

The Berea Baptist Banner

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The Sufficient Atonement of Christ

By Matthew Stepp
of Wayne, West Virginia

There's a misunderstanding about the Atonement of Christ that has been floating around for several centuries which I've been studying on recently. The question was asked of me recently whether it is appropriate to say that "The blood of Christ is sufficient to pay for the sins of the whole world, but efficient or efficacious for the sins of the elect only?"

I don't guess that it would be adequate answer enough for me just to shout "No!" would it? Oh, well, didn't really think so! But I do want to make sure that you start off with the emphatic truth! The above statement is wrong, incorrect, misleading, erroneous, false, and besides all that---it ain't right! Okay?

"In whom (Christ) we have redemption THROUGH HIS BLOOD, even the forgiveness of sins. . . And, having MADE PEACE (at-one-ment) THROUGH THE BLOOD OF HIS CROSS, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, YET NOW HATH HE RECONCILED IN THE BODY OF HIS FLESH THROUGH DEATH, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight" (Col. 1:14, 20-22). (Emphasis M.S.)

My desire in this article is to show how that the blood of Christ was specifically and purposefully shed to atone for the sins of His people. It is sufficient and efficacious only for His purpose, pleasure and grace whereunto appointed. Let's look at a few points:

WHAT'S BEHIND THE QUESTION?

First of all, I want to examine the question's intent. What are they getting at when they ask it? What most people mean when they claim His blood was sufficient for the saving of all, is that the Lord is sovereign and could have saved as many as He would have desired. While



the thought is true, the wording is incorrect and misleading!

The correct wording should be that the Lord has the omnipotent power and ability to save whom He would! Our Elohim God has power and ability inherent in His nature to save as many as He should desire--- up to the sum total of all of mankind, without exception. But we see through the Scriptures what His intent and desire is---the successful redemption of His lost sheep! **"But ye believe not, because ye**

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The Story of Joseph

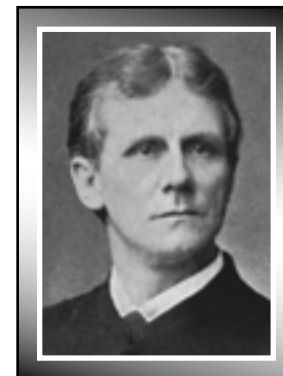
By I. M. Haldeman
(1800 - 1800)

Joseph is the one and only character presented to us in the Bible without a flaw. As such he is a perfect type of our Lord Jesus Christ, the sinless man.

A study of the story will reveal the completeness of the type. The correspondence between type and Antitype not only verifies Jesus as the Christ thus anticipated, but demonstrates that the book of Genesis has been inspired of God.

Joseph was the son of Jacob's old age.

"Old age," translated into spiritual language and applied to God, signifies "eternity." Jesus Christ was the Son of God's eternity. From all eternity He was God's Son. He was never derived, He was eternally begotten; He is God of



God, very God of very God, equal with, and of the same substance as, the Father. The term "sonship" can never be applied to Him in the divine sense, as it is applied in the

human.

In the divine sense He is the eternal expression of the Fatherhood of God, the eternal and essential expression. He is His Son, and the Son of His love.

On the human side He is derived. His humanity is of the seed of the woman. Mary is His mother. God is His Father. In His humanity He is the express image of God in flesh. Joseph, the son of Jacob's old age, sets Him forth as the eternally begotten Son who was **"made flesh, and dwelt among us."**

Joseph was Jacob's beloved son. "Now Israel loved Joseph, more than all his children" (Gen. 37:3).

Jesus Christ was the **"beloved Son"** of God. **"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"** (Matt. 3:17).

Jacob made Joseph a coat of many colors.

"He made him a coat of many colours" (Gen. 37:3).

a. This coat was such as was worn only by a son or heir. By one who held the place of headship and Lordship. Our Lord Jesus is continually set forth as the Heir. In the parable of the wicked husbandmen (Matt. 21:38). In Romans 4:13, **"The heir of the world."** Hebrews 1:2, **"His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things."**

b. The coat, or robe, signifies exalted dignity, Lordship. In giving this splendid robe to his son, Jacob publicly exalted him and declared his coming Lordship. Concerning our Lord Jesus Christ it is

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The Day Christ Died

By Milburn Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)

The most remarkable day in human history was the day when the Ancient of Days died. The Christian religion rests upon the truth of the death of Jesus according to the Scriptures. The day Christ died divides the chronology of man's existence on earth. We refer to the time before His death as the Old Dispensation. We call the time after His crucifixion the New Dispensation.

The death of Jesus Christ was no accident or incident, it was predetermined. He stood as a **"Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"** (Rev. 13:8). We learn from I Peter 1:19-20 that we were redeemed **"with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."** Acts 2:23 reveals how Christ was **"delivered by the determinate counsel**

and foreknowledge of God." God the Father had chosen Christ to be the Redeemer of His chosen people before the foundation of the world. Christ came in the fullness of time in the likeness of human flesh to die the awful death of the cross to do the work the Father sent Him to do.

FACE SET LIKE A FLINT

The prophet Isaiah discloses in chapter 50, verse 7, that the Redeemer had set His face like a flint toward His death at Calvary. Jesus Christ viewed every step He took on earth as another step in the direction of **"his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem"** (Luke 9:31). He was about His heavenly Father's business by the time He was twelve years old (Luke 2:42, 49). When the first Baptist preacher saw Christ, he declared Him to be the antitype of the sacrificial lamb of the Old Testament. When John cried: **"Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world,"** he had reference to His coming

Weak Christians are like little children; they look for a great reward for a little work.

October 5, 2007

Volume XXVII, Number 10
Whole Number 340

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THE BEREA BAPTIST BANNER (UPS 546470) is published monthly for \$6.00 per year by the authority of the Berea Baptist Church, 3881 Highway 363, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855. Periodical Publication postage paid at Mantachie, Mississippi.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BEREA BAPTIST BANNER, P.O. Box 39, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855-0039.

PUBLICATION POLICIES: All matter for publication should be sent to the editor. All manuscripts are to be typed and double spaced. All such material becomes the property of BBB and will not be returned unless requested by the writer. We reserve the right to edit and condense all materials sent to us for publication.

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY with paid circulation in most states in the U.S.A. and some foreign countries.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES - U.S.

One year.....\$6.00
Two years.....\$10.00
Five years.....\$24.00

SUBSCRIPTION RATES - FOREIGN One Year \$45

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BUNDLES TO ONE ADDRESS: These are sent for \$4 per paper for a year. An example: 10 papers for one year at \$40 or 20 papers for one year at \$80.00.

LOCATION OF PUBLISHING CHURCH: Our church is located on state highway 363 about one mile south of Mantachie, Mississippi. Readers are always welcome to visit our services.

CHURCH PHONE: 1-662-282-7794.

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1. To honor God and to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. To preach the gospel to lost sinners.
3. To spread the whole counsel of God's Word.
4. To encourage God's preachers and to strengthen His churches in the most holy faith.
5. To motivate God's children to a closer fellowship around His Word.
6. To inform people of world events in light of Bible prophecy.
7. To condemn and expose error wherever it may rear its ugly head.
8. To stimulate Christian growth in grace.
9. To make the Devil and his demons as mad as possible.

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Sufficient Atonement

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are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:26-28).

Particular redemption is the root doctrine of our study laid out before us. Was the redemption purchased on Calvary (1) an open-ended "action" with untold ramifications to untold numbers of lost sinners? Or was it (2) a specific "trans-action" purchased in blood for a particular purpose of God, by His own pleasure and grace?

The atonement of Christ "is" a particular transaction planned, purposed and executed to accomplish God's will in saving His lost sheep from their sins. More on this statement later. . .

The power of God is actually what is put in question by the above query on the sufficiency of God's actions. **"Remember the former things of old: for I AM God, and there is none else; I AM God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel SHALL stand, and I WILL do all my pleasure: . . . yea, I HAVE spoken it, I WILL also bring it to pass; I HAVE purposed it, I WILL also do it"** (Isa. 46:9-11). (Emphasis M.S.)

In case you read that verse too fast, let me walk you through the latter part of verse eleven again. God says, **"I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass."** Beloved reader, what God says He will do, He does! Nothing can stop or prohibit the Sovereign of the Universe! God says, **"I have purposed it, I will do it!"** Even what God plans can automatically be considered accomplished! So we must take this fact into consideration as we delve into this study. What God purposes, He accomplishes; and what God speaks, He will bring to pass! Everything will be ordained precisely down to the last iota!

DOES SUFFICIENCY EQUAL APPLICABILITY?

Question: Are we limiting the power of the atonement if we say it isn't sufficient for all?

I think this is where the misconception is taking place. What is the "power" of the atonement? Is this equivalent to the power of God?

No! You see, that's what I am trying to point out. The only power the atonement has is the power invested in it as a transaction by Almighty God.

To equate the power of the atonement with the power of God is a misrepresentation of where both of these doctrines are rooted. Let's use an example to show the difference between

the sufficiency of the power of God and the sufficiency of the application of the atonement.

If I have one million dollars, then I have the sufficient funds to pay for a number of people's debts. However, it's only applicable to those of whom I choose to redeem of debt. If I perhaps use seven hundred thousand dollars for the debts that I've chosen to pay, that leaves me three hundred thousand dollars in my account. I have therefore applied some of my resources (my ability) to the debts of the seven hundred thousand group (my elect). Although I have more resources (ability) that really is irrelevant, since I have not chosen to apply my resources (ability) any further than I've already committed myself. What I have spent was sufficient for what I have chosen (elected) to do. It is a transaction between me and the court system. None can deny the validity or legality of what I've done.

The only problem with this word picture (as with all analogies that try to deal with Omnipotent God) is that we can't throw out the number one million or billion or even googajillion to represent the power of God. It is infinite and immeasurable. So it goes without saying in this scenario that you'll have sufficient funds to pay for an unlimited number of people's debts. Again, to emphasize, though, we are not talking about the atonement, yet. We are still talking only about God's ability or power!

You change the denomination of the currency when you move from sufficiency to applicability in this scenario. God's power is sufficient to remedy the sin of an unlimited elect or even a nonelect population of eternity. But in the transaction of the atonement, God's power has only been applied to a certain "elect" number. In other words, the power of God is limited, not because of impotence or inability, but by His decree of application.

Now that keeps the currency the same. And it perfectly illustrates the differentiation between the two words "sufficiency" and "applicability." I think all will agree that there is a major difference between the two! It's all the difference of believing Particular Redemption/Limited Atonement or holding to the false doctrines of Universal Redemption and General Atonement!

WHY NOT THE BLOOD?

"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. . . . For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified (set apart or chosen)" (Heb. 10:10, 14).

Let me reiterate the question clearly again. Why is the blood of Christ not sufficient for the sins of the entire human race? We know and have already stated that the power of God is sufficient, but that's not the question at hand. Why not the blood?

What does the phrase, "the blood of Christ" indicate? Is it speaking of hemoglobin, red blood cells, plasma, etc.? Although that is the make-up of "the blood of Christ," it's not really what we're talking about. What is meant in Scripture is the atonement. The propitiation (for full payment) made for the sins of God's people. **"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a PROPITIATION through faith IN HIS BLOOD. . ."** (Rom. 3:24-25). (Emphasis M.S.)

We must understand that the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ was to come and perform a specific action (thereby known as a transaction) while on this earth. **"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and SENT his Son TO BE the PROPITIATION for our sins"** (I John 4:10). (Emphasis M.S.) God sent His Son to be something. That something was our ransom price. That something was propitiation in full for the penalty of our sins. That something was the transaction of the atonement. A particular redemption for His sheep!

The atonement of Christ is not an "offer" or "open proposition!" It is a "work!" It must be understood thusly! If it were only a gift (such as faith and repentance are), then it would be something that has open-ended qualities. It could be considered sufficient for many things that it did not end up accomplishing.

For instance, faith and the grace of God are gifts to me. I have the ability now, by those gifts, to live a perfect life of obedience. They are open-ended gifts that I need to use daily to perform my tasks and to live for Christ. However, as they are merely (oh, what a travesty of calling God's gifts "mere") gifts, they are mine to use or ignore. How sad as I look at my life at the times I have been guilty of just that---coldly ignoring God's precious gifts! When temptation comes along, I know I have the promise that God will always provide a way out---I need not fall into sin, if I utilize God's precious gifts of faith and godly grace! But, as you also know from personal experience, beloved reader, we fail and we fail---gifts, not fully implemented.

However, the atonement is not a gift. It is a work! It is an actual act of propitiation and redemption accomplished by our Savior and Redeemer on the cross of Calvary. It is not a continuing act whereby as each child of God is saved, there is a new name written down in Glory! God forbid!

When Christ uttered the victorious shout **"It is finished!"** on the cross, the work of the atonement was done! Completely and fully sufficient for the purpose of God!

"Unto him (Jesus Christ) that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings

♦ (Continued on page 184)



From the Pen of a Country Preacher

Milburn R. Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)



Five Names of Christ

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isa. 9:6).

In this one verse the Prophet Isaiah gives us five names of the Messiah. The names of Christ are always of the greatest significance. Every one of these are worthy of our deepest and most attentive consideration. In each of the names is revealed some portion of His character and nature, which is distinct from other aspects. Only by meditating upon all of these can we come to a full and complete conception of His manifold excellences.

“WONDERFUL”

The first of the five names is **“Wonderful.”** Some unite this first name with the second, making it read “wondrous counselor.” C. H. Spurgeon preached a sermon from this on “The Wonderful Counsellor.” In a sermon on this text W. B. Riley combined these two names, and so have some others. I do not believe **“Wonderful”** is an adjective here. If this had been the meaning, it would have been expressed differently. The words **“Wonderful”** and **“Counsellor”** must be considered separately in my humble opinion.

This is not the first time that Christ is called Wonderful in the Old Testament. The Angel of the Lord talked with Manoah. **“And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour? And the Angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is wonderful”** (Jud. 13:17-18 improved translation).

Christ is wonderful in His eternal relation to His Father, an unchanging relation of mutual love and tenderness. In the sense that He is the Son of God, He is **“the only begotten Son”** (John 1:18).

Christ is wonderful in His work of creation. The act of creation is assigned to Him (John 1:1-3; Heb. 1:2). He brought out of nothing the existing universe. The archangel, principalities, powers, cherubim, seraphim---sun, moon, and stars---man and animals---all were the work of His creative hand. These were created by Him out of non-existence.

The Messiah is wonderful in His incarnation. He is God and man in one person with two natures, so different

from each other, yet united in Him. He is wonderful in His birth. He is born of a virgin and is by this virgin birth separate from sinners.

The Redeemer is wonderful in His life. He was wonderful at the age of 12 in His disputation with the doctors in the temple. His public ministry was nothing but one continual series of wonders. His baptism in Jordan and His temptation in the wilderness were wonderful. His transfiguration was wonderful. His teaching and preaching were wonderful. His stupendous miracles were wonderful.

The One the prophet wrote of was wonderful in His death. I marvel that the Prince of Life could die on a cross. I am amazed that He died with the consent of His Father, the Lord of Life. It is so wonderful that He died for the chiefest of sinners and was buried in a rich man's tomb. It is wonderful that His death destroyed the devil and obtained eternal salvation for all of the elect of God. The circumstances surrounding His death were marvelous---the darkness upon the earth, the cleaving of rocks, the rending of the veil of the temple.

The Lord from Heaven was wonderful in His resurrection from among the dead. His body laid dead in the tomb for three days and three nights, but it did not see corruption. He rose from the dead by His own power to an endless life of resurrection glory. It is wonderful how this event had a connecting with our regeneration, justification, and glorification.

Christ was wonderful in His ascension. He rose up through the clouds by His own power. It is wonderful how He gave gifts unto men. It is wonderful how He now sits at the right hand of the Father to make intercession for us. He will remain there until the time of His wonderful second coming.

To sum it all up, Christ is wonderful in His person, offices, and works. He is wonderful in His disposition of mind and the good qualities He possesses. He is wonderful in His patience, wisdom, meekness, humility, and sympathy. His conduct and courage are wonderful. His love to His people is wonderful. Every word He spoke and every act He did were wonderful. His promise and presence with His elect are wonderful. His wonder transcends the utmost reach of thought!

“COUNSELLOR”

The second name is **“Counsellor.”** This word denotes one of an honorable rank, one fitted to stand near kings as their adviser. The word is also expressive of great wisdom. It refers to the Word of God, the One called in the Book of Proverbs Wisdom itself: **“Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding...”** (Prov. 8:14). In Christ is **“hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”** (Col. 2:3).

Jesus Christ is God's counselor. He is intimately acquainted with all the counsels of God, seeing He sat in the eternal council with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Strictly speaking, God needs no counselor: **“For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?”** (Rom. 11:34). Angels and men are not qualified to counsel God, but Christ sits in the cabinet council of the King of the Universe. He was there when the subjects of grace were chosen and when the plan of the ages was perfected. In this **“counsel of peace”** (Zech. 6:13) the scheme of salvation was agreed upon by the sacred Trinity.

The Messiah is man's Divine counselor. Christ has unerring wisdom to impart to us. None have ever sought His counsel in vain, much less repented of following it. He towers above and beyond all human counselors who have lived, or now live, or ever shall live upon this earth. Oh, how the children of men need His advice and counsel (Ps. 16:7). By obeying His counsel great calamities could be avoided and manifold blessings be enjoyed. In Revelation 3:18 He declares: **“I counsel thee...”**

When Christ was upon earth He was the great counselor to sinners. He called upon them to repent and believe the gospel. He healed those who were sin-sick. He told the weary to come to Him for rest. Those He healed and pardoned, He counseled them to sin no more. He advised those who repented of sins and who believed on Him to submit to baptism and to declare their discipleship.

During the days of His flesh, He was a wonderful counselor to His disciples. He counseled them to do unto others as they would have others to do unto them. He taught His followers to be humble and to love one another. He advised them to pray to the Father. He counseled His people to bear persecutions and reproaches cheerfully for His name's sake. He instructed them to keep His ordinances and doctrines to the end of the world.

