

You're of no earthly value unless you're...

# Heavenly Minded

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*My soul, wait silently for God alone,  
For my expectation is from Him.*

*Psa 62:5*

*For the earnest expectation of the  
creation eagerly waits for the revealing  
of the sons of God. Rom 8:19*

*...my earnest expectation and hope ...  
Christ will be magnified in my body,  
whether by life or by death. For to me,  
to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

*Phil 1:20,21*

## In this issue...

Exceeding Expectations Come and See! The Third Temple

Dear Friends,

As you can see, we have a modified format for the devotional. We've been 'off-line' for a couple months engaged in moving and family concerns. Also, in about a month or so the first volume of our Heavenly Minded essays will be available. After several months of working with the publisher, it is now on its way to the printer. We will offer it to any of you who would like a copy at our cost or you will be able to purchase it from Barnes & Nobles, Amazon.com or the publisher's site. Thank you so much for your loving support and prayers. May God bless each of you abundantly with true spiritual riches. May He comfort you as you mutually draw together. Oh, thank you Lord for such amazing mercy and grace!

In Christ's Love, John and Darlene Dickey



*And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

*When the walls start  
crashing in  
When darkness just  
surrounds  
When life seems so hard  
Yet will I trust in Him.  
When problems seem  
so big  
When stresses are  
so real  
When disappointments  
are inevitable  
Yet will I trust in Him.  
When I seem forsaken  
When I don't have full  
control  
When I can't even  
function  
Yet will I trust in Him  
..then the big troubles  
become small, life finds  
full color, and my soul is  
restored. -- Darlene*

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## Exceeding Expectations

“Think you got a bad deal?”

“Well, yeah. You know, we worked a long time and man was it hot! I mean, we’ve been at it all day. And so when we saw those other guys get a whole day’s wages for just one hour, well... well we expected MORE.” (See Matt 20)

“How about you? You look a bit disappointed.”

“Well, of course. Hey, I worked every day, day after day, so faithfully, so doggedly... you could always depend on me. And what’s more, I never even asked for a big reward. But, but, then my brother shows up – he wasted half the family fortune, and then he comes back looking for handouts. And, Dad just throws a party? Disappointed? I expected MORE.” (See Luke 15)

“Hi there. What’s got you down?”

“Huh? Down? Mister, are you the only guy around who doesn’t know what’s happened?? Man, let me tell you, down doesn’t describe it! We thought we were dealing with the real thing – you know, the Big Cheese – the Messiah! We left everything and followed him but now, well ... now we don’t know what to think. I’ll tell you, we sure expected MORE.” (See Luke 24)

Bitterness. The result of shattered expectations.

From the days of Adam until now, the expectations of godly men and women can be summarized in the person of Jesus Christ -- Who He is, what He does, all that He represents. Most of us would agree however, that some of the expectations of the godly aren’t so ‘godly’. Rather, we

can nest them in selfishness, impatience, covetousness or misunderstanding and as a consequence be very disappointed with God and with each other.

The big deal, the important lesson for us, is to be aware that shattered expectations are one of Satan’s favorite tools. They can lead to a loose grip on faith and even a turning away from the Lord. One of the great dangers of the whole so-called ‘faith movement’ – the name it and claim it teachings – is this very thing. Many people have been duped into this ‘hyper-faith’ mindset only to run into a ‘brick wall’ spiritually. They fail, they think, in faith. Or worse, they think God has failed. Their expectations, nurtured and trained in the wrong school, are dashed.

Of course, this does NOT make them themselves ungodly, but simply exposes some of their expectations as being something other than ‘heaven-sent’.

But even in the broader scope, so many have turned away from God because they’re angry and/or disappointed. They lost their job, they wanted something deeply, they’re grieving the loss of a loved one – the list is quite long of ways we can mistakenly believe that we or God fail in this whole notion of expectations. There are missionaries that have been ‘burned’, pastors’ children who wander, pastors who ‘drop-out’, believers who just disappear – the church has plenty of ‘aching body parts’ if you would.

And then there are those who haven’t even entered in; they’re never born again because

something or someone disappointed their expectation. That then becomes a convenient tool of the enemy in turning them away from salvation.

