the large island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea, which it shares with the Dominican Republic. This is the site of land in the West Indies discovered by Christopher Columbus in December, 1492. He claimed the island for the Spanish Crown and named it La Isla Espanola which means "The Spanish Island." It has since been Anglicized to Hispaniola.

On January 12, 2010, the island nation was dealt a catastrophic blow by a powerful 7.0 earthquake causing widespread devastation. The quake struck about ten miles southwest of the country's capital and largest city Port-au-Prince, with a population in excess of two million people. As of this writing, there have been more than fifty aftershocks, some of which were powerful enough to cause severe damage.

## **UNIMAGINABLE MISERY**

To add to the extreme distress and hardship, Haiti is an impoverished country and one of the poorest and least developed in the world. Its government was in no position to deal with the inevitable large quake, and its people were left to suffer the consequences of the disaster until help could arrive. The call for help was heard around the world and many nations rushed to offer the Haitian people whatever assistance they could.

The area surrounding the capital city has many steep hills of loose soil that have been built on. In an earthquake, this soil buckles and quickly undermines the buildings' foundations. The massive 7.0 quake leveled many sections of the city and destroyed government buildings, foreign aid offices, and countless slums.

While assessing the devastation, Prime Minister Preval declared, "Parliament has collapsed, the Tax Office has collapsed, schools have collapsed, hospitals have collapsed, and the death toll is unimaginable." It was soon discovered that the United Nations mission was also destroyed. Sixteen members of the peacekeeping force in Haiti were killed, and hundreds more were missing.

## **A NEWS REPORT**

*Los Angeles Times* reporters Cara Mia Di Massa and Alexandra Zavis submitted an article two days after the disaster in Haiti struck (January 14, 2010), under the caption "Conspiring To Make Catastrophe," and from this article we quote in part. "Haiti's disaster resulted from tectonics, dense population, and poor building standards.

The catastrophic quake that struck Haiti involved a collision of lethal circumstances: a massive, shallow eruption below a densely populated city with few, if any, building codes.

“Kate Hutton, a seismologist at Caltech said the quake was similar to those seen along the San Andreas fault: it was shallow, a fact that enhances the intensity and makes it more localized through the region right along the fault. Before about 1950, a given-sized earthquake would do about the same amount of damage in the developed and underdeveloped world. Now the loss of life is typically 10 times higher in developing countries and the damage can be as much as 100 times higher.

“A spokesperson for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) said that part of the problem is that scientists have spent much of their time trying to understand the earthquake risks in California, Japan, and other well-off parts of the world with high seismic hazards, while ignoring poorer and more densely populated parts of the world.

“United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and other international agencies have been helping vulnerable countries—including Jordan, Bhutan, China, Fiji, India, and Iran—to improve planning for earthquakes. The United Nations advises governments to upgrade schools, hospitals, and other public buildings to better withstand earthquakes; to impose stricter building codes; and to develop evacuation, rescue, and contingency plans. Jordan Ryan, director of the UNDP crisis bureau, said his agency estimates that 60 million people have been affected by quakes in the last ten years. He said it’s like the old insurance

argument: Who cares about prevention? We don't have enough money. We're a poor country."

## **A BROKEN STATE**

An editorial was published by the *Los Angeles Times* (January 14, 2010) with the heading, "Helping Haiti Help Itself" in which the author stated, "Haitians have long been prey to hurricanes and coups, their nation ravaged by erosion and corruption, mudslides and marauders, poverty and violence. Now the few economic and political gains made over five years of relative stability have been buried along with thousands of corpses in the rubble of the magnitude 7.0 earthquake. The presidential palace, parliament, government ministries, and hospitals—indeed most of the capital of Port-au-Prince—are in ruins. An already dysfunctional state now lacks even the edifices of government. Gone, too, are some of the buttresses; the archbishop and his cathedral; the head of the United Nations mission and some of his top aides, who died when their headquarters collapsed.

"Not even a developed country could completely withstand such a powerful temblor so close to the Earth's surface and city center. Yet the full extent of Haiti's devastation is a result of its broken state, where 80% live below the poverty level. Port-au-Prince quadrupled to nearly 3 million people in the last twenty-five years as Haitians fled a denuded countryside in search of food and work. They built shanties out of watered-down concrete on precarious hillsides. They didn't have water and electricity, let alone zoning and inspectors to insist on safety.

“The international community has made some headway in building a civilian police force to provide security, but not as much in bolstering a civilian government to provide for its people. A school to train magistrates was to reopen this month; parliamentary elections were to be held in March and a presidential election in December. Tentative investments were trickling in to tourism and industry. All of that came to a screeching halt in seconds.

“Of course the United States and the international community must respond to the terrible emergency first. They must tend to the wounded, provide shelter for tens of thousands of homeless, and bury the dead. They also must plan now for rebuilding the capital and, even harder still, creating a functioning state. That’s nation building. It is the urban planning that never took place. It means working with the government to build adequate housing and schools. It requires job creation—and not necessarily in the capital. This is an agricultural country that must be able to farm and feed itself.

“For decades, the United States has turned its attention to Haiti only sporadically, only in times of crisis, when too many boatloads of hungry Haitians washed onto Florida shores, or when a government was about to fall—but then lost interest to another crisis. If the United States has the will and resources to build up governments in Afghanistan, Iraq, even Yemen, surely it can show leadership in building a functioning country on an island just a few hundred miles from the coast of Florida. Enough is enough for this failed state.”

## MANY CHALLENGES

Our attention is turned to the many difficulties encountered by relief workers when they arrived at the scene of devastation. *The Los Angeles Times* (January 15, 2010) included a news report “International Aid Agencies Face A Dual Challenge” submitted by Shari Roan. Quoting in part, “Haiti has long suffered from a lack of medical care and rampant disease. Now relief groups must save lives and build a system on the fly.

“In Haiti, average life expectancy is 53, three-quarters of women give birth without a health attendant, diarrheal illnesses are the second-leading cause of death and 30% of children younger than 5 have stunted growth, and that was before the earthquake. This time, emergency medical responders will have to provide much more than the usual food, water, latrines, and bandages to stop the spread of disease, said Dr. Christina Catlett, associate director for health preparedness at the Johns Hopkins Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response in Baltimore. They’ll also have to create a public health system on the fly.

“It’s not clear yet whether aid workers will have enough resources to meet all needs. Haitians are in desperate need of clean water, and one person needs about four gallons of clean water for drinking and hygiene per day to limit disease. Haiti had significant health problems prior to the earthquake: HIV, tuberculosis, severe malnutrition, intestinal parasites, anemia, and a host of other problems.

“In the Western Hemisphere’s poorest nation, with a population of about 9 million, only \$96.00 per person is spent on health care compared with

\$6,090.00 in the United States. Half of all Haitian families live in a single-room dwelling. About 8% of newborns and children younger than 5 die of malnourishment each year. One-quarter of adult women are anemic. There are roughly three doctors in Haiti for every 10,000 people according to the World Health Organization. This would be a disaster anywhere, said Dr. Alina Dorian, assistant director of the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters. However, when you're starting with pretty much zero infrastructure, this really overwhelms everything.

"Haiti will challenge the record of the global public health response to natural disasters, said Dr. Georgess Benjamin, the executive director of the American Public Health Association. Humanitarian support systems, such as the World Health Organization and non-governmental organizations, have been crippled by the disaster. According to news reports, only one hospital in Port-au-Prince, the capital, is functioning.

