

## PROPHECY FOR TODAY

2Ti 3:1-5

THIS KNOW ALSO, THAT IN THE LAST DAYS PERILOUS TIMES SHALL COME. FOR MEN SHALL BE LOVERS OF THEIR OWN SELVES, COVETOUS, BOASTERS, PROUD, BLASPHEMERS, DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS, UNTHANKFUL, UNHOLY, WITHOUT NATURAL AFFECTION, TRUCEBREAKERS, FALSE ACCUSERS, INCONTINENT, FIERCE, DESPISERS OF THOSE THAT ARE GOOD, TRAITORS, HEADY, HIGHMINDED, LOVERS OF PLEASURES MORE THAN LOVERS OF GOD; HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS, BUT DENYING THE POWER THEREOF: FROM SUCH TURN AWAY.

Most people read this passage without very serious thought as to whom it might refer. They do not even think very seriously of the time involved. Let us look at it again.

The time is the last days. The last days of what period of time? Is it the last days of the present earth with a new earth in view as spoken of by Peter? Or is it the last days of the dispensation of the mystery? Since we have seen from former studies that in the comparison of Ephesians and Colossians as to doctrine of the mystery, and Philipians and Second Timothy as the working out of that salvation or calling, then this must be speaking of the last days of the dispensation in question, the dispensation of the mystery.

And to whom does it refer? Does it refer to the people of the world, the nations in their strifes and wars, to those who have never had contact with Christianity or believed the Word of truth? or does it refer to those who may have been exposed to the truth of the mystery and maybe even made a profession, but became reprobate as verse 8 seems to indicate? And note that it says that these folks have a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof (verse 5). Does this mean anything?

Surely we live in these last days and this is a picture of the Christendom we know. A great organization has been formed by man. It professes to know God and to do His work. It has its schools and colleges, ever learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Many of our friends are well aware of what will happen to the man who will dare to try to proclaim the truth in these man-made organizations. You can talk politics, sports, give book reviews, teach economics, have parties and even dances, but just try to get in a word of truth and see what happens! No, we are not passing judgment, we just simply see the prophecy in the Book and see it fulfilled before our eyes.

You can see that this whole mess is of the flesh. They amuse themselves. They are well spoken of by the world outside for they are a bunch of do-gooders and that takes with the world. But in the light of all this and in the midst of it, the apostle warns in verse 12 that all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. The apostates do not want their system disturbed. This is the same condition the Lord found here in His time on earth.

Things will not get better. Verse 13 tells us that evil men and seducers will wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. We must learn to live godly in these surroundings.

## GOD THE SON

Recently we considered the subject, God the Father. There has been little contradiction of the fact that the Father is God. But some have denied that Christ was really the Son, and therefore not deity. So let us go to Isa 45 for some background.

Elohim is the word for God in Ge 1:1. El is God in contrast to the gods of the heathen. See it in Ge 14:18. Jehovah is the I AM that was revealed to Moses at the burning bush. Check these with the Companion Bible and read Appendix 4.

Isa 45:1. THUS SAITH JEHOVAH...

3. I, JEHOVAH...AM THE ELOHIM OF ISRAEL.

5. I AM JEHOVAH...THERE IS NO ELOHIM BESIDE ME.

6. I AM JEHOVAH, AND THERE IS NONE ELSE.

7. I, JEHOVAH DO ALL THESE THINGS.

8. I, JEHOVAH HAVE CREATED IT.

11. THUS SAITH JEHOVAH, THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL, AND HIS MAKER.

13. SAITH THE JEHOVAH OF HOSTS.

14. THUS SAITH JEHOVAH...SURELY EL IS IN THEE; AND THERE IS NONE ELSE, THERE IS NO ELOHIM.

15. VERILY THOU ART AN EL THAT HIDEST THYSELF, O ELOHIM OF ISRAEL, THE SAVIOUR.

17. BUT ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED IN JEHOVAH.

18. FOR THUS SAITH JEHOVAH THAT CREATED THE HEAVENS; ELOHIM HIMSELF THAT FORMED THE EARTH AND MADE IT...I AM JEHOVAH; AND THERE IS NONE ELSE.

