

-WITH HIS HOLY ANGELS-

At the beginning of His public ministry, the Lord said to Nathaniel, HENCEFORTH YE SHALL SEE HEAVEN OPEN, AND THE ANGELS OF GOD ASCENDING AND DESCENDING UPON THE SON OF MAN. For about 400 years the heavens had been closed. But at the beginning of His ministry they were opened again. Not only were there angelic ministrations from then on, but also miracles and signs. The sign at Cana was the first miracle since Daniel was in the lions' den almost 450 years before.

In prophecy there is no distinction between the first and second coming of the Lord. But angelic ministrations are connected with both. Deut. 33:2 speaks of His coming with 10,000 of His saints. Zech. 14:5 speaks of His coming with all the saints. Mark 8:39 speaks of His coming in the glory of the Father with the holy angels. This is still future. Luke 9:26 speaks of the same event.

Even before the words to Nathaniel, angelic ministrations had begun. They had appeared to Joseph, Zacharias, Mary, and to the shepherds. They also had ministered to the Lord after the temptation in the wilderness.

Later, the Lord at one time mentioned the fact that He could have more than 12 legions of angels for His defense. In the parables, the angels have to do with the harvest at the end of the age. Angels will be present at the judgment of the children of the kingdom. Angels will have a part in bringing the judgments upon the world in end times.

Angels appeared to those who came to the empty tomb. Angels also appeared to those who had looked up into the heavens when He was taken from them at the ascension.

Since angels have been connected with the King and the kingdom, it is not surprising to find several instances of their intervention in affairs of men during the time of Acts when the kingdom was being offered to Israel. But after Acts 28:28, angels cease to appear.

-SUFFERING AND GLORY-

In the prophecies there is no distinction made between the first and second coming of the Lord. It seems that the prophecies of the suffering Messiah and the Messiah manifesting His glory are all mixed up. That is why that the disciples were unable to understand the Lord when He spoke of the future course of events.

The first time the Lord spoke of His sufferings was in Matt. 16:21. He spoke of how He would suffer many things of the elders, priests, and scribes, be killed, and be raised again the third day. But in verse 27 He speaks of when He shall come in the glory of His Father. Suffering and glory are inseparable but the suffering comes first.

When He talked with the two disciples on the way to Emmaus, He asked them, OUGHT NOT MESSIAH TO HAVE SUFFERED THESE THINGS, AND TO ENTER INTO HIS GLORY?

In Acts 3, Peter preached that from that time on the Lord could come again at any moment; that He had fulfilled the prophecies concerning sufferings and that the only thing needed to bring on the glory was the repentance of Israel. That is still true yet today. The Lord's coming is dependent upon the repentance of Israel. He cannot come until Israel is ready to take their part in the New Covenant. The New Covenant had been made for THE REMISSION OF SINS. So Peter said, REPENT YE THEREFORE, THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE BLOTTED OUT.

Acts was the period in which the OTHER SERVANTS of Matt. 22:4 were sent out with the invitation. All things were ready. All that was wanting was Israel's repentance. Upon this waited THE GLORY THAT SHOULD FOLLOW (1 Pet. 1:11) and the SO GREAT SALVATION (1 Pet. 1:5).

But the rejection of Israel has postponed the GLORY nearly 2,000 years. In the meantime God has been working out another purpose with its own peculiar dispensation.

To share in His glory, we must first suffer. This is a truth for all times.

-FORGIVENESS-

Death is not the result of sins. An UNTIMELY death can be caused by sins. It may either be by the ruin of health by sins against the body, or it can be an untimely death executed by a state which has been outraged by one's sins.

Death comes upon all because of Adam's sin. By one man sin came into the world, and by sin came this death. Adam had the choice of life or death for the whole race. He chose death for the whole race.

If it were not for the fact that God, in His wonderful mercy, had provided us another life in His Son, the whole human race would be without hope. Outside of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and the power of that resurrection to us-ward who believe, every child of Adam would pass into oblivion, never to be remembered in the land of the living.

Sins are enmity toward God. So by His death Christ obtained forgiveness of sins so that He might remove that enmity. This we call reconciliation. This reconciliation was universal in that it was for every child of Adam. No one was barred. It is good news that we preach when we declare that the sins of the world have been forgiven. Today no one needs to seek for forgiveness. That has already been accomplished.

But the forgiveness of sins does not give one salvation. Rather, it reconciles the sinner to God so he can approach God to receive a new life which is freely given as a gift to such as will receive it.

So death is not the result of sins, but sin. The sin of rejection can keep one from receiving the gift of eternal life. This life cost the precious blood of Christ. This life is in Him. He that hath the Son hath life. The Son and life are inseparable. If a person has one, he must have the other. That is God's plan. Man can take it or leave it, but he cannot change the terms. God has made them.