"Clean water is the most crucial need. Diseases such as cholera and dysentery may break out if people drink contaminated water. But food is also more crucial than in most other disasters. Many Haitians are already underweight and won't be able to survive as long as a healthy person without food. Emergency health responders need to set up therapeutic feeding stations to care for people in danger of starving. There is also the risk that people could resort to eating contaminated food, making food-borne illnesses likely. When you're hungry, you'll eat whatever you can find. People eat food that is not safe, and we will

have water and food-borne illnesses like E-coli and salmonella.

“If Haitians flock to shelters, which seems likely considering their limited options, crowding will increase the threat of disease. Haiti already has high rates of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and measles. These threats are much more real than those posed by the many corpses lying in the streets. Dead bodies transmit disease less than a live body.

“Haiti has gone through so much during the past decade; flood after flood and disaster after disaster and coup d’etat after coup d’etat, and the international community only responded on the surface. Now we have a country completely destroyed. The only way that we can respond is to rebuild Haiti.

## **AID ARRIVES**

Under the title “Aid Surge Going In Haiti” (January 16, 2010), *Los Angeles Times* reporters Tina Susman and Joe Mozingo wrote, “The leading edge of a massive relief effort gained a toehold around the Haitian capital, with the United States military taking control of the airport and helicopters ferrying supplies from an aircraft carrier positioned off the coast. But deep within the city’s neighborhoods, residents fended for themselves—evacuating those who could go, caring for those who couldn’t and putting to rest those who would move no more.

“Hundreds of doctors and aid workers and tons of supplies arrived at the airport, now teeming with traffic. United States officials said their goal

was to land an aid flight every 20 minutes. Throughout the weekend, the United States military contingent assigned to the relief effort will grow to as many as 10,000, officials said. As aid poured in, those trying to distribute it faced the challenge of punching through mountains of rubble, smashed cars and streets strewn with bodies to reach a population clamoring for help.

“Aside from the few police officers trying to control crowds at a gas station or direct traffic, there was virtually no sign of any authority in Port-au-Prince. The capital seemed remarkably calm three days after the earthquake, despite the growing frustration of people with no food, water, or shelter.”

## **THE FUTURE HOPE**

Although the present situation in Haiti is desperate, the Scriptures teach a hope for the Haitian people, and all mankind who await the establishment of Christ’s future kingdom over all the earth. In his letter to the brethren at Rome, the Apostle Paul spoke of this future time. “For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.” (Rom. 8:19) “Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?”—vss. 21-24

## **THE WHOLE CREATION**

In this passage of scripture, we are assured of the promises of God that will be administered by Christ during his future kingdom. Paul spoke of the creature, or creation, meaning the whole sin-sick human creation that will be set free from the bondage of sin and its penalty death. He also points to the Lord's people who eagerly wait for the completion of The Christ who will share in dispensing life-giving blessings to all of the obedient of mankind.

## **SAVIOR OF THE WORLD**

The Prophet Isaiah wrote concerning some of the wonderful features that will be identified with Christ's future kingdom of righteousness. "There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD." (Isa. 11:1,2) Jesse was the father of King David. (I Sam. 25:10) David typified our Lord Jesus (II Sam. 7:12-17) who will establish his kingdom over the world.

"And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the

girdle of his reins.” (Isa. 11:3-5) “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”—vs. 9

## **SHOWERS OF BLESSING**

Showers of blessing will come to all people. “I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods. And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them. And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid.”—Ezek. 34:25-28

“And 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.”—Rev. 21:3-5 ■

## WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING TEXTS

**APRIL 1**—"Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation."—Mark 14:38 (Z. '03-119 Hymn 183)

**APRIL 8**—"If any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him.—Hebrews 10:38 (Z. '95-93 Hymn 348)

**APRIL 15**—"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."—Luke 23:46 (Z. '99-128 Hymn 347)

**APRIL 22**—"I say unto you, that every idle [unprofitable or pernicious] word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."—Matthew 12:36 (Z.'96-32 Hymn 145)

**APRIL 29**—"He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him, and honour him."—Psalm 91:15 (Z. '96-31 Hymn 330)

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*"The Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me."—Psalm 42:8*

If we are not ready to praise God where we are, and with our conditions and circumstances as they are, we should not be likely to praise him if we were differently circumstanced and our conditions just those which now seem to us most desirable. Daniel could sleep better in the den of lions than Darius in the royal palace; he who could not find rest in a lion's den, when that was the place for him, could not gain rest by a mere removal to a palace. It is the man's self which must be changed, not his circumstances or his possessions, in order to his having a heart overflowing with joy and praise.—*Songs in the Night*, April 5

# The Community Faces Pain and Joy

*Key Verse: "A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father."  
—John 16:16*

*Selected Scripture:  
John 16:16-24,  
20:11-16*

**AS JESUS DREW NEAR TO** the end of his earthly ministry, he began to impress upon the minds of his disciples the fact that he would soon die. They did not understand this, as they expected him, the great Messiah of Israel, to reestablish their kingdom in the full glory it had in the days of David and Solomon. In their minds, the thought of Jesus dying was totally out of har-

mony with these expectations.

It is in this setting that Jesus spoke the words of our Key Verse. In the verses immediately following, his disciples questioned the meaning of his words, not understanding how he could say, on the one hand, they would not see him, but then say they would indeed see him again. Jesus then stated the matter using different words, saying, "Ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy." (John 16:20) He continued (vs. 21) by comparing this sorrow to a woman in travail, and the subsequent joy to the delivery of a child by the traving woman.

In the above words, Jesus was speaking of his impending

death, followed by his promised resurrection from the dead by the mighty power of God. He indicated they would have great sorrow when he died, not understanding its purpose, nor why he could not use the great powers he possessed to remove himself from such ignominy. He also foretold the fact that their sorrow would be turned to joy when they realized his resurrection on the third day. We see that Jesus' predictions of their great sorrow, followed by joy, were fulfilled exactly as he had said. Just a few hours later, as he was led to Calvary, the Scriptures state, "There followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him."—Luke 23:27

Following his resurrection, Jesus appeared unto his disciples on several occasions, each time further convincing them that this was he, their beloved master, and that their work of following after him was really only just beginning. After forty days, he ascended to heaven, departing from them once again to return to his father, as foretold in our Key Verse. This departure, though, did not cause sorrow among his disciples as had his death, for they now had begun to truly realize the reason and importance of the events as they had occurred. Rather than sorrowing, they now rejoiced. "They . . . returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God."—Luke 24:52,53

One of the most beautiful examples of this sorrow turning to joy is expressed in the experience of Mary Magdalene as she came to the sepulchre to anoint the body of Jesus. The already resurrected Jesus, seeing her (but unknown to her) asked, "Woman, why weepest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him . . . tell me where thou has laid him . . . Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him . . . Master." (John 20:15,16) Surely her pain had been turned to joy—her master had been raised from the dead! ■

# Love Within the Community

**Key Verse:** “*He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.*”  
—I John 2:10

**Selected Scripture:**  
I John 2:7-17

## **THE APOSTLE JOHN WROTE**

much concerning the subject of love, and is even spoken of as the disciple whom Jesus loved. John evidently had a great appreciation of this crowning fruit of the Spirit, as well as its vital importance in the life of the Christian. In our lesson, he states, “I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which

ye had from the beginning.”—I John 2:7

This commandment John spoke of was the commandment of love, in particular, love of the brethren. He states that this was not new, but something they had ‘from the beginning.’ We believe the ‘beginning’ spoken of here is the beginning of the preaching of this commandment by Jesus, some sixty years prior to John’s penning of these words. Indeed, it was John who recalled in his gospel the initial giving of this commandment by Jesus. “A new commandment I give unto you. that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”—John 13:34