19. I, JEHOVAH SPEAK RIGHTEOUSNESS.

21. HAVE NOT I, JEHOVAH? AND THERE IS NO ELOHIM BESIDE ME; A JUST EL AND A SAVIOUR; THERE IS NONE BESIDE ME.

22. FOR I AM EL, AND THERE IS NONE ELSE.

24. SURELY IN JEHOVAH HAVE I RIGHTEOUSNESS AND STRENGTH.

25. IN JEHOVAH SHALL ALL THE SEED OF ISRAEL BE JUSTIFIED, AND SHALL GLORY.

Now read the chapter thru and tell me, are Jehovah, El, and Elohim one and the same? Is there only one God? And is not that one God Creator, Saviour, and the only One to be worshipped? And did you note that in verse 23 El says something that is repeated in Ph'p 2:10? According to this, Christ is El. And El is both Elohim and Jehovah. Then who is Christ?

The Word made flesh is God. Not a god, as some would say, for that brings in other gods and that is contrary to the very first commandment and has to do with idolatry. As true Christians we have to recognize that fact that Jesus of Nazareth was God, or no god at all.

Only God is to be worshipped, according to the law of Israel. That has not been changed. Worship is ordained for Christ in Ph'p 2:10. AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM, so says Heb 1:6.

We purposely used Isa 45 here because some have even tried to make Jehovah a lesser god. The chapter speaks for itself. Jehovah is God and there is none else. Take away Jehovah and there is no God. Take away Jesus Christ and there is no God. The implications are plain.

There is one God, but 3 persons. Look up person in your dictionary.

## THREE SUPPERS

Today, Christendom knows 3 suppers. But ordinarily only 2 of them have survived in practice. It is also true that only 2 of them are mentioned in the Bible. It might be well to identify each of these and see what its place might be in practice, if any.

1. *Passover*. This was a feast. It was a family affair. Altho 2 families might go together that nite in Egypt (for all of the lamb was to be eaten), after that, each family observed it alone, for the lamb was a burnt offering the next afternoon. Under no circumstances was any uncircumcised person to join the family and observe this feast. And if any should observe the feast with any leaven (yeast) in the house, that one was to be cut off from Israel. Altho ritualistic in character, yet this was a full meal, not a nibble and a sip. In the course of the meal the wine cup was passed 4 times and it ended with a hymn, the Hallel.

References; Ex 12; Lev 23.

2. *The Lord's Supper*. This is mentioned just once in all the Bible. It was a pot luck supper in the beginning in the church of Corinth, and possibly in other assemblies or Synagogues. But after a while, we gather from Paul's epistle, the Corinthians began to take family baskets and each group eat by themselves. Some were poor and had little or nothing. Some would feel badly in such a meeting and would be offended. So Paul abolished this supper. Note that this was a full meal, if they could afford it. It was no ritualistic nibble and sip affair. There is nothing against believers having a social get-together once in a while and eating together. It is a real time of fellowship around a common table. But care must be taken that all are welcome and that all have something to eat.

Reference; 1Co 11; Ac 2:46.

3. *The Lord's Supper (Baal's Supper)*. This had its origin in Babylon, not in the Bible. It was purely ritualistic and had to do with a temple. It was a nibble and sip ritual. The nibble consisted of a little round wafer. It had to be round for it was to represent the sun. Later it had on it the letters IHS (Isis, Horus, and Seb), the Egyptian trinity. Please note that this was not observed in the home, that it was not a feast. It was observed in a heathen temple or place of worship and was a part of worship. But the 2 suppers that are known in the Bible are not a part of temple worship. These distinctions must be noted.

Not only did this Baal's Supper spread from Babylon to Egypt, but in some form or other has been observed by almost all the nations of the world. It is common to most of the religions today. There has always been a superstition connected with this supper that if one eats of the grain which represents their god, in some mysterious manner life is imparted. That is why that there is care taken to administer this rite to folks that are dying.

References; none, with the possible exception of Jer 7:18.

For further information about the wafer, see The Two Babylons by Hislop.