Now in Heaven in the presence of God He appears there as our counselor. He is there to represent us and present our petitions to God. He answers all charges Satan brings against us and pleads the efficacy of His precious blood in our behalf. He asks the Father to give us the blessings He agreed to bestow upon us in

the covenant.

“THE MIGHTY GOD”

The third name is **“The mighty God.”** The Son of God is Himself God, and if God, then certainly Almighty (Isa. 10:21). This name of Christ proves His divinity and leaves rationalists and cultists dumbfounded. Honest interpreters can not fail to see here the proof of Christ's divinity and His almighty power. It is as simple, clear, unequivocal a claim of supreme deity for the Messiah as could be expressed in human language. All the efforts of liberal theologians to destroy this name by rendering it “hero of strength” (*el Gibbohr*) come to nothing, for in chapter 10, verse 21, of this same book the prophet applies this same name to the Messiah.

Isaiah would not have called a mere man God. This would have been blasphemy. Isaiah must have recognized that the Messiah would be more than a mere man. Earlier he had called Him Immanuel, God with us (Isa. 7:14). The psalmist called Christ God: **“Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the scepter of thy kingdom is a right sceptre”** (Ps. 45:6). In Hebrews 1:8 we learn these things were said to the Son of God. The Prophet Jeremiah called the Messiah **“THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS”** (Jer. 23:6). So then the prophets in the Old Testament did conceive of an incarnation of God!

The New Testament makes it abundantly clear that Jesus Christ is God. **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”** (John 1:1). Thomas addressed Christ as **“My Lord and my God”** (John 20:28). Paul wrote of Christ, **“who is over all, God blessed for ever”** (Rom. 9:5). In I Timothy 3:16 he said: **“God was manifest in the flesh.”** When the Apostle John spoke of Jesus Christ he said: **“This is the true God, and eternal life”** (I John 5:20).

The works of Christ declared Him to be God. He created the world out of nothing. He upholds all things by the word of His power. He on the cross bore away from the justice of God all the sins of all believers. He attacked death, sin, the Devil, the grave, and Hell and conquered them all. He quickens people dead in trespasses and sins. He keeps these He regenerates from total and final apostasy and preserves them safe to His everlasting kingdom. He soon will raise the dead and judge the world in righteousness. These things could only be done by **“The mighty God.”**

“THE EVERLASTING FATHER”

The fourth name of Christ is **“The everlasting Father.”** Literally this reads from the Hebrew **“the Father of eternity.”** The word rendered “everlasting” properly denotes eternity, and it is used to express **“for ever”** (Ps. 9:7; 19:9; 29:10) and **“for ever and ever”** (Ps. 10:16; 21:4; 45:6).

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Five Names of

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The Hebrews used the word "father" to mean a liberal father, a grandfather, an ancestor, a ruler, or an instructor. Here it seems to have a twofold sense: a literal father and a ruler.

The term father is not applied to the Messiah here to show His distinction in the Divine Nature. The term Father is uniformly in Scripture applied to the First Person of the Trinity. The Bible makes it clear that Christ is distinct from God the Father. Things are said of Christ which cannot be said of the Father. So the name does not set forth any relation of Christ in the Godhead, for there is but one Father in the Godhead.

Christ is called a father here with respect to His chosen people, who were given Him as children and offspring in the covenant of redemption. Their adoption was an act of the will of God from eternity. Christ is a father to them from everlasting, and they will never be fatherless. He loved them with an everlasting love. He saves them with an everlasting salvation and imparts to them everlasting life. He bestowed upon them an everlasting consolation and an eternal inheritance. He delivers them from everlasting fire and everlasting destruction.

The Messiah is the father of "an elect race" (1 Peter 2:9). In Isaiah 53:10 we are told that "he shall see his seed." In John 5:21 we are informed that He "giveth life to whom he will." Christ called His disciples "little children" (John 13:33). In the covenant He engaged to bring "many sons unto glory" (Heb. 2:10). When all His covenant engagements are finished, He shall stand before the Father and present the elect as a faultless multitude with exceeding joy. Then He shall say: "Behold I and the children which God hath given me" (Heb. 2:13). It is in this sense that Christ is called by Isaiah "The everlasting Father."

The Messiah is also the everlasting Father in the sense of being an everlasting King, or ruler, over His people. This sense was surely in the mind of Isaiah, for he went on to declare: "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this" (Isa. 9:7). The Prophet Daniel spoke of the Messiah's kingdom as "an everlasting kingdom" (Dan. 7:27) and said that it would "stand for ever" (Dan. 2:44; cf. John 12:34). The angel told Mary that her Son's kingdom would be that of His Father David and that "of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:33). Revelation 11:15 tells us that Christ "shall reign for ever and

ever." Since He is our everlasting King (Ps. 10:16), He will never cease to be our Protector and Provider.

"THE PRINCE OF PEACE"

The last name is "the Prince of Peace." It is not uncommon for Christ to be called in Scripture "a prince." In Daniel 9:25 He is "the Messiah the Prince." In Acts 3:15 He is denominated "the Prince of life" and in Acts 5:31 "a Prince and a Savior." Then in Revelation 1:5 we see Him as "the prince of the kings of the earth." Christ is the Prince of Peace in a twofold sense.

First, He is a Prince of Peace in the kingdom of grace. He is the Author of peace between God and sinners. He made peace between God and sinners by His cross (Eph. 2:14-20). He gives to those He represented in the covenant of peace a peace of mind and conscience (Rom. 5:1). He can give this peace because "the chastisement of our peace was upon him" (Isa. 53:5). He declared while on earth: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you" (John 14:27). Because He has given us peace of mind and conscience we can truly say that "the peace of God" rules in our hearts. The indwelling Spirit produces peace in our lives. Christians are peace-makers who preach "peace by Jesus Christ" (Acts 10:36).

Second, Christ is the Prince of Peace in His coming kingdom on earth. Isaiah declared in the next verse: "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end. . . ." Isaiah saw the Messiah as a peaceful prince. The tendency of His rule would be to restore and perpetuate peace. This characteristic would distinguish Him from the mass of earthly kings and princes who delighted in conquest and blood. In contradiction of all these, the Prince of Peace would promote universal peace, put an end to wars, and restore harmony and order to the nations on earth.

We are now living in the "times of the Gentiles." This age is characterized by "wars and rumours of wars" (Matt. 24:6). God has not promised the earth peace in this age, for there can be no peace while men reject the "Prince of Peace." Peace conferences may be held, but war will continue until the King of Peace comes and inaugurates His peaceful kingdom.

The record of human history is the story of war. There has never been even momentary peace among men for longer than fifty years at a time. Since the dawn of recorded history nations have been engaged in the cruel business of exterminating each other. Man's dream of peace will shortly be shattered on the plains of Megiddo. His dream of peace will only be realized in the kingdom age, for then the thousands of years of war, murder, hatred and greed will be ended like a bad dream. Then the very instruments of war will be converted to

devices of peace. Micah said: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks" (Micah 4:3). Can you imagine the prosperity which will result from peace on earth, since nations will not need to devote vast proportions of their expenditures on munitions?

But bless God there is a peace which a sinner can enjoy in the depths of his heart before the time of the coming peaceful kingdom. The Prince of Peace this very day imparts peace to a troubled heart. Sin is the great disturber of the human heart. It is the source of all disorder and distress. The Prince of Peace secures to the human soul its right condition. Christ restores the true order; He makes all things new in man. When the spiritual nature is reset there is a great calm within the soul of man (Matt. 11:28).



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and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (Rev. 1:5b-6). Do you see the picture here displayed? Of our Lord performing the act of washing us from our sins in His own precious blood? That's the power of the atonement! A certain and finished work!

A couple of examples to show the limitations of a transaction of this sort:

(1) It is like saying the pardon that the governor handed to Mr. Jones in the penitentiary was sufficient to save everyone in jail with him, but not efficient to any but him---ridiculous! It is for Mr. Jones and will only ever be for Mr. Jones! Limited by the "transaction" worked out by the government, it is sufficient only for Mr. Jones.

(2) It is like saying the payment of seventy-five dollars that the bank made for Mr. Smith's delinquent taxes was sufficient to redeem everyone's taxes in his neighborhood, but not effective for any but Mr. Smith---again ridiculous! It is for Mr. Smith and will only ever be for Mr. Smith! Again, limited not by any inability (the bank obviously has more than seventy-five dollars), but only by the terms of the "Transaction of Grace"!

The reconciliation worked by Christ on the cross is also not sufficient for any, but for the intended recipients! The blood was shed for God's elect and will only ever be for God's elect! The atonement is a literal "amount" of mercy spent for the completion of said transaction.

The reconciliation worked by Christ on the cross is also not sufficient for any, but for the intended recipients! The blood was shed for God's elect and will only ever be for God's elect! The atonement is a literal "amount" of mercy spent for the completion of said transaction. "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and

shall be satisfied: by his knowledge (understanding) shall my righteous servant justify many (not all); for he shall bear their (the elect's) iniquities" (Isa. 53:11).

Examine carefully what happens when a Last Will and Testament is read upon the death of a Stepp grandfather. Is the Stepp inheritance sufficient for all mankind, but only efficient for those of the Stepp family? NOOOOO! "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us (God's family). . . How much more shall the blood of Christ. . . purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new TESTAMENT, (and) that by MEANS of DEATH, for the REDEMPTION of the transgressions that were under the first testament. . . For where a TESTAMENT is, there must also a necessity be the DEATH of the TESTATOR" (Heb. 9:12-16). (Emphasis M.S.)

WHY THE CONFUSION?

I believe much of the confusion on this subject is related to the above discussed difference between the sovereignty of God's power versus the transaction quality of God's purchased atonement. But there is also another side that makes this doctrine difficult for some to fully comprehend. I call it the "Mathematical Proportions Theory." This "theory" would have us believe that each drop of the precious blood of Christ was for a particular person's debt. And for each person's debt that would be added to the total, they must have more blood applied in their case, to cover the additional debt. Let me explain this fallacious theory more fully by asking a couple of questions.

1) Would Christ have needed to suffer longer and more severely if He had died for more?

Let's look at the sacrifice of Christ for a second. God the Father chose a multitude as His elect from eternity past, present and future. Could He have chosen more? Certainly! Less? Of a surety! But He chose a finite number as His own. It is as certain and sure as the exact number of those that will be walking the streets of Glory some day---no question about that!

Now in the Covenant of Redemption, God the Son agreed to take the form of a servant and come to do what? To shed His blood for His people's sins!

Now what does that mean? I have a problem with folk that try to put a measurement on each drop of God's blood. If God had just chosen "one" person as His elect, beloved reader, do you know what Christ would have had to have done? Exactly what He did in the Gospels!

You see, the required payment was

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“not” just a drop of divine blood. The required payment was death (Rom. 6:23). In other words, it took “all” of His infinitely precious blood to save one soul--(me)! It was an infinite payment, but not the way the original question posed that word “infinite” (as all-sufficient beyond the intent). It was infinite in that it took every drop of the Lord’s sanctified blood to fulfill the cost of the atonement (. . .for “one” person or one quadrillion people!) My sin was infinite, in the eyes of God, and the cost is infinite. **“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the PRECIOUS blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot”** (I Pet. 1:18-19). (Emphasis M.S.)

In other words, the length of the suffering and the extent of the suffering of our Lord are irrelevant to the “number” of those purchased. It would be the same regardless of the quantity, because it is based on the quality.

2) (True/False) *God the Father did not waste any of His precious Son’s blood.*

3) (True/False) *Jesus shed none of His blood in vain.*

While these statements are both true, they can be misconstrued into supporting the aforementioned, erroneous Mathematical Proportions Theory. Sometimes when we explain the Doctrine of Limited Atonement or Particular Redemption, we notice ourselves saying that our Lord’s sacrifice on the cross was for the elect only and that He didn’t waste any of His precious blood on Judas Iscariot, Pharaoh or any other of the reprobate sinners of the world.

We must be more careful! Of course, God didn’t waste any blood--it was all needed and necessary for what the job at hand required. It took His life turned into death to purchase salvation. It took His blood sacrifice unto death to purchase redemption. Whether one soul or fifty billion souls! It took His “death”!

That’s the only efficacious power of the blood! It takes every drop! If there was one drop left of “lifeblood” (in other words Him being still alive), the sacrifice

would not have been completed. **“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, IT IS FINISHED: and HE BOWED HIS HEAD, and GAVE UP THE GHOST”** (John 19:30). Christ couldn’t just be scourged to a bloody mess, unrecognizable to man to accomplish reconciliation--He “must” be crucified!

Christ couldn’t just be nailed with great loss of blood to the cross, considering the At-one-ment accomplished, and then come down to convince the high priests--He “must” die! The breath “must” cease to come! The Lovely Head “must” bow in death!

That is the cost. That is what the blood depicts. That’s what Abel’s sacrifice depicted. Death. Death for Him, that we might live.

“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. . . .For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands. . . .Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now ONCE in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin BY THE SACRIFICE OF HIMSELF. . . .SO CHRIST WAS ONCE OFFERED TO BEAR THE SINS OF MANY; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Heb. 9:22, 24-26, 28). (Emphasis M.S.)

Oh, praise His blessed, treasured name! Just as Abel’s sacrifice back in Genesis 4, required the lifeblood of the sheep, so also was required the lifeblood of the Messiah.

“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; . . .And YOU, that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now HATH HE RECONCILED in the body of his flesh THROUGH DEATH, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight” (Col. 1:20-22). (Emphasis M.S.) **author is awed and humbled** (**“YOU. . .HATH HE RECONCILED. . .THROUGH DEATH!”**) (Emphasis M.S.)

CONCLUSION

So, to avoid prolixity, I must wrap up. The atonement is not raw power. It is a transaction.

Therefore the sufficiency is perfect, as in all of our God’s works!

Therefore the application is perfect, as in all of our God’s works!

Therefore the execution is perfect, as in all of our God’s works!

What I would hope that we can all take from this article is the understanding that the discussion has been over the abuse of the interposition of the two terms---“power” and “atonement.”

The sufficiency of God’s power and the application of the power of God both concern the sovereignty of God, which is what this loaded question has dealt with, in my humble opinion. (He could have saved “all”, but chose just to save “the many”.)

The sufficiency of Christ’s blood and the application of Christ’s blood both concern the transaction of atonement, in which we are in one accord upon--i.e., Particular Redemption! (He bought His people and they are the redeemed! It is “neither” efficient “nor” sufficient by any else!)

We have to differentiate that the power of God is the attribute at stake here, not the blood of Christ.

God’s unlimited power has unlimited sufficiency in all of His pleasures! His pleasure in this case is limited in scope only by His inscrutable purpose!

That God Almighty might bless these word pictures to our hearts as we search for truth is my sole purpose for writing--Amen.



The Young Visitor; or, The Deceiver Reclaimed

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CHAPTER VI THE BIBLE PICTURES

The next day was Sunday. Octavia went to church in the morning, but in the afternoon she had a headache. The least symptom of illness was looked on with anxiety, now that scarlet fever was in the house; and Maria stayed at home to take care of her.

After dozing for some time on the sofa, Octavia started up, and gave several weary yawns. She walked to the window, to watch the gathering clouds, and then complained of the heat.

“The weather is oppressive,” Maria said, “but I think a thunder-storm is at hand; and that you know will be very refreshing.”

Oh! I hope not,” said Octavia, “I am dreadfully afraid of thunder.”

“Afraid of lightning, I suppose, you mean,” said Maria, “for the thunder is only the noise that follows, after all danger has passed. But you need not

fear lightning either. It is very seldom that persons are struck, especially if they are not in exposed situations. Besides, we know whose power it is that directs the lightning, and we can trust to God to keep us safe if it is His will. Is your headache better now? If it is, I will show you the pictures in the large Bible, and tell you some Scripture stories.”

“Thank you, Miss Maria, I should like it very much. How kind you are to me,” she added, as she climbed upon her knee, and Maria affectionately stroked her hair.

They looked through the volume containing the New Testament. Maria was surprised to find how very little Octavia knew about the incidents in the life of our Saviour. She explained to her all the pictures as they went on, and Octavia listened with eager attention. They came to the Acts of the Apostles. The first engraving that they turned to was the healing the lame man, in the beautiful gate of the temple. Octavia seemed never to have heard of it before in her life; and she exclaimed, “How delighted he must have been, to be able to jump and run, after being a poor cripple all his life. See, Miss Maria, here are his crutches that he has thrown away. He will not want them any more.” They turned on to the next.

“This is a very sad picture,” Maria said, “it belongs to the story of the man and woman who dropped down dead for telling lies.”

“Did they?” said Octavia in a frightened whisper. “I never knew that any one was killed for that. Do tell me about it.”

Maria then told her the story of Ananias and Sapphira. Most children have heard this story ever since they can remember, and they know what a warning it contains against telling untruths. But Octavia, though she must have heard it before, had paid so little attention, that it was entirely new to her. After telling her of Ananias’s sin and its awful punishment, Maria paused, while they examined the picture. The unhappy man was represented, fallen on the floor, in the agonies of death. Some of the bystanders had recoiled in horror, and the expression of the different faces showed plainly that “great fear came upon all.”

“Oh! why did nobody run and tell Sapphira?” said Octavia, who was so deeply interested that the tears were in her eyes. “She will come in presently, and tell the falsehood, too.”

“Do you think she would not have done so, if she had known what had just happened?” asked Maria.

“Oh, no indeed,” replied the child; “she would have been afraid.”

“And do you think, Octavia, that reading about Ananias and Sapphira, and how suddenly they were punished for the deceit and falsehood, should make us afraid to deceive, and to tell stories?”

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Tune in to the Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WFTA, Tupelo, MS.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.....	101.9.....	3,000 FM
WCNA, Myrtle, MS.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.....	95.9.....	3,000 FM
WCTT, Corbin, KY.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.....	680.....	5,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA.....	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.....	550.....	5,000 AM
DXRA, Davao City, Philippines	Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.....	783 Khz.....	10,000 AM

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Octavia hung down her head, and said nothing. Maria went on.