Under the Law arrangement, God’s people Israel were instructed to have love—love for God, love for their neighbors—but such love was based primarily on receiving something in return. They loved God because if they

did he would bless them. They loved their neighbors because if they did so they would be in good standing with them. There was nothing inherently wrong with this kind of love, but it was not the fullest expression of God's love. God's love was such that it acted, not based on what he might get in return, but based simply on his great desire to show love to his creation, regardless of reciprocity to him. This highest form of love, [Greek, *agape*], is beautifully shown in the familiar words, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son."—John 3:16

It is this same kind of love—unselfish, selfless, with 'no strings attached'—that John speaks of in our lesson. The Key Verse likens one who has this kind of love to a person who dwells in the light. Such an individual sees clearly, and will not stumble. The light here symbolizes truth. It also alludes to the presence of God, for as John says in another place, "God is light . . . if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another." (I John 1:5,7) John also presents the opposite thought, "He that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."—I John 2:11

Notice in the above verse that the blindness is caused by darkness, and the darkness is caused by hating, or not loving fully—loving less—one's brother. John puts the matter squarely before us in the next chapter, "He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."—I John 3:14

Our lesson concludes with John telling us of something we should not love. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." (I John 2:15) It is this old world's order of things we are not to love. The people we love, just as Jesus did, looking forward to the time when they will have the opportunity to attain everlasting life here upon the earth in Christ's coming kingdom. ■

# Connecting in Community

**Key Verse:** *“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”*  
—*Matthew 22:37*

**Selected Scripture:**  
*Matthew 5:17-20;*  
*22:34-40*

**JESUS, BORN A JEW AND** under the Law Covenant, knew it was imperative that he keep every facet of that arrangement during his earthly ministry. He states, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” (Matt.

5:17,18) In the next verse, Jesus says that one who teaches the Law’s commandments, but does not abide by their own teaching, is considered “least” in God’s sight as far as the kingdom of heaven is concerned.

The scribes and Pharisees of our Lord’s day fit the description of those who taught many things from the Law, but did not keep those very teachings themselves. Based on this, Jesus makes a bold statement, “Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (vs. 20) Two important points are made here. First, the scribes and Pharisees, as a group

did not meet the divine qualifications for entrance into the kingdom of heaven. Second, in order for any to enter that spiritual kingdom, they must exceed the righteousness of these Jewish leaders. Jesus could make these bold statements because he could read the hearts of the scribes and Pharisees and see their hypocrisy.

The lesson for us is the importance of, as expressed in the familiar phrase, “practicing what we preach.” We are not to just preach the Word, or only give outward evidence of righteousness, but most importantly we must have a heart and mind fully in tune with God, his will, character, and his purposes. For, if the heart and mind are in proper harmony with God, the fruits of words and actions will follow in due course.

In another encounter with the Pharisees, Jesus was asked by them, “Which is the great commandment of the law?” (Matt. 22:36) Jesus’ answer is provided in our Key Verse and is actually in two parts: first, supreme love for God; and second, love for one’s neighbor. He further states that “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (vs. 40) Although the Pharisees had tried to stumble Jesus, his response left them no choice but to grudgingly acknowledge his wisdom.

The entire Law of Moses was summed up in two important principles. The first principle was that of their relationship to God. The second dealt with their relationship to their fellow man. All of the ordinances, ceremonies, and features of Israel’s Law dealt in some way with one or the other of these two principles. Even the Ten Commandments could be divided in such a manner. (See Exod. 20:1-17) The first four commandments related to their responsibilities toward God, the last six with their responsibilities toward one another. How appropriate it was for Jesus to sum up God’s Law with only two commandments. We continue to live under these same commandments of Jesus, and must have them fully developed in our hearts and minds. ■

# Inclusion in Community

**Key Verse:** “*So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.*”  
—*Luke 14:21*

**Selected Scripture:**  
*Luke 14:15-24*

All who were invited began to make excuses. (vss. 18-20) One said he had just bought some land, and he needed to go see it. Another said he had recently bought five pairs of oxen, and he needed to work with them and get them trained. Still another replied that he had just married a wife, and could not come. Our Key Verse states that the servant reported these things back to his master who, being angry, instructed the servant to go out and gather others—even if they were poor, crippled, or

**IN RESPONSE TO HIS HEAL-**  
ing of and eating with sinners, which was heavily criticized by the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus gave several parables which pointed out the foolishness of their accusations against him. One of these parables is the focus of today’s lesson. The parable concerned a man who prepared a great supper, inviting many of his friends, family, and countrymen. He even went to the trouble of sending his servant to let those invited know that the supper was ready and they should come.—*Luke 14:16,17*

even blind. The servant did this with some success, but reported back to his master that there was yet room for more to be invited. (vs. 22) His master then told him to go as far away as necessary, “out into the highways and hedges” (vs. 23), and bring others so that the house would be filled. The parable concludes with a lament over those first invited, “None of those men which were [first] bidden shall taste of my supper.”—Luke 14:24

Interpreting the parable, we suggest that the man who made the supper represents God, and his servant our Lord Jesus. The supper and the invitation represent the present Gospel Age call to the New Creation. This invitation was first given during Jesus’ earthly ministry, to the nation of Israel who were God’s chosen people. They had the Law and the prophets. Their longed-for Messiah was now here. Surely they would accept this invitation. They did not as a nation, particularly their leaders. They did not want to leave the earthly advantages they had, the power and influence over the people, and the ceremonies and traditions of the Law. These were their ‘excuses.’

Jesus, seeing this corrupt heart attitude of the leaders of Israel, began to focus his ministry, preaching, and healing toward those individual Jews—the poor, sick, even the sinful—who gave evidence of faith in him. Such were those whom Jesus gathered from the ‘streets and lanes,’ and even included his twelve disciples. Later, subsequent to his death and resurrection, and the giving of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, it became evident that this invitation could be extended beyond individual Jews out to the highways—to other nations and eventually to the ends of the earth. Gentiles could now also have part in this call to be of God’s New Creation. Through Christ Jesus, previous distinctions had been done away with. Paul states, “In Him the distinctions between Jew and Gentile, slave and free man, male and female, disappear; you are all one in Christ Jesus.”—Gal. 3:28, *Weymouth Translation* ■

# The Joyful Sound

*“Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.”*

—*Psalm 89:15*

**THE PSALMIST IS ADDRESS-**ing the people of God who have the Holy Spirit of Truth, and are able to recognize and distinguish the wonderful message of God’s Word as it is taught in the Scriptures.

“In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. For thou art the glory of their strength: and in thy favour our horn shall be exalted. For the LORD is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king.”—vss. 16-18

## **THE VOICE OF GOD**

David has devoted an entire psalm that provides an important perspective concerning the power of sound, and as heard in the majestic voice of Almighty God. He wrote, “Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD

breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon. He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn. The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shaketh the wilderness; the LORD shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory. The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever. The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.”—Ps. 29:1-11

### **THE SHEPHERD’S VOICE**

John recorded the precious words of Jesus who explained the manner in which the Lord’s people would recognize his voice, even as sheep know the voice of their master. “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. But 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 10:1-6

### **THE FAMILIAR RING**

We may apply the familiar expression ‘ring of truth’ that is sometimes used to distinguish a

certain scripture, or doctrine, that we recognize and hold dear. We note that it rings 'true' because it harmonizes with the overall plan and ultimate purpose of God. Those who have learned to love and appreciate the true meaning of the 'joyful sound' of which the psalmist spoke, are also strengthened in the narrow way of Truth and understanding. Thus present Truth takes on new and added meaning as it becomes more clear and melodious.