Most of us can relate – bitterness born from disappointment... I’ll give an example -- we were in Greece. In our home, Darlene gave birth to our little boy John Lance. In our early twenties, we were endeavoring to serve the Lord in a distant land, believing that our efforts were in His will and pleasing to Him. God had done so many wonderful miracles in our rather young spiritual lives that we simply believed... well, believed that despite any impending doom or dire circumstances that He would always step in and ‘save the day’ so to speak. He always had.

Then our little one got sick...very sick. Denial set in and as he grew weaker denial gave way to confusion. We had no money for a doctor – no money at all. Surely, he would be all right. God would heal him.

But the next day, as I held him in my lap, he just stopped breathing and went all blue. I didn’t know what to do. Darlene was crying uncontrollably. I tried breathing into his mouth and in a few seconds, he started breathing again. Immediately, we went to the hospital.

The doctors told us that he had septicemia and meningitis. About six weeks later, he died.

After a year, we returned to the States having being abroad for six years or so. We still loved the Lord and still wanted to serve Him. Darlene was pregnant again. Officially, we came back just to get better healthcare, but in retrospect, it was also a festering distrust of God’s care born out of a shattered

expectation. We were thoroughly confused about what to believe. Mixed with the joy of salvation and the memories of His wonderful bona fide miracles were the pain of grief, the image of our son’s suffering and our helplessness as well as the terrible sobbings of my precious wife.

There were those who said he died because of our lack of faith. I don’t know where people get this garbage. Not from the Bible! That misguided theology portrays our heavenly Father like some sort of referee who times our spiritual race or watches how high we can jump so that when we fail – and we will fail – he can bring devastating judgment upon us. It actually fosters a ‘works-trip’ and labels it faith.

Now, I’m not saying faith isn’t important – to the contrary, it’s critical. But the scripture says specifically that to each one of the saints is given a measure of faith with which to work. (Romans 12:3) God knows your measure of faith because He gave it to you. He won’t test you to a greater degree than you can handle. (1 Cor 10:13) The greater faith is not that which sees the miracle but that which persists despite contrary circumstances. Just consider the martyrs.

Anyway, we came back to the States and I did a spiritual ‘belly-flop’ if you would in the cesspool of worldliness. I made a horrible display of myself and got many of those around me ‘all wet’ too. I still looked to the Lord, but my behavior was incongruent and led to much hurt. However, *“It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.”* (Lam 3:22) and I praise Him that He

healed my heart and turned me around. That was 26 years ago.

Now there was nothing 'ungodly' about our hope or expectation that God would heal our son. Bitterness however developed because I took my eyes off the cross. I was short-sighted. Let me explain:

In Exodus, the host of Israel were riding a wave. They had seen miracle after miracle after miracle during their liberation from slavery. Pharaoh's army was annihilated under the Red Sea and for a short time the people were buoyant with shallow faith. Then, after just three days of 'roughing it' in the wilderness exhilaration turned to desperation. Just after praising God in the Song of Moses and the Song of Miriam, the people found poison in the waters of Marah (literally, bitter).

*"So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people complained against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?'"*

The people as yet were pampered in a way. Their faith was untested – most everything had gone their way so to speak. Sure, some of the exodus was pretty 'hairy', pretty tense – but until then, the miracle – working power of God had just 'flowed'. Here, in the wilderness, they were seriously dry. The waters of Marah were a huge and life threatening disappointment. But a wonderful picture was being painted – *"So he cried out to the LORD, and*

*the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet."*

The chemistry here is clear – the Tree, when it was cast into the bitter waters, made them sweet. And the same is true now – as ever – the Tree is the *cross of Calvary*. Peter wrote of Jesus – *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."* (1 Pet 2:24) And Luke recorded, *"... when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took Him down from the tree, and laid Him in a sepulchre."* (Acts 13:29)

When our expectations are born of true faith and held to by faith, there is no disappointment or shame. (See Romans 5:5) But how is that faith secured? The Tree. We must apply the Tree. That's not a formula for getting what we want but a cure for the bitterness of myopic expectations. We've got to grasp the fundamental truth of what Christ accomplished there – life from death, an entrance into the awesome presence of God Almighty, an eternal mind-boggling inheritance in heaven, the determined end of all evil, universal reconciliation, ... on and on it goes. My small mind needs help to comprehend this – that's why the psalmist sang, *"My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him."* (Psalm 62)