Beware of the lie of Satan. He denies the fact that the blood of Christ obtained the forgiveness of all. He bars access to God.

-WHAT NATION?-

"He will destroy those wicked men, and will let out His vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render Him the fruits in their seasons." "The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a NATION bringing forth the fruits thereof." Matt. 21:41,43.

Who are the OTHER HUSBANDMEN? What NATION is meant? Does this refer to the Gentiles? Many people think so.

But when we read the prophecies, can we find anything which would at all indicate a possibility of the Gentiles ever taking over the kingdom which had been promised to Israel and of the throne on which the Heir of David was to sit? We must also remember that closely connected with this kingdom is the covenant. Do the Gentiles have a part in either the old or new covenant? Our Lord was crucified as King of the Jews. That was His official title. The new covenant is for the house of Israel. See Jer. 31:33.

Now in verse 45 in Matt. 21 the chief priests and Pharisees perceived that the Lord spoke of them. They were the wicked husbandmen. Would it not be possible that others of the house of Israel could be the OTHER HUSBANDMEN who would be more faithful than they, and take their places?

In Isa. 66:7-14 we have a prophecy that out of Israel will be born a new nation. Will not this new nation take the place of the old and bring forth fruits?

The old nation failed because they broke the old covenant. Because of the transgressions, they were put under law. They never did become the peculiar treasure and the priestly nation that they were intended to be. Never can they attain to this position and service until they accept the new covenant and their Messiah.

So in order that the will of God may be accomplished among the nations, a new nation must be born from the old and a new covenant must take the place of the old one. When the new covenant is in effect, the law will be abolished.

-APOSTLES AND PROPHETS-

Many folks have gotten into trouble by ignoring boundries or line fences. Failure to recognize the dispensational boundry at Acts 28:28 has caused much confusion.

An example of this is the popular idea of the APOSTLES AND PROPHETS in Eph. Most folks think that they are the prophets of the O T and the apostles of the Gospels and Acts. But are they?

In Acts 26:22 Paul declared that up to that time he had preached nothing except what was already given by the prophets and Moses. He could not be blamed for teaching any new doctrine at that time.

Contrary to the opinions of many our Lord did not come to teach new doctrines, but to fulfil the law and the prophets. His ministry only confirmed the Scriptures.

When Paul was before the chiefs of the Jews in Rome and spoke to them all day, as recorded in Acts 28:23, he was PERSUADING THEM CONCERNING JESUS, BOTH OUT OF THE LAW OF MOSES, AND OUT OF THE PROPHETS.

The present administration of the MYSTERY is nowhere in evidence before Acts 28:28. Neither is the hope of the kingdom dispensation offered at any time after that point of division.

The question which has caused so much trouble is Eph. 2:20 which states that the present structure or outcalling is built upon THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS. Again in Eph. 3:5 it is stated that the MYSTERY OF CHRIST was not made known to the sons of men in other ages as it is now revealed unto HIS HOLY APOSTLES AND PROPHETS. The word NOW indicates that these apostles and prophets exist at the time of Paul's writing these words.

Eph. 4:11 gives us the complete answer and clears up any difficulty anyone might have. Here the apostles and prophets are given to the church by the ascended Christ. John was the last of the O T prophets. The 12 apostles were chosen by the Lord when on earth. Paul was the first apostle chosen by the ascended Lord. I am not able to say how many apostles and prophets there were after Acts 28:28.

-DARKNESS-

NO MAN HATH SEEN GOD AT ANY TIME, THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, WHICH IS IN THE BOSOM OF THE FATHER, HE HATH DECLARED HIM. John 1:18.

The greatest part of this declaration was that the character of God was revealed. Moses desired to see the glory of Jehovah, but it was not granted. He was hid in the cleft of the rock and saw only the hinder parts as God passed by. The character of God was not displayed by His hinder parts. Today we seek THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE FACE OF CHRIST.

Glory could not be revealed to a people who had broken their covenant and to whom law was added because of the transgressions. THEN SPAKE SOLOMON, THE LORD SAID HE WOULD DWELL IN THE THICK DARKNESS. 1 Kgs. 8:12. Clouds and darkness are round about Him (Psa. 97:2).

This glory could have been revealed to the whole nation, but they rejected the ONE WHO could reveal it to them. But to the remnant Peter said, BUT YE ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, AN HOLY NATION, A PECULIAR PEOPLE; THAT YE SHOULD SHOW FORTH THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO HATH CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELLOUS LIGHT (1. Pet. 2:9).

GOD IS LIGHT; AND IN HIM IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL...BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP ONE WITH ANOTHER. 1 John 1:5,7.