This appreciation of Truth encourages the Lord's people, and motivates them to pursue ever deeper levels of meaning and spiritual significance in the wonderful Word of God. Those who watch and wait with diligence are promised special blessings of unfolding Truth at the end of the age, which we believe points to our Lord's Second Presence that has taken place during the closing years of this present Gospel Age. The message to the seventh, and last, church at Laodicea is, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."—Rev. 3:20

Jesus said, "Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants." (Luke 12:37,38) "And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his

lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.”—vss. 42-44

The meat in due season has been a special and blessed portion of the joyful sound. It has been abundantly received from the Heavenly Father especially in connection with the High Calling in Christ Jesus. From the words of the revelator, we again read, “Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.”—Rev. 19:9

During his earthly ministry, our dear Lord Jesus often addressed various features of the Truth, and their significance in connection with the joyful sound. On one of those occasions, he had separated himself from the multitude of people who had come to see and hear him, and then went up into a mountain where he could commune with his Father in prayer. Later his disciples joined him, and he proceeded to teach them many valuable lessons concerning human frailties and their need to overcome them.

### **BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT**

When Jesus began this series of lessons known as the Beatitudes, he told them, “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 5:3) To be ‘poor in spirit’ suggests being poor in the spirit of self, or to not think highly of oneself. It is the realization of one’s own need of the Heavenly Father and the rich blessings he alone can provide. This humble characteristic should cause the called ones to feel their own fleshly inadequacies. As a warning, however, it is also possible for one who may be poor in the sense of having

material possessions and yet possess a proud, haughty or self-sufficient spirit and corresponding lack of proper spiritual growth.

### **BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN**

Jesus then spoke of another important feature of Christian character. “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” (Matt. 5:4) This does not refer to mourning in the everyday sense because countless numbers of people continue to mourn who have not been comforted. The lesson concerns what we may learn from Jesus’ life and ministry, and then adapt those principles to our own consecrated lives.

Centuries before Jesus was born as a perfect man into the world, the Prophet Isaiah was moved by the Holy Spirit of God to emphasize this special mark of the Savior’s character. “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. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”—Isa. 53:3,4

Jesus’ grief and sorrow was not related to his own trials, but his deep sense of love and sympathy for the poor, groaning human creation. He gave his life in sacrificial death for them, and had sympathy and compassion for the sinners of the world to be testified during the future administration of his kingdom. The Apostle Paul wrote, “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

As a foreshadow of that future kingdom of Truth and righteousness, the Master brought sight to the blind, caused the lame to walk, and the lepers to be cleansed. He drove the evil spirits from those whom they had previously possessed, and even brought the dead to life again. However, these and other miracles served as mere illustrations of the grander power and authority he would exercise in his future kingdom. The prospect and magnitude of that great blessing provided him with much comfort. All who are seeking joint heirship with him in his kingdom are also encouraged to develop similar hearts that are genuinely sympathetic toward others.

### **BLESSED ARE THE MEEK**

The disciples no doubt listened intently as the Master said, “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.” (Matt. 5:5) Those who are being blessed by the joyful sound must also strive to be meek and teachable. Faithful followers of our Lord Jesus cannot fully appreciate the Truth unless they are willing to lay aside their own beliefs and theories, and allow themselves to be led and taught by our loving Heavenly Father through his Word of Truth.

The blessing for those who diligently heed these important instructions, and who are meek and teachable, is the promise that they will ‘inherit the earth.’ Those who respond to the heavenly calling during this present Gospel Age will share with Jesus in the future work of blessing all the families of the earth. This wonderful prospect will be part of the blessed inheritance.

## **BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HUNGER AND THIRST**

When Jesus was teaching the disciples the true meaning of this wonderful parable, he emphasized, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” (Matt. 5:6) The Master was not pointing to human appetites to satisfy the flesh, but he was teaching his disciples an important lesson concerning those consecrated Christians who ‘hunger and thirst’ to know and to do the Heavenly Father’s will. The child of God is thus encouraged to study and meditate on spiritual things that will enrich the New Creature, and to apply those truths in their own lives.

Further to this, Jesus said that those who search for Truth and apply it to their consecrated walk in Christ Jesus, ‘shall be filled.’ Nothing could satisfy the hunger and thirst for Truth more than in studying the wonderful Word of God. The joyful sound of an increasing light of Truth is more satisfying and rewarding, and will become more precious with each passing day. Blessed, indeed, will be the divine grace in our hearts and lives.

## **BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL**

Mercy is an essential principle of the truly consecrated child of God, and Jesus taught the basic meaning and significance of this characteristic. “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matt. 5:7) Jesus included reference to exhibiting mercy in his model prayer, when he said, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” (Matt. 6:12) This suggests an important element in connection with the relationship we enjoy with our loving Heavenly Father. “For if ye forgive men their

trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”—vss. 14,15

### **BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART**

Possessing a heart of pure intentions may be contrasted with that which is merely an outward profession. Jesus thus promised, “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” (Matt. 5:8) If we are faithful to the terms of our consecration vows, we will be exalted to the divine nature and see our Heavenly Father, as well as our dear Lord Jesus, face to face. John wrote, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” (I John 3:2) This is one of the invisible aspects of the church’s future inheritance which may now be seen only with the eye of faith.

### **BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS**

Jesus said to his disciples, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” (Matt. 5:9) In connection with the Master’s words, the Apostle Paul also explained, “Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”—Rom. 5:1,2

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, those who seek the peace of God in their lives are led by him to repentance and consecration. They receive this special blessing through faith in our Lord Jesus, and proclaim the Truth to those who have an ear,

even as foretold of the Master. "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart. I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest. I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy loving kindness and thy truth from the great congregation."—Ps. 40:8-10

The joyful sound has brought rich blessings of Truth into our lives, and has impelled us to lay down our lives as peacemakers. This is evidence that we are the children of God and walking in the narrow way of sacrifice. Let us continue to be faithful during the remaining years of this present Gospel Age.

### **BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED**

In the last of Jesus' teachings known as the Beatitudes, he speaks of persecution that will be experienced in the lives of his faithful followers. He told them, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Matt. 5:10-12) The Master sought to prepare his people that even as he had been persecuted for his faithfulness in proclaiming the joyful sound, so also would his followers.

When the Apostle Paul was travelling from one place to another to proclaim the joyful sound of

Truth, he encountered opposition, which he explained was necessary in his Christian ministry. Luke was his companion and recorded the events as they transpired. From the scriptural account, we read, “When they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lys-tra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”—Acts 14:21,22

The apostle thus confirmed the fact that difficult experiences would help prepare us for a place in our Lord’s future heavenly kingdom. Those who faithfully let their light shine will receive the disfavor of the world. However, they are assured that they are walking in the light of God’s countenance, and will share in the first resurrection. At that time, they will be exalted to live and reign with our dear Lord to bless all the obedient of mankind who will avail themselves of the blessings of everlasting life here on a perfected earth.

## **THE GRAND PROSPECT**

In this wonderful series of teachings known as the Beatitudes, our Lord Jesus explained to his followers that certain qualifications were necessary for them to attain faithfulness and to ultimately receive a place among the blessed people of God in his future glorious kingdom.

