

SINGING DRIVES POWERS OF DARKNESS AWAY

"I saw we must be daily rising and keeping the ascendancy above the powers of darkness. Our God is mighty. I saw singing to the glory of God often drives the enemy away, and praising God would beat him back and give us the victory." 3SM 332.

Some time ago my mother and I were invited to a 75th birthday party of a well-known and beloved blind man. I was invited to bring my guitar, so I prepared to sing, "Tis Love That Makes Us Happy."

Beforehand I practiced strumming the strings individually, slowly and softly.

When we arrived at the meeting place, which was a Community Church and on a Sunday, the place was full, and as we were handed a programme I saw that my name was not registered to sing. So I went to the person who had invited us and said, "I see that I am not on the list. I don't have to sing."

"Okay," she said, "maybe another time."

After I had said that, I felt an awful sinking sensation, almost like I would faint, and I felt that I had done wrong in backing out. The song had been planned to be a witness, and a blessing to the people, and I knew it would be different than most performances. So after

considering the matter, I went back and said, "I've decided to sing after all." Right away arrangements were made, and the matter was settled.

When my turn came, I went up and sat down and began softly plucking the guitar strings. Then I began to sing. Although I have often sung before audiences, I was shaky, and instead of becoming stronger, as usual, my nervousness lasted to the end of the song. Nevertheless I lifted up my voice as best as I could and tried to make the words clear.

As I went back to my seat, I felt very embarrassed and ashamed of my poor performance. But I determined not to say anything or apologize to anyone, and I prayed very, very earnestly in my heart that God would bring a blessing out of this experience; that He would overrule.

And I am glad to say we had evidence that He did. Afterwards a lady said to us, "That singing was very soothing. You have a lovely voice." (Or something to those words). And the pastor of the church (Sunday-keeping) called to thank us, and to request the words of the song. Also the man whose birthday it as called to thank me for the song.

"We must have less trust in what we ourselves can do, and

more trust in what the Lord can do for and through us. We are not engaged in our own work; we are doing the work of God." MH 513-4.

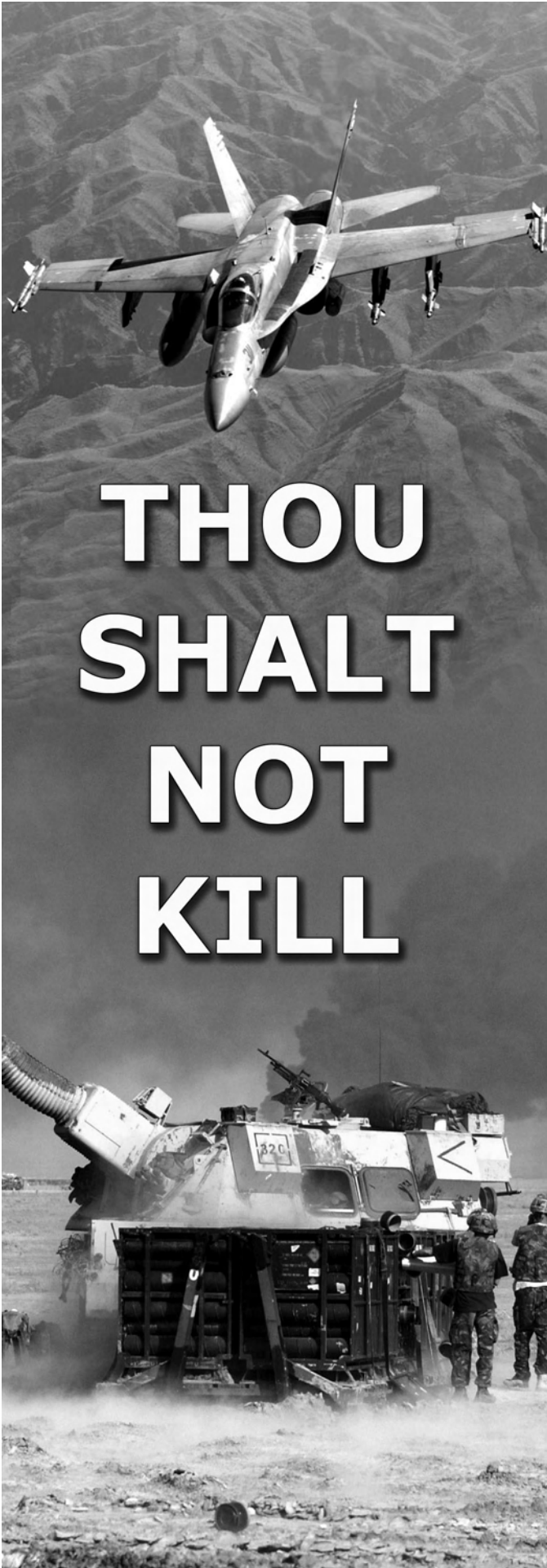
"As you ask the Lord to help you, honour your Saviour by believing that you do receive His blessing. All power, all wisdom, are at our command. We have only to ask." Ibid, p. 514.

"The result of all we do rests in the hands of God. Whatever may betide, lay hold upon Him with steady, persevering confidence." Ibid, p. 513.

While I was at that church, I took the liberty of placing a few paperback books in their library—Desire of Ages, Steps to Christ, Ministry of Healing, Christ's Object Lessons—those are what I had available. Pray with me that some one or more individuals will find those books, and discover the great blessings to be found therein.

Lately I have had two opportunities to give hydro-therapy treatments to persons in pain. For these experiences I am grateful. I wish I could do more to relieve the pain and misery in the world. Pray for this. AMEN.

Sis. Kathleen Ross
Alberta, Canada



God told Adam and Eve NOT to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. They didn't listen to Him and brought confusion and death to the whole world.

The problem today is that men and women don't know how to recognize the difference between good and evil.

Even when a person knows in his mind that his behavior is self-destructive and harmful, this knowledge has no power to stop him from doing it. Just knowing our problems and addictions does not give us the power to control or stop them.

A knowledge of biblical teachings is NOT enough. The more we read the Bible we see how far away we are from living a true Christian life.

We possess negative characteristics such as envy, pride, anger, impatience, intemperance, and selfishness. We covet others and we think of helping ourselves before helping anyone else.

The problem is that these characteristics are part of our character, which is a part of our mind and heart that nobody can see with human eyes. It is very dangerous to think we are Christians if we still possess any of these negative characteristics in our heart, because others may not see them, and because they don't see them, we think they are not important and we might lose our salvation by believing we are Christians when we really are NOT.

The only way to be sure of our salvation is to have Christ in our hearts and minds. If we invite Jesus to live within us, do you think He will stay if we still hold on to negative feelings and if we still become offended by others?