Isaiah, in prophesying of Israel, said, THE PEOPLE THAT WALKED IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT.

Not only did the light come to Israel, but the Lord came as the light of the world. The Gentiles, who were not a people, have a part in the light. The apostle Paul exhorted the Gentile Christians at Ephesus to WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT.

If men today walk in darkness, they are without excuse. If God seems to be in darkness, it is because the Word of God is rejected. If the character of God is indistinct, it is because His SON is not known. If the Word is not known, it is because the teaching of the Holy Spirit has been refused. God has spoken.

-IN REMEMBRANCE-

THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

Luke 22:19.

This was spoken in connection with the breaking of the bread at the observance of the Passover. It was not spoken in connection with the cup.

These words were to the 12, Judas included. There is no inference that it was a command to any but the 12 apostles.

This was the last Passover the Lord observed with His disciples. It was in a certain guestchamber in Jerusalem. The Passover was strictly a home affair. It was never observed in the temple or Synagogue.

The intent was that in the yearly observance of the Passover, the apostles were to break the bread in remembrance of their Lord. They were to remember the miles they had trod with Him, the miracles, the signs, and the teachings by the way. The Passover itself was a remembrance of the deliverance from the land of Egypt. Since He was the Lamb of God that should take away the sin of the world, this was a fitting time to remember Him. They had much to remember. Not many could have a remembrance of Him, just those who walked and talked with Him or saw His wonderful works.

As those who could remember Him passed from the scene, this part of the Passover gradually was lost.

Today we cannot remember Him as they did. Remembrance can have no place in our lives when we can be in Him and He in us every moment of time. We who are blest with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Him have a special relationship. He need not stand without when He can be in us THE HOPE OF GLORY. The members of His Body have a position which is real and continuous. There is no need of a remembrance there.

There is just a chance that there might be some who at one time have experienced His presence, but now it is only a remembrance. Such might do well to observe a ritual in remembrance of Him. But if so be that He is in us and we in Him, such observances might be a denial of the reality of His presence.

-FEED MY SHEEP-

It is a spectacular feat to be able to herd the sheep into the fold when the storm is drawing near and the sheep are nervous. There is a place the shepherd can show off his skill. He can receive the praise of others for doing his work so well. There is a time and a place for such work.

But it is not such a "showoff" job to feed the sheep. That is just a humdrum routine job which anybody can do. So almost nobody does it.

Now just what would you think of the man who would put the sheep into the fold and then neglect to feed them? That would be a job for the SPCA, would it not?

Yes, it is perfectly alright to go out and put the sheep in the fold. There is a place for evangelistic work. It is a very important work. But the other part has been so neglected. The sheep have not been fed as they ought. They need the WORD OF LIFE. The work of the pastor (shepherd) and the teacher is just as important as that of the evangelist. FEED MY SHEEP!

Many, many churches today are starving spiritually. They think they are rich and increased with goods. They think they have need of nothing. There is nothing lacking, as far as they can see. They do not realize their wretchedness. They do not know they are miserable. They do not know that they are poor (starved). Of course they have not the slightest idea they are blind. Their nakedness is their shame. See Rev. 3:17.

Pastors and teachers need to stand before the people and say, THUS SAITH THE LORD, and give them the Word of God. They need truth. To preach truth is to preach Christ Jesus. There is no substitute.

The Lord once taught the disciples a great truth by a very strong figure of speech. He said that they should eat His body and drink of His blood. This meant that they should know Him and that He should be a part of their very life even as food is assimilated and becomes a part of the person.

Let us be humble. Let us do the lowly job. Let us feed the sheep.

-POSSESSING OUR POSSESSIONS-

Every believer today is BLESSED WITH ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST (Eph. 1: 3). But that does not say that he has taken the blessings and is enjoying them. Potentially they do belong to him, but his part is to take them, use them, and enjoy them in reality.

When Israel were redeemed from Egypt by the strong arm of Jehovah, the promised land belonged to them. It was theirs. But of the adults who left Egypt that memorable night only two, Caleb and Joshua, ever staked a claim in the promised land. The rest died in the wilderness, not having obtained the promise. Untold multitudes of Christians are today living and dying in the wilderness, never possessing the blessings that are theirs. Why? The only answer is UNBELIEF.

When Abraham was called out of Ur of the Chaldees, he did not fully obey the Lord. He was to leave his country, but he did not leave it for 25 years. He only went part of the way. He was to leave his kindred, but he took his father and his nephew along. When he finally did enter the land which had been promised him, THE CANAANITE WAS THEN IN THE LAND. So he never did receive the promised land, but as a stranger dwelt in it and had to buy a burying place. Furthermore his children did not get to take the land till over 400 years later. Hesitating in unbelief to obey the commands of God costs more than most people have ever dreamed.