When the heavenly calling is completed, The Christ will share in the administration of the kingdom. The revelator wrote, “I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with

Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth. These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.”—Rev. 14:1-5, *New American Standard Bible*

In this wonderful scene, the faithful class who rejoiced in the joyful sound joined in singing together the song of Moses and the Lamb of God. “I saw, as it were, a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had come off victorious from the beast and from his image and from the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. And they sang the song of Moses the bond-servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the nations. Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou alone art holy; For all the nations will come and worship before Thee, For Thy righteous acts have been revealed.”—Rev. 15:2-4, *NASB*

## THE FAITHFUL CLASS

To receive such a blessed reward for faithfulness, each one of the Lord's people who will share in this spiritual kingdom must be poor in spirit, and be sympathetic mourners as they endure and witness the terrible results of sin and death placed upon Adam and the whole human family because of his disobedience to the divine law. All must be meek and teachable, and hungering and thirsting for Truth and righteousness.

Jesus made clear that the wonderful quality of mercy will mark each one of his faithful people. They must all be peacemakers and pure in heart, for they are called to share in the work of reconciliation in Christ's future kingdom. In his letter to the brethren at Corinth, the Apostle Paul pointed out that future and glorious work on behalf of the world of mankind, and said, "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."—II Cor. 3:6

All such are comforted as they seek to comfort others with a message of the joyful sound of Truth. All will receive a place in Christ's future kingdom for the blessing of all the families of the earth. In connection with the covenant which was inaugurated with Abraham, we read, "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."—Gen. 22:17,18

## MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

The revelator gives us a glimpse of the glorious marriage that will take place in heaven between our Lord Jesus and the 144,000 members of his faithful bride. From the scriptural account, we read, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."—Rev. 19:7-9

The joyful sound will ring loud and clear when this wonderful promise is fulfilled under the administration of Christ's glorious and future kingdom of Truth and righteousness. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."—Rev. 20:6 ■

## 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.*

Brother Walter Ostermann, Delaware Valley, PA—  
February 7. Age, 76

Brother George Eldridge, Delaware Valley, PA—  
February 27. Age, 92

# Assurance of the Resurrection

*“As in Adam all  
die, even so in  
Christ shall all be  
made alive.”*

*—I Corinthians  
15:22*

## **THE BIBLE FROM THE FIRST**

to last holds out a doctrine that is found nowhere else, and one which is contrary to the theories of men, that a future life for the dead will come through a resurrection. All of the divinely inspired writers expressed their confidence in a Redeemer, even declaring that in the morning when God calls them from the tomb, they shall come forth and the wicked shall no longer hold rulership of the earth. “Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.” (Ps. 49:14) The ‘morning’ will bring dominion to the righteous, and redemption from the power of the grave. The prophets teach the resurrection of the dead, and the writers of the New Testament base all of their hopes of a future life and blessing upon it. The Apostle Paul wrote, “If the dead rise not, then is not Christ

raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.”—I Cor. 15:16-18

### **OUR LORD’S RESURRECTION**

Consider the resurrection of Jesus from the dead of which Paul spoke. “What is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.” (Eph. 1:19,20) Our Lord proclaimed his own death by crucifixion, and subsequent resurrection, to his disciples, saying, “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), “That he should be the first that should rise from the dead” (Acts 26:23), “The firstborn among many brethren.”—Rom. 8:29

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was even more than an awakening from the sleep of death. It was an exaltation to the highest plane of life in the entire universe—the divine. It has been described as, “Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” (Eph. 1:21-23) “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that

in all things he might have the preeminence.”—  
Col. 1:18

While we cannot comprehend the power involved in such a mighty act as this, we can and should rejoice in the many assurances by the Word of God that this power stands pledged to help us in our every time of need. This power is provided to us not in an unconditional way, but in proportion to our faithfulness in laying down our lives as co-sacrificers with Jesus. It is to this important thought that Paul refers, when he said, “Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.” (Phil. 3:8) He then clarified, “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.”—vss. 10,11

The mighty power of God gives us the necessary strength to lay down our lives, if we yield ourselves up daily as living sacrifices to him. The Lord does not use his power to force his people in the doing of his will. If they show a willingness to sacrifice, he provides the opportunity and the necessary strength to endure the trials which the refining work of his acceptance may entail. The Apostle Peter expressed the proper sequence of thought concerning this matter. He wrote, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”—I Pet. 5:6,7

## **TWO CLASSES RESURRECTED**

Paul gives us a complete discourse on the subject of the resurrection in his letter to the brethren at Corinth in I Corinthians 15:12-28. First, he proves that faith in a resurrection is part of Christian doctrine, without which the entire fabric of it would be senseless. Secondly, having proved the doctrine, he shows that our Lord's resurrection is God's guarantee of a resurrection to the entire human race, for which Christ died. He goes on to prove this fact and its reasonableness by saying, "Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead." (I Cor. 15:21) By Adam came death to the whole human family, so by the man Christ Jesus the resurrection blessing is made applicable to all.

It is important to note that although a full resurrection to perfection is made applicable to all the human creation, it does not follow that all will obtain the blessings that will be available under the administration of Christ's future and glorious kingdom of truth and righteousness. It is only for those who successfully pass a judgment or trial to prove their worthiness of it under God's righteous conditions. A New Covenant arrangement is to be made applicable to the entire human family, and the terms will be such that all may avail themselves of the offer available in Christ. All who put their trust in Christ will be made alive, or fully escape the death sentence. The apostle explains, "As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."—vss. 22,23

## **THAT WHICH EXCELLETH**

When Paul wrote that he counted all things but loss and dross that he might know the power of Jesus' resurrection, he undoubtedly had in mind the power of the Heavenly Father which is awaiting his people while they are laying down their lives as fellow sacrificers with Jesus, and also the further and ultimate use of that power on behalf of the church in the first resurrection. The faithful church's future inheritance is also one of glory, "For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth."—II Cor. 3:10

All of the present advantages of health, comfort, prestige, or worldly joy will be nothing when compared to the spiritual glory. We should, as Paul did, consider all else as loss and dross as we think about what has been promised to all that have been called to glory. However, it is only if we have fellowship in the sufferings of Christ, as the apostle said. "What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." (Phil. 3:7-11) We will experience the mighty power of God to raise us

from the dead and exalt us to his own right hand with Christ. It is far more wonderful than the human perfection to which mankind in general will be restored, obtaining an even better resurrection than that of the faithful Worthies of Old.

## **LIGHT AFFLICTION**

Writing on this subject, Paul tells us, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (II Cor. 4:17,18) He is showing us that only those who are fully consecrated will understand and appreciate our heavenly calling in Christ Jesus, "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."—Rom. 3:25,26

The apostle shows us that of those who come into Christ and into the household of faith, there will be more than one class. The firstfruits class, the faithful members of his body, will be first in order and the first in rank. Because associated with Christ in sacrificing during this present Gospel Age, they will have part in his resurrection which is the chief resurrection. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ

was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.”—Rom. 6:3-5

The call to the first or chief resurrection began centuries ago when our Lord Jesus—the head of the church—arose from death. Paul explained, “Every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.” (I Cor. 15:23) As the ‘firstfruits’ of the sleeping ones, Jesus is an example and a guarantee of the fulfillment of the divine promise that “there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.” (Acts 24:15) Since, then, a little flock of believers has shared in justification by faith in the Redeemer’s sacrifice, and then have consecrated themselves to the Lord and become joint-heirs with Christ, Paul writes, “If ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”—Gal. 3:29

### **COMFORTED BY GOD**

They have been begotten and quickened to this course of action by the exceeding great and precious promises of God. “Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.” (Rom. 6:8,9) This is a further example of the mighty power of the Heavenly Father. This power concerning the resurrection of our Lord Jesus fortifies us against every assault of the Adversary. It replaces fear with courage, and it gives renewed strength to the weary. However, this power of the

resurrection does not isolate us from our necessary trials and experiences, nor spare us from suffering for righteousness sake. This power will help us to wait on the Lord and to patiently endure unto the end, for in sorrow it will be our comfort.