"I am afraid, dear, you are not as careful as you should be, always to speak the truth. Have you ever considered how wrong it is to tell falsehoods? It is mean and cowardly, for we generally do it, because we are afraid of receiving blame. It is doing as we would be done by; for we cannot bear to have other people deceive us; and we are incurring the displeasure of Almighty God, for you see how suddenly and severely He punished this sin."

Octavia sat looking very thoughtful.

"I always knew it was wrong to tell falsehoods, Miss Maria," she said at length; "but I did not know it was so very wicked; neither of the Ten Commandments says, Thou shalt not tell lies."

Maria was surprised at the child's remark, and asked: "Can you repeat the ninth commandment?"

Octavia hesitated, but after several mistakes, she said it right. "**Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.**"

"What does that mean, do you think?" Octavia pondered.

"I thought it meant swearing falsely in court, where people are tried."

"That would be one way of breaking the commandment, but whenever we tell an untruth about anybody, we are bearing false witness; so, you see, one of the commandments does forbid us to tell lies. Do you quite understand me?"

"Yes, Miss Maria, I think so; but it is not said out as plain as if it said, 'Thou shalt not tell lies.'"

"There is a text in the Bible that is very plain on this subject," said Maria, turning toward the end of the book. "It is one that is very terrible to read."

She pointed with her finger to the latter part of the eighth verse of the twenty-first chapter of Revelation. Octavia turned pale as she read; "**All liars shall have their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone.**"

"I do not point you to this, Octavia," said Maria, closing the book, "in order to frighten you and to make you unhappy. It is because I love you and I wish you to be a good girl."

"I do wish to be a good girl," replied Octavia, "And I mean never to tell an untruth again."

"That's right," said Maria, kissing her, "and the best way to keep this resolution is to try never to have anything to conceal. But if you have done wrong, be a frank, honest girl, and confess it. You cannot think how much happier you will be."

In the course of the evening there was another note from the sick room. It said: "I am afraid Annie's fever is increasing. The weather is so oppressive that she can hardly breathe, though I have the

windows open, and I have been fanning her all afternoon. I hope the doctor will be here soon. If he should not come in the course of half an hour, I wish you to send Horace for him. Tell Octavia that Annie asks for her very often; even when her mind wanders, the name of Octavia is on her lips."

This note made them all feel uneasy and anxious. It was a great privation to Maria and Julia that they could not assist their mamma in nursing Annie.

The doctor presently arrived. He stayed some time, and left word on leaving that he should call there the first thing in the morning strictly enjoining however that they should send for him in the night if there appeared to be any change for the worse. The sisters were sure from this that he had found his patient worse, and they retired to rest with very heavy hearts.

CHAPTER VII

THE STORM---THE CONFESSION

It was midnight. Maria had been asleep but a short time. Anxiety had made her wakeful, and she had spent more time than usual in prayer. She had been praying for Annie. She had been praying also for Octavia. She rose from prayer with the weight of anxiety in some degree relieved, and soon she sunk to repose. A loud noise awakened her. She started up in the bed, and found the room in a blaze from the frequent and vivid flashes of lightning. Peal upon peal of thunder followed, and then the rain came rushing down in torrents. There is something very solemn in a midnight storm. Maria felt awed as she clasped her hands before her eyes to screen them from the blinding flashes of lightning, and then listened to the roll of the thunder, which shook the windows with its sullen boom.

Presently she fancied she heard a tapping at the door. She listened intently, but the conflict of the elements drowned every other sound. In a brief lull of the storm the tapping was heard again. Maria sprang up and flew to the door. She feared it might be bad news of her sister, and that some one had come to tell her she was worse. When she opened the door, a flash of lightning showed her a little form standing in the dark passage in a white night-dress and with bare feet. Her heart had been beating very quick before, but now it seemed, for a moment, to stop with terror. She thought it was Annie; she thought that, in the delirium of fever, the poor child had left her bed unperceived by her mother. But in the next instant the voice of Octavia undeceived her.

"Please, Miss Maria, let me come and sit on a chair in your room. I am afraid to stay alone."

"Why, you foolish child," said Maria, "how you startled me! What is the matter? Let me carry you back to bed."

As she took her up in her arms, she felt the little girl was trembling all over.

"You are shivering," she said. "Are you cold? I am afraid you will be ill."

"Oh no! I am not cold," said Octavia, clinging to her. "I am so much afraid! Oh, pray don't leave me in my bed all alone! I can't bear it."

"No, no. I will stay with you a little while." At this moment a brighter flash than before streamed through the open door of Octavia's room, followed by a clap of thunder that seemed to break directly over the house. Octavia screamed and hid her face on Maria's shoulder, crying out: "Oh, save me! save me!"

Maria tried to soothe her, and to calm her excited feelings.

"Hush, hush, darling!" she said, "you must not give way to these fears. This storm, I hope, will cool the air and make Annie feel better. Do you not remember that it is the good God Who sends the thunder and the lightning?"

"I am afraid of God," said Octavia; and Maria felt her tremble more than ever. "I am a bad child; and God does not love bad children. He is very angry with them, and I am afraid He will kill me, as He did Ananias and Sapphira."

"Do you not want to be a good girl, Octavia?"

"Oh yes, indeed I do."

"Then God knows your heart. He knows all that you have done wrong; but He will forgive you if He sees that you fear Him, and that you are sorry and really wish to be a good child."

"But I have been so very wicked," said Octavia; "a great deal more wicked than you know of. Oh, Miss Maria, I would tell you all, only I am afraid that it would make you hate me; and I do so much want you to love me."

Maria told her that, so far from hating her, she should love her a great deal more if she were perfectly open with her, and took the first step toward doing right, by confessing what she had done wrong. Octavia, then, in a quick hurried voice, told Maria all about the pears. When Maria heard how she had suffered all the blame to fall upon Annie, in order to screen herself, she could scarcely help exclaiming, "What a shame!" But she kept silent, for she feared to check the confidence of the little girl. Octavia went on, sinking her voice lower as she proceeded.

"I have taken a great many other things that did not belong to me, besides the pears, though nothing made me feel so badly as that. It was I who took your emery cushion, and Miss Julia's silk-winders and pencil-case, and many other things that you have missed. I took your breast-pin with the red stone in it, and I took a rosette of ribbon that Miss Carlton dropped at the party. And I took five cents that I found in the study..."

She was going on with her sad list, when she was interrupted by a low sob that Maria found it impossible to suppress. The thunder and lightning had

ceased, but the rain was pouring steadily down, and the night was pitchy dark. Octavia put out her hand to grope for Maria; it rested on her head, for her face was buried in the pillow. This attitude, that broken sob, startled Octavia more than the severest reproaches could have done.

"I will give you every thing I have taken," she cried, putting her arm round Maria's neck and trying to raise her; "only pray don't cry. Say that you forgive me. Oh! what shall I do? What shall I do?"

Maria raised her head, and said through her tears,

"Octavia! my poor, unhappy child, what can have induced you to steal all these things? This is dreadful. It quite frightens me to hear of it."

"Oh, forgive me! forgive me!" Octavia cried passionately.

"It is not my forgiveness that you must ask, Octavia."

"Yes, it is," said Octavia, "I took a great many of your pretty things. It makes me more miserable now to think that I took from you than from any body else, you are so kind and so good."

"If you think me kind, Octavia, you will listen to me when I try to talk to you for your good. You have my full forgiveness for whatever you have stolen, not taken, for it is best to call it by the right name, and you know it was stealing. But surely," and Maria spoke in a very solemn tone, "you must have forgotten that God saw you. When no one was near, or when all were engaged and did not notice you, and you slyly stole what was not yours, and then hid it away in your trunk, the great and Holy God was watching you. It is His forgiveness you must ask, Octavia, for I fear you have greatly offended Him."

Octavia did not say one word; she was awed. After a silence Maria went on.

"It is this that should make you the most sorry, Octavia. You say that you are unhappy to have offended me, because I am so kind to you, but think of our Heavenly Father. He made you; He made your parents; He gave you every thing that you have; He keeps you alive and in good health. Many children are hungry, and ragged, and sick, and have no one to love them; but you have every thing you can wish. Think how ungrateful it is in you to break God's commandments. Think how wicked it is, when God has given you so much, to sin against Him, and steal what is not your own."

"It frightens me to think of God," whispered Octavia, "the thunder is His dreadful voice, and He can strike people dead in a minute."

"I have not yet reminded you of the greatest proof of God's love to us," continued Maria, "He sent His only Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, down to earth; He left His glorious abode in the heavens, and became a little infant, cradled in a manger. As He grew up,

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He went about constantly doing good. He healed the sick and cured the dumb, the lame and the blind. He took little children in His arms and blessed them. He fed the hungry; He spoke so kindly that people wondered at the gracious words that proceeded out of His mouth. Where ever He went, He made people happy. And you know what I was telling you this afternoon as we looked at those sad pictures in the Bible. He was crowned with thorns; the drops of blood trickled from the wounds, while the cruel soldiers were mocking Him. Then you saw Him nailed to the cross; the rough nails pierced His hands and His feet, as He hung there in fearful agony. He died on the cross for sinners. He suffered the punishment that we deserve. Only think of it, Octavia. You must feel that you deserve to be punished. It was that feeling which made you so afraid when you saw the lightning and heard the thunder. It was because you knew that God was angry with you that you were afraid to die. You could not hope to go to Heaven among the holy and the good, and you have heard of the dreadful place where sinners go who are unforgiven."

"Yes, that is what makes me afraid," Octavia whispered again, drawing close to her.

"Then you must pray to God to forgive you, for Jesus Christ's sake. Christ died for us, that we might be saved from that dreadful place of punishment. Do you not think we ought to love our Saviour? God has promised us in His Holy Word, that He will forgive all those who repent of their sins, and who put all their trust in the Saviour. Do you ever pray to God, Octavia?"

"Sometimes," was the answer, "I say my prayers."

"You shall pray to God now," said Maria, "and then I will leave you, for it is growing late, and we will not talk any more tonight."

Octavia knelt by the bed-side, and repeated the prayers that she had been taught, while Maria knelt down with her. Maria added a short prayer that God would forgive an erring child, who had grievously broken His commandments. She prayed that God would make her a good child, honest and truthful, anxious to please Him, and fearful of offending Him, and she concluded her prayer in the all-prevailing name of our blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ. She then kissed Octavia, and wishing her goodnight, returned to her own room.

CHAPTER VIII RESTITUTION

The next day, both Maria and Octavia showed, by their red eyes and pale checks, that they had slept but little. Mr. Taylor remarked it at breakfast time, and

attributed it to their anxiety for Annie. He was glad to be able to tell them she had passed a good night after the storm had cooled the air, and there was a decided change in her for the better. Octavia pulled Maria by the dress as they were leaving the dining-room, and drew her into her room. She then got her to sit down on a low stool, and poured into her lap a variety of things.

"Take them, and keep them all, pray do. I hate the very sight of them."

"But, Octavia," said Maria, who was quite startled, notwithstanding the confession of the night before, to see such a quantity of stolen articles; "I cannot keep these things, they are not mine."

"Some of them are yours, and I can put back Miss Julia's and Annie's without letting them know; and then let us burn all the rest."

Maria looked very sorrowful.

"That would not be right at all, Octavia. I am afraid you are not in earnest in telling me you wish to be a good girl. It seems as if you only wanted to get rid of these things, in order to hide your fault."

"I am in earnest, indeed I am, Miss Maria," said the little girl with eager voice and flushing cheeks. "To prove it to you, I will try to do exactly what you tell me."

"Then you must return all these things to their rightful owners."

Octavia's countenance fell.

"Then I shall have to proclaim to everybody that I have been a little thief. How can I return the rosette to Miss Carlton? And this paper of needles, I took it from the counter in Mr. Morgan's store; and the tin horse I took from Miss Price's toy-shop. The artificial flower and these pictures belong to girls at school, and so do the glass beads. And then there are some things I can't return, however much I wish to, like the green pears, and candies and cakes. I have eaten them, of course, long ago; so how can I return them? Oh! do let us burn them all."

But Maria was firm in her refusal. It would be very painful to restore them, and very mortifying; but it was the right thing to be done. Octavia, on this, threw herself into a fit of despair. She said it was very cruel and very unkind to insist upon her restoring what she had taken. She would be disgraced in the eyes of everybody.

"I can't do it," she said, wringing her hands, and stamping her foot on the ground. "I wish I were dead."

Maria tried in vain to check her by reasoning with her; but finding she did not listen to her, she rose from her low seat, and gathered up all the things in her apron. She then put them on the bed, and moved to leave the room, Octavia anticipated her intention; it changed the course of her feelings in a moment. Her anger was all gone, as she flung herself between Maria and the door, and implored her with the most passionate entreaty.

"It is useless for me to stay with you," Maria said, "for you will not listen to me. You consider my advice unkind and cruel."

"No, no," Octavia said, "I spoke without thinking. You are the kindest friend I have in the world. If you give me up, I do not know what will become of me."

Maria came and sat down again. She took the excited child on her knee, and smoothed her hair with her hand.

"I do not tell you to return these things merely to punish you for having stolen them, but because it is just and right. Suppose one of your school companions had taken from you your beautiful Indian fan, should you think it right if she were to put it in the fire?"

"No indeed."

"Then you must apply our Saviour's golden rule, and do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Octavia's bosom swelled, and the tears began to course down her cheeks.

"I think I can conceive," Maria continued, "which articles you will find it the hardest to restore. Is it not the needles and the tin horse?"

Octavia hid her face on Maria's shoulder and sobbed aloud.

"Do not cry so, but listen to me. If you will promise to do all that I tell you, I will return those things for you, without exposing you to the mortification of appearing before the storekeepers yourself."

At these words Octavia overwhelmed Maria with caresses and thanks.

"Now, then, you must dry your eyes, and begin to fulfill your part of the agreement. Here is this five-cent piece; papa is now in the library---suppose you take it to him at once."

Octavia would have hesitated, but she saw that Maria was quite decided, as she said.

"I will wait for you here."

She ran off with it, and was soon at the bottom of the stairs; but when she came in sight of the study door she lingered. Her heart beat quick as she gave a gentle tap. It was unanswered, and she hoped Mr. Taylor was not there, but she heard his newspaper rustle, and summoning all her courage, she knocked again.

"Come in," said Mr. Taylor, without looking up from the large sheet. Octavia entered timidly, and remained standing just inside the door.

"Well! what is it, little one? Do you want another volume of Harry and Lucy, or is it Peter Parley you are come for?"

"No, sir; I have come to bring you a five-cent piece that I found on the the carpet."

"That's an honest little maiden," Mr. Taylor said, as she put it in his hand.

Octavia blushed deeply.

"You must not praise me, sir, for I meant to keep it, only Miss Maria has shown me how wrong it was."

Mr. Taylor looked up half puzzled;

but when he saw Octavia's confession, he understood it all.

"Well, well; it is all right now," he said kindly; "and I am sure such a thing will not happen again, you look so grieved about it."

"Indeed I am sir," Octavia answered, and she ran back to Maria with a lighter heart.

She found her putting on her bonnet and shawl, and preparing to walk in to Jackson. The tin horse was wrapped in paper, and the needles were lying with her gloves on the bureau.

"Now, Octavia, get your sun-bonnet; and before I go, come with me into the garden, and tell Horace that you took the pears. Annie has been suspected of it too long already; we should lose no time in doing her justice. You must undeceive Horace, and ask him to tell the other servants."

This seemed to Octavia the hardest task of all. She had a great deal of pride, and she could not bear to humble herself before the colored servant. She held back so long, that Maria was on the point of throwing off her bonnet, and refusing to go. She knew how much better it was that Octavia should perform this painful duty at once, and that she should do it herself, so she resisted all her entreaties to put it off, or to do it for her.

"You will feel so much happier afterward," Maria said, as they at last left the house.

Horace was in the lower part of the garden, weeding the melon bed. He looked up directly, when he saw them coming down the walk; he was delighted to have some one to admire his melons. He began to point them out, and praise their beauty. After admiring them for some minutes, Maria said: "Here is a little girl who has something to say to you, Horace."

The man looked round, and put his head on one side to listen. Octavia held Maria's hand very tight. With a choked voice she said: "Horace, I am very sorry about it, but it was I who took the pears."

The old man rolled up his eyes with an expression of thankfulness, as he said: "Then it was not Miss Annie, after all, bless her."

He took up his spade, and began to dig angrily.

"Big fool I was to go to say it was Miss Annie, done it. She would never wrong any body, poor lamb. Did not she tie up my finger, when I had cut it, with her own pretty white hands, and always talk so kindly to me? And now I have set the whole house against her. I wish I had bit my tongue off first, I do."

He seemed to have forgotten, in his self-reproaches, that there was any one standing near him. He was recalled by Octavia's voice.

"Horace, I have something more to say; please tell the servants that it was

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The Young Visitor

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not Annie that it was I who was the . . . “

She could not say the word thief, but snatching her hand from Maria, she ran out of the garden. Maria thought it best to leave her to herself; she was sure that as soon as the first mortifying sense of humiliation was over, she would feel happier for having made the confession. She could not help lingering a moment to say a few words to Horace, and tell him how humbled and repentant Octavia felt; and then, without reentering the house, she passed through the gate of the yard, and proceeded on her expedition.

She had a very hot and muddy walk by no means enlivened by the prospect of the disagreeable errand on which she was bent. Maria was a girl of high principles; she had a quick sense of rectitude and justice; and as soon as she was convinced that a thing was right, she went though with it at once. This had been her plan in her studies. If she had several lessons to learn, and one was more difficult than the rest, she took up that one first, and applied her mind to it at once. In this way she became one of the best scholars in the school. While the other girls were pushing aside the hateful task, and putting it off to the last with many complaints that it was “so hard,” Maria had already learned it.

She was trying to teach Octavia to meet difficulties in the same way. She had sent her at once with the money to her father, and permitted no delay of the confession to Horace; she knew that by allowing her to brood over these duties, she would only find them more difficult to perform. The task she had herself undertaken was the most disagreeable one that she had ever discharged in her life, and she heartily wished it over.