Herein is a key to consider. David spoke to his soul – that part of the believer which is influenced both by the Spirit and by the flesh. He averred to wait only upon God. This waiting was literally a sitting silent

before God. He acknowledged that his expectation was from the Almighty. It had to be divine to be realizable. You see, in our carnality or fleshly human nature, we are influenced to entertain all kinds of earthly expectations or godly expectations that are 'fuzzy', incomplete. But the soul must be guided by the Spirit of God here.

It seems that when it comes to Jesus, nearly everyone's expectations are at times askance. How could it be that our Father, Who gave His own Son to satisfy the payment for our sins, could meet with ANYONE's unsatisfied expectation?! One more story – and you know it well.

It was probably a long walk, not because of the length of the road but the long 'faces'. The two travelers to Emmaus were initially upset with the 'outsider' who apparently didn't know why they were dismayed. But as He toured them through the scripture pointing to one picture after another concerning Christ, their hearts burned. The smoldering embers of faith were rekindled so to speak. And then, when He broke the bread, their vision cleared. Their spiritual myopia was healed and Christ came into focus.

The broken bread – His broken body. We MUST remember what that means; what it means to us eternally.

You see, "expectation" in Hebrew has an interesting second meaning – a "cord". And as you consider the principle of first mention in the scripture, that is, the first place a significant prophetic picture or word is presented in scripture often reveals additional insight, this cord speaks of the broken bread and of the Tree.

You see, it is the scarlet cord that Rahab had to keep in her window to save her when the Israelites conquered Jericho. That scarlet cord represents the living hope we MUST keep in our 'window' -- visible, in focus. ***We must keep it there especially when the walls are crumbling around us.*** It's not just a protection against judgment which we indeed deserve but a reminder of a divine promise of salvation.

Our expectations are usually just too small, too carnal, too myopic. When Christ broke the bread – when the wood was placed in the water – when the scarlet cord was kept in the window – they are illustrations of when we re-establish faith in our Lord and Savior who's plans far, far out pace our own, who's eternal kingdom includes resurrections, restorations, transformations and inspirations way beyond our imaginations!

Give God your shattered expectations, dashed hopes, bitter heart. Tune the 'dial' once again to His Holy Spirit's voice so that your hope may be alive, your expectation from Him, your anticipation joyful, peaceful and confident. Your heart will heal. You will find God worthy of your love and trust.

Keep the cross, the broken body and the precious blood of our Savior before you at all times.

One day soon, our Abba will send His Son and you'll see that indeed He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. He'll FAR exceed our expectations.

## **Come and See!**

### *Revelation Six*

The Bible indicates that the Antichrist will not be revealed and come to full power until after the Spirit-filled church is taken up in the rapture. (See 2 Thes 2:7-12.) So most of you, if not all will not need the message contained in chapter six of Revelation. However, it just may be that this little essay will find its way into the hands of someone who does need to know the truth during the time of earth's greatest trial. For his or her sake, let's examine it verse by verse:

*Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.*

Here, in chapter six of the Revelation, we find the beginning of earthly events subsequent to the rapture of the church. In the previous chapter, a tremendously important scroll was displayed and the question asked, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. John, who recorded this, wept greatly for the consequences of this were staggering – they implied an eternal subjection of earth to Satan's rule.

However, one of the elders there in the heavenly scene said, *"Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."*

So John looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain...Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Only One person could open these seals – Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. The worthiness of perfect obedience, a flawless character and life, gave Him the right to release the binding seals on the scroll. Though the scriptures are not explicit, much Biblical scholarship concludes that this book may represent a deed and/or an inheritance document. Seals on such documents pertained to liens.

Now, as we observe the opening, seal by seal, each one has a consequence and as we shall see, they all pertain to a specific period of time generally known as the tribulation or the last week of Daniel's 70 week prophecy in Daniel nine otherwise known as the time of Jacob's trouble mentioned in Jeremiah 30:7.

Bible teachers have long said that the dire events that unfold throughout this book come upon a Christ-rejecting sin-filled world. Certainly, this is so, yet we should add some additional clarification – specifically, it is directed at those who rejected the One who came to them on a donkey (Zech 9:9, John 12:14,15). By contrast, they will, with this seal, receive the counterfeit who comes to them riding upon a majestic white steed. The tribulation's primary purpose is to deal with the Jews.

Note, that this imposter messiah is unleashed by the genuine and

herein is a spiritual principle – if you reject the truth, you will encounter a counterfeit. This aper of Christ will look good – the Jews who have longed for a messiah have envisioned just such a man. He goes forth conquering and to conquer. Jesus said, *"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive."* (John 5:43) This anti-Christ will fit the job description of the Jewish messiah in a seemingly perfect way but only for a time.

We can consider the results of opening these seals as the wages of rejection. Paul wrote, *"For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved."*

*And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."* (2 Thes 2:7-12)

However, even as catastrophic events come upon the whole world, we must understand that the principle purpose is to deal with the Jewish people who are in rebellion against their true Messiah. Metaphorically, the Jews in rejecting Christ returned,

if you would, to Egypt. As happened there before, when they finally recognize 'Pharaoh's' cruel bondage, their 'Goshen' won't look so good and they'll be ready for a real Deliverer.

Now, "conquering and to conquer" may indicate that this anti-Christ will initially subdue the enemies of Israel but that his true intent is to destroy God's people. The bow is symbolic for it was King David who first emphasized its military importance to the host of Israel. David, of course, subdued all the neighboring nations to Israel. In addition, the rider is wearing a crown – a stephanos (Greek) which is a woven crown like that given to victorious Olympians in the past. Recall, Jesus first wore such a crown – woven of thorns.

It is interesting that the invitation spoken by each of the four living creatures in turn at the opening of each seal is to "Come and see". The three times in the New Testament apart from this passage that this phrase is used in addressing someone other than Jesus, it is specifically an invitation to know Christ better (John 1:39, 46; 4:29). The one time it is used in the Old Testament, we read:

*Say to God,  
"How awesome are Your works!  
Through the greatness of Your power  
Your enemies shall submit  
themselves to You.  
All the earth shall worship You  
And sing praises to You;  
They shall sing praises to Your  
name." Selah  
Come and see the works of God;  
*He is awesome in His doing toward  
the sons of men.  
He turned the sea into dry land;  
They went through the river on foot.**

*There we will rejoice in Him.  
He rules by His power forever;  
His eyes observe the nations;  
Do not let the rebellious exalt  
themselves. Selah (Psa 66:3-7)*

Clearly, both of these echo with that spoken by the four living creatures. And who are better suited to offer this final invitation? No other creatures have come closer to the throne of God and they are described as being full of eyes. To approach the throne, to know the Lord and His ways more perfectly, to see Him more clearly – this is the comprehensive nature of the invitation extended to all God's children. Come and see!

Yet as we shall see, the dire outcomes which follow are not the results of God's pronouncement but the consequences of satisfying the debts represented in each seal – they are the wages of sin. Those who have rejected the One who paid for our sins have only one other option – to receive the wages they have earned – *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Rom 6:23) The debt will be paid one way or the other.

*When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.*

The typology here is clear – a fiery red color reminds us of the hellish inferno of a bloody war. Now, to this

rider it is given to take peace away; the result is that men start killing each other. The sense of it is not so much an organized warfare as it is a chaotic ubiquitous conflagration – person against person. In addition, this great sword may speak of a horrific new weapon, perhaps nuclear in nature or even worse.

And it is significant that he takes away peace for it is the first rider, the anti-Christ of whom it is written that “by peace [he] shall destroy many” (Dan 8:25 KJV) This word for peace in the original language means “to be at rest, to prosper, to be quiet or to be at ease”. So the first rider conquers using peace as a weapon then the second destroys by simply removing it. Clearly, it is a phony peace to begin with and something that only masks a deep underlying hatred.

Again, as you keep the Jewish people in mind, it is relatively easy to imagine such a scenario transpiring in the Middle East.

*When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."*

A denarius was a typical day's wage for the average worker. Based upon the cost of the staples, wheat and barley, it seems that scarcity of basic goods may follow. Otherwise, this could imply an emerging economy that is controlled

so as to oppressively subjugate its participants. The word translated “harm” is perhaps better understood to mean to “deal with unjustly” or behave in a criminal manner towards. You could say that the rider of this black horse does not want a ‘black market’ in these more costly goods. Perhaps, it is because such trade would bypass the system – the “mark of the beast” without which no one is to buy or sell.

*When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.*

The translation, “pale horse” is better translated “green horse”. It is the Greek word “chloros” that typically means just that and comes from a word describing a young plant. This, I find significant in light of the fact that the color of Islam is green. Could this indicate that in a world filled with rebellion to Christ and which is ultimately hateful of the Jews, that the power which will bring death and hell to so many will spring from Islam?

Power here in this passage means a power of choice or an authority, that is, the power of government. Recall, it is fundamental to Islamic rule to oppressively subjugate or kill any who will not become a Muslim. Now, approximately one fourth of the earth is dry land so this could mean that Islam becomes the predominant world governing power of the tribulation or it could mean that it

rules over one quarter of the world's people. In either case, the point of focus is upon Israel. Will subjugating the Jews to the rule of Islam be the anti-Christ's true goal?

The weapons which support this rider's ruling power include a “large sword” (again reminiscent of Islam), “famine” by the control of the availability of goods, death or more likely “death comprising all the miseries arising from sin”, and beasts or literally, “little beasts” which could speak of germs and bacteria.

*When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.*

“That these souls are *under the altar* emphasizes that their life blood has been poured out as an offering to God; it draws from Leviticus 4:7: *And he shall pour the remaining blood at the base of the altar of the burnt offering*” The blood of Abel cried out from the ground for vengeance (Genesis 4:10), as did the blood of unavenged murders in the land of Israel (Numbers 35:33). (David Gusik)

These are clearly martyrs but are they gentile Christian martyrs? Perhaps so, but let me suggest that they may rather be Jewish. Why?

First, in chapter five, we see the 24 elders clothed in white raiment (Rev 4:4) lauding the Lamb indicating that they represent the church when they sing:

*"You are worthy to take the scroll,  
And to open its seals;  
For You were slain,  
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood*

*Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,  
And have made us kings and priests to our God;  
And we shall reign on the earth."* (Rev 5:9,10)

Yet, it is afterward that these chapter six martyrs are given white robes – there is evidently some delay in the receiving of these robes which represent the righteousness of Christ (Rev 7:14; 19:8). Second, they are associated with the altar – definitely a Jewish symbol. Third, they cry for vengeance upon those who have persecuted them rather than, as Jesus taught, to love our enemies and to forgive. Fourth, it is said to them to wait a bit longer upon two groups – their fellow servants (gentile believers?) and their brethren (Jewish believers?).

You see, the very next event to occur is in chapter seven, where 144,000 of their brethren, 12,000 from each of 12 tribes, are going to be sealed and evidently sent to preach the gospel for the very next scene is of *"...a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation*

*belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"* And they are described as, *"... the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."* Can you imagine 144,000 Jewish Billy Grahams??

*I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

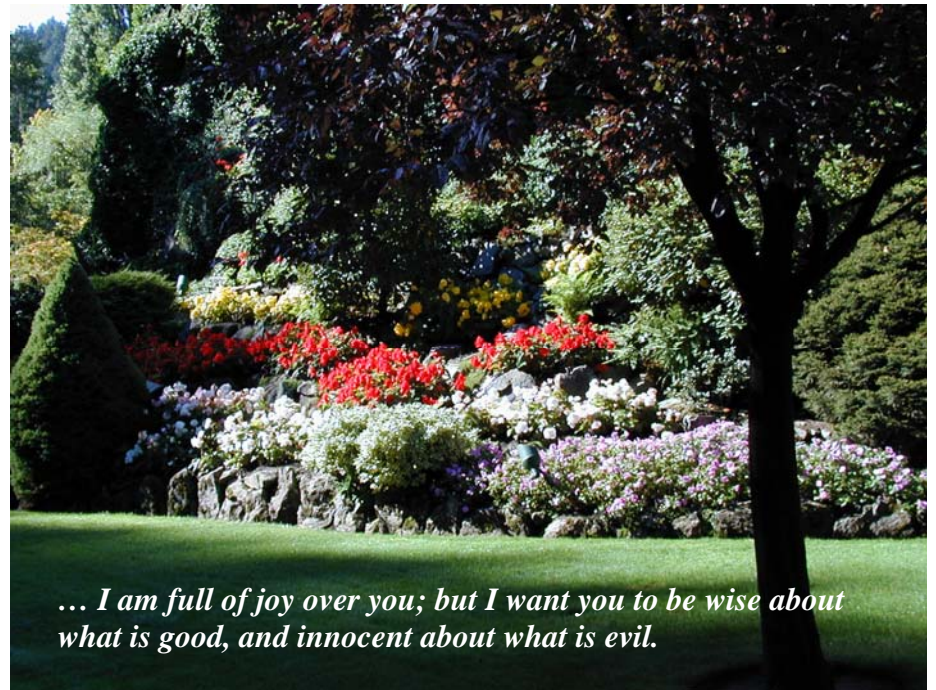
The fig tree is generally a type or symbol in scripture of the nation of Israel. Thus, its usage herein should serve as a reminder of where our focus of attention is fastened. Stupefying events on earth and in the heavens will indeed terrify every man and those who can will hide underground. But how strange that they say, "Hide us from the wrath of the Lamb!" Evidently, they will understand that this tribulation period is unleashed by the Lamb of God. And it is true that no one can

stand against Him. However, recall that this hopelessness and fear is the perspective of rebellious men. Sinful Adam and Eve hid from God as well. Rather than accept that these events are the consequences of their sinful rebellion to the Lamb, they perceive Him as utterly wrathful. They evidently believe their unalterable state is to be damned and doomed. Who will be teaching them this? The anti-Christ? The false prophet?

Now, the entire tribulation is rightly characterized as the outpouring of God's wrath but sinful men are always misinterpreting the nature of His judgments. Someone or rather some group of 144,000 someones is going to counter this teaching with

the good news. In fact, they're 'on deck' in the next chapter!

God wants you to repent from your sin and to simply call out to Him in faith for your salvation. Even during this terrible time, you can still be saved. You can still make heaven your eternal home. No matter what you've done with your life, just pray right now and ask God to forgive you your sins and failures. Accept the fact that Jesus Christ, the true Savior of the world, died on Calvary's cross for you – it's a gift. Receive His Spirit into your heart and be at peace. All hell may indeed be breaking out around you, but your Savior is in control and your destination is heaven.



*... I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.*

# *Special Report: The Third Temple*

*Commentary on the News*

*Jack Kinsella - Omega Letter Editor*

"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." (2nd Thessalonians 2:4)

In his 2nd Letter to the new church at Thessalonica, the Apostle Paul was addressing a specific teaching that had been corrupted by a false teaching that the Rapture had already occurred and the Thessalonians had been left behind.

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand." (2nd Thessalonians 2:2-3)

Note something right off the bat. The "Day of Christ" is the triumphant 2nd Coming at the conclusion of the Tribulation Period and the national redemption of Israel.

Paul refers to an event that the Thessalonians interpreted as meaning that Day 'was at hand' and NOT that the "Day of Christ" had come and gone. Instead, they feared they'd been left behind to go through the Tribulation.

"Our gathering together unto Him", Paul assures the Thessalonians, is a separate event that, had it occurred, would have meant the countdown to the "Day of Christ" had started.

Moreover, Paul assures the confused Thessalonians, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that Day shall not come, except there come a falling

away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." (2nd Thessalonians 2:3-4)

The religious Jews of modern Israel believe the restoration of Israel to the land is evidence of the coming of the Jewish Messiah, and have been planning for a 3rd Temple to resume the Temple worship system since the British recaptured Jerusalem from the Ottoman Empire in 1917.

Writing in the London Sunday Illustrated Herald, the British official eventually responsible for redrawing the maps of the Middle East and carving the Balfour Declaration Mandate in half observed, "It would almost seem as if the gospel of Christ and the gospel of Antichrist were destined to originate from the same people." Winston Churchill, February 8, 1920.

That may sound antisemitic, but only if one fails to understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

While the Jews are not responsible for the death of the Messiah, they did reject Him. They didn't recognize Who He was, by Divine Plan. That isn't a condemnation of the Jews, it is a recorded fact of history.

"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not; But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name:" (John 1:11)

Jesus Himself confirmed that the antichrist will be received as the Messiah by Israel during the early part of the Tribulation:

"I am come in my Father's Name, and ye receive Me not: if another shall

come in his own name, him ye will receive." (John 5:42)

Speaking of the salvation of the Cross, the Apostle Paul explains; "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded. (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day." (Romans 11:7-8)

Paul explains further that; "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." (Romans 11:25)

In that single verse, Paul forever dashes any justification for antisemitism, instead, revealing the enormous debt the Church owes the Jews. Apart from any Divine judgment against Israel for past sins, the "blindness, in part, is happened to Israel" so that we, the Gentiles, could be saved.

That being said, there is something else important to note about the Third Temple of 2nd Thessalonians 2:4: Many Christians teach that the Third Temple is the Temple of the Antichrist - it is even so nicknamed. But Paul says -- note this well -- the antichrist takes his seat "in the temple of God".

This is another evidence that the Church Age concludes at the Rapture, and that the Rapture takes place before the beginning of the Tribulation Period. The Tribulation is also called "The time of Jacob's Trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7) or the 70th Week of Daniel. (Daniel 9:24)

The Tribulation Period is the final week of the Age of the Law, which was cut short at the Cross. (Daniel 9:26)

Also, when examining Daniel's Seventy Weeks, look at God's sixfold

purpose to be accomplished at their conclusion:

- 1) to finish the transgression,
- 2) to make an end of sins,
- 3) to make reconciliation for iniquity,
- 4) to bring in everlasting righteousness,
- 5) to seal up the vision and prophecy, and,
- 6) to anoint the most Holy.

For Christians, this was accomplished at the Cross. But national Israel will be saved, Paul tells us. "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob." (Romans 11:26)

While some Jews were saved in the 1st century, and some in each century since, Paul says that in God's Divine Plan, "ALL Israel shall be saved." There is no misinterpreting the word 'all'.

The purpose of Daniel's 70th Week is to accomplish all that is promised in order to bring about the Millennial Kingdom. The Church plays no role, which is why the Church is not mentioned anywhere in Scripture in the context of Daniel's 70th Week.

Because, as Paul told the Thessalonians, "we have not yet been gathered unto Him" so the Day of Israel's national redemption, the "Day of Christ" (see Zechariah 12:10) is not "yet at hand".

Why is all this important to the Third Temple? Because the Third Temple is ritually legitimate during the Tribulation. According to the Temple Mount Institute, Temple worship could be resumed today, if they could rebuild the Temple itself.

According to director Chaim Richman, (who told me this personally in 1992), they know where the Ark of the Covenant is located in a secret chamber inside the Temple Mount. The

Temple Mount Institute makes a similar claim on its website.

A rabbinical school (or yeshiva) for the training of the priests for this temple is presently in existence in the Old City. To ensure ritual purity, its students live on elevated platforms and are not permitted to touch Israeli soil until the Temple area can be ritually cleansed.

Sacred vessels and priestly garments have been prepared. Cedar from Lebanon captured in the north during the war there in 1982 has been placed in storage for the next temple, and so on.

Thus there has been considerable preparation for the Third Temple by the religious Jews of modern Jerusalem. Both the Askenazi and Sephardic Chief Rabbis of Jerusalem agree that such a temple will be built as soon as circumstances permit.

It would not be necessary for the entire Temple to be rebuilt before the restoration of the Jewish system of Temple worship and animal sacrifice. (David's first temple was a tent to house the Ark of the Covenant).

But the worship and sacrifice MUST be performed on a ritually cleansed Temple Mount. The only problem is the al-Aqsa mosque that currently occupies that spot.

Illegal construction underneath the Temple Mount by the Muslim Waqf (who control the Temple Mount and the Dome of the Rock) is causing the ancient retaining wall that holds it up to crumble.

Using forbidden heavy earth-moving equipment, they are now excavating a northerly channel on the Temple Plaza heading in the direction of the Dome of the Rock. Breaking into the bedrock in this area, archeologists warn, would also harm the gold-topped Dome, which sits on that rock.

It seems more than probable, especially with the announcement by the US and UK that it will support Sharon's unilateral disengagement plan, that another Arab-Israeli war is on the horizon, particularly if that wall should crumble and topple the al-Aqsa Mosque.

There is some reason to suspect that the collapse of the Dome is the reason Arafat has ordered such extensive excavations despite dire warnings of what might result. A collapse of the Dome would rally the entire Arab world to his cause, particularly after Arafat blames Israeli sabotage for its destruction.

There is absolutely no reason to doubt that, in the event of any such war, Israel will recapture the Temple Mount. And there is no reason to believe they will ever surrender it again.

According to the Mitzvot, it is the obligation of every generation of Jews to rebuild their holy Temple on Temple Mount. Flush with the victories of 1967, the Israeli government surrendered the Temple Mount to Arab control to forestall the inevitable UN demands that Israel surrender ALL the territory it captured.

Over the last decade, Israel's exchange has proved futile, as the Arabs have managed to reclaim almost all the land Israel gave up sovereignty over the Temple Mount to keep.

The Israelis are unlikely to ever surrender it again.

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy." Psalms 137:5-6) *Excerpted from the Omega Letter Daily Intelligence Digest Vol:31 Issue:17*

## *Where's Our News??*

It is our conviction that staying on top of the recent news events that display the prophetic stage aids in our 'watching' for the Lord's return. Over the last few years, we have endeavored to present note worthy news items that illustrate, among other things:

- The power of Israel
- The advance of science
- The rising of the EU as a world power
- The stumbling block nature of Jerusalem for the whole world
- The coalition of the forces of anti-semitism
- The increasing Laodicean nature of the church

In other words, the signs of the times.

As a change of venue, however, we are going to present the best news sources to you for your own investigation as the Lord leads and focus more of our own efforts in God's Word. We sincerely believe that the time is quite short before our Lord's return and desire to use our time and dedicate the resources He's provided to the highest use.

May God bless you in your observation of the events of our times. May your spiritual perception be keen and your consequent motivation well directed. Bear in mind that each source has its own bias. Listed below, are just a few recommended resources available on the internet:

<http://www.a7.org/>  
<http://www.haaretzdaily.com/>

<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/>  
<http://www.harpazo.net/forzion/news.html>

<http://www.einnews.com/>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk>  
<http://www.cnsnews.com/>  
<http://www.drudgereport.com/>  
<http://www.wired.com/news/>  
<http://www.newscientist.com/>  
<http://www.debka.com/>  
<http://www.foreignreport.com/>  
<http://www.foxnews.com/>  
<http://www.euobserver.com/>  
<http://www.hallindseyoracle.com/>  
<http://www.jvim.com/>  
<http://www.menewslines.com/>  
<http://www.watch.org/>  
<http://www.upway.com/cgi-bin/went.cgi>  
<http://www.voanews.com/index.cfm>  
[www.bible-prophecy.com/](http://www.bible-prophecy.com/)  
<http://www.ldolphin.org/>

Lord willing, we will provide a bit more commentary on a select few news items along the lines of the Omega Newsletter article in this issue.

### **Meditation for the Month**

*"The divine Instructor has taken us under his wing and he is putting us through our exercises so that hands which hang down can be lifted up, and feet are straightened out, and a lame man is helped to walk. The Instructor is saying such things as, now "Keep moving, don't let yourself get stiff, keep the joints moving, keep them as supple as you can... human will-power alone is not enough. Will-power is excellent and we should always be using it; but it is not enough. A desire to live a good life is not enough. Obviously we should all have that desire, but it will not guarantee success... We have to realize that all our best is totally inadequate, that a spiritual battle must be fought in a spiritual manner."*  
Martyn Lloyd-Jones