NO. Jesus cannot and will not live in the heart of anyone who holds on to any negative characteristic. When we invite Jesus into our hearts He brings His power to cleanse us and make us "new creatures", and He gives us the power to live a life of peace, joy and love. As long as He remains in us we will enjoy the true Christian experience. With Jesus in our heart, we will be able to overcome all temptations and weaknesses through His strength. A thousand will fall at our side and ten thousand at our right hand and it will not affect us if Jesus is with us.

The early Christians went singing to their deaths because they were comforted by the divine presence.

If you ask Jesus to come and stay in your heart you will be able to overcome EVERY temptation, no matter how difficult it may seem to you.

If you don't believe that, then you need to ask God for the gift of faith, to be prepared for the final battle against good and evil on our planet.

Historically, what has happened when man separates himself from God and takes matters into his own hands? He fails miserably. The Bible is full of examples: Cain, bringing his own offering to God; King Saul seeking advice from a witch; Peter attacking the Roman soldiers with a sword to protect Jesus; you and I doing things our way and forgetting about God when times are tough.

In 1914 God's church was put to a test. A test to see if they were grounded upon principles and truth, or to see if they were surviving in their own human strength and not God's strength.

When I think of all the commandments the hardest one to break is, "Thou shalt not kill". Murder has been considered the greatest of sins throughout history. Any other crime can be rectified, but when someone is dead there is no bringing him back. I don't think any of us would consider it a Christian act to kill someone else. You don't need to be a rocket scientist to understand that killing is wrong and that there is no excuse or justification for killing someone else.

God is "the creator" of the universe. God is life. God is love. God wants man to live forever with Him in peace and harmony. Killing is NOT from God and can never be an acceptable practice for anyone claiming to be a Christian especially in our modern day when knowledge is much greater than centuries ago.

Jesus came to Earth to reveal the Father and His will. Jesus is called the "Prince of Peace". How is it possible then for certain so-called Christians to say that killing is "justifiable" in certain circumstances? It is justifiable to those doing the killing, but their victims will likely fail to see the justification.

This is a self-contradictory behavior that is completely opposite to the principles of faith. How can Jesus say, "love your enemies" and how can some false Christians say, "kill your brother" in time of war?

NO religious system or group, which encourages war, can claim spiritual authority without the blatant hypocrisy that has made atheists of many honest men.

When man's conscience is dulled he is unable to distinguish between right and wrong. His conscience is determined by the principles to which he is committed. To maintain spiritual progress there can be NO wavering from principle, or the individual will fall back into sin.

If it is wrong to kill another human being, that principle can allow NO exceptions, regardless how emotionally appealing

the arguments may be used to justify the exception. Therefore a society that accepts capital punishment will always have a problem with murder. Both are products of the same kind of reasoning. To the murderer, the killing of the victim is also a justifiable exception.

Once a principle is broken, its mutated form spreads like cancer. A society or a group that supports killing, whether in war, or by abortion, or by the legal system, cannot at the same time effectively stop "criminal" killing. To kill is to kill is to kill; there is no escaping the fact. The decision to kill or not to kill is a basic issue in the path to real power. But this simple step has not been understood by most of the world's population including its governments.

The big problem in the world is that of spiritual blindness. The issue of "right and wrong" in our society focuses on the lower levels of understanding and morality. Little children must be taught that dangerous behaviors are "wrong", but as they grow older discernment should replace this.

Whether it is wrong to kill other human beings may be a moral dilemma at lower levels of the conscious mind; at higher levels the very question is ridiculous.

When the SDA church decided to support the First World War and every war after that in the last 100 years, they broke the sacred trust given to them by God. Only those precious, faithful souls who rather would have died than go against God's principles stayed strong in the test and received peace as they were sacrificed before firing squads, tortured to death in prison camps and were rejected by their friends and family as traitors. Those souls who had the Holy Spirit living in their hearts and who refused to be contaminated by sin, (like Daniel and his friends in Babylon), stood firm and will see Jesus coming in the clouds of heaven with their reward: eternal life.

Blessed are the peacemakers, says Jesus. Jesus wants to give you His peace today. In the middle of sickness and crime and sin, He invites you to give Him your stress and take His peace that passes understanding.

Is it your goal to have peace in your heart whatever the cost? Very few people are genuinely committed to peace as a realistic goal. In their private lives people prefer

being "right" at whatever the cost to relationships or themselves. A self-justified position is the real enemy of peace. When man looks for solutions out of force, no peaceful resolutions are possible.

Thousands of faithful men and women stood faithful to the truth during the First World War, but were persecuted by their own family and friends in the SDA church. Many of the SDA members betrayed the faithful ones by reporting them to the Gestapo or Secret Police so they would be thrown in jail or be killed as martyrs. The same force that has always persecuted God's children inspired that spirit of persecution.

It was from that time on that the faithful ones could no longer conscientiously sustain their former brethren with their tithes, offerings, and membership.

I'm sure you know many nice SDA members who say that they would never kill anyone, BUT do they realize that by their membership and giving offerings and tithes to the SDA church, they are supporting an organization that excuses killing in wars and by performing abortions?

Any sin is separation from God. If you are joined to an organization that does not practice God's will, it is a very dangerous position to be in. You are playing with your eternal life.

Even members of the SDA Reform Church must be careful as individual Christians. The organization has remained faithful to God's principles but the question is: Are **YOU** faithful to God's principles?

Belonging to the Reform Church and keeping negative characteristics in your heart will not save you. Only Jesus saves if He is in your heart. Jesus will give you the power to remain faithful even unto death.

You must decide today. Are you ready to maintain a strong spiritual connection with GOD? It is up to you. You can have the power to overcome sin and to remain faithful no matter what happens and no matter who tells you to do otherwise.

Remember: God is love. He will never change. Will you? **AMEN.**

John McTavish, Canada

AN ULTIMATE AND HISTORIC QUESTION



**"Pilate said to them, What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"
Mathew 27:22**

Pontius Pilate was the fifth Roman prefect of Judea (ruled A.D. 26-36), and who issued the fateful order sentencing Jesus to death by crucifixion.

Yet, "from the first, Pilate was convicted that Jesus was no common man. He believed Him to be of excellent character and entirely innocent of the charges brought against Him. When he heard of Jesus and the mighty works wrought by Him, he feared and trembled. Satan and his angels were tempting Pilate and trying to lead him on to his own ruin. Through fear of losing his power and authority, Pilate consented to the death of Jesus. And notwithstanding, he placed the blood of Jesus upon His accusers, and the multitude received it."(E.R. 173-74)

Pilate, however, carelessly asked the multitudes, charged by the chief priests and elders, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" Perhaps Pilate had a glimmer of hope, that there still might be a softening of hearts and he would be released of this momentous decision and responsibility, that his hands would be cleaned of this innocent blood.