At last she left the high road, and found herself on the brick pavement of the village street. It was a pleasant relief to come under the shade of the houses. She did not, however, allow herself to linger, but proceeded at once to Mr. Morgan's store. She glanced hastily around, and perceived that there were several customers in the store. One of the clerks came to wait on her. She looked over some of the goods to pass the time until the other customers had left, and Mr. Morgan was himself disengaged. She then asked to speak to him.

In her own frank, straight-forward way she told him at once that a little girl, a school-mate of her sister, had taken a paper of needles from his counter, but that she was very sorry for what she had done, and she had come to restore it. Mr. Morgan looked almost as confused as Maria did herself. He was a good-natured man, and he felt for her mortification.

“Don't mention it, Miss Maria,” he said, “pray don't mention it. I am distressed

that you should have troubled yourself to return it. Of course the little girl picked it up by mistake. It is of no consequence at all. Let me call your attention to this new style of goods.”

And in this way he tried to turn off the unpleasant topic.

“She is very much ashamed of it,” Maria forced herself to add; “May I beg you, sir, to let it go no further?”

“You may take my word for it Miss Taylor; I will never breathe it to a living soul.”

Maria left the store in better heart for the remainder of her task.

The grocer was only two doors off. Here she had to settle an account. Mr. Flint was going to hand her the change, when she said, “Keep it, if you please. A little girl, who is staying with us, has owned to me that she has often taken figs and candies from your store, and this will perhaps make it right.”

“I do wish every one who helps himself in this way were equally honest,” Mr. Flint said with a smile, “there would be a neat little sum coming to me if they were.”

“It is very dishonest, it is really stealing,” Maria said, “and I wonder people do not look upon it in that light.”

“Well, it is strange a passer-by, or a customer, will snatch up a handful of sugar or raisins, and never seem to think it wrong, while they would be shocked at the thought of stealing a yard of ribbon or a handkerchief from Mr. Morgan's store. Yet, my property is of as much value to me as my neighbor's, the dry goods merchant, is to him.”

“Certainly,” Maria answered; and with another load off her mind, she left the store.

She crossed over briskly to the toy shop, on the opposite side of the street. Miss Price was a little old woman, very hard of hearing; it was a long time before Maria could make her understand what she said. It was very mortifying to her to have to repeat over and over in a loud key the story of Octavia's disgrace.

“Stole this tin horse!” the old woman cried, as soon as she began to comprehend the case. “Did you say Miss Annie had stolen it from me?”

“No, no. Not my sister Annie,” Maria shouted, shaking her head vehemently. “A little friend of hers took it up. She is very sorry for it now, and wished it returned.”

“Oh! I dare say,” said Miss Price, looking very suspiciously at her, “I have missed a great many things out of my store. I am a poor lone woman, and I have my infirmities, and I can't have the sharp eye to things that I used to. I get imposed upon, and robbed; more shame to those who would rob a poor lone woman like me. Do you think the child can have taken any of the wooden dolls? I count them every day, and there is one missing; and I don't think all the tin soldiers are there.”

Maria blushed scarlet at these

ungracious words.

“I am quite sure,” she said, “that she has taken nothing from you but this tin horse.”

“Well, I only know the things are gone; and a child who could take one thing, might take twenty.”

“If her conscience smote her, and she returned one she would return all, Miss Price.”

“Return it, indeed! I do not know that I shall choose to take it back.”

And she put on her spectacles to try to detect some flaw in it. It was as good as new, for Octavia had felt ashamed to play with it after she had stolen it; but Miss Price fancied the wheels were loose, so, to avoid all further words on the subject, Maria paid her for it, and left the shop. On her way out of the village, she called to a little curly-haired boy, who was playing near his mother's door, and to his amazement made him a present of the toy. She knew Octavia would be mortified to see it again. Octavia was watching for Maria from the window. She flew to meet her, and to assist her to take off her things.

“Dear Miss Maria, how hot and tired you look. Here, take the rocking-chair, and let me fan you.”

Octavia was ashamed to ask if she had returned the stolen articles, and how they were received; but her inquiring face said as much, and Maria told her she had restored the things, without giving her all the particulars.

“Now, Octavia,” she said, as soon as she had rested herself a little, “I wish you to write a note to Miss Carlton, and enclose the rosette you stole from her.”

“Must I today?” Octavia asked despondingly.

“Yes; it is best to do it at once.”

“I have a headache! and I think I have had misery enough for one day.”

“It will only prolong your unhappiness, and perhaps give you another sleepless night if you leave this mortifying duty till tomorrow. I think it will relieve your headache, not increase it, to have it off your mind.”

Octavia could not refuse. With many tears the note was penned, containing an honest confession of her fault, and enclosing the rosette. When it was finished, Maria found some pleasant occupation for her, and left her.

(Continued in the next issue)

The Day Christ Died

(Continued from page 181) ♦

death at Calvary. The second year of His earthly ministry, He began “**to shew 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**” (Matt. 16:21). In Matthew 20:18-19 He again gave a foreview of His impending death: “**Behold, we go**

up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.” When Pilate warned Him of approaching death by crucifixion, Jesus Christ said: “**To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world**” (John 18:37).

THE INDIGNITIES BEFORE CALVARY

Mark gives the most detailed account of the indignities done to Christ before His crucifixion. “**And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified. And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band. And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, and began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him**” (Mark 15:15-19).

As to how much Christ suffered during the scourging we will never know. This was an ignominious cruel punishment given to slaves before crucifixion. The number of lashes with the cat-o-nine-tails is uncertain since the Romans were not limited to the forty lashes of the Jews. This beating tore open the flesh of His body until His bones were exposed (Ps. 22:17).

The mob mocked Christ with the appearance of homage. They regarded Him as foolishly and sadly claiming to be a king. Since kings wore purple robes, they in mockery put a purple robe on Him. Real kings in those days wore crowns, so they ridiculed Christ by thrusting a crown of thorns upon His sacred brow. Did not kings have scepters? Yes, they did. Therefore the mob gave Him a reed in His right hand. It was a custom for subjects to kiss their sovereigns, yet they spit in the face of Christ. People in those days addressed kings on their knees. So the soldiers in laughter did so to Christ. Our Lord suffered the shame and contempt which was due His covenant people that they would not suffer the everlasting shame and contempt of Hell fire.

All of these things were a direct fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. His scourging was such. Years before the psalmist had written: “**The plowers plowed upon my back; they made long their furrows**” (Ps. 129:3). Isaiah had written: “**I gave my back to the smitters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting**” (Isa. 50:6). In chapter 53, verse 5, the same prophet again had written: “**The chastisement of our peace**

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The Day Christ Died

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was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

The mock trial was a fulfillment of prophecy. How clear all of this was revealed in Psalm 22. Verses 6 and 7 read: **"But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head."** Of this same event Isaiah wrote: **"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief"** (Isa. 53:3).

THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST

At about nine o'clock on the morning of 14 of Nisan A.D. 31, the heavy cross was laid upon the bleeding shoulders of Christ and He was led away. As He walked toward the city gate of Jerusalem toward Mt. Calvary, He fell beneath the weight of the cross, physically exhausted. **"And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross. And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull. And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not"** (Mark 15:21-23). Our Lord may have refused the wine because it was drugged. He wanted to endure the full anguish of the cross.

As to the actual pinning of the Lord Jesus to the tree, the four evangelists give no details. Matthew simply says: **"And there they crucified him."** It was a dark day when Christ died. How awful must have been the scene when the husky Roman soldier took a huge hammer and drove the square-cut nails into the quivering flesh of the Son of God. The psalmist had written centuries before: **"They pierced my hands and my feet"** (Ps. 22:16).

After the nails were driven into our Savior's hands and feet, it is likely that, as the cross was dropped in the hole prepared for it, the sudden lunging of the full weight of the body from the hands and arms tore Jesus' shoulders from their sockets. Literally, His bones were out of joint as the psalmist had predicted (Ps. 22:14). The red blood must have run down from His hands and feet. It was the shedding of that blood which made an atonement for our souls. **"Without shedding of blood is no remission"** (Heb. 9:22). For centuries before on this day the blood of the paschal lamb was shed, now Christ our Passover was being sacrificed for us (I Cor. 5:7).

The day Christ died was the day of all days. On this day the Creator died for the creatures, the just for the unjust, the Savior for sinners. On this remarkable day the Judge died for the criminals, the Shepherd for the sheep, the Teacher for

the pupils. On the cross the innocent suffered for the guilty, the good for the bad, the Lover for the unlovable. At Calvary the Master died for the servants, the King for His subjects, the Lord for His household.

How painful when Christ **"poured out his soul unto death"** (Isa. 53:12). What a shameful death was crucifixion. To the Romans it was the death of a slave or a vile criminal, yet Christ **"endured the cross, despising the shame"** (Heb. 12:2). What a cursed death! The Jewish Law said: **"He that is hanged is accursed of God"** (Deut. 21:23). **"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree"** (Gal. 3:13). Although at any moment He could have stepped down from a cross whose native tree He Himself had designed, yet in a very real sense, there was truth in the statement of His enemies. There was but one way to redeem men's souls, and if He was to **"save others,"** then **"Himself He could not save."**

CHRIST ON THE CROSS

The Savior hung upon the old rugged cross from nine o'clock in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon. Just at noon when the day was the brightest, the sun ceased to shine and darkness came over the face of the earth. For three hours nature was in mourning. During those six hours on the cross something took place which mortal mind cannot comprehend. This was the most crucial day in the history of the world.

"The Scripture hath concluded all under sin" (Gal. 3:22). The high court of Heaven had declared that every sinning mortal was **"guilty before God"** (Rom. 3:19). Since every human being had sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23), we all deserved the wages of sin which are death (Rom. 6:23). Every one of us without exception deserved an endless life in a state of suffering and separation from God.

The Son of God came to pay the penalty for man's sins. As the sun ceased to shine, Christ gave an orphan cry: **"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"** For a brief period of time the only begotten Son became the only forgotten Son. The Father turned His back upon Christ since He is of purer eyes than to behold evil. The Father laid upon Him the iniquities of us all (Isa. 53:6). God poured His wrath out upon His Son. He viewed Him as the vilest sinner who ever lived. He caused Him to go through the agony of a lost soul. In six hours on the cross the Divine Savior suffered the equal of an eternity in Hell for all of God's elect. The Infinite One suffered in a finite period of time what a finite creature would have suffered in an infinite period of time.

Christ's death was radically different from that of the saints and martyrs. It was not the passing of a misguided

zealot. His death was redemptive and substitutionary. He who died on the cross knew no sin, yet He died as a sacrifice for our sins. His sinless life and virgin birth gave great meaning to His death.

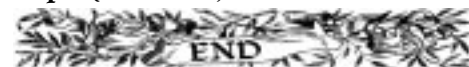
When the Hell debt was paid in full, Jesus Christ looked up and said: **"It is finished. Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit."** He laid down His life and our redemption was purchased! Oh, wondrous transaction! Any one with even a fragment of gratitude must cry: **"Thou art worthy. . .for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood"** (Rev. 5:9).

WHO REALLY CRUCIFIED CHRIST?

The Roman soldiers did not really crucify the Son of God. Nor was the Sanhedrin directly responsible for killing the Prince of life. The sins of the world are what actually murdered the Son of David. You and I put to death the Friend of sinners! Our sins murdered Him just as surely as Bob Ford killed Jessie James. When He was beaten with the cat-o'-nine-tails, we were there. When the mob spit in His face, we were there. When they pinched, jabbed and kicked Him, we were there. When the hammer drove the nails into His raw, red flesh, pinning His hands and feet to the tree, we were there. When they raised the pole and dropped it into the newly dug hole, we were there. When the pole hit bottom and the blood spurted out of the nail holes, you and I were there cheering. We were there in the person of our sins putting to death the only Savior the world has ever known!

You and I were personally responsible for slaying Jesus Christ. Isaiah said of the Messiah: **"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed"** (Isa. 53:4-5). Our rebellion against God's laws and commandments caused every agonizing minute of His suffering. Have you ever stopped to consider the terrible death you inflicted upon Jesus Christ? Do you take the matter lightly or seriously? Were you worthy of such a sacrifice? Does not gratitude for such a Savior cause you to fall as it were at His feet as did Thomas and cry: **"My Lord and my God."**

Child of God, are you entangled with the affairs of this life? Are you trying to fellowship the very world that crucified the Lord of glory? He died for us all "that we which live should not henceforth live unto ourselves, but unto him which died for us, and rose again" (II Cor. 5:15). May the love of Christ constrain us to perfect holiness in fear of God and to **"follow his steps"** (I Pet. 2:21).



Story of Joseph

(Continued from page 181) ♦

written: **"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, . . . that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"** (Phil. 2:9-11).

c. This robe was of many colors. Color in Scripture stands for quality, function, title. *Blue* sets forth heavenly things: for, it is the color of heaven. *Scarlet* is the color of earth, the color of kings, of royalty, and sets forth these things. The *many* colors give us the many offices and, therefore, the many titles of the Son of God.

"On his head were many crowns" (Rev. 19:12)

The titles are many indeed.

Note some of them:

Son of Mary, Son of Abraham, Son of David, Son of Man, Son of God, The Son of the Father, God the Son, The Messiah, The Christ, The Word of God, King of the Jews, King of Israel, King of Nations, King of Kings, The Prince of the Kings of the Earth, The Prince of Peace, The Branch, The Plant of Renown, The Lily of the Valley, The Rose of Sharon, Alpha and Omega, Beginning and Ending, The Image of God, The First and the Last, The Amen, The Express Image of God's Person, The Brightness of his Glory, The Faithful and True Witness, The Wonderful, The Counsellor, The Advocate, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father.

The robe of many colors then fittingly sets forth the manifold glories of Christ, the Father's well beloved.

Joseph had visions of future sovereignty over his brethren.

"And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. And his brethren said unto him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? . . . And they hated him yet the more" (Gen. 37:5-11).

The central chord of prophecy is the declaration that Jesus Christ shall rule and reign over His brethren according to the flesh, the Jews.

"He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever" (Luke 1:33).

Joseph responded willingly when his father called him to go forth to do his will.

"And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? Come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I" (Gen. 37:13).

So the eternal Son of God came to do the will of the Father. **"Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O God"** (Heb. 10:7). **"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but**

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The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. In Rev. 21:14, the twelve apostles are named on the wall of the foundation of the Holy City. Judas was a lost man and is not in Heaven, but is his name listed as a traitor? - Email

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I see no indication that the lost will be remembered in any way in the New Jerusalem. Revelation 21:4 seems to imply that the memory of even loved ones here on earth who have rejected the gospel message will be wiped away. **“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.”**

Other than that we have no revealed knowledge, that I know of, about our knowledge in Heaven. I certainly doubt that Judas' name will be kept around as a reminder of his sin and betrayal but there will be plenty of reminders of all that Christ did to save His people.

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“And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb” (Rev. 21:14). I have yet to find a list or a book that contains the names of traitors.

Judas certainly was an Apostle **“Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry”** (Acts 1:16,17). This question asked in a different way has been discussed before in this forum. My reply regarded the thrones Jesus speaks of the Apostles occupying during the thousand year reign of Christ. The apostle Paul was never voted in by man or by a Church, **“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God”** (II Cor. 1:1). He was made an apostle by the will of God. **“Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised**

him from the dead).” Galatians 1:1 also in 1 Timothy 1:1 not by a church or by another apostle or by himself but by Jesus and the Father.

The apostle Paul will occupy that twelfth throne the apostles are promised. Does that mean Mathias will not sit on a throne? No. For all those who have repented of sins to God for the breakage of His law and have faith towards Jesus Christ will rule and reign with Him for a thousand years, and that's a promise, not from me, but God Himself. I still continue to stand on this point for this very fact that the names on the twelve foundations, although not listed, have the names of the original eleven disciples plus the name of the Apostle Paul making twelve in number.

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No, the name of Judas Iscariot will not be among the foundation walls of the New Jerusalem. Jesus stated that Judas was a devil from the very beginning. Revelation 21:27 declares: **“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”** The name of Judas Iscariot will forever be associated with treason, lying, abominations, and corruption. His name will definitely not be included in that holy place. His name will live on in everlasting infamy in the Lake of Fire.

Matthias replaced Judas as an apostle according to Acts 1:24-26: **“And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.”**

Paul was also appointed as a special apostle of Jesus Christ according to I Corinthians 15:8-10: **“And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called**

an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

So the question still remains: Will it be Matthias or Paul whose name will be inscribed in the foundation walls of the New Jerusalem? The only way to find out for sure is to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour of sinners. By God's sovereign grace and by the quickening power of the Holy Spirit I was saved 27 years ago. Thus, I will be able to tell you for sure when I get there whose name is inscribed.

TOM ROSS



Story of Joseph

(Continued from page 189) ♦

the will of him that sent me” (John 6:38).

Joseph's Father sent him to seek his brethren.

“...Come, and I will send thee unto them” (Verse 13).

The correspondence is absolute.

Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the will of the Father came into this world to seek His brethren of the house of Israel. **“He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel”** (Matt. 15:24).

Joseph's first announcement of his mission was made to his brethren as to shepherds.

“Thy brethren feed the flock in Schechem” (Verse 13).

It is certainly far from accident, or mere coincidence, that the first announcement of the mission of the beloved Son to the people in the land of Israel should be made to shepherds.

But there is the fact: When Joseph was first announced to his brethren they were as “shepherds keeping their flock.”

There is the other fact to match it: When Jesus Christ was first announced as the Sent of the Father, that announcement was made to those who kept their flocks.

To the spiritual mind there is no more “happy chance” in this coincidence than in the movement of the stars on high.

After Joseph went forth on his mission to seek his brethren he became for a time a wanderer in the field.

“And, behold, he was wandering in the field” (Verse 15).

In spiritual nomenclature, “the field is

the world” (Matt. 13:38). And no more truthful designation can be found for the Son of God as He sought to fulfill His earthly mission than that of “Wanderer.” **“And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head”** (Luke 9:58).

Joseph found his brethren in Dothan.

“And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan” (Verse 17). Dothan signifies, “Law, or Custom.”

And it was there that Jesus found His brethren, dwelling under the bondage of the law, and slaves to mere religious formalism. **“And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness”** (Luke 11:39). **“For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men”** (Mark 7:8).