This is indeed the blessed hope and inheritance of all of the people of God who desire to continue to walk in the footsteps of our dear Lord Jesus. These were sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, which by God's Word and providence bears witness that they are accepted in the Beloved. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." (Rom. 8:14-19) "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; because we shall see him as he is."—I John 3:2

He shall put down all rule, authority, and power to teach righteousness, truth, and love. "For he must reign until he hath put all enemies under his feet." (I Cor. 15:25) His kingdom having been arranged for the very purpose of releasing those who shall desire to be in harmony with God, will be made fully aware of his real character and plan.

## A STANDING OR RISING UP

In the Bible, the word resurrection is found only in the New Testament and is the translation of the Greek word *anastasis* which means to stand, to rise up, awaken, or restore. Other Greek words are used when referring to the temporary awakening of those who had been awakened and who afterward died again. This can be illustrated in the case of Lazarus and others where neither the Greek word *anastasis*, nor its English equivalent resurrection, is used. “Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.”—John 12:1

The ransom given by our Lord once for all secured a resurrection (*anastasis*) for all. To define that word as only signifying a reawakening to a brief life only to die again would be to limit God’s power. The true meaning of the word contains the thought of a full restoration of all that was lost. Mankind lost human perfection, and has been on a downward spiral which has led to moral decay, sickness, sorrow, and ultimately death. Our Lord Jesus died to recover all that was lost, and the promise of a resurrection is therefore the promise of the restoration of what was lost and redeemed. The Prophet Isaiah said, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because he hath anointed me to preach the good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.”—Isa. 61:1

To appreciate the full force of the word *anastasis*, which points to restoration or rising up, we

must remember how far man has fallen into death. Full restoration which has been secured for mankind by their Redeemer, will be a full and complete raising up of all that was lost. By the perfect man Adam came death, and along with it all the degradation which the word implies including mental, moral, and physical, culminating in utter dissolution or loss. Through the willing sacrifice and subsequent resurrection of the world's Savior our Lord Jesus, a full raising up to the grand heights of perfection and to the image and likeness of God will be enjoyed by all the willing and obedient of the human family under the administration of The Christ.

## **RETURN TO PERFECTION**

The Millennial Age is to be the resurrection day for the world of mankind, but it will be optional with each individual whether or not they attain the grand perfection provided for all in Christ. When the dead rise they will have to cooperate in matters pertaining to their own resurrection to perfection, or else never obtain it. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." (Eccl. 9:10) "For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?" (Ps. 6:5) This work will be done by their glorified Redeemer, who declared, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice."—John 5:28

What a blessed confirmation, that all in their graves shall be awakened in the resurrection of the

dead. There will be two classes who will be awakened, and under different conditions. As our Lord proceeds to show, saying that those consecrated ones who are acceptable to God through Christ and are resurrected, come forth from death with a perfect life. They will receive the divine nature over which death will no longer have any power or control.

The remainder of mankind will be awakened to a judgment, or trial period, during which they will have an opportunity for a full raising up, but they must conform to the discipline and chastisements of that thousand-year judgment day during Christ's future kingdom. They will have the best conditions in which to learn of the Heavenly Father through the guidance of his glorified Son. The prophet has written, "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall blossom as the rose. . . . Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. . . . And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; . . . And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."—Isa. 35:1-10

This wonderful passage of scripture reveals how the earth is to be brought to the perfection that God had primarily designed for it. The earth will once again become a happy home and a beautiful paradise for mankind. Messiah's kingdom will not only uplift humanity, but will also bring blessings of perfection to the earth. God has foreseen all the necessities of his plan and will make ample provision for all the needs of his human creation. He has

promised to deliver mankind from Satan's power and his blinding influence.

The blessings of Christ's future kingdom will ultimately open the eyes of the blind, and all ignorance and prejudice will be removed. All shall come to an accurate knowledge of the Truth concerning the divine character and attributes, and especially God's love. As a consequence, the true knowledge of the Lord shall fill the whole earth "as the waters cover the sea." (Isa. 11:9) Not only will their bodies be blessed, but also their minds and hearts will be similarly freed from the bondage of sin. This is the ultimate goal and great work of the Millennial Kingdom. With the kingdom established, blessings of peace, joy, and life will begin to flow out to the world of mankind. We rejoice that God has a plan for the entire world of mankind, which includes an end to all of the things which have separated them from his love. "They shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying Know the Lord: for all shall know me from the least to the greatest."—Heb. 8:11

"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. And 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.”—Rev. 21:1-5

Mankind will once again have dominion over the earth, and will be able to live on a restored perfect earth in peace and joy forever. It will be based on the words of our Lord, who said, “Thou shalt love the Lord your God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”—Mark 12:30,31

Love is the principle grace that mankind will have to learn and put into practice. “Love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Rom. 13:10) All who desire to live on a perfect earth forever will have to attain to this love. The mark of character, which is that which the law of God places as the condition for life for his human creation to be acceptable to him, is that of perfect love. Ultimately this law must govern all of God’s intelligent creatures who will obtain everlasting life. When man is completely restored to the image of God, every man will love him and his beloved Son.

## **RESURRECTION AND LIFE**

At the time of Lazarus’ death, Jesus sought to comfort his grieving sister Martha. “Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”—John 11:23-26 ■

# The Spirit of a Sound Mind

*“God hath not  
given us the spirit  
of fear; but of  
power, and of love,  
and of a sound  
mind.”*

—II Timothy 1:7

**THESE WORDS WERE WRIT-**ten by the Apostle Paul during his last imprisonment in Rome, and shortly before he was executed. He knew he was to be put to death, and it is therefore a farewell message to his beloved Timothy. “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

## **THE AFFLICTIONS OF CHRIST**

The epistle indicates that Timothy was planning to visit Paul before he was to be executed, and there was risk attached to such an undertaking. Apparently Timothy was willing to risk his life to encourage the apostle in his time of trial. Paul encouraged, “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.”—II Tim.1:8

Paul spoke from the heart which reveals the true nature of his Christian life and experiences. That life had been one of suffering, of privation, of weariness and imprisonment. Now it was to be climaxed by violent death at the hands of pagan executioners. He had truly experienced the afflictions of Christ (Heb. 10:32), but in so doing he had also experienced the power of God to sustain him in his every time of need.

The apostle was assuring Timothy that God would also strengthen him, and that the divine spirit of power would be his ready helper no matter how severe the afflictions might be. No follower of the Master has known this better than Paul. He was informed of this at the beginning of his walk in the narrow way as recorded. “I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.”—Acts 9:16

Paul never tried to sidestep any opportunity to suffer with Christ, but sought to know what the will of God might be. Oftentimes the Lord directed him to do things and to go to places which he knew in advance would lead to suffering. An example of this was when he was journeying to Jerusalem, and the Holy Spirit testified that bonds and imprisonment awaited him there. The brethren who had less spiritual discernment than did the apostle interpreted these testimonies to be warnings from the Lord and a definite indication that he should not go to Jerusalem. However, Paul decided that the Lord was merely testing him by giving him this further opportunity to suffer for his name’s sake. “Then Paul answered, What mean

ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”—Acts 21:13

When he arrived at Jerusalem he was imprisoned, and by his own choice appealed his case to Rome, knowing that it would prolong his bondage and perhaps lead to his death. He was truly a partaker of the afflictions of Christ, not because he was unable to escape persecution, but because faithfulness to his covenant led him to the forefront of the battle against the powers of darkness. He followed the example of Jesus, who voluntarily laid down his life for the sins of the people and to the glory of God.