## THE MAN CHILD

FRED RALPH

In Vol. 13, No. 5 our editor replied to a reader who thot that *the man child* was Christ. Perhaps he will allow me to add a few words on the subject. We must remember that The Revelation contains the things which, in the Spirit, were revealed to John and would happen in THE DAY OF THE LORD (Re 1:10).

The woman of chapter 12 is the nation Israel. And the chapter refers to the tribulation out of which will emerge a purged and purified remnant. Many of the OT prophets spoke concerning the TRAVAIL of Israel in those days. Isaiah said, BEFORE SHE TRAVAILED, SHE BROUGHT FORTH; BEFORE HER PAIN CAME, SHE WAS DELIVERED OF A MAN CHILD... SHALL A NATION BE BORN AT ONCE? (66:7-10). The same Greek word, *arsen*, is used here in the LXX for *man child* as in Re 12:5. Micah speaks of the last days (4:1) and says in verse 10, BE IN PAIN, AND LABOUR TO BRING FORTH, O DAUGHTER OF ZION, LIKE A WOMAN IN TRAVAIL. In Jeremiah 30 the Lord said, WE HAVE HEARD A VOICE OF TREMBLING, OF FEAR, AND NOT OF PEACE. ASK YE NOW, AND SEE WHETHER A MAN DOTH TRAVAIL WITH CHILD? WHEREFORE DO I SEE EVERY MAN WITH HIS HANDS ON HIS LOINS, AS A WOMAN IN TRAVAIL... ALAS! FOR THAT DAY IS GREAT, SO THAT NONE IS LIKE IT: IT IS EVEN THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE; BUT HE SHALL BE SAVED OUT OF IT.

It is interesting to note that in Hosea 13:13 Ephraim (Israel) is told not to stay long in the place of travail and birth, which evidently refers to Re 12:4 where the dragon stands before the woman to devour the *man child* as soon as it is born. The Lord possibly referred to this when He said in M't 24:16-21, THEN LET THEM WHICH BE IN JUDAEA FLEE INTO THE MOUNTAINS and His following words made it clear that swift persecution would not allow them time even to return to the house for goods or clothes. Every Jew must get away from the oppressor as fast as he can, and hide. Seventy weeks were determined upon Daniel's people (Da 9:24-27) and at the beginning of the last week (yet to come) the prince who shall enter by flatteries shall make a covenant with Israel, but after 3½ years will break it and set up an abomination of desolation in the place of their daily sacrifice. The overcomers will resist to the death (Re 12:11) not worshipping the beast, his image, nor receiving his mark (Re 20:4,5). These take part in the first millennial resurrection and reign with Christ 1000 years. It seems, therefore, that these overcomers are the *man child* which is caught up. The remnant of Israel, the woman, is sustained in the wilderness for the remainder of the week (1260 days - time, times, and a half - 3½ years). Any of the nations which shelter these fugitive brethren of the Lord in that day will receive a reward (M't 25:34-40).

The *man child* is to rule all nations with a rod of iron. This was said of the Son in Psa 2:9, so we conclude that the overcomers who reign with Him in the millennium are the instruments of this rule. This is when the new covenant will be made with the house of Israel and the house of Judah (Isa 4:2,3; Jer 31, etc.). As our editor says, you can go on from there.

## INTERROGATIONS

154. *I have been told that the Lord's Supper was added to the Passover by Christ. Could that be true?*

It is enough just to read the account by Matthew to see that such a thing is impossible. For after the bread and wine they sing a hymn and go out to the mount of Olives. This hymn or Hallel is the last item of the Passover. And do not overlook the fact that in 26:29 the Lord said, I WILL NOT DRINK HENCEFORTH OF THIS FRUIT OF THE VINE, UNTIL THAT DAY WHEN I DRINK IT NEW WITH YOU IN MY FATHER'S KINGDOM. The wine is there connected with the kingdom, but never with the church. Beware of those who at any cost would maintain an organized church and observe Baal's supper.