Yet, on the other hand, there was a blood-red, faithless streak of greed in Pilate, and through fear of losing his power and authority, Pilate, unfortunately realized he was in possession of the richest treasure of infinite grace, and he was very anxious to make an extortionate, profitable disposition of it.

There was no question it had real value. It had many times been sold before. What do we mean by this? Well, this Treasure was Jesus, believed by Pilate to be "King of the Jews!" Believed by Herod to be "John the Baptist", risen from the dead. Believed by the people to be "the Son of David." Believed by some to be "Elias", and others, "Jeremias", or one of the "Prophets". Believed by Nicodemus, to be a "Teacher, come from God." Believed by Phillip to be "Him of whom Moses in the Law and the prophets wrote about." Believed by John the Baptist, to be the "Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world." Believed by Gabriel to be "the Son of the Highest." And, declared by Peter to be the "Son of the Living God."

So, we can see, He was a pearl of great price that many have given their all to possess. Yes, by others despised and bitterly rejected and attacked. He had a name more excellent than angels, and a position highly exalted, and divine.

But, strangely, perhaps for some, by these very same estimates, it will be readily seen that He had no "fixed value." To King Solomon He was the "chiefest among ten thousand"; while to the Jews a "stumbling block", and unto the Greeks, "foolishness".

Yet, "In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col 2: 9).

Whatever we exchange Him for becomes our God. Think and dwell on this. Furthermore, He is "sold" with all the blessings contained in Him, and what we receive in exchange for Him we prefer to Him, and worship in His place! It's very simple and fundamental: we take our choice... accept the one, and reject the other.

Pilate would have been glad to have saved Christ, but he was too anxious for... yes, coveting. Coveting, which is in reality, idolatry... the "good-will" of the Jewish people, and at that "shrine", if he must, and

he did... dramatically sacrifice Him.

Others had sold Him, and why shouldn't he? You don't necessarily have to be a Bible scholar to understand this. We clearly saw that Judas had just sold Him for 30 pieces of shimmering silver. The Jews were in the act of trading Him for a thief and a viperous murderer. Esau had traded him for a (mess) pot of pottage soup. Lot's wife had given him for a look at a burning city. Israel had once offered to trade Him for onions and garlic! And another time for a drink of water and a mess of dead quails.

Balaam had given Him for the blessing of Balak; and Saul had traded Him for the cattle of the Amalekites. Korah had tried to purchase a public office and leadership with Him. Furthermore, Achan had given Him for a golden bar (wedge) and a Babylonian garment. One man in the parable of the Feast, had exchanged Him for a piece of land. Another had given Him for five yoke of oxen, and a third had traded Him for a wife, while the young man and Ruler preferred his great possessions to Him.

Neither was it an unusual thing for men to trade Him for honor and good-will of men. Moses had once made such a negotiation; King Saul had made the same kind of bargain; and Peter had just traded Him for popularity in the Judgement Hall.

Indeed, there are no lusts or evil inclinations that He has not been exchanged for. Solomon gave Him for His wives. David traded Him for Uriah's wife.

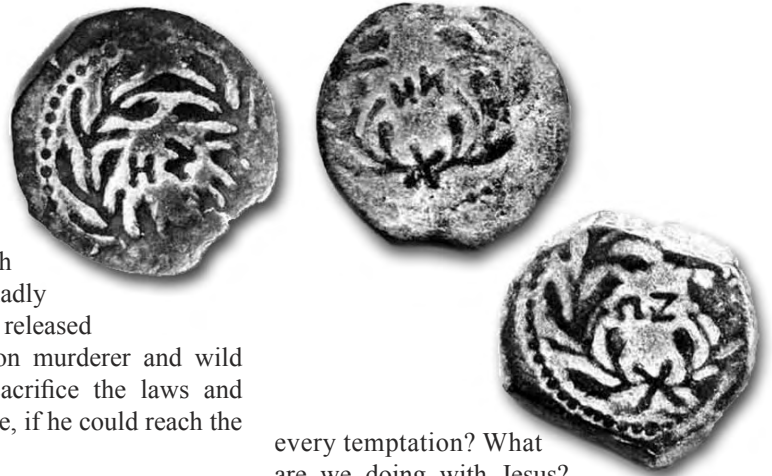
Pilate now had it in his unshackled, calloused hands to do, in a literal or real sense, what others had done in a spiritual sense. Pilate had been grimly warned by his trustful wife against it by her sin-chastening dreams. His conscience condemned him, and he would gladly have saved Jesus, but like others, he was under inviting temptation. Herod the Great had purchased the "good-will" of the Jews, by rebuilding their Temple, and Pilate realized the necessity

of doing something to merit the Jews approval and cooperation.

The opportunity had now presented itself, and selfishness now took control with its opportunity. Gladly would he have released Barabbas, a common murderer and wild rebel, and thusly sacrifice the laws and government of Rome, if he could reach the same result.

A sharp and fluent command had been rolling down through all the ages, and echoing from the top of Mt. Sinai, saying; "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Would Pilate obey it? Or, would he like so many others bow at another shrine? "What shall I do then with Jesus", he said. "Shall I accept Him or reject Him?" "Shall I keep Him or sell Him?"

Now, let's grimly and grievously pose this same question to our weary, but precious lives. Does not this same question come home to us in the hour of



every temptation? What are we doing with Jesus? What value, if any, are we putting on Him? At what class or scale of beings have we put Him? At what cold and idolatrous altar are we sacrificing Him?