Joseph's brethren mocked and refused to receive him.

“And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh” (Verse 19).

Of our Lord it is written: **“He came unto his own, and his own received him not”** (John 1:11).

Joseph's brethren took counsel how they might slay him.

“Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit” (Gen. 37:20).

In the same guilty spirit the Jews took counsel to slay the Son of God. **“When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death”** (Matt. 27:1). And like their ancestors of old in Dothan, they hated Him.

Joseph's brethren mocked him and set him at naught.

“They conspired against him... And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer” (Verses 18, 19). **“And Herod with his men of war set him at naught, and mocked him”** (Luke 23:2; Mark 15:11-19; Isa. 53:3).

Judah counseled his brethren to sell him to the Ishmaelites.

“Come let us sell him to the Ishmaelites” (Verse 27).

Not only is the selling of the Son of God thus typically announced, it is also foretold by the prophet. **“So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver”** (Zech. 11:12-13). Both type and prophecy were fulfilled to the letter. **“And said unto them (Judas said), What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver”** (Matt. 26:15).

Joseph was sold to the Ishmaelites, and Christ after His sale was turned over to the Ishmaelites of history, the Romans.

Joseph's brethren cast him into a pit.

“And they took him, and cast him

♦ (Continued on page 192)

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. Viewing the conditions of the world in general and the ever increasing consolidation of banks, businesses, and governments, do you think the time of the Lord's coming is soon to be upon us?" -- Email

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There is no question in my mind that the coming of the Lord is nigh, even at the doors. The last recorded words of Jesus were: "...Surely I come quickly Amen..." (Rev. 22:20). Even without the indicators that the last days are upon us, we should be ready for the imminent, any moment return of Jesus Christ to resurrect the bodies of departed saints and translate the living believers in the Rapture just prior to the Tribulation Period. I was ordained to the Gospel ministry in March of 1986. When asked during the ordination when I believed the Lord was coming back, I said: "Today!" My answer is still the same today.

In light of social, economic, and spiritual conditions the world is being primed for the revealing of the Antichrist which will occur just after the Rapture (II Thess. 2). We are already moving toward a global economy, a new world order, and a one world religion. So many things are already in place to prepare people for the reception of the Antichrist when he is revealed to deceive the masses of humanity. Biochip technology already exists where all the data on an individual can be implanted in the hand in order to wave across a scanning device. This will be used to buy and sell regarding the mark of the beast. The world is in chaos and looking for peace in the Middle East. People are desperately seeking answers to the mess in the Middle East. After the Rapture the Antichrist will accomplish what no one else has been able to do. He will have the Arabic nations sign a peace pact with the nation of Israel. Antichrist will be hailed as the messiah of the economic, political, and religious world. People are waiting for such a charismatic leader and are eager to receive such a man. They will heartily believe a lie and fall for his deception with the aid of the false prophet (the pope of Rome).

If all these things are upon us and the mass of unbelieving humanity is ready to receive the Antichrist, then we know that our time is short upon the earth. We are commanded to be "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus

2:13). As a believer, I am not looking for the revelation of the Antichrist, I am looking for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the air (I Thess. 4)! I agree wholeheartedly with the admonition Paul issued: "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14).

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I personally do not seek signs, or look for the abomination of desolation, so that I may look up to see my salvation from Heaven coming down. I believe in the imminent return of Christ. I look for Christ now, I try my best to be found in obedience at all times, though I fail miserably, I am commanded to "... but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thess. 5:6). "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Matt. 24:42). "For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:34-37).

The corruption upon God's creation the world is, as it seems, getting worse as time goes by. Man is exceeding sinful and there seems to be no bounds for his wickedness. God has a time table unknown to all except HE. We see the results of man's wickedness drawing itself closer to the time of God's judgment it is plain to see indeed.

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Over the years there have been many events that have been taken to indicate the Lord's return was just about here. Some thought that Benito Mussolini was the Anti-Christ. Some thought that the reestablishment of Israel as an independent nation in 1948 marked the time of the Lord's return, even taking the prevalence of the number 40 in Jewish and Biblical history to predict that the Lord would return in 1988. The establishment of the European Common market was taken to be the ten horns of Revelation 12:3.

Today there are many teachers who seek to put every event in the Middle East into some prophetic cubby hole in Revelation.

We are indeed told of all these things in Scripture but Jesus said: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet" (Matt. 24:6).

In reality we are only given one sign of the Lord's return. "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke 17:26-30).

Prophecy majors have used these verses to call to mind the wickedness of the days mentioned, which we grant is a valid thought, but the Lord makes no reference to the wickedness of those days. Instead, the Lord zeros in on the unbelief of the people.

Like our day, there was no lack of information or warning. Yet the people scoffed and let the warnings and calls to repentance run off their backs like water off of a duck. They continued

with their lives and life styles with no change. That is the only sign we may bank on!

We are told to be ready and watching! "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 24:42-51).

I suggest we spend too much time arguing about eschatology and looking for prophetic signs instead of proclaiming the gospel message and watching our own lives to be sure we are ready for the Lord's return.

Let me pass on an abridged story that I heard from John Reissinger many years ago. It seems that a young lady was at the train station waiting for her fiancé's train to come in. She kept pestering the agent about the arrival time and on which track the train would come. The agent finally said, "Lady, I told you, track 3 and 2 PM."

The difference was that the agent knew the time and place but that the young lady was looking for her fiancé. Which one are you looking for?

RAY BENNETT



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CELLBLOCK TO CELLBLOCK

By David G. Hoffman

Encouragement and thoughts from a prisoner to other prisoners and readers.

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried" (Rev. 2:10).



Forked Tongue Prison Ministries

Greetings, grace, and peace to you, dear reader. God is good all the time and life is great, considering my locals. The grass is green and the sky is blue, even little sparrows are twittering outside my window. This may seem insignificant to some of you but for me, a prisoner who spent six years in a concrete box without a window, my view is my greatest physical joy.

Well, I finally did it. At 37 years of age I finally became a college student. For a guy who hated school and dropped out 22 years ago, that's a giant step. But I'm not the same guy who left academia all those years ago by a long shot--did I mention God is good? All the time!

There are two things I want to tell you before I get to my subject: 1) Get in school if you're able, GED, college prep, or college. 2) If you're not able to get in school (like being in segregation) then study something you're interested in by any means available. During my time in seg I studied business by reading Entrepreneur, Home Business, and Business 2.0 magazines. The system might confine your body but they can't confine your mind unless you fail to exercise it.

Please pray for me, dear reader, as I continue to widen my educational horizons, struggle with daily prison life, and write this column.

My subject this month has been boiling under the surface for several years. Then it recently bubbled over and ran down the side of the pot: Forked tongue prison ministries.

My Bible tells us, **"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"** (II Cor. 5:17). But I suppose most prison ministry's Bibles don't read this way. It seems their Bibles teach them it is okay to continue condemning those whom Christ shed His blood for.

Texas has several "Faith Based" prison programs; two that I know of are supposedly 'Christian.' However, not all Christian prisoners are welcome into these programs.

And recently I found out that not all Christian prisoners are welcome to volunteer in the unit chapel. It seems that if a prisoner is convicted of a certain

category of crime they are not deemed worthy of serving God.

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation" (II Cor. 5:18). I guess the prison ministry's, nor the chaplain's, Bibles have this verse either, because both are excluding Christians instead of trying to reconcile all to Christ.

I believe some of the problem lies in the fact that all prison ministries and the chaplaincy, at least in Texas, are based on Arminian doctrine---which as most of you know is a man-centered theology. And man always has some kind of class system, whether it's rich or poor, white or black, smart or dumb, popular or unpopular. In this case it's the worthy or unworthy. But who are these chaplains and ministries to judge and condemn those whom Christ calls to Himself?

It makes you wonder whose interests these people are looking out for: God's people or their own. The very people who should know **"all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** (including themselves) are picking and choosing which Christians are worthy of their ministries.

I'm appalled at these so-called men of God.

"Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more," saith the Lord (Heb. 10:17).

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us" (Ps. 103:12).

"Thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back" (Isa. 38:17). And the Lord's Word assures us, dear reader, that if you are truly one of God's redeemed then He has done the same for you. And don't let any self-righteous, self-seeking, God-substituting chaplain, program director, or "christian" volunteer tell you any different.

If God has called you, no man can condemn you. They can only persecute you, and I for one, don't want to be a part of that kind of ministry to begin with. But that doesn't mean I'm going to sit back and keep silent about their hypocrisy.

Bro. Jeff, you guys are in my thoughts and prayers daily. I love you, man.

Bro. Luther, I pray your health turns around soon and you are able to return

home. Dear reader, please pray for the health of this dear brother. His health is failing and he was recently placed in a nursing facility but wishes to return home.

Bro. Harold, thank you for your continued encouragement and fellowship. Y'all are also in my thoughts and prayers.

Bro. Kevin, Bubba you need to write some letters! Bro. Mehrtens and Kelsey both say they haven't heard from you in a while. I miss you tremendously, and long for the fellowship we had when I was over there. Keep your head up and your Bible open, you are not alone!



Story of Joseph

(Continued from page 190) ♦

into a pit; and the pit was empty, there was no water in it" (Verse 24).

The Pit wherein is no water is another name for Hades, the underworld, the abode of the disembodied dead: of all the dead before the resurrection of Christ. **"The pit wherein is no water"** (Zech. 9:11). **"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"** (Matt. 12:40). It was here our Lord, as to His soul, abode between death and resurrection.

Joseph was taken out of the pit alive, in his body.

"And they lifted up Joseph out of the pit" (Verse 28).

The actual order of the occurrence is that Joseph was first cast into the pit and then sold; but the moral order of the type is not deranged by that fact; it is in the light of the Antitypical history that we make the type to be verified, as well as to verify it.

The lifting out of the pit is one of those divine anticipations of the resurrection scattered all through the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi.

Reuben came to the pit and found him gone, and went away believing him dead.

"And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes. And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?" (Verses 29-30).

Reuben practically represents the Jew of today. Today the Jew is ignorant of the fact that Christ is alive. He knows nothing of the resurrection.

Joseph's coat was taken and dipped in the blood of a victim and then presented to the father.

"And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood. . .and they brought it to their father" (Verses 31-32). The application of the type is self-evident. The blood of Jesus Christ as the blood of

a scapegoat, a sin offering, was presented to the Father.

After Joseph had been rejected by his brethren he was taken down into Egypt, a far country, in order that he might become a saviour unto the Gentile world as such.

"And they (the Ishmaelites) brought Joseph into Egypt" (Verse 28).

After Christ was rejected by the Jews and had been raised and taken up to the throne of God, the Apostle Peter preached Christ unto the Jews, and declared if they would confess the sin of which they had been guilty in rejecting Him, God the Father would send Him back.

They rejected Him in resurrection even, as they had rejected Him before the cross.

God then called Paul, gave him the full revelation, and sent him to preach the Christ, the Messiah, to the Jews, as the Son of God risen from the dead; offering them no longer the kingdom, but a participation in the Church, the Body of Christ.

They refused Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God, even as they had refused Him on the offering of the prophets and the Apostle Peter as the Christ; then, this now doubly rejected Christ was presented by the Apostle Paul to the Gentiles, as the Risen Son of God.

After Joseph was rejected by his brethren and taken to Egypt he was exalted to the throne of Pharaoh.

In Joseph, therefore, we have the rejected man, the rejected Jew, on the throne of power.

"And Pharaoh said unto Joseph. . .Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou" (Gen. 41:15, 40).

Now read: Revelation 3:21, **"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."**

Today our Lord Jesus Christ shares the throne of the Father as Joseph shared the throne of Pharaoh.

As Joseph ruled over Pharaoh's house with his word, so today our Lord Jesus Christ rules over the Father's household, the household of faith, the Church, by and through His Word.

And let it be clearly kept in mind that while Joseph was on the throne of Pharaoh he was not on his own throne; that is to say, he was not in the place of rule over his brethren.

And today, while our Lord Jesus Christ is on the throne of His Father, He is not on His own throne. Read the passage just quoted in Revelation again and it will be seen our Lord Jesus Christ Himself makes a distinction between His throne and the Father's throne, and promises reward to the overcomer, not on the

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Story of Joseph

(Continued from page 192) ◊

Father throne, but on His own; and we know, according to the promise of the angel made to Mary, and the covenant made to David, and the title He wears as the king of Israel, the Son of David, and the Son of Abraham, that His throne is at Jerusalem, the **"city of the Great King."** On His Father's throne He sits today as the Rejected Man, the Rejected Jew.

While on the throne of Pharaoh, Joseph, the Rejected Hebrew, gets a Gentile Wife.

"And he (Pharaoh) gave him (Joseph) to wife Asenath, the daughter of Potipherah, priest of On" (Gen. 41:45).

And here we find the suggestion of the great truth about Christ today. (Read Acts 15:14). **"God at the first did visit (is visiting now) the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name."**

Now, when a man seeks to marry a woman he loves he seeks her in order that "he may put his name upon her." When his name is upon her she is his Wife.

The fact that Christ is now calling out a people from among the Gentiles in order that He may put His Name upon them, is the declaration that He is calling out this body of Gentiles in order that they may be brought into living union with Himself, be His mystical Bride, His Wife.

Joseph's rejection by his brethren meant the getting of a Gentile Bride.

That is the meaning of Christ's rejection by His brethren after the flesh in this hour, "He is getting a Gentile Bride."

While seated on the throne Joseph became the giver of the bread of Life to the starving world.

"And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, 'Go unto Joseph'" (Gen. 41:55). (Emphasis I. M. H.)

It was a wonderful thing that the despised and rejected Jew should be the passport to the favor of Pharaoh; a wonderful thing that the rejected Jew should be exalted into the place of a Saviour for a famine-smitten world; it was a wonderful thing that this rejected Jew should be the only Saviour for that starving world.

Equally true and wonderful is it today that Jesus the rejected Jew is the passport to the favor of God; that He is **"the way, the truth, and the life,"** and that **"no man cometh unto the Father"** but by Him; wonderful that this rejected Christ should be exalted into a Saviour for a famine-smitten world; wonderful that this rejected Christ is the alone Saviour for a starving world.

Joseph was sent by his Father to his brethren that he might be a blessing unto them, and they refused; then God turned their sin so that while it should remain as

a judgment to them, it might become a blessing to others.

In sending His Son to fulfill the promises made to the Fathers, God would have brought covenant and numberless blessings to Israel; they refused, and God has made use of their blindness and sin to turn salvation to others.

He has made the very sin and blindness of the people, to be the occasion of grace and mercy to the whole world.

"Through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles" (Rom. 11:11).

Joseph became the saviour of all peoples and tongues.

"And all countries came to Joseph" (Gen. 41:57).

Listen to the fulfillment of the type in Revelation 5:9. **"Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."**

When the famine-stricken people came to Pharaoh he caused a proclamation to be sent forth in these terms:

"Go unto Joseph." "And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do" (Gen. 41:55).

This was the Gospel in Egypt, the good news of salvation in Joseph, and the good news that whosoever was hungry might go to Joseph.

It was the good news that Joseph could meet the case.

The Gospel, the good news today is, that there is salvation in Jesus, that whosoever will may go to Him: the word is: "Go to Jesus."

The good news is, that He meets the case of every one; the good news is, that the rejected Hebrew has been taken from the pit and dungeon and has been exalted to the throne of God with power to meet the soul's need, whatever it may be.

Without Joseph presented as a saviour to Egypt there would have been no hope for Egypt.

Without Christ for the world there would be no hope for the world.

Take Joseph from Egypt and all would have been famine in Egypt.

Take Christ out of the world as He is in it today; take Him out of art and literature, out of society and government, and you would have a famine.

You would destroy the best paintings in the world's galleries, the best statues, the noblest poetry, the most exalted prose; society would have no salt to preserve it from corruption; government would have no bridle to hold in check the wild beast tendencies in man; hope would stand paralyzed in the path of life, and despair with tortured face and silent lips would stand on guard above the graves of our dead. Everywhere there would be soul famine, not for bread, but for the hearing of the Word of God.

When the Church at the "Rapture"

has been removed from the world and the Gospel is silent, such a time will come.

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land; not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing of the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it" (Amos 8:11-12).

Joseph had resources without limit to meet the hunger of the Egyptian world.

"And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number" (Gen. 41:49).

So are the riches of grace in Christ, without number, without limit. **"The riches of his grace"** (Eph. 1:7). **"Exceeding riches of his grace"** (Eph. 2:7). **"The unsearchable riches of Christ"** (Eph. 3:8). **"The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him"** (Rom. 10:12). **"Rich in mercy"** (Eph. 2:4). **"The grace of our Lord WAS exceeding abundant"** (I Tim. 1:14). **"Abundant mercy"** (I Pet. 1:3). **"The things that are freely given to us"** (I Cor. 2:12). **"I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely"** (Rev. 21:6). **"Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely"** (Rev. 22:17). **"In him dwelleth all the fulness of the godhead bodily"** (Col. 2:9). Our exalted Joseph has indeed riches of salvation to meet all the needs of the world.

After Joseph's rejection his brethren suffer famine and are forced to go forth of their own land into Egypt, become, in fact, wanderers.

As soon as Christ is rejected His brethren after the flesh, the Jews, begin to endure suffering.

They suffer in the siege of Jerusalem under Titus. More than a million are said to have perished in that siege, the horrors of which have never been fully told. Thousands were carried away captive and sold into abject slavery, while the rest were driven before their conquerors like the chaff before the wind of the summer's threshing floor. For two thousand years they have been the people of the trembling heart and the restless foot. They have wandered in all lands seeking their life, until their sufferings and sorrows have been such as no other nation ever knew.

If Jesus Christ is known as a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, it may be said the Jews are the one nation whose fitting title might be, a nation of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

Read Deuteronomy 28:58-67, and you have this blood-written history prophetically anticipated, and told with such perfectness of detail that it would seem almost as if penned today.

Although Joseph's brethren do not know him when they come into Egypt, he knows them and has his eye constantly upon them.

"And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him" (Gen. 42:8).