### **THE SPIRIT OF POWER**

Like every follower of the Master, Paul could not have walked the narrow way of sacrifice alone. He struggled, suffered, and endured; but the spirit of power was given to him by the Heavenly Father. He could rely on the everlasting arms that were always underneath and around him, that sustained and comforted him. God had promised that it would be so, and each day of his life of faithful service this promise was verified. Long before, the prophet wrote, “They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”—Isa. 40:31

Paul had experienced the reality of God’s caring hand, and many other promises of help in time of need. He could write confidently to Timothy even when facing his death. Onesiphorus was another who had remained loyal even in the face of danger. “The

Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain: But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me. The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.”—II Tim. 1:16-18

This is a wonderful compliment to Onesiphorus. This humble brother in the Lord could not be an apostle, but he shared in Paul’s ministry at the risk of his own life to stand by the apostle and encourage him. This was doubtless one of the ways that the Lord gave Paul the spirit of power. Those who are fearful cannot be used by the Lord in this manner.

“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.” (Heb. 4:1) In this scripture, the word ‘fear’ is used to describe an alertness which we should exercise in connection with the carrying out of every detail of our covenant of sacrifice. We should be concerned that by carelessness we come short of doing the whole will of God.

### **THE SPIRIT OF LOVE**

The Lord also gives his people the ‘spirit of love.’ Paul speaks of the spirit of love from the standpoint of its being the motive which encourages the Christian to choose a path of sacrifice and suffering. Love is shown in the Heavenly Father’s sacrifice on behalf of humanity when he gave his dearly beloved Son to die for the sins of the human creation. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”—John 3:16

Paul showed the importance of love when he wrote, "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." (I Cor. 13:3) The natural desire of fallen man is to protect his own interests, and to acquire that which he thinks will give him security and happiness. There must be a strong motive when someone takes a course in life which means giving, sacrificing, and suffering.

When Jesus said to the rich young ruler that he should sell all he possessed and give the proceeds to the poor, he added, "and thou shalt have treasure in heaven." (Luke 18:22) Service rendered from a wrong motive suggests a contrary spirit. "Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel."—Phil. 1:15-17

## **THE SPIRIT OF A SOUND MIND**

It is through the instructions of his Word that God gives us the spirit of a sound mind. This is in accord with the psalmist, who wrote, "Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts."—Ps. 119:98-100

Soundness of mind and judgment was always manifested by our Lord Jesus, and we too should seek to have the mind of Christ. Perhaps Paul was blessed by the words of the psalmist, and may have had the

example set for us by Jesus in mind, when he wrote to Timothy that the Lord gives his people the ‘spirit of a sound mind.’ Even in the material affairs of life the Lord’s people should be able to exercise better judgment than those who are not blessed by the guiding principles of the wonderful precepts of God’s Word.

The apostle’s thoughts on the subject may be different from that of many of the Lord’s people when they speak of exercising the spirit of a sound mind. At times, we may offer excuses for not doing that which clearly comes within our privilege to carry out the terms of our covenant of sacrifice with the Lord. Excuses for unfaithfulness is not what the apostle meant by exercising the spirit of a sound mind. He would not have encouraged Timothy to undertake the hazardous effort to visit him in prison, but would rather have written to him that taking such a risk would not be exercising the spirit of a sound mind.

Jesus exercised soundness of mind in carrying out the terms of his covenant with the Heavenly Father, and there is no other way for us to manifest that same spirit than to faithfully follow his example. When we consider the mind of Christ, we see that it functions in connection with the experiences of his everyday life. All of our Lord’s followers have a certain responsibility toward those who are dependent upon them according to the ties of flesh.

## **ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES**

An example of this is shown in our Lord’s remark to the disciple whose father had died. From the scriptural record, we read, “Another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and

let the dead bury their dead.” (Matt. 8:21,22) Some of us might have thought Jesus’ disciple was exercising the spirit of a sound mind, but Jesus didn’t answer him in this way. From the standpoint of worldly wisdom, Jesus’ reply may seem unsound, and rather abrupt. However, it was Jesus who gave this answer and we have to accept it as a manifestation of true soundness of mind. It serves as a guide for establishing our priorities.

On another occasion, during our Lord’s earthly ministry, we have a different example of the manner in which his mind viewed the privilege of self-sacrifice. This occurred at the time Peter advised him not to go to Jerusalem. We read, “From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.” (Matt. 16:21,22) Peter evidently believed that he was using the spirit of a sound mind to help his beloved Master. “But he [Jesus] turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”—vss. 23,24

Although Peter was well-intentioned, his suggestion was misguided and his advice was simply from a human standpoint. This would surely have dictated that Jesus would be making a terrible mistake to go to Jerusalem under the circumstances. But such is human wisdom, which is based upon

self-interest and self-preservation. Soundness of mind from God's standpoint is expressed in the Master's words, "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." (vs. 25) Jesus spoke from the divine principle, and the manner in which he applied it points to the deeper principle of self-sacrifice that is necessary to be his true follower.

As noted earlier, the Apostle Paul was also confronted with a similar situation, and showed his willingness to lose his life sacrificially. This was when the Holy Spirit testified that bonds and imprisonment awaited him at Jerusalem. Paul accepted this as an opportunity to sacrifice in the same manner as Jesus. He expressed himself as being willing to die at Jerusalem if this should be the Lord's will. His advisers, even as did Peter in the case of Jesus, urged the apostle not to go to Jerusalem. These were brethren who were still influenced by the human viewpoint of worldly wisdom, and their first consideration was to look after their own interests.

## **A LIVING SACRIFICE**

Paul encouraged the Lord's people to greater faithfulness and zeal, when he wrote, "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." (Rom. 12:1) What the apostle speaks of as being a 'reasonable service' is expressive of possessing a sound mind. Soundness of mind on the part of the consecrated Christian is thus manifest in the presenting of himself, and all that he has, in sacrifice, or the losing of

his life as was expressed by Jesus. The mind that leads to this action is the mind of Christ. In this connection, Paul also said, "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."—Phil. 2:5-8, *New American Standard Bible*

The Lord assures us of his sustaining power to strengthen us in our every time of need. Through his Word he inspires us with his loving care, and gives us the spirit of a sound mind. In his letter to Timothy, he urges his disciple to not fear the results of being faithful. "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. 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."—II Tim. 2:1-4

Thus does the apostle verify the words of Jesus that if we lose our life in sacrifice with him, we will save it, and live and reign with him. It would be a manifestation of the flesh and an unsound mind to seek to avoid persecution and suffering for Christ.

Let us strive to keep our body under and be guided by the Holy Spirit. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."—II Tim. 3:12 ■

# ENCOURAGING LETTERS

## ENJOYING THE BOOKS

Dear Dawn: I have all your books. The Book of Hebrews [*A Study of the Book of Hebrews*], and Genesis [*God's Plan in the Book of Genesis*] are the best I have read. The way you wrote them, a young person can understand the meanings. Thank you so much.