Spiritual blessings must be taken by faith, even as was the land by Israel. Faith is believing what God has said and acting on that belief. Faith sees no obstacles. The feet of the priests went to the brink of the Jordan so that the next step would have been in the water. It was then that the waters stopped and they went across dry shod. That is what is meant by the STEP OF FAITH. We must not hesitate or try to go around.

Unbelief sees only giants and insuperable barriers. Unbelief is satisfied with a barren wilderness experience.

-HEAVENS AND EARTH-

The Scriptures speak of two spheres, the heavens and the earth. If there are any other places, we have no word concerning them.

In the beginning God created the HEAVENS AND THE EARTH (Gen. 1:1). In Gen. 2:4, after the account of the primal creation and the bringing of order out of chaos after the overthrow of Gen. 1:2, we find the words, THESE ARE THE GENERATIONS OF THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH WHEN THEY WERE CREATED, IN THE DAY THAT THE LORD GOD MADE THE EARTH AND THE HEAVENS. These words introduce the whole theme of the Bible which is an account of the heavens and the earth.

With primal creation, time began and the ages were formed.

With primal creation, God began to express Himself as the Word or LOGOS. See John 1:1.

The Old Testament is primarily concerned with the sphere of the earth. It deals with an earth people. There is no hope expressed which goes beyond an earthly hope. Nobody in the O T had a heavenly hope. All resurrection was with a return to the earth in view. Nobody had any idea of going to heaven after the resurrection.

Enoch walked with God and God took him. We do not know where he is. Elijah was caught up into the heavens in a whirlwind. We do not know where he is.

From Job 1:7 we learn that Satan walked thruout the earth. From Eph. 2:2 it is stated that he is the prince of the power of the air. In Rev. 12:9 we learn that some day Satan and his angels will be cast out of heaven into the earth. So he must have free access to both heaven and earth at present time.

The first heavens and earth must have been perfect. They were not created empty or in a chaotic condition. The present heavens and earth are imperfect. The earth has a curse on it and the heavens are unclean. There will be a new heavens and earth in which will dwell righteousness.

In all the records, the Church of the MYSTERY is the only people who have a hope outside the earth.

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

Those of you who are within 90 miles of Warsaw and have FM radios should be able to get the TRUTH FOR TODAY broadcast every Tue. nite at 7 o'clock. There is hope that the station will go on AM some time soon. At this writing, we have given 132 programs over the air.

The Bible Class still meets at my home each Tue. nite after the broadcast at 7:45. We are taking a rather detailed study of the gospel of John. We begin with the 3rd chapter next week. Outline questions are furnished each week.

We get this little paper out monthly as the Lord permits. If it is delayed or a month missed you will understand that it is a matter of time with us. I have to earn a living here on the farm for the family, so can work on the paper and other studies only in spare time. The paper is free and am glad to have you get it. Would like to enlarge the circulation quite a bit since it does not take much more time to put out 1,000 than it does for 500. Send us names of others who might like to get it.

Have put in several days lately as a substitute teacher in the Atwood schools. This has been the coin in the fish's mouth, so to speak, whereby we can pay our taxes and some other bills. The Lord is always ready to provide.

If you do not notify us of a change of address, your paper is

destroyed and it costs us an extra 2¢ for the return card. We have quite a collection of these.

In #29 I got the verb and the noun PITCH mixed up. KAPHAR is a verb and means TO PITCH or TO GIVE A COATING. Sorry.

Also made a mistake in the expense item last month. Instead of \$104.27, it should be \$94.27. The expense was a little extra because of buying the addresser. It worked fine and saved us hours of work.

See last month's paper for the list of books for sale.

Receipts for Feb. 1951: B34 (Ill.) \$3.15, B35 (Mich.) \$2.60, B36 (Ill.) \$2., B37 (Cal.) \$5., B38 (Mo.) \$2., B39 (Mich.) \$1.20, B40 (Mich.) \$2., B41 (Ill.) \$1., B42 (Mich.) \$1., B43 (Ind.) \$25., B44 (Pa.) \$2., B45 (Ill.) \$1., B46 (Ill.) \$3., B47 (Mich.) \$2., B48 (Ill.) \$2., B49 (Minn.) \$2., B50 (Mich.) \$3. Total received \$61.95. Expenses \$48.73. Your help has been very encouraging.

Wish I could let you in on some of the very nice letters we have been receiving from about all over the world. We certainly do appreciate your fellowship. When I ask for your fellowship in prayer, I mean just that. It is not a hint for financial aid as so often the case. Pray that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit, have health and have enough time for the ministry. Pray for several prayer requests.

OSCAR M. BAKER, R 2, Warsaw, Ind.

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