Although the Jews do not know their own Messiah today, yet through all these ages of anguish He has had His eye on them, and has followed them with profound grief along every path of pain. **"For mine eyes are upon all their ways; they are not hid from my face"** (Jer. 16:17). **"I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me"** (Hosea 5:3).

Joseph spoke roughly to his brethren and caused them to be put in prison.

Joseph punished them.

"Spake roughly unto them" (Gen. 42:7). **"And he put them all together into ward (prison) three days"** (Gen. 42:17). Joseph was the cause of their trouble now. Joseph was punishing them for their past dealing with himself.

The secret of all Judah's suffering during the past centuries is to be found in the fact that the rejected Messiah has been dealing **"roughly"** with them. He has been punishing them, making use of their willfulness and the stupidity of the nations, but, all the same, punishing them.

"My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations" (Hosea 9:17).

"He that scattered Israel" (Jer. 31:10).

"All countries whither I have driven them" (Jer. 32:37).

"Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord" (Matt. 23:38-39).

"That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation" (nation) (Matt. 23:35-36).

Nothing can account for the unparalleled suffering of this people, but the judgment and discipline of the Lord. He has spoken roughly unto them.

In spite of his rough dealing with them, Joseph at heart was full of love towards his brethren.

"And he turned himself about from them, and wept" (Gen. 42:24).

Behold the Antitype:

"And when he (Jesus) was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it" (Luke 19:41). **"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children"** (Matt. 23:37).

On the third day Joseph's brethren found him presented to them as one who was willing to be a saviour through the way of substitution. (Verses 18-24)

On the third day he caused Simeon to

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Story of Joseph

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be bound in the place of his brethren, and declared that by this means they might all be delivered.

In the third day era, that is to day, on the resurrection side of the grave, on the day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter presented our Lord Jesus Christ as the Risen One whom God had exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour unto Israel, declaring that if the latter should repent of their evil and sin towards Him whom He had sent to be Messiah and King, He would accept His death as the substitution for the judgment due them; that He would save them and send His Son again to be both Messiah and Saviour.

He commanded them to make this confession through baptism, and by this act testify that He who had died, had indeed been raised from the dead.

For the first seven chapters of the book of Acts, this Gospel of death and resurrection is preached unto the Jews.

And this is God's order in respect to the Gospel: "the Jew first, and then the Gentile."

Note the deep significance of Joseph's word:

"This do, and live" (Verse 18).

Do what?

"Put a substitute in your place and you shall live."

And this is the Gospel we are to preach to the sinner today.

Put Christ in your place of judgment, present Him by faith to God as the substitute ready to answer for, and meet the claims of judgment against, you.

Claim Christ as your personal substitute.

The substitution of the Man dead on the cross, is made effective by faith in the Man alive from the dead on the third day.

Let it be repeated: the Man dead on the cross is made effective as a substitute to all who believe in Him as the man alive from the dead on the third day; thus the substitute presented by Joseph on the third day, as the way of salvation from condemnation and prison, when typically welded together, unmistakably gives the Gospel of the crucified substitute made available by the third day or our Lord's brethren in the flesh, and the whole world, for faith.

Joseph gave orders to fill his brethren's sacks, return their money, and provide for them by the way.

"Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way" (Verse 25).

By this action Joseph became a sanctuary and refuge unto them in a strange land.

In spite of all the judgment which

He allows to fall upon them, the Holy One of Israel has been as a Sanctuary and a Refuge unto the Jew in every land whither He has come.

This is His promise in Ezekiel 11:16.

If the suffering and the sorrow of the Jews be evidence that God has judicially dealt with them, equally true is it that their marvelous preservation in the face of these sufferings, demonstrates that God is behind history on their behalf, and has provided for them through all the way.

"For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee" (Jer. 30:11).

In spite of all his dealings with them Joseph's brethren failed to recognize him. **"And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him"** (Gen. 42:8). What a type this is! How accurate! How prophetic!

For two thousand years, in the face of the exaltation of Christ and the adoration of the whole world; in face of their own miraculous preservation through the ages, the Jews do not know that this rejected Hebrew on the throne of God is their own brother after the flesh, and their very Messiah and King.

They are blinded. **"Blindness in part is happened to Israel"** (Rom. 11:25). II Corinthians 3:13-16. John 12:35-41.

No sadder spectacle can be conceived than that of this homeless people, linked by ties of nationality, race, and eternal covenant to the Christ of God, and yet utterly ignorant of Him as brother and Lord.

No more startling spectacle can be conceived than this:

A Jew on the throne of the universe with unlimited power of blessing for Jews, and these same Jews on earth wanderers and sufferers before the face of men.

The three chapters from forty-two to forty-four inclusive, may properly be said to be an account of the tribulation of Jacob's Children: and as his name is Israel, then we have in this sojourn and experience in Egypt, a *Time of Tribulation for the Children of Israel before they know and own Joseph*.

What the type indicates, prophecy in unmistakable utterance declares:

There is a time of unparalleled suffering in store for the children of Israel, specially for the Jews, before they know and own the Lord.

This time of suffering and sore trial is called definitely, **"the time of Jacob's trouble."** **"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble"** (Jer. 30:7). **"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be"** (Matt. 24:21).

This time of tribulation to Joseph's brethren, this time of Jacob's trouble, took

place "after Joseph had taken a Gentile wife and placed her on the throne."

The type is absolutely accurate; for, we learn from Revelation fourth and fifth chapters, that the church, the Bride, the wife of Christ is taken up to the throne in the heavens before the tribulation bursts forth.

In the fourth chapter, twenty-four elders are seen on thrones in association with the Lord of Glory.

These twenty-four, as to number, set up the idea of the priesthood, for such was the number of the priestly courses in the temple; as to eldership, they set forth administration and rule; the symbol is that of the church, considered individually, as kings and priests, corporately, as the Bride of Christ, exalted to the throne.

In the fifth chapter these enthroned and crowned elders break froth into rapturous praise, anticipatively celebrating the coming of the King and kingdom; they cry out: **"we shall reign on (over) the earth"** (Rev. 5:10).

In the fourth and fifth chapters then you have indisputably the Church of Christ in heaven, on the throne with Christ.

It is only after the church is seen seated in the heavens with Christ on the

throne, that we get an account of that tribulation, which is none other than the time of Jacob's trouble.

There is no warrant, outside the imagination of men, for the thought that the Church will go through a tribulation particularly intended as sifting time for Israel, and furnace blast for the world.

If we get wrong in our doctrine, the moment we go back to our type we are made right.

Remember it.

Joseph's brethren do not get into trouble and suffering till "after Joseph takes a Gentile bride to the throne of power."

"The tribulation comes in after the wife has been separated from all others and exalted to the throne."

Precisely so does the Spirit of God paint the actual facts in the New Testament.

There, we see "the church caught up into the heavens and the throne of God, before a single word is said of the tribulation; then, after the church is seen seated and sheltered on the throne, the Spirit gives a description of the tribulation, the great One, running through thirteen chapters; and not once is the word church mentioned; or, the thought of it suggested."

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THE

BIBLE AND NEWS PAPER

Readers of the BBB are urged to submit religious news items which they may read in their local paper or some other publication. In sending these please give the name of the publication as well as the date it was printed. We will not be able to print all which are submitted, but we welcome any item you may feel we should read.

Send them to The Berea Baptist Banner, PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855-0039.

U.S. HOUSE SET TO VOTE ON SPECIAL RIGHTS FOR GAY EMPLOYEES

(EP News)--Could a Christian bookstore be forced to hire outspoken homosexual employees? If the Democratic Congress has its way, yes.

In early September, the U.S. House Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee held a hearing on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). The full House could vote on the bill by the end of September.

ENDA would prohibit employers from making employment decisions — such as hiring, promotions and firing — based on an individual's "actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity."

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, said it "could put the rights of homosexuals above employers' including some churches. Once this law goes into effect, I don't think you can guarantee that even churches themselves would be exempt."

House Minority Whip Rep. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., joined Perkins on his Sept. 8 radio broadcast. "This Employment Non-Discrimination Act would do terrible

things," Blunt said. While the bill purports to exempt religious groups, "It really doesn't do that. The court has to decide if your purpose is sufficiently religious enough in character. Are you a church? Are you only a church? Do you do other things? Do you have a daycare center? It's a terrible policy. We've worked hard over the years to continue to strengthen rather than weaken the ability of faith-based organizations to truly be faith-based in their hiring. And I think that's important, and it's a big part of the debate we need to have on this bill."

Blunt urged pro-family Americans to let their representatives know how they feel.

"Stay informed. Be knowledgeable," he said. "As much as possible, be out there as an independent force. Telephone calls still matter. Don't take anything for granted."

STATES CHIP AWAY AT ABORTION

(EP News)--State lawmakers will begin pre-filing bills in the next couple of weeks for legislative sessions that open in January, and in most states, pro-life lawmakers will file

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parental-notification, clinic-regulation and informed-consent legislation.

In South Carolina, senators soon will consider a bill requiring that women seeking an abortion be given and allowed to see ultrasounds of their preborn babies. Oran Smith, president of the Palmetto Family Council, said the bill has bipartisan support.

"We have a Legislature that's relatively conservative," he told *Family News in Focus*, "The vote that was taken by the South Carolina House on the measure back in the spring was overwhelmingly in favor of the bill."

Because of South Carolina's efforts to restrict and regulate abortion, the state now has only three abortion clinics. The news is even better in Mississippi, where Forest Thigpen of the Mississippi Center for Public Policy said the state's last abortion clinic is hanging by a thread.

"We've required minors to get permission from their parents; we've required the clinics to have strong regulations, strong protections for the women who come in," he said. "All of that together has, I think, had a tremendous impact on the number of clinics and the number of abortions."

Denise Burke, an attorney with Americans United for Life, said there's a virtual avalanche of incremental abortion restrictions descending on state houses.

"With the United States Supreme Court saying that incremental laws are important and are constitutional," she said, "you're going to see a flurry of activity in about 45 states next year."

GAMBLING CITIES LINKED TO DRUG ABUSE

(EP News)--An effort by researchers to find out which cities have the biggest drug problems has led to a startling connection -- drug abuse correlates with gambling. A study conducted by Oregon State University and the University of Washington took the novel approach of testing wastewater for traces of methamphetamines. Researchers took samples from 10 unnamed cities and found those with casinos showed five times more drug use. Evelio Silvera, executive director of Casino Watch, said it should serve as a warning for communities that think casinos would solve their budget woes. "What research like this does," he said, "is provide yet another common-sense, practical, tangible measure of what needs to be taken into consideration before you fall in love with all the supposed advantages of inviting a casino into your neighborhood."

ADF CHALLENGES GEORGIA SPEECH ORDINANCE

(EP News)--The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) did not stop at getting charges dismissed against a Georgia man for distributing religious literature in public. It's now challenging the constitutionality of the

Cumming, Ga., ordinance under which the man was prosecuted. Fredric Baumann spent two days in jail after passing out Christian literature on a public sidewalk last April without obtaining a permit for parades and demonstrations. A Georgia Superior Court judge dismissed the charges at the request of ADF, which also has filed a complaint in U.S. District Court. "We are filing a civil lawsuit to have the city's unconstitutional ordinance struck from the books so this doesn't happen again to Mr. Baumann or anyone else," said ADF Senior Legal Counsel David Cortman.

CONGRESS' APPROVAL RATING LOWEST EVER

(EP News)--The mainstream media has been reporting the low public opinion ratings of Republican President Bush on an almost daily basis. But they have not been so forthcoming with data indicating that the Democrat led congress has an even lower rating. Public opinion of all three branches of government is at or near all-time lows, but, according to a poll out of Quinnipiac University in Connecticut, the clear loser is Congress. Seventy percent of American voters disapprove of the job Congress is doing, the lowest score recorded by the university's Polling Institute. Notably, 67 percent of Democratic voters disapproved of the performance by the Democrat-led body. Maurice Carroll, director of Polling Institute, said the poll reflects weariness with contention and partisanship. "People, reading the headlines and seeing one politician criticizing another politician, sort of join in and say, 'Yeah, why don't they get on the move?'"

NEW JERSEY GAY ACTIVISTS SEEK TO REDEFINE MARRIAGE

(EP News)--Six months ago, same-sex civil unions were legalized in New Jersey, but now homosexual activists are seeking to redefine marriage -- and are citing a suspect poll to make their case. The Zogby poll shows 63 percent of the state's voters would not be upset if lawmakers "upgraded" civil unions to allow same-sex marriages. And 72 percent said such a move would not jeopardize politicians' re-election bids. But Len Deo, president of the New Jersey Family Policy Council, said it's important to point out who commissioned the poll: Steven Goldstein, chairman of the gay-activist group Garden State Equality. "Strategically, he has to convince New Jerseyans that the civil-unions bill is a failure," Deo explained, "and that legislators need to redefine marriage and make it a full fledged same-sex 'marriage.'" Deo said the questions for the slanted poll were designed to deceive. "You've got to watch the buzz words they use like 'marriage equality,'" he said. "They're not coming right out and saying, 'We're going to redefine marriage to no longer be the union of one man and one woman, but now two men and two women.'"

PLANNED PARENTHOOD TRIES TO SNEAK NEW BUILDING INTO

DENVER

(EP News)--Denver is the latest city where Planned Parenthood is attempting to build a headquarters and abortion super-center in secret. Just like facilities in Portland, Ore., and Aurora, Ill., the Denver project was launched in secrecy, with the intent to keep it a secret until it was completed. The 50,000-square-foot abortion facility will cost Planned Parenthood -- and taxpayers -- \$4.2 million. A groundbreaking is scheduled in November. Jim Sedlak, vice president of the American Life League, said the property was purchased without using the Planned Parenthood name. "What they're doing is going under the name of a general health clinic and saying they're putting a health clinic in," he explained. "They also fear the average person just gathering at the site every day -- like they're doing in Portland, Oregon right now, and stopping the building from even starting."

PRO-LIFE DISPLAY IN MICHIGAN ANGERS PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(EP News)--Some 2,000 white crosses at the Knights of Columbus Council 2659 in Howell, Mich., are causing more than double-takes as motorists pass by. Each cross represents two abortions performed in the United States each day, the *Lansing State Journal* reports. "We're getting a lot of comments, a lot of horns blowing and a lot of 'yea' signs," Grand Knight Tom Wittstock told the newspaper. "It's pretty encouraging. Everything has been positive." The crosses are part of a traveling display. Wittstock said this is the first year his hall put up the crosses. As expected, some people, including Lori Lamerand, are not excited by the display. Lamerand is chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood Mid-Michigan Alliance. Judy Zabik, director of Right to Life-LIFESPAN of Livingston County, said the crosses serve a useful purpose. "It's pretty impressive, and it certainly gets people talking and it brings the issue to the forefront, for sure," Zabik said. "It's a visual reminder of those babies that we lose to abortions every single day."

PLANNED PARENTHOOD SUES OVER MISSOURI LAW

(EP News)--Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri filed a federal lawsuit Aug. 20 to block enforcement of a new Missouri law that will subject some facilities to increased regulation by designating them as "ambulatory surgical centers," the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reports. The suit alleges that the new regulations -- which would apply to clinics performing second- or third-trimester abortions or more than five first-trimester abortions each month -- interfere with access to abortion. The law, scheduled to take effect Aug. 28, would give public school districts the option of teaching an abstinence-only sex education course. School districts previously were required to include information about contraception in sex-education classes. In addition, the law prohibits people affiliated with abortion providers from teaching or supplying sex-education materials to public

schools.

APPEALS COURT RULES AGAINST HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTIAN CLUB

(EP News)--The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled against a Christian club that is seeking to start up at a Seattle high school.

Truth Bible Club has been trying to gain recognition since 2001, but has been blocked because of its Christian code of conduct. Officials at Kentridge High School have called the club discriminatory because its name excludes other religions, and its bylaws require voting members to sign a statement espousing the Bible.

Robert Tyler, of Advocates for Faith and Freedom, said the school's argument doesn't hold up. "It is discriminatory, but there's nothing wrong with discrimination in the right context," he said. "For example you have the boys basketball team and the girls basketball team."

Nate Kellum, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), pointed out the school's double standard: other clubs are granted the freedom to associate with whomever they please -- including the school's Gay Straight Alliance. "It's really incredible that these groups are allowed to identify themselves according to membership," he said, "but Truth is forced to compromise who they are -- they are forced to compromise their message."

Kellum added that ADF is prepared to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court if that's what it takes for Truth Bible Club to gain recognition.

FIGHT OVER SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IN IOWA TAKES NEW TURNS

(EP News)--With the help of two judges, two men got "married" in Polk County, Iowa, last week. On Aug. 30, Judge Robert Hanson struck down the state's 1998 Defense of Marriage Act. About two dozen homosexual couples obtained marriage licenses before Hanson issued a stay on his ruling around noon today. In the meantime, Judge Scott Rosenberg agreed to sign an "emergency" waiver allowing one of the couples to marry today rather than wait three days, as required by law. Justices on the Iowa Supreme Court may refer the case to the state Court of Appeals or hear it themselves. Until the Iowa Supreme Court renders a final decision in this case, any same-sex "marriages" that occur in Iowa run the risk that those nuptials will be rendered null and void. Nonetheless, the specter of same-sex marriage in America's heartland has mobilized conservative activists. Iowa Republican House Minority Leader Christopher Rants said Hanson's ruling illustrates the need for a state constitutional amendment defining marriage as one man, one woman. "I can't believe this is happening in Iowa," Rants told *The Associated Press*. "I guarantee you there will be a vote on this issue come January," when the Legislature convenes. Nearly all states have defined marriage as being solely between a man and a woman, and 27 states

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have such wording in their constitutions, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Same-sex marriage is legal only in Massachusetts.

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OKS PORN SALES ON BASES

(EP News)--The U.S. Congress passed a law in 1996 forbidding the sale of sexually explicit material on military bases, but it turns out the military uses a lenient definition of what constitutes such material. When family advocates got wind that the law wasn't being followed, Pat Trueman of the Alliance Defense Fund said they immediately took action. "About 40 pro-family leaders sent a letter to (Defense) Secretary Gates asking that he enforce the law," he said. This week the letter was answered. Instead of pulling the material off of shelves, the Defense Department declared that about 10 titles — including Playboy and Penthouse — did not meet the definition of sexually explicit and would continue to be sold. "It's something that's patently ridiculous on its face," Trueman said. "The Department of Defense wants to sell pornography, and even though the law prohibits them, they found a way to do it."