I truly enjoy *The Dawn*. I want to thank the person that put the ad in the newspaper about a book, *Creation Versus Evolution*. I am so grateful to God of all the work put in your writings. May God bless all of you.—PA

## NEEDS HELP

DawnBible: I am very interested in reading your pamphlets. I need help; I am going through many problems and I would like to learn how to read and understand the Bible.—Website [Spanish]

## FORMER JW

DawnBible: Your articles are so helpful! Thank you a lot! As a former JW follower, I am so glad to find

finally the pure truth and join Toronto area Bible Students.—CANADA

## JESUS IS REAL

DawnBible: I like reading your books. The way you bring out the Scriptures is a very good way for all to understand that the Bible is not just words, but the Book of true life, and that Jesus is real. I know because he is real in my life. He did not die for nothing.—TN

## NEEDS PRAYERS

DawnBible: Thank you so much for your booklet, *How God Answers Prayer*. I need lots of prayers in my life now. I have been going through a lot in my life, so this book has come at the right time.

God bless you and your ministry.—WEST INDIES

## FEEL LIKE FAMILY

DawnBible: I thank you for *The Dawn*, that always touches my heart and awakens lost memories of the scriptures and the grace that changed my life.

## ENCOURAGING LETTERS—*cont'd*

As a disabled vet it is sometimes difficult to be accepted, even at the house of God. But Dawn did more than accept me, they made me feel like family, and for that I thank you from my whole heart. May God bless you so much.—MS

### **FRANK & ERNEST**

DawnBible: The *Frank and Ernest* [radio] Programs are just awesome. These dear godly men were such sincere and wonderful representatives of the truth. Thank you for these great programs. The Lord bless thee.—OH

### **HOME BIBLE STUDIES**

DawnBible: I am doing home Bible studies with my kids and grandchildren, and thought I might get some ideas from you.—MI

### **BORN BIBLE STUDENT**

DawnBible: I belong to Bible Student Association since I was born. I am really happy to know about our Almighty and about our Lord Jesus Christ.

This website is making me know more about the

things happening around our brethren.

I would like to convey my regards to all the members of Bible Students Association, all over the world. May our Lord bless all of us and keep us united.—INDIA

### **ONE TRUE GOD**

DawnBible: I am pleased that many people recognize the one true God and His Son Jesus Christ (John 17:3).

I come from Germany. There are many people in our country who do not believe in God. I pray that God can shine the light of truth.—GERMANY

### **ON SITE FOR HOURS**

DawnBible: I've just been on your site for hours and just want to say I love what you are doing for the Lord's work. This is a great way to reach the world.

Thanks for sharing your website, and can I print off some of the children's Bible stories for Sunday school lessons? Keep the good work going.—IN

## **NURSING HOME**

DawnBible: Thank you for your site. I have read a lot of your booklets. They were a blessing to me. I have shared them with the ones in the nursing home.—SC

## **DAWN DEVOTIONAL RADIO**

DawnBible: I enjoy very much all of *Dawn Devotional Radio* [www.live365.com/stations/dawn\_radio]. It is great to hear the Word without the ‘You should think this’ or ‘You should believe that’ that most other Christian broadcasts present, along with their ego.

I am thankful for your honesty and sincerity in teaching to understand the Bible. God bless you all and peace in his kingdom to come.—AUSTRALIA

## **UNDERSTANDING CLEARER**

DawnBible: I thank God for making it possible for me to know about Dawn Bible Scriptures through Bishop \_\_\_ in Nigeria. My Bible understanding has

become clearer than before as I continue to read *The Studies in the Scriptures* volumes.—UNITED KINGDOM

## **TRUTH ABOUT HELL**

DawnBible: I appreciate your website. *The Truth About Hell* [booklet] was very well written. Thanks.—NM

## **CHURCH IS NOT A BUILDING**

DawnBible: How wonderful it is to find someone who knows that the ‘church’ is not a man-built structure. This is why there is no such thing as ‘denominations’!—Website

## **FATHER, SON & HOLY SPIRIT**

DawnBible: I think the article [*Father, Son & Holy Spirit*] is a wonderful blessing to anyone that would take the time to read. It clarified the meaning of the work of the Holy Spirit, and how the word spirit is used in the Bible. Thank you for the clarification. I will pass this article on to our pastor for it is wonderful and informative.—Website ■

# 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.*

## **C. Chandler**

Boise, ID April 23-25

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

## **T. Alexander**

Albuquerque, NM April 2-4

## **D. Blencowe**

Boise, ID April 23-25

## **D. Christiansen**

Boise, ID April 23-25

## **B. Eckholt**

New York, NY April 11

## **A. Fernets**

New York, NY April 11  
Boise, ID 23-25

## **J. Freer**

Boise, ID April 23-25

## **R. Goodman**

Albuquerque, NM April 2-4

## **R. Gorecki**

Pittsburgh, PA April 18  
Boise, ID 23-25

## **S. Jeuck**

Albuquerque, NM April 2-4  
Atlanta, GA April 25

## **B. Keith**

Boise, ID April 23-25

## **H. Montague**

Delaware Valley, PA April 25

## **P. Mora**

Boise, ID April 23-25

## **M. Nemesh**

New York, NY April 11

## **D. Rice**

Delaware Valley, PA April 25

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## 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.*

**ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION, April 2-4**—Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel, 2910 Yale Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106. Contact S. Thomassen, 402 Bryn Mawr SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106. Phone: (505) 268-8170

**NEW YORK SPRING CONVENTION, April 11**—Doubletree Hotel, 1880 Route 17 S, Mahwah, NJ 07430. Phone: (201) 529-5880. Contact G. Passios. Phone: (201) 939-3196

**PITTSBURGH SPRING CONVENTION, April 18**—Greentree Parkway Center Best Western Inn. Contact C. Byrd. Phone: (412) 734-4702

**BOISE CONVENTION, April 23-25**—Owyhee Plaza Hotel, 1109 Main Street, Boise, ID. Contact D. Allers (by April 3rd), 7558 W. Hathaway Lane, Boise, ID 83714, by April 2. Phone: (208) 375-6873

**DELAWARE VALLEY CONVENTION, April 25**—Sheraton Bucks County Hotel, 400 Oxford Valley Road, Langhorne, PA 19047. Phone: (215) 547-4100. Contact R. Eldridge, 37 Falcon Road, Levittown, PA 19056. Phone: (215) 949-0652

**JACKSONVILLE CONVENTION, May 2**—Holiday Inn, 620 Wells Road, Orange Park, FL 32073. Contact C. Hires, 2405 Hugh Edwards Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32210. Phone: (904) 781-0506

**AGAWAM CONVENTION, May 15,16**—Agawam Senior Citizen Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001. Contact L. Bovat. Phone: (413) 883-6421

**BUFFALO CONVENTION, May 15,16—New Location**—Holiday Inn Buffalo International Airport, 4600 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY 14225. Contact R. Morin for reservations by April 30. Phone: (585) 322-7459

**LOS ANGELES CONVENTION, May 29-31**—Radisson Hotel, 4545 MacArthur Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92660. For programs and room reservations at the special convention rate of \$59/night (no tax), contact M. Nekora, 1425 Lachman Lane, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. Phone: (310) 454-5248

**WATERBURY CONVENTION, June 5,6**—Saturday afternoon in Morris, CT. Sunday at the Litchfield Firehouse Hall, Rt. 202, Litchfield, CT. Contact H. Tsimonis, Phone (860) 567-0109 or Waterbury Bible Students; P.O. Box 1494; Waterbury, CT 06721-1494

**BIBLE STUDENTS GENERAL CONVENTION, July 17-22**—University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, PA. Contact M. Nekora, 1425 Lachman Lane, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. Phone: (310) 454-5248

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, August 8-13**—Baia Mare, Romania. Contact Tom Machacek. Phone: (219) 662-8107 (International Youth Seminar follows, August 16-20.)

*“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”*

—Hebrews 10:23-25,  
*New American Standard Bible*

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*To us the Scriptures clearly teach:*

**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