155. *I am confused. I find that Paul preaches his gospel of grace before Acts 28:28.*

Be sure to discern the things that differ. You have assumed that the gospel of grace is connected with the dispensation of the mystery. But that is not true. This gospel of grace was to Gentiles only. It was the good news that Gentiles could partake of Israel's blessings without being subject to the law. This was confirmed by the council at Jerusalem at Acts 15. You may be astonished to learn that this gospel of grace was first preached by Peter in the house of Cornelius (Ac 10). And at the council Peter assured those present that what Paul was doing among the heathen was the same thing he had done first. If the preaching of the gospel of grace was the beginning of the dispensation of the mystery, then Peter, not Paul, was the founder of that church.

156. *Some time ago you spoke of the time of the Acts of the apostles as not being a transition period. Would you please clarify that?*

What I had in mind was the fact that the Pentecostal period was not a transition from kingdom to church. The mystery does not appear in Acts, the epistles to the circumcision, nor in Paul's first 7 epistles. It had been hid in God from ages and generations and was not made known till the salvation of God was sent to the Gentiles. There was no need of a transition.

But in one respect, the Pentecostal period was a transition period. There is constant reference to going on to perfection, a more excellent way, and the like. So there was that constant endeavor of the apostles to feed the sheep, to bring about a more perfect understanding, so as to make this people ready for the coming kingdom which would be set up after the last trump and tribulation. Read with this idea in mind and you will be surprised that there is so much reference to it.

157. *In Acts 2:34 Peter says, "For David is not ascended into the heavens." When will David get to go to heaven?*

He won't. Heaven is not David's hope. He expects to be resurrected at the last day and be with the Lord here on the earth in the great Millennial kingdom. Note that in verse 31 Peter is insisting that the quotation from the Psalms about Christ being raised from the dead does not apply at that time to David. David still sleeps.

## THINGS I NEVER KNEW TILL NOW #7

DENTON C. ABBEY

I do not think that we need to read any more into this passage (Joh 5:22-29) than is apparent. From our structure and the discourse in the preceding verses we find that this is once again an attempt by Christ to convince the Jews of His authority. It is not a chapter on resurrection, per se.

In verse 24 we obviously have a group to whom Christ is speaking directly; THOSE WHO HEAR MY WORDS. It is not to generations before or after. These are people to whom He is speaking or has taught during His stay on earth. This same idea is expressed in the first verse of Daniel 12.

Next, the Lord refers to life. He has been given this power by the Father. So when the time comes, He will call and those that are His will hear and come forth. They will be given life in contrast to the rest who reap destruction. We have just two classes here; The Quick and the Dead.

Verse 25 does not deal with judgment, but with life. Christ is telling these Pharisees that He has life in Himself. There are so many references to this fact in the Bible that it seems that it would be inescapable. And so He is saying that He can and will give life to many. A little farther on in chapter 5 (verses 39,40) we have this same insistence of the Lord, trying to sell the Jews on His identity, SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES, FOR IN THEM YE THINK YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE: AND THEY ARE THEY WHICH TESTIFY OF ME. AND YE WILL NOT COME TO ME, THAT YE MIGHT HAVE LIFE. And in 6:40 He says, AND THIS IS THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME, THAT EVERY ONE WHICH SEETH THE SON, AND BELIEVETH ON HIM, MAY HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE; AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY.

Then in 5:28,29 He brings up a new subject, which enlarges and adds to His claims of deity. As the Father has given Him the power of life, so has the Father given Him the power to judge. So He continues by saying that all those who come forth will be judged, some for the good that they have done, and some for the bad.

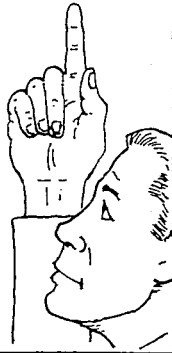
In Luke 14:14 Christ speaks of this very thing, AND THOU SHALT BE BLESSED; FOR THEY CAN NOT RECOMPENSE THEE: FOR THOU SHALT BE RECOMPENSED AT THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST. This is the judgment about which He is speaking. The rewards are for being a good or bad servant. Our structure brings this out; the first half concerning life, the second, judgment. John speaks of this in his second epistle, verse 8, LOOK TO YOURSELVES, THAT WE LOSE NOT THOSE THINGS WHICH WE HAVE WROUGHT, BUT THAT WE RECEIVE A FULL REWARD. Note 1Co 3:14, IF ANY MAN'S WORK ABIDE...HE SHALL RECEIVE A REWARD. IF ANY MAN'S WORK SHALL BE BURNED, HE SHALL SUFFER LOSS: BUT HE HIMSELF SHALL BE SAVED; YET SO AS BY FIRE.