ILLINOIS SCHOOL DISTRICT IGNORES PARENTS' OBJECTIONS TO BOOKS

(EP News)--Parents of middle school students in Oaklawn, Ill., are angry with the local school board for apparently disregarding their objections to three adult-themed books on a summer reading list. One book, titled *Fat Kid Rules the World*, has the F-word on more than a hundred pages, plus other profanities and sexual situations. For two hours, more than a dozen parents pleaded with Illinois School District 126 to yank it from the shelves. But the school board came to the meeting with a written refusal already in hand. Dan Marler, a middle school dad and local pastor, said officials clearly didn't take parents' concerns seriously. "The impression was, 'We've come with our minds made up. And again, we're going to let you guys do your little venting thing, because we know you got to do that. And we've got to let you do that. And then we're going to do what we already know is best,'" he said.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS SUED FOR VIEWPOINT DISCRIMINATION

(EP News)--Administrators at a Colorado High School are defendants in a federal lawsuit over their disciplining of a valedictorian for speaking of her faith in Jesus Christ in her graduation remarks. Liberty Counsel filed suit in U.S. District Court in Denver against Lewis-Palmer School District on behalf of Erica Corder, a 2006 graduate of Lewis-Palmer High School who was reprimanded for "immature" comments and forced to apologize publicly. Mathew Staver, founder of Liberty Counsel, said valedictorians have

every right to express a religious viewpoint, and school officials have no business threatening to withhold diplomas, as they did with Erica.

TEXAS JUDGE KEEPS "UNDER GOD" IN STATE PLEDGE

(EP News)--Two Texas atheists have lost the first round in their court battle to remove "under God" from the state pledge, a phrase that was added in June. The Texas pledge reads, "Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible." David and Shannon Croft demanded that students be forced to stop reciting the pledge while their case is being considered, but a federal district judge refused that request.

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL SUPPORTS WITCHES OVER THE BIBLE

(EP News)--Wesley Busch was excited about his mom coming to his Pennsylvania kindergarten class to read from his favorite book. But when she stood to read from the Psalms, the teacher stopped her. "The principal was brought in and the decision was made, 'You can't read that,'" said Jeremy Tedesco, with the Alliance Defense Fund. Instead, it was suggested Mrs. Busch read a book about "witches and Halloween." School officials labeled her actions as "proselytizing" and "promoting a specific religious point of view" even though another parent was allowed to read a book about Hanukkah and explain the holiday. The ADF brought a suit against the school, but a federal district court sided with the school. That decision is being appealed.

MORE FAMILIES CHOOSE HOMESCHOOLING

(EP News)--The homeschooling movement continues to see a dramatic increase in the U.S. Experts estimate it has been growing at 7 to 12 percent annually, with perhaps more than 2 million students being taught at home this school year. Brian Ray, president of the National Home Education Research Institute, said homeschooling has a strong appeal for parents because it offers a solid academic education and it allows parents to teach children their values. Michael Smith, with the Home School Foundation, said homeschool students inspire others who otherwise might not choose to teach their kids at home. "They see that they function socially as normal people," he said. "They also see that these families that are homeschooling are being drawn closer together as a result of having the children at home."

MAJOR PORN DISTRIBUTOR EXPANDS SOUTH DAKOTA HQ

(EP News)--LodgeNet, the world's largest supplier of in-room movies for hotels, is expanding its headquarters in Sioux Falls, S.D., creating 125 new jobs there. Critics point out that the company is also one of the nation's largest purveyors of pornography. Leslee Unruh, president of the South Dakota-

based National Abstinence Clearinghouse, expressed disappointment that Gov. Mike Rounds helped LodgeNet celebrate the announcement. "I'm outraged," she said. "I'm really, really saddened, because this is a governor I personally voted for, I personally worked for, and this is a man who should know better."

JESUS PAINTING TO REMAIN IN LOUISIANA COURTHOUSE

(EP News)--A federal judge ruled Sept. 7 that a painting of Jesus will remain on display at a courthouse in Slidell, La. The portrait had been in place for more than a decade before the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed suit in July demanding its removal. The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) represented city, parish and court officials in the case. "The court today recognized that the First Amendment allows public officials, and not the ACLU, to determine what is appropriate for acknowledging our nation's legal and cultural heritage," said ADF Senior Legal Counsel Mike Johnson. "The ACLU's sole and stated objective in this case was to have the Jesus painting removed. But the Constitution does not prohibit public buildings from memorializing great figures from our history." City officials added 15 portraits of "historical lawgivers" along the walls of the courthouse to accompany the painting of Jesus. The portraits include depictions of Moses, Charlemagne and Sir William Blackstone. "The ruling is believed to be the first-ever federal court decision to specifically review and uphold as constitutional an image of an adult Jesus on public display," Johnson added. "While such images and other religious symbols are common in public buildings throughout the U.S., none have been challenged in this manner before."

COURT SAYS GET RID OF CROSS

(EP News)--The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has disallowed a planned public-private land swap that would have preserved a Christian cross in the middle of the vast Mojave National Preserve, ruling it violates the Constitution's establishment clause prohibiting government endorsement of religion. After the 9th Circuit found the cross unconstitutional in 2004, Congress passed a law to transfer the parcel to private ownership. The 8-foot white cross, erected in 1934 to honor World War I veterans, has been covered with plywood during the legal dispute.

PRISON LIBRARIES YANK CHRISTIAN TITLES

(EP News)--Prison chaplains have been ordered to clear their library shelves of hundreds of religious books that used to be readily available to inmates. Federal officials made the decision because they say prisons are becoming a breeding ground for Islamic terrorists. However, Christian books are also being tossed. There are still more than 200 Christian titles available, but many others, including works by early church fathers,

have been removed. Many Jewish titles were also removed, and the list is expected to be expanded in October. Mark Early, president of Prison Fellowship, said the tactic is like "swatting a fly with a sledgehammer," adding that the decision was an "overly broad approach for dealing with a few instances of extremist literature."

ARKANSAS GAY-ADOPTION BAN HITS ROADBLOCK

(EP News)--Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel has rejected a ballot measure aimed at preventing same-sex couples from adopting foster kids. John Thomas, vice president of the Arkansas Family Council, which brought the ballot measure, said it wasn't the content that got it bounced. "The attorney general's role is not to pass judgment on the content per se, or the constitutionality of it," Thomas explained. "He's responsible for making sure the language is as clean as it can possibly be so there won't be confusion." In fact, the attorney general said once the housekeeping items are cleaned up, the draft can be resubmitted for the November 2008 ballot. Arkansas is the first state in the nation to attempt to limit the ability of homosexuals to adopt children.

9TH CIRCUIT OKS JURY BIBLE USE

(EP News)--The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, notorious for Left-leaning decisions, has upheld a jury's use of the Bible while deliberating a murder case. The justices split 9-6 on the decision. The dissenting judges said using the Bible in court is "unconstitutional." Stevie Fields was sentenced to life in prison in 1979 after he committed a series of rapes, kidnappings, robberies and the murder of a student librarian. In 2000, a judge called for a retrial because the jury foreman shared Bible passages concerning murder. Brad Dacus, president of the Pacific Justice Institute, said, "The fact that the 9th Circuit decided to uphold the conviction of this murderer is a good sign that similar cases like this would probably be upheld in other circuits."

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SUED FOR UPHOLDING FAITH-BASED POLICIES

(EP News)--Two Christian legal groups are seeking to defend a Christian school that suspended two female students for engaging in homosexual behavior. The Alliance Defense Fund and The Christian Legal Society (CLS) are representing the Association of Faith-Based Organizations (AFBO) in support of California Lutheran High School. The students' parents sued the school claiming sexual-orientation discrimination in violation of state laws. AFBO is seeking permission from the courts to intervene in the case on behalf of a coalition of Christian schools, arguing that Christian schools are allowed to establish faith-based rules of conduct for their students. Prior to admission, California Lutheran students and their parents must certify that they understand and will adhere to these policies. "Christian schools have the

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right to make admissions and disciplinary decisions consistent with their Christian beliefs," said CLS Litigation Counsel Timothy J. Tracey. "To subject Christian schools to liability under California anti-discrimination laws for expelling students who engage in homosexual conduct flatly violates this right."

AURORA MAY WITHHOLD PLANNED PARENTHOOD PERMIT

(EP News)--The city of Aurora, Ill., is considering a new attorney to examine the paperwork Planned Parenthood filed in the building of its largest abortion clinic in the nation. The previous attorney was found to have connections to the city's current outside legal counsel, and was dismissed for conflicts of interest, LifeNews.com reports. The clinic, which was built under the front name "Gemini Health Center," is scheduled to open Sept. 18. Mayor Tom Weisner has said he will direct city officials not to issue the permanent occupancy permit if the lawyer's analysis is not completed by then. Eric Scheidler of the Pro-Life Action League said he was happy to see the city reviewing the process and hoped it would be a first step in stopping the permit. "I don't have the disadvantage of being a lawyer," he said. "I'm just a guy who thinks that if you lie to government officials, you ought to be held accountable."

JUDGE AFFIRMS EQUAL RIGHTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE CLUB

(EP News)--U.S. District Judge Victoria A. Roberts has entered a permanent injunction granting equal rights to a Bible club at Farmington High School in Farmington, Mich. The Thomas More Law Center represents ALIVE, a student Bible club; Aaron Grider, its president and co-founder; and his parents. In 2006, Grider requested that ALIVE be recognized by the school as a noncurriculum-related student group and receive the same treatment and benefits that other groups under that heading receive at the school. After school officials denied Grider's request, the law center filed suit in federal court in Detroit and motions seeking a court injunction. Last week, Roberts required school officials to provide ALIVE the same benefits, treatment and privileges as other clubs. "The judge's order should highlight to all school officials in Michigan and in other states that once a public high school allows one noncurriculum-related student club to meet on campus, they cannot discriminate against a Bible club," said Richard Thompson, president and chief counsel of the Thomas More Law Center. "A Bible club must be permitted the same rights as other student clubs."

TV'S "FAMILY HOUR" NOT SO FAMILY-FRIENDLY

(EP News)--TV's family hour isn't so clean-cut. A Parents Television Council

(PTC) study finds an alarming increase in violence, sex and profanity during that time slot. Shows between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. Eastern and Pacific time (7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Central and Mountain time) are supposed to be safe for family viewing, but the PTC found that since 2000, offensive content has risen 52 percent. Melissa Henson of the PTC said the study found there was one instance of violent, profane or sexual content every 4.8 minutes during the family hour. Fox led the networks in objectionable content. The CW was the cleanest network on television, but still had nearly 10 instances of foul content per hour. "The only really, truly clean shows, the shows that were most likely to be free of any kind of offensive content during the family hour," Henson said, "were the reality shows and talent competitions."

ENDA SEEKS TO ENSHRINE SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN FEDERAL LAW

(EP News)--The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is making its way toward a vote in the U.S. House. It would prevent businesses and organizations from taking sexual orientation or gender identity into consideration when hiring, promoting or firing. That could spell trouble for Christian business owners, churches and faith-based groups.

Rep. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., said if ENDA passes, it would create a crisis for Christians. "Not being able to hire people based on their agreement with your sense of the principles and values of the institution would be devastating," he said.

Proponents of the bill quickly point to a "religious exemption" in the bill, but Blunt called it a sham. "The court has to decide if your purpose is sufficiently religious enough in character," he explained. "Are you a church? Do you have a daycare center?"

And there's nothing to stop Congress from removing the limited exemption later. Ashley Horne, federal policy analyst for Focus on the Family Action, said gay activists have a goal. "The real agenda behind the innocuously named Employment Non-Discrimination Act is a push to enshrine homosexuality and transgenderism into national policy," she said.

The bill's sponsors aren't allowing the public much time to respond to the legislation. "ENDA has been fast tracked," she said. "Constituents haven't had a chance to weigh in, so we really need to get the word out."

TEN COMMANDMENTS TO REMAIN IN KENTUCKY COURTHOUSE

(EP News)--A federal judge ruled Sept. 19 that the Ten Commandments will remain on display at a courthouse in Rowan County, Ky.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) claimed the courthouse display was state-sponsored religion, even though it was part of a "Foundations of American Law and Government" exhibit that included the Declaration of Independence, the Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights.

U.S. District Judge Karl Forester ruled the display is constitutional and "does not have the effect of endorsing religion."

Mathew Staver, founder of Liberty Counsel, said such displays are gaining favor in the federal courts. "The tide is turning against the ACLU's war on the Ten Commandments," he said. "Courts are returning to common-sense recognition of the historical role of the Ten Commandments and its influence on American law."

Bruce Hausknecht, judicial analyst for Focus on the Family Action, said while the trend is promising, appointing competent Supreme Court justices is vital. "The importance of appointing Supreme Court justices who look to the original understanding of the First Amendment rather than a 'what will the ACLU think' mentality," he said, "continues to be critically important in reclaiming our religious heritage."

NEBRASKA STATE SENATOR SUES GOD

(EP News)--A Nebraska senator sued God, ordering Him to "cease certain harmful activities and the making of terrorist threats." State Sen. Ernie Chambers filed a lawsuit Sept. 14 against God for causing "calamitous catastrophes resulting in the wide-spread death, destruction and terrorization of millions upon millions of the Earth's inhabitants." Chambers insists he doesn't have a personal complaint with God, but is simply trying to make a point about frivolous lawsuits. However, Bruce Housknecht, judicial analyst with Focus on the Family Action, said, filing a frivolous lawsuit is not a "productive method for addressing the issue."

NEW YORK JUDGE AFFIRMS OUT-OF-STATE GAY "MARRIAGES"

(EP News)--A New York judge has dismissed a challenge to a decision by the state comptroller to include gay couples in the retirement system who were legally "married" elsewhere. In his ruling, Judge Thomas McNamara wrote "the policy of the Comptroller to recognize same-sex Canadian marriages is legal and not contrary to the law." Brian Raum, an attorney for the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), said the decision opens Pandora's box. "What they're saying, basically, is the law of other countries will now apply in New York, circumventing the Legislature, circumventing the legislative process," he said. He added that ADF will appeal the ruling.



IS THIS YOUR FINAL ISSUE?

Look at your mailing label on the front page of this month's paper. If you see above your name "Expires 10/2007" then this will be your last issue. So don't miss an issue! Renew now so you won't miss next month's Banner.

Mini-Edition

by Joseph Harris

Chairman of Biblical Studies
Southeastern Baptist
College, Laurel, Mississippi
www.miniedition.net



Without Natural Affection

An accurate description of society today can be found in II Timothy 3:1-5. This description is not some abstract of an unknown people in an unknown time. I believe it accurately and prophetically describes the time in which we live today. Who can argue with such words and phrases describing men as "**lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers**" and this is only a partial list. Every one of these "qualities" can be found daily from a compilation of newspapers.

One phrase that stands out as especially true and descriptive is "**without natural affection.**" The word "**natural**" is derived from the word nature which has to do with "*the inherent or essential qualities of anything,*" to give a dictionary definition. To have affection for someone means to cherish that person.

The phrase is also found in Romans 1 with reference to homosexuals who are without natural affection for the opposite sex. Having natural affection is the norm, as in a male having natural affection for a female, a female having natural affection for a male, and a parent having a natural affection for his or her children. In other words, it's just the natural thing, or that which is expected and normal.

Though the Bible never mentions the word abortion, it does speak of murder and shedding of innocent blood. The phrase "**without natural affection**" in I Timothy 3:3 can also describe the feeling of a mother toward a child she may want aborted. In the animal kingdom, *most* mothers have an intense desire to protect their young, to the point of the mother putting her own life on the line. With animals, this is called instinct. The mother doesn't think about it or have to be taught to protect her young. She just does it, therefore it is natural.

All human mothers have a God-given desire to protect their young, whether inside or outside the womb. To dislike, even hate a child to the point of murdering the child, is to be without natural affection. But God places a natural affection within the heart of every parent. The same can be said of any father who might abuse or kill his children. He is without natural affection. Simply put, it is natural for him to love and protect his children, and unnatural to hate and abuse them. The result of

♦ (Continued on page 198)

Mini-Edition

(Continued from page 197) ♦

any mother who rejects or denies this God-given natural affection is guilt and frustration, which explains why so many mothers who have had their children killed, eventually need some kind of emotional or psychological counseling. They also need forgiveness from God for committing the sin of murder.

As we “celebrate” decades of killing the innocent and helpless, may God have mercy on America and raise the consciousness level of this current generation concerning the horrible holocaust that has been taking place in the name of choice, because of the lack of natural affection.

Modeling the Love of Christ

An old song from 1965, written by Burt Bacharach and Hal David and performed by Jackie De Shannon, has lyrics that state, “What the world needs now is love, sweet love, no not just for some, but for everyone...” The song was popular and contains a lot of truth. The whole truth is, the love that is needed is the love of God. Love is always powerful, but the strongest force in the universe is the love of God. It will reach down, heal, overcome, and empower to the fullest, in every situation. The best preaching, witnessing, singing, etc. in the world misses it mark, if not fueled by the love of God. In service and ministry for Christ, it is the love of God overflowing in our hearts that motivates us or as Paul puts it, “...the love of Christ constraineth us...” (II Cor. 5:14).

Love cannot just be preached about or spoken of: it must be seen. Imagine if God had only TOLD us that He loved us, instead of SHOWING it. Empty words would not save us. God backed up His words by sending Jesus to die for us, thereby proving His love. **“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”** (Romans 5:8). God then raised Jesus from the dead, completing the plan of salvation, sealing it and justifying us by the empty tomb.