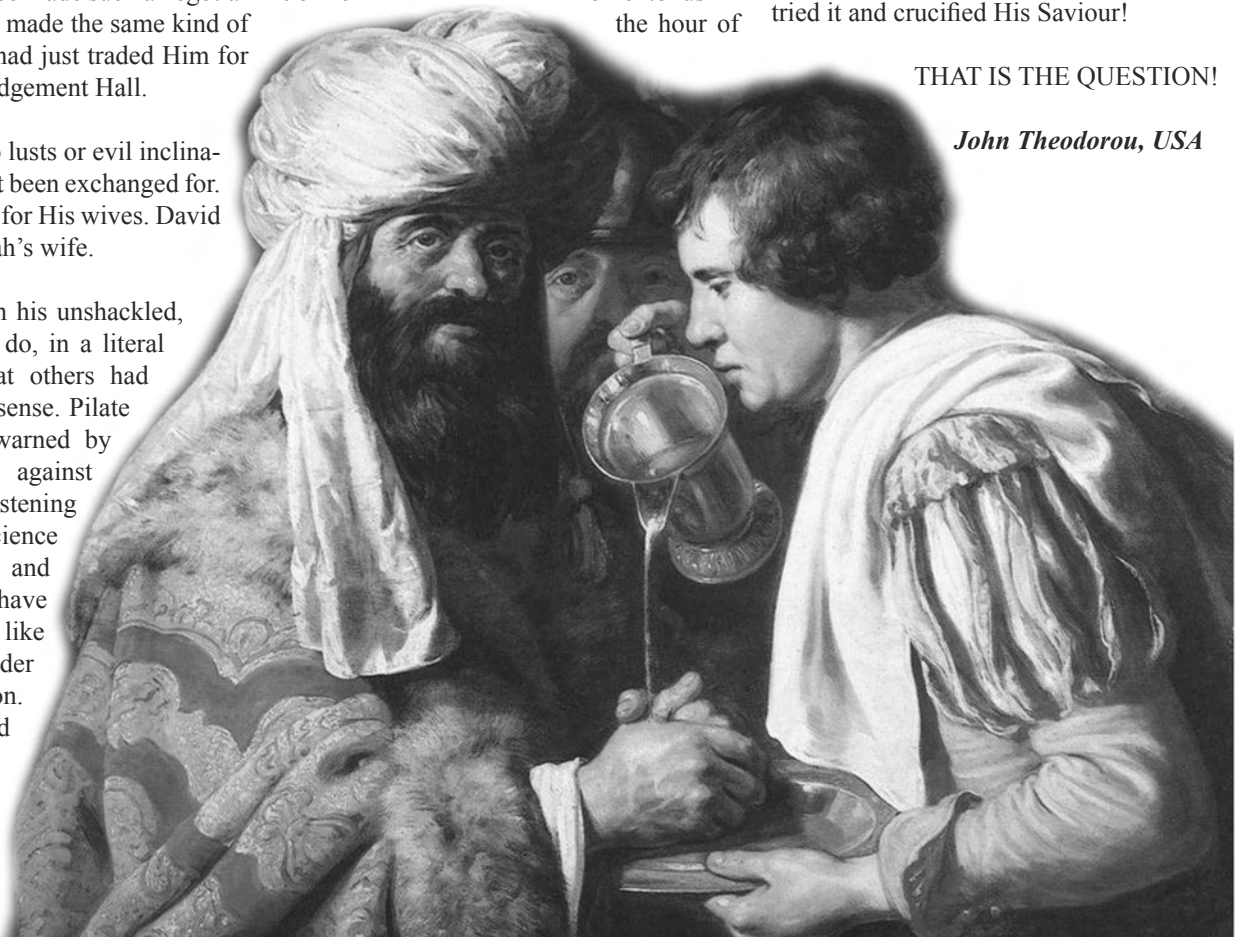
Are we, like Pilate, putting the question, as he did, to his enemies, and so, avoid or shirk our responsibilities in the matter?

Are we disposing of Him, and then washing our hands, and trying to throw the blame on someone else, trying to obtain the coveted prize and keep Jesus, too?!

King Saul tried it, and lost his crown. Pilate tried it and crucified His Saviour!

THAT IS THE QUESTION!

John Theodorou, USA





"SOW THY SEED"

In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both be alike good." Eccl. 11:6

There is no work nobler on the earth than to spread God's word for the salvation of the people. The signs of the times show that the end is very near, and we must quickly go out to fulfill the important commission that Jesus has left with us.

On July 23-30 with the help of the Lord we held public evangelistic meetings in Toijala and in Lempäälä. Our speaker was Brother Henry Dering from California. With the music and pictures on the screen the presentation was very interesting. In every meeting, special songs and instrumental music was presented. Sisters Virpi Sirbu and Eija Jyrkinen spoke about health and natural healing methods. Also a literature table was prepared and in the last meeting books were given to the visitors.

May the Lord bless all who came to the meetings that the seed sown will grow and bear fruit.

After these public meetings we had our annual Conference with the motto, "Lord, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in Thy holy hill?" Ps. 15:1.

We enjoyed God's rich blessings, and felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in this Conference.

With Br. Dering we made three mission trips. On August 2nd we went to Estonia, and on the next day we again started public meetings.

The meeting place was in the centre of the capital city, Tallinn. Here also we held seven meetings. In the last meeting again we gave literature to the visitors and invited them to the annual Conference. Some of them did come and one person seemed very much interested. The Conference motto was, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

While in Estonia, we visited scattered members and interested souls. We celebrated the Lord's Supper with the members and gave Bible studies to the interested souls. May the Lord bless His work and the church in Estonia.

On August 15th, Brother Hannu Jyrkinen from Finland took us to the harbour where we boarded a ship to go to Sweden. On the ship we beheld a beautiful sunset, which reminded us of the sunset of the world when Jesus leaves the heavenly sanctuary and the permanent darkness will fall upon the impenitent people.

In Stockholm we had three public meetings and in between we visited a friend whom I met three years ago when traveling on the ship. Afterwards we went to Motala, where we also had three public meetings. Into the last meeting more people came and after the meeting we had long discussions with them. God has honest children everywhere, who are seeking for the truth and the true church. Jesus said, "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." John 10:16

In Motala we also had our Conference where were visitors from Finland, Norway, Denmark and the United States. The main theme of the Conference was the work of the Holy Spirit and the promised latter rain. One dear soul joined the church which gave us great joy.

On Sunday, Brother Dennis Lammes was ordained as an elder. May the Lord bless his work in Sweden.

Early Monday morning I accompanied Brother Dering and his friends to the airport where they took a plane to London, England.

I returned to Finland and two days later went to Bulgaria, where we had a canvassing seminar and public meetings. We met new, interested souls and had discussions with them.

On Sabbath the hall was full of people. In the afternoon we had the baptism of a young person in a beautiful place on the river.

The enemy of the soul wanted to destroy our joy in the missionary work when we received a message that my mother had fallen and hurt her head seriously. After a few days she passed away, waiting for the resurrection morning.

After the funeral I

had to go to Sofia for a conference. There Br. Gerhard Hunger was visiting, and I had the privilege to translate him in the meetings.

On Sabbath we heard a very impressive message of "Remnant Church Vested With Power." It reminded us that God will fulfill His promises and wants to pour out the latter rain upon His people. When the speaker asked the congregation, "Who wants to receive this power?", then every hand went up.

On Sabbath afternoon we examined one young girl for baptism, and the next day I had to go to Serbia with Brother Hunger. We visited Belgrade and organized the church matters. Tuesday night I had to return to Sofia and take my flight back to Finland.

The time of mercy will soon be finished. Only our Heavenly Father knows when it will be, but all the signs of the times indicate that soon Jesus will declare the words, "It is done," and then salvation will be too late.

Now is our last opportunity to sow the seed of the gospel. Now is the time to pray earnestly for the latter rain, which will enable God's people to finish God's work on the earth.

"Servants of God, endowed with power from on high, with their faces lighted up, and shining with holy consecration, went forth to proclaim the message from heaven. Souls that were scattered all through the religious bodies answered the call, and the precious were hurried out of the doomed churches, as Lot was hurried out



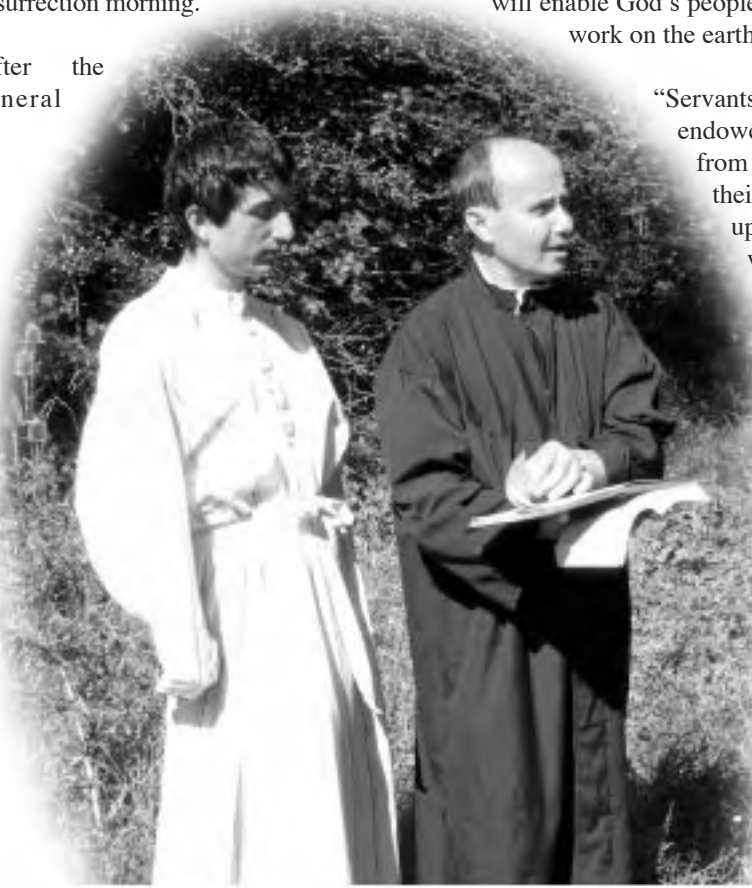
of Sodom before her destruction. God's people were strengthened by the excellent glory which rested upon them in rich abundance and prepared to endure the hour of temptation. I heard everywhere a multitude of voices saying, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

"I was pointed down to the time when the third angel's message was closing. The power of God had rested upon His people; they had accomplished their work and were prepared for the trying hour before them. They had received the latter rain, or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and the living testimony had been revived. The last great warning had sounded everywhere, and it had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message.

"I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed. Then I saw Jesus who had been ministering before the ark containing the Ten Commandments, throw down the censor. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, 'It is done.' And all the angelic host laid off their crowns as Jesus made the solemn declaration, 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.'" EW, p. 278-280

May the Lord help us to be ready to receive the latter rain, is my wish and prayer. **AMEN.**

Brother V. Marinov, Finland





This trip to Finland has been in consideration since last fall, and it took a lot of telephone calls, letters and asking souls to get it together, and it seemed all was against it. Sister Birgitta Jeltsch from Germany asked me last summer if I would join her in mail boxing the pamphlets during my stay in Germany, and with enthusiasm I gave my "yes." She did all the preparation work for our stay with the various believers in different areas, because she was born in Finland and knows everybody there from the church. A couple from our church in Germany who had a car wanted to join us, but they could not get the holiday that they requested. It ended up that only Birgitta and I were left and instead of going by car with the Ferry from Rostock to Helsinki, we had to fly from a small airport in Northern Germany.



Birgitta Jeltsch

In Helsinki we took the train to Toijala, where Br. Vladimir, the leader of the church, brought us to the IMS mission house, where we arrived just before dark. There we had to wait for a sister, who was willing to go with us during her holiday and provided us also with her car. She could not come until two nights later, so we cleaned the house and visited the dear, over 90year old, faithful sister Sally in her apartment in the senior citizen home. Eila, her long time friend and also the most faithful sister and canvasser in the church, close to 80 years in age, was in the mission house, but had then to go to the hospital. We visited her when we came back to the mission house after our trip.

When the sister arrived I thought we would never get our luggage and literature into the car. It was a twenty year old, two-door vehicle, and I had not much confidence that it would hold out for the entire journey! But, praise to the Lord for His goodness, we had not even once the slightest problem, neither with the car, nor with anyone of us; nobody got sick or in any wise upset. We had a most enjoyable, blessed time together, and distributed in eight days, over 9000 pamphlets. We went out at 9 AM and returned at 6 PM to wherever we had our lodging. The

Visiting Believers On The Way





The Good Samaritan

hospitality of the sisters who provided us rooms and meals was truly most kind and Christian. They wanted us to stay longer, but we had to go on. May the God bless them abundantly!

We drove the entire south of Finland from west to east, and a portion up the middle, altogether 1200 km, through little towns, villages and to the most remote areas deep in the country. Sometimes Birgitta and I went alone; the other sister helped at sister Anja's place with the potato harvest, which had already been delayed because of much rain. There was concern of losing much of the crop because the soil had been soaked for so long.

We drove the side roads to get to the farmers and other lonesome places, to put the pamphlets into the mailboxes on the road. They were often together in a row of three to six, to even ten or more. Many times one box stood alone, far enough apart, that walking was too far, so we had to stop every few seconds, jump in and out of the car, rush to the box and be back in seconds. We did this for hours. The boxes are located such that you had to get out and could not drop the papers into them from the car window.

In the towns we parked the car and divided the area into three sections and went to the high-rise apartments. These were often up to nine floors high; we went up in the

elevator and ran down the stairs. But there were many buildings that had only three to four floors with no elevator. We got quite hot from running up and down because the weather was cool and one had to wear a coat. The houses in Finland do not have mailboxes on the ground floor each apartment has the mail slot at its door. Quite a task for the mailman! To run up and down for maybe just one letter!

The weather was cool and rainy most of the time. Sometimes it was absolutely

coming down in sheets so we drove on. Then when we reached the next town or village it had usually stopped. The Lord be praised for that. We were never really hindered from going out. But there were also sunny periods. The first Sabbath we spent at sister Anja's place. She has several handicapped ladies to look after in her home. She gave Birgitta and myself her bedroom, which was warm and cozy. She provided the most delicious meals and every morning to my absolute delight, wild blueberries and blueberry sauce over the cooked cereal with bread of all sorts. She even made us a delicious fruit torte, (without sugar). The atmosphere in her house is incredibly peaceful, no loud voices, except some nice

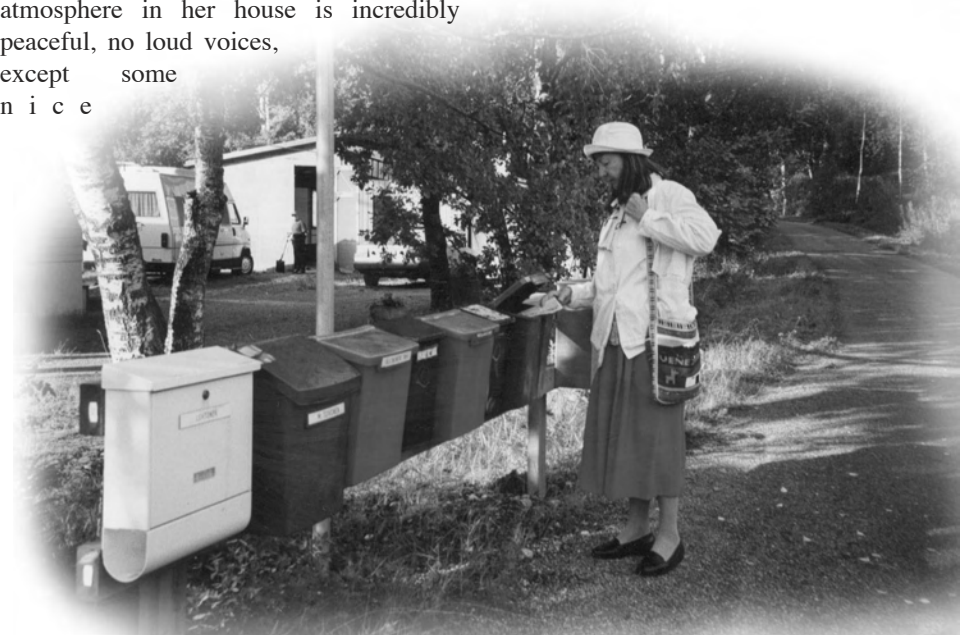


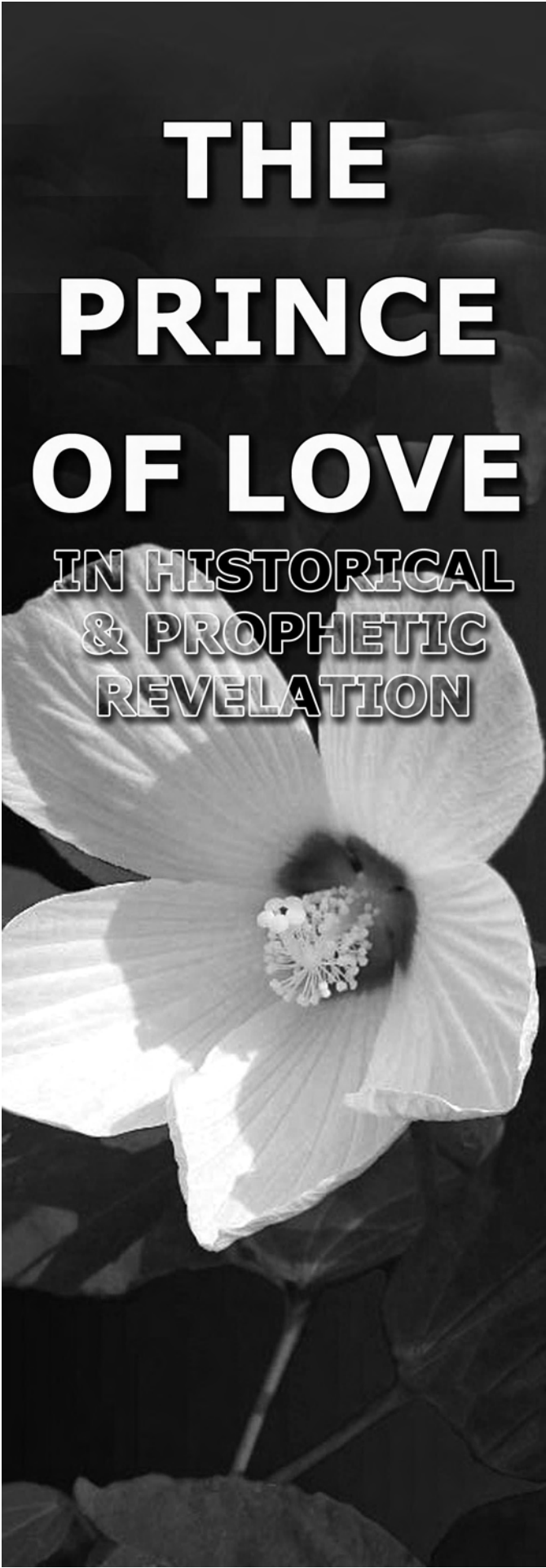
Sister Sally (93) With Edda

singing from one of the ladies. It was a most wonderful experience and I will not forget the three blessed nights we spent there.

The last Sabbath before returning to Germany the next day was spent in the mission house in Toijala. We had a very nice time with the believers. There we heard that after a few days of our work one letter already came in and two requests for the Bible correspondence course over the phone. We prayed very much that the people might earnestly read those pamphlets, especially those who live in such remote places that nobody normally would find them. May God bless the people and the pamphlets so that souls may be won for His Kingdom. To Him be the glory and we thank Him to have had the opportunity for this most enjoyable task. **AMEN.**

Edda Tedford, Canada.





THE PRINCE OF LOVE

IN HISTORICAL & PROPHETIC REVELATION

The King of creation, the Almighty, let us ponder who He is; the influence He had over great nations that have been and are here today. Daniel chapter 10 touches your heart with a deep sense of this. In this vision, Daniel is given the history of the governments of this world. God knows what takes place in regards to leadership. Throughout all history, God governs the nations.

As these nations were being moved upon in the time of Daniel, he was praying and an angel came to him. The angel expressed that he was having a difficult time with the kings of Persia and another angel came to help him.

Daniel 10:13 & 21. *But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.*

That angel was Jesus or Michael – your Prince. We have been beholding God’s love. We want to gaze upon a revelation of love that is so endearing. The word “prince” and the concept of “princes” carry all sorts of connotations. The Bible reveals to us a Prince who is in a love relationship with a woman – the church.

Daniel 9:25. *Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*

The name Michael is given to the 2nd person of the Godhead. He is also known as the archangel. Jesus is an icon for every person on earth as He became a man. In heaven, He was an angel for the sake of the angels. Our Prince, Messiah, Michael. Three names. In regard to his church on earth, we see him as a Prince.

Song of Solomon 2:1-4. *I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.*

This outdoes the fairytale prince. The only reason why fairy tales came into the world was because people in the dark ages were disguising the story of the gospel. The angels were described as fairies. Here is a Prince of Love we want to meditate about, one whom God’s church is in love with.

The world today is worshipping their ‘stars’.

Revelation 22:16. *I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

He is the one altogether beautiful. Every expression of love can be exercised towards this person. Your star, prince, can fill your heart with total satisfaction. This one who all Christians love, is revealed indeed as a great historic ruler. In prophetic politics, he is the ruler of the nations. As you study this, you will become spellbound that this

person is behind the scenes of everything that transpires in the politics of this world.

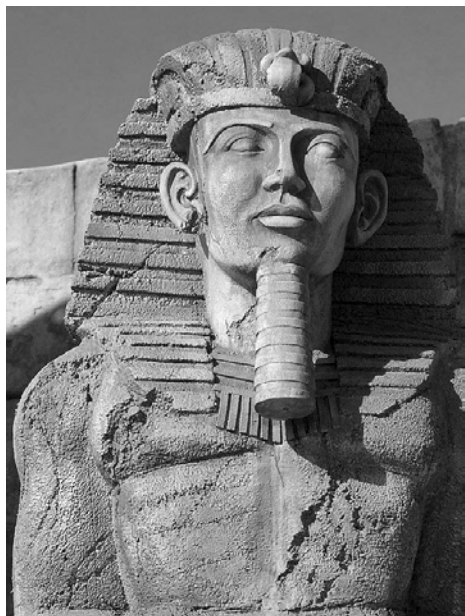
It is something to become enthused about. He loves you and if you want satisfaction from your affections, you don't need to place them on anything else in this world. This being is over and above all this. He is the beautiful Prince behind the veil. The pomp, glory and opulence of the world's rulers attract the people. This is all superseded by our Prince.

Revelation 17:14. *These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

What is he called? The Lamb that was slain for you and me. Lord of lords and King of kings.

Do you want to be with him? Your prince? All the glory and pomp of kings and princes falls into nothingness. Over all the lords, and over and above all that. We want to see how attractive He is to be with. In what unexpected manner do we, like the Jews, view Him? How shattered was their castle building. The Jews called him their King and Lord. They were disappointed. Let's investigate how he is King of kings in an unexpected manner.

After Nimrod's kingdom shattered a powerful nation arose – Egypt. You know the story how with the help of Joseph, Egypt became great. However, they forget how God influenced Joseph. How does



Jesus through Moses manifest himself to Pharaoh? They did not recognize whom Moses after he spent 40 years in Midian. Previously he was being trained to be the next Pharaoh. What did Jesus through Moses say to Pharaoh? "Let my people go!" Pharaoh scoffed. He said, "Who is God that I should let his people go? What can God do?" So what did God do to cause Pharaoh to let go?

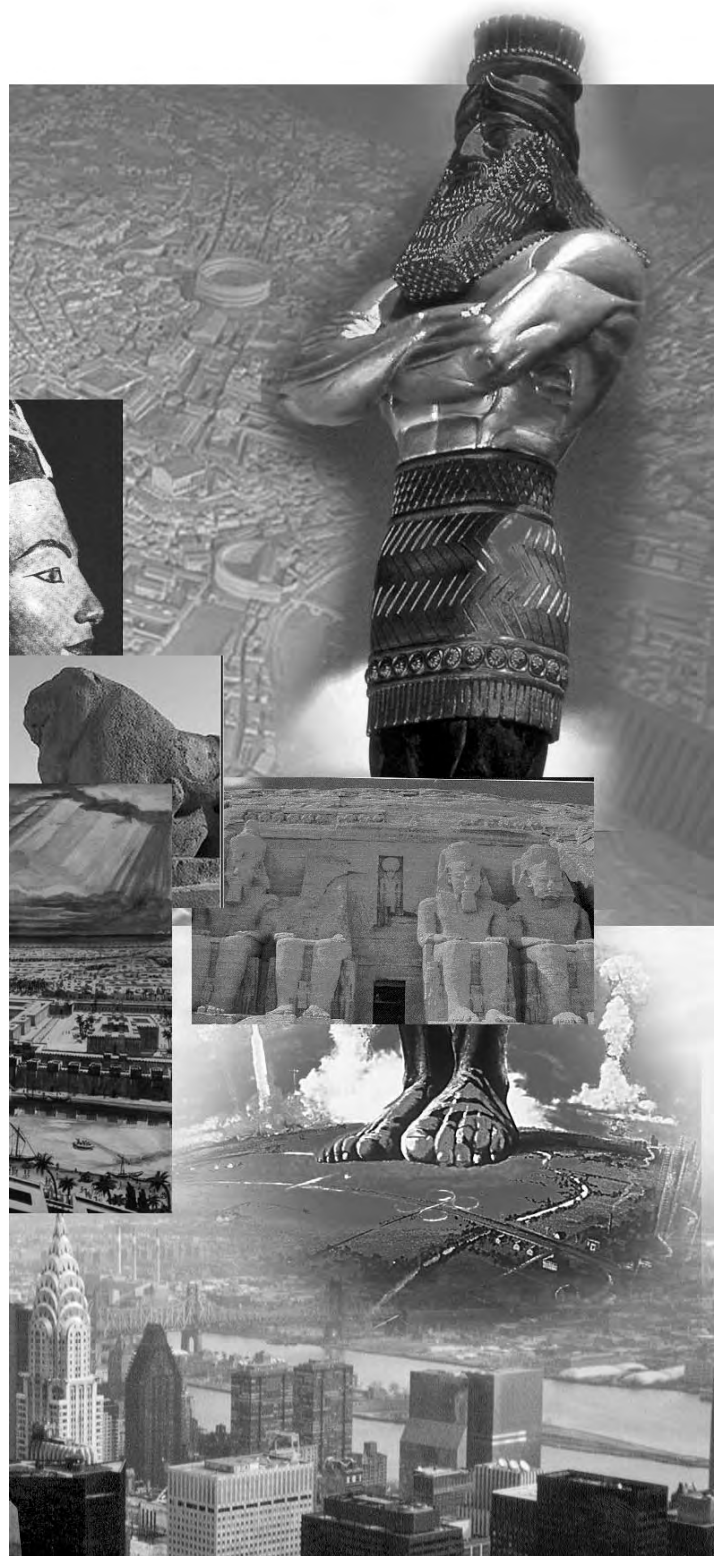
Watch how Jesus ruled over this nation:

Romans 9:17. *For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.*

God sent 10 plagues. After each plague, Pharaoh hardened. Every time he recognized God was great, he hardened even more. Where did he end up? At the bottom of the Red Sea. This goes to show that our Prince is King of kings.

The Assyrian empire developed into the great nation - Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar was its King. What did our Prince have to do with him? The best chapter ever written is by Nebuchadnezzar. Remember the story of Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar made an image for everyone to worship.

Daniel 3:16 & 17. *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful*



to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

These young men had a Prince. They had no fear. How does this Prince help them? Notice what this King had to do with Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 3: 21-25. *Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and*



their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.



We frequently view as an isolated case the story of Nebuchadnezzar. This is only a tiny revelation of our Prince moving upon the rulers of this world. He moves upon the

heart of Nebuchadnezzar. He stands there talking with his servants.

Jeremiah 27:4-8. And command them to say unto their masters, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say unto your masters; I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me. And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him. And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.

Jeremiah is speaking to Judah who had become very rebellious. Note, the King of creation speaking - *I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground.* Nebuchadnezzar was the servant of God, of our Prince. What did God tell Judah and the other nations to do through Jeremiah?

Jeremiah 27:8. And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.

Here is a representation of the King of kings. He has the development of the world's empires at His hand. If Babylon was directed by God himself, then would this not be the case of Persia, Greece, the Roman Empire, the Papacy and America today? He is the King of kings and when he

says it's going to happen, it is!

Patriarchs & Prophets page 443-444. The ambassadors were further instructed to declare to their rulers that if they refused to serve the Babylonian king they should be punished "with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence" till they were consumed. Especially were they to turn from the teaching of false prophets who might counsel otherwise

The temple of Solomon would have stood had they obeyed. They were told, go and place yourself in the hands of Nebuchadnezzar. But they did not want to. Note the punishment God can inflict upon the nations who have suffered because they would not submit to empires that God had ordained.

Now that Nebuchadnezzar had done his dirty work, he crushed Israel, took them prisoner; watch how God deals with Nebuchadnezzar himself.

Daniel 4:29-33. At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; Thy kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with

the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

We see him dealing with Nebuchadnezzar in a different way. Nebuchadnezzar was getting very cocky (boastful). The same hour was the thing fulfilled. His hair became like eagle's feathers, he had claws.

Daniel 4:34-37. And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counselors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and

his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Do you not love these words of somebody who is a ruler of an empire? This is how Jesus works. What you see in the world's behaviour is orchestrated.

After a time, Belshazzar ruled. How did God reveal himself to him? With the writing on the wall. How Belshazzar's knees quaked. We see our great Prince, working continually from behind the veil to deliver and to deal with those that are not with him. The nation of Israel time and time again resisted his kinship. We see the fall and rise of empires. Is it any different today? Not at all.

We see another beautiful story of how a great king would capture Elisha. The king of Syria was going mad because Elisha was telling the leaders of Israel his every move. He asked how this could be and the advisers of the king of Syria told him it was because Elisha knew everything that was discussed in his chamber. "Go get Elisha," the king said!

II Kings 6:13-23. And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold,

he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria. And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria. And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them? And



he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master. And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

Elisha then led the whole Syrian army into the city walls of Samaria.

The Prince, our Prince, here we see a demonstration of the details of God's orchestration.

What was the period in which Augustus Caesar ruled called? The golden era. Augustus Caesar was a Caesar who collected taxes. In order to collect taxes, they had to hold a census. Jesus' birth took place in that time. His parents went to Bethlehem and Jesus was born there. See the orchestration now. The very one behind the veil is now a baby, to do what? To move on the hearts of the people. Our great Prince becomes a little baby! He suffers your experiences from baby to adulthood.

What happened next? Augustus Caesar was to die.



Daniel 11:20. Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.

The glory of the kingdom of the golden age. Next we see Tiberias Caesar. He was a vile man. What happened two to three years before Tiberias Caesars reign ended? Daniel 11:22. *And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.*

Jesus was broken. He was called the Prince of the covenant. What is the covenant? The everlasting covenant.

God knows we can't achieve the end result of being good on our own, so He says, I'm going to write a new covenant. As we see Jesus broken for us, we ask ourselves, how can I continue to do this wrong thing? I will no longer care about any circumstances that keep me from following Jesus. He is your Prince if you will believe in Him. What happened to Nebuchadnezzar? What happened to the other kings? Empires fell. You and I must make our decision.

What happened next? The Prince of the covenant was broken, He died, He went to heaven. See Him in the book of Revelation, the book of prophecy, the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The story of history continues to take place after Jesus left earth. We see the story of the seven churches. He was the 1st begotten of the dead. He unveils himself in Revelation for people to see Him.

Revelation 5:1-5. And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the

elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

As you study the 7 seals, you see the history of the world from beginning to end. You see Jesus our prince. You see the persecution from the pagans toward the Christian church. You see the whole host of the world against them.

Many Christians thought that Jesus was coming in their generation but this could not happen until the sin of the papacy was revealed. In the book of Revelation, Jesus was worthy to open the book and He reveals it all.

II Thessalonians 2:1-3. 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.

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.

Let not your mind be troubled until the papacy is revealed. Jesus will not come until this happens. Why did the Pope recently apologize to the world? Because of the massacres carried out in the dark ages. From then, people can look forward to Messiah the prince.

Daniel 7:9-10. I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

The time of the end was in 1798. We read that the thrones were cast down which is the beginning of the judgement in 1844. Can you see the opening up?



Daniel 7:13 *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.*

Our Prince finishes the work when He stands up. He stands for His people. What happens in parliament when someone speaks and then stands up? What they have said will now be carried out.

Daniel 12: 1. *And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the*

children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Daniel 12:3. *And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament;*

and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Jesus is finished, he stands up. Now everything has to happen. At that time, the people shall be delivered. Look out nations! It is the close of