We must note and remember that all thru this part of the book there is a running dialogue between our Lord and the Jews. From chapters 5 to 8 and beyond, the Jews are antagonistic and plot to kill Him, but He confounds them at every step, so instructing those that do believe.

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

If ye then be risen  
with Christ, seek  
those things which  
are above, where  
Christ sitteth on  
the right hand of  
God. COLOSSIANS 3:1

Geo. Felsmann.



## WHAT DO YOU SEEK?

If a person is risen, then we may infer that he has died and was buried. And in this context we find death mentioned. In verse 20 in the preceding chapter we find that the believer should die with Christ from the rudiments of the world. Now when one is dead, he is free from the law, from ordinances or rules of men, and from any worldly attachments.

And if a person is free from all worldly connections and ties, then he is free to put his affection on things above. And many have found to their sorrow that they could not have both. A division must be made.

It may be that many do not seek things that are above where Christ sitteth because they do not realize that Christ is there. To them He may be a hazy historical personage which lived about 1900 years ago, but like the rest of the great men of the world, He is gone. They are not conscious that He is a living Christ seated in the Father's throne, hid from principalities and powers, but to be manifested some day. And further, they have not grasped the great truth that the members of His body will be manifested there with Him.

What are the things that we should seek and which are above? Does not God tell us in Ephesians that the members are blest with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ? We are to seek spiritual blessings in the heavenlies, not physical comforts in the earth.

If so be that you are a believer and belong to the church of the dispensation of the mystery, you have died. But you live, not you, but Christ lives in you. And your life is hid with Christ in God. If that is so, then why be running after the things of the world and the flesh? Can they satisfy one who is a stranger and a pilgrim here, whose citizenship is in the heavenlies?

Come, let us reason together about these things, for we know that God is never unreasonable. It is natural to love the things connected with one's own country or place of citizenship. So it is natural for the believer to put his affection on things above. His trouble is that while he is a pilgrim and in the wilderness journey, he is likely to remember the fare of Egypt and get to lusting after the things of the flesh. But we must forget the things that are behind and press forward to the prize.

DEAR FRIENDS; This issue finishes volume 16. We can hardly believe that we have been at this 16 years, but that is what the calendar says. Thanks a lot to all of you who have stood by and helped with prayers and means thru the years.

To those that are new, this little paper is published monthly by Truth For Today, Inc. Free to all, no subscription price. Just request it. Have it sent to your friends who might be interested. Do some missionary work that way.

We still have a few tape recorders at a pretty good discount. Write for folder.

We have filled a lot of orders for Companion Bibles, and in spite of the fact that they have been out of print for a long time, we still have some left. They are in maroon buckram, \$15.

Do you like to have to wait? It seems that we have our share of it here. Three years ago this fall our barn was to have been painted. We still wait. Our remodeling to make room for the press and other machinery was to have started as soon as weather permitted last spring. We still wait. Our 29 acres of hay was to have been made for us early in June. One man failed us, so got another. The job is about half done. And electric wiring that should have been done years ago is not yet finished. We still wait. We mention one more. Volume 10 of the Alphabetical Analysis was shipped from England May 31. Just today (July 25) we hear that it was unloaded by mistake at Montreal, shipped by rail to Chicago and now is being examined by customs. We still wait. I dare not tell you of the things we are behind with here in the printing and other things. We could use a little help at times.

But things have been brightened up a lot by visitors dropping in. They are always welcome.

On July 17th the post office returned 22 papers to us and collected \$1.76. That amount would mail out 144 papers. And this is just for one day. Suggestions for solving this problem are in order. This takes time also.

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