Seeing the love of God in Christians profoundly influenced me in my early Christianity. When yet lost, I was deeply influenced by a Godly woman, Mrs. Ann Lombardo, from New Orleans, Louisiana. I was a lost heathen living in Bay St. Louis in 1980 when I first met her. She would come to the Bay St. Louis/Waveland area and stay in a weekend home several times each year. When she walked into my place of business, I knew something was different. As I assisted her (I was a shoe salesman) she asked me if I knew Jesus

Christ as Savior. I fumbled out some answer about being saved, then she said, “Oh that’s so good. Isn’t He a wonderful Savior?” I mumbled something back and got away from her. The love of God in this born again former Catholic was overpowering.

The next weekend, she was back. Surely she did not need more shoes. Actually, she had targeted me and was back to talk about Jesus again. Though she had already asked if I was saved, she asked again....and again.... and again, because she knew I didn’t have a clue about salvation, even though I professed to be saved. She was a great customer and I sold many pairs of shoes, but the love was so real and conviction of God was so strong, I actually dodged her when I could. Her words haunted me: “Isn’t He a wonderful Savior?” She was the only complete stranger in my life who had ever asked me if I was saved. A few months later, I did find out that HE’S A WONDERFUL SAVIOR!

I went off to Bible college for one year at Southeastern Baptist College and the next year returned to Bay St. Louis as a summer missionary, assisting Brother Thelbert Hill, missionary pastor of Central Baptist Church. Guess who walked into church one Wednesday evening? Mrs. Ann Lombardo. She introduced me to a friend who was staying with her for a couple of months, Mrs. Minnie Jester. She loved working with children and was known to kids by her nickname, Miss Boots. These two ladies had a passion for souls and especially for children. They invited me to help in a backyard Bible school at Mrs. Lombardo’s summer home. I packed every kid I could find into my car every morning the next week and watched these two ladies teach Bible and LOVE those kids, most of whom were thrown away and neglected by their parents. Miss Boots talked to those kids with finger puppets, served them drink and cookies and hugged their dirty little bodies.

I did not realize at the time how much these ladies influenced me as Jesus radiated through them. SEEING the love of God in them strengthened me then and later, and even now as I recount these memories. I do not know where they are today or if they are still alive. I never knew much personally about either, except that Ann Lombardo lived in New Orleans and Minnie Jester, in her younger days, had been the personal secretary to J. Edgar Hoover. What I do know is that they kept the first and second great commandments and loved the Lord their God with all their heart and soul and mind and each loved her neighbor as much as herself. God bless you ladies. Thank you for showing Jesus to me.



Except Ye Repent

By Raymond Bennett
of Ithaca, New York

“Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah” (Isa. 1:9).

“And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorraha” (Rom. 9:29).

“I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3).

We are living in turbulent times. The whole world has experienced various events that should have us all watching the news and the skies with apprehension. We have witnessed the still unexplained Pan Am 800 disaster, the devastation of 9/11, the recent terrorist attack in London, destructive storms here in our own Southland and in many other places, flooding in our northern Plains and Texas, and at the same time disastrous forest fires in Florida and in Greece, deadly earthquakes in Peru and the coal mine collapse in Utah. Just this week I received word of another Tsunami in the Bay of Bengal area, threatening homes already suffering from months of flooding. Here in my home area it seems we have been experiencing more destructive, violent weather than has occurred in recent memory.

To top it all off, clearly demonstrating the depravity of man, when these catastrophes strike the generosity of many is offset by the looters and the greed which suddenly doubles the price of immediately needed food, shelter and equipment.

We are about to enter another long political campaign filled with charges and counter charges as the candidates blame the nation and world’s trouble on the other party. Beside all this we are still engaged in our third major conflict in the Middle East in the past 20 years.

These events cause our days to be a long way from placid. Many will claim that they are indications that the end times are here, or very nearly here. While there may be some validity to those prophetic claims, that is not the reason we have listed them here. Scripture is replete with incidents of sudden catastrophes and military defeats which were God’s judgment on a sinful nation or people. The prophets all speak of God’s eventual and harsh judgment on the pagan nations that oppressed Israel.

But many of God’s judgments are executed upon professing ‘People of God.’ **“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God....”** (1 Peter 4:17) Israel’s captivity was a warning to a people who *claimed* to worship God but who, in reality, reduced the worship of God to a formality, mingling with it the practices of the pagan world around them.

In our day American Christianity is just as guilty as was ancient Israel.

We don’t know what the world population was at the time of the flood of Noah, but it can be mathematically demonstrated that it could have been 25,000,000 or higher. (Genesis 6) The whole of the populated earth had become so evil that God said of them, **“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”** (Gen. 6:5). Out of that great population God placed His special grace on Noah and his family, sparing just eight souls. Out of that great society of Sodom and Gomorrah God graciously spared four people, and three of them immediately went bad. *The majority is not always right!*

God’s judgment is just! The whole human race is justly under the sentence of spiritual death. **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”** (Rom. 3:23). **“For the wages of sin is death...”** (Romans 6:23) **“Behold, all souls are mine...the soul that sinneth, it shall die”** (Ezek. 18:4). Israel fell into this judgment, and especially so because they *claimed* to be religiously correct but they did not truly worship the God they claimed was theirs. Isaiah rightly says: **“Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah”** (Isa.1:9).

As a people, we need to wake up to the fact that no nation or people has rejected the right worship of God and continued to prosper. We cannot mingle the pagan religions of the Far East, of Islam, nor the false doctrines of the cults and today’s traditional Christianity with the true worship of Christ and not expect to feel the judging hand of God. Even today there is but a remnant of true worshipers in England and the United States, two nations that were once the fountainhead of Christian missions.

Are these catastrophic events a warning from God? No one can dogmatically say, but our Lord gave us solid warning when He said: **“And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?”** (Matt. 16:3).

These warnings apply to individuals as well as nations. Some came to Jesus, telling of two deadly events which had happened to the Jewish people. Jesus’ reply indicates that these people thought the victims of these events had been guilty of some great sin. That same attitude is reflected in the question the disciples asked Jesus about the man born blind. **“And his disciples**

♦ (Continued on page 199)

Except Ye Repent

(Continued from page 198) ♦

asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:2).

But Jesus' answer quickly puts an end to that thought and makes you and me to be more aware of both our need of repentance and the brevity of life. **"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"** (Luke 13:3).

I urge you, dear reader, to consider your eternal condition. Do you know you are saved? Do you base your salvation on what you have done or on what Jesus has done?

A Sept. 14th news story reported: *"Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir said Friday his government is ready to implement a cease fire.... Al-Bashir's regime has regularly agreed to cease-fires in the past and all have been quickly breached by the parties involved in the conflict."* The people in that part of the world, and the Middle East, have been fighting each other for centuries. No lasting peace has been achieved despite the ministry of Christian missionaries and claims of masses of people coming to Christ.

This is another example of the fallacy

of man-induced faith and academic conversions. Too much evangelism today offers a false evangelism, an evangelism that depends on what *man* has done and convinced himself of instead of the God-given faith that the Bible teaches. **"And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven"** (Matt. 16:17). **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast"** (Eph. 2:8-9).

God-given faith issues in a changed life that shows itself in *positive* ways: love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

God-given faith issues in a changed life that shows itself in the absence of these wars, greed and immorality. **"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"** (II Cor. 5:17). **"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"** (Eph. 2:10). **"Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works"** (James 2:18).

Do you have that faith? Have you repented of your sin? Not just certain sinful acts but of that sinful nature with which we were all born. Flee to Jesus! Fall at the cross and pray for His mercy, like the well known sinner from Christ's parable. **"...God be merciful to me a sinner"** (Luke 18:13).



World View

(Continued from page 200) ♦

Alito know "we the people" request that they "restore our religious rights", protected by the first amendment to the constitution, no matter what the liberals in congress say!

For years, left wing radicals have waged a ceaseless campaign of attacks against the traditional Judeo-Christian values you and I hold dear. These radicals have used the Supreme Court to impose "their will"---trampling over the will and desires of the American people--- for years. Now these same radicals have the "leadership in congress" to do their bidding.

These liberals know that Justices John Roberts and Samuel Alito want to uphold traditional constitutional values. That's why these liberals are pulling out all the stops to pressure Justices Roberts and Alito---to prevent the restoration of religious rights in America.

The Supreme Court is the most powerful branch of the Federal Government because it has the last word on every major controversy. We can trace its profound influence both on immorality and on the declining quality of public education, as follows:

* In 1947, the Supreme Court issued its famous ruling on separation of church and state; a decision not supported by the constitution which, in the first amendment, merely prohibits a *state* religion.

* In 1962, the court ruled against Bible reading in school.

* In 1977, the court recognized atheism as a religion.

* In 1980, the court prohibited the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools.

* In 1986, the court recognized secular humanism as a religion.

As for the Supreme Court, we can only pray for a change in membership. It is unlikely that current members will have a change of heart.

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts and Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito---will they have a change of heart?

"How others treat me is their path, how I react, is mine." (Anonymous)

(Excerpts are from previous writings of Captain Evans.)



BEREA BAPTIST BANNER

Financial Report

8-1-2007 to 8-31-2007

Beginning Balance\$6,825.99

RECEIPTS:

B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL	38.34
Berea B. C., Mansfield, OH.....	50.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	258.36
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL.....	60.00
Berea M. B. C., Westpoint, TN.....	150.00
Bethel M. B. C., Pasadena, TX.....	100.00
Bible Believers B. C., Naples, ID.....	50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV	300.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY.....	150.00
Buffalo Valley B. C., Clay, WV.....	100.00
Cedar Grove B. C., Millport, AL.....	50.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL.....	25.00
Eve Knowles, Scarborough, ME.....	200.00
Faith M. B. C., Lynn, AR.....	25.00
Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME.....	20.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY.....	100.00
Grace B. C., Winston-Salem, NC.....	100.00
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL.....	50.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK.....	35.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV.....	100.00
Joseph Jurzec, Richmond, IL.....	25.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM.....	100.00
Morris St. B. C., Hobbs, NM.....	500.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH.....	100.00
New Testament B. C., Bristol, TN.....	10.00
Ocoonita M. B. C., Keokee, VA.....	40.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL.....	100.00
South Park B. C., Seattle, WA.....	50.00
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS.....	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS.....	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL.....	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Wake Forest, NC.....	100.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA.....	25.00
Walnut Creek B. C., Grove City, OH.....	50.00
Subscriptions.....	172.00
Anon.....	230.00
Dividing Checks.....	150.00
Sub Total.....	\$3,813.70
TOTAL.....	\$10,639.69

EXPENDITURES:

Printing.....	597.51
Postage.....	1018.71
Supplies.....	101.27
Wages.....	2,120.00
FICA.....	171.37
Dividing Checks.....	150.00
Total Expenditures.....	4,158.86
ENDING BALANCE.....	\$6,480.83

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST

Financial Report

8-1-2007 to 8-31-2007

Beginning Balance\$10,003.86

RECEIPTS:

Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY.....	100.00
Berea M. B. C., West Point, TN.....	50.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY.....	100.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	225.00
.....	475.00
TOTAL.....	10,478.86

EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time.....	400.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	400.00
.....	\$10,078.86
Interest.....	+3.23
.....	\$10,082.09
Less Corbin, KY des.....	-291.52
ENDING BALANCE.....	\$9,790.57

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance..... \$491.52

RECEIPTS:

.....491.52

EXPENDITURES:

WCTT.....	200.00
ENDING BALANCE.....	\$291.52



THERE ARE MANY PERSONS WHOSE BLACK CHARACTERS ARE COVERED BY THE DEVIL'S WHITEWASH.



WORLD SCENE

By
Capt. G. Russell Evans USCG (Ret.)



Hillary Has An Ingenious Strategy to Win Over the White House

Brace yourself for the most ferocious Presidential election in modern memory.

"Human Events," a conservative newspaper, published weekly, has featured a book "The Extreme Makeover of Hillary (Rodham) Clinton," author Bay Buchanan. Some excerpts are included in this article.

What Bay Buchanan has done is expose the inner workings of Hillary's "Extreme Makeover" campaign, perhaps the most cynical, cold-blooded deception of American voters in the history of Presidential elections!

Bay Buchanan has uncovered the undeniable, bedrock truth about Hillary Clinton, which is. . . She will not be elected President if the voters know the truth about who she *really* is. . . and what she *really* believes, and Hillary and her strategists know this!

Indeed, by the time Hillary, the biggest campaign staff ever amassed in U.S. election history is finished, their "product" will be kinder, more thoughtful, a person of faith, a politician with beliefs and values that reflect those of middle America, and a leader tough enough to be the Nation's Commander-in-Chief.

Imagine! The long-time, anti-war, anti-military Hillary Clinton as "The Best Choice to Defend the American Homeland!"

As soon as this book hits the bestseller list, as it assuredly will, Bay Buchanan knows she will be attacked personally and savagely in every print and TV news outlet by wave after wave of Clinton's shock troops.

But she wrote the book anyway, and having just finished reading it, I can promise you that you have never read a more enthralling (and alarming) book about top-level, high stakes, political scheming in your life!

In *The Extreme Makeover of Hillary Rodham Clinton*, Bay Buchanan reveals:

* The name of the greatest historical leader Bill Clinton believes Hillary must "transform herself into" in order to be elected President.

* How Hillary is using easily duped Republican leaders to help her change her icy, hard-left image (the list includes Lott, Graham, Gingrich, and even one GOP superstar who could run against Hillary for President!).

* Why the Clintons truly fear Barack Obama and how they will try

to "neutralize" his charm and charisma (when they're finished with him, the "boy-wonder" from Illinois will smile and go away quietly!).

* Who told Hillary she would become "the most important woman in human history," as the first woman President, political and psychological pressures on Hillary as Commander-in-Chief could plunge the world into disaster.

* How Hillary will mold her stance on abortion to satisfy the feminist sisterhood and fool religious conservatives.

* A preview of life in America under "President Hillary Clinton"----massive fines for failing to sign up for socialized medicine, jail terms for doctors who treat patients privately.

* It is truly a breathtaking strategy--given the fact that Hillary Clinton's public recognition factor is virtually 100%, as a voter awareness of her lifetime of left-wing activism, radical feminism and the countless scandals in which she and her husband have been involved in both Arkansas and Washington.

Faced with the reality that Hillary cannot win the Presidency if she runs as *herself*, the Clintons have amassed the biggest campaign staff in U.S. history to mastermind the "makeover of all makeovers" as told by Bay Buchanan in this all-too-real political potboiler that will trigger a storm of controversy. Packed cover to cover with never before published revelations, including the most ambitious "triangulation" strategy the Clintons have ever planned.

Hillary Clinton's character is not a pretty sight. In stride she can lie, cheat, threaten, obstruct justice, malign reputations, and destroy the lives of innocent people. Driven by ambition, arrogance, greed, elitism, power, and entitlement, Hillary's road to the top has been an ugly one. Reputations and lives of real people have been left in the dirt

along the way.

But it has worked for Hillary. She made it to the top---and if her devious strategy works---may do so again.

"We can't take any credit for our talents, it's how we use them that counts." (Madeleine L'Engle)

(Excerpts are from a book review by Tom Winter, editor "Human Events," titled "The Extreme Makeover of Hillary Rodham Clinton," and published by Regnery Publishing, Inc.)

A Petition to the Supreme Court to Restore Religious Rights

Abraham Lincoln once said, "It is the duty of all men to recognize the truth."

For years, the Supreme Court has repeatedly trampled the religious rights of Americans:

* In 2000, liberals on the Supreme Court proclaimed that voluntary prayer was banned at school---even at school graduations and sporting events.

* In 2003, liberals on the Supreme Court discovered a "Right" for homosexuals to commit sodomy, opening the door wide for homosexual "marriage."

* And in 2005, liberals on the Supreme Court voted to remove a display of the Ten Commandments from a Kentucky courthouse.

But now, President Bush has appointed two *solid conservatives*, John Roberts and Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court.

It's especially important that people fight to restore religious rights in America--now that anti-religious liberals have taken control of the leadership of the U.S. Congress! I want to make absolutely sure that these two new Supreme Court Justices don't follow the path of Justices David Souter and John Paul Stevens!

Souter and Stevens were both appointed by Republican Presidents, and touted as conservative justices, but when they joined the Supreme Court, they both almost immediately sided with the liberals on key issues!

We simply cannot allow that to happen with new Supreme Court Justices John Roberts and Samuel Alito.

The first couple of major cases are encouraging. Anti-military liberals have been forcing the ROTC off college campuses but the new Supreme Court sided with our military and put the ROTC back on campus!

Liberals have also been trying to give Al Qaeda terrorists every legal right imaginable in our courts. However, the new Supreme Court stood up for the security of Americans and ruled that these terrorists should not be given any special rights!

Liberals on the judiciary committee tried to convince John Roberts and Samuel Alito that they must accept "stare decisis." That's lawyer talk for: "We demand that you accept all of the liberal court rulings that were made before you, when liberals had total control of the Supreme Court."

These same liberals are in charge of Congress, and are sure to pressure justices Roberts and Alito to intimidate the Supreme Court into doing what the liberals want!

You and I need to let new Supreme Court Justices John Roberts and Samuel

♦ (Continued on page 199)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Berea Baptist Church of Collinwood, TN and Pastor Steve Martin will be hosting the area fellowship meeting on October 27th. Services begin at 10:00 a.m. A noon meal will be provided by the ladies of the church.

Elders Garner Smith and Doyal Thomas are the scheduled speakers.

All are invited to attend.

Elder Tom Ross would like to announce he is publishing a new book entitled *The Fruit of the Spirit*. The deadline for preordering is Nov 15th. The price of one book is \$10 plus \$4 shipping, for 25 copies the price is \$7 per book plus \$20 for shipping.

To order or for more information contact Elder Tom Ross, 6339 County Rd. 15, South Point, OH 45680.

The Berea Baptist Church of Mansfield, OH would like to announce that they have ordained and called Bro. Mark Cline as pastor.

On April 7, 2007, the Landmark Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, 2761 State Route 140, Wheelersburg, OH 45694 was organized by the authority of the Midland Baptist Church, Franklin Furnace, OH and Pastor Harry Balmer.

Also, they would like to announce that they will be having a meeting November 7-9, 2007.

Services will begin at 7:00 p.m. each night. The guest speaker will be Elder Tom Ross of South Point, OH.

For more information call Pastor Robert Asbury at (740) 776-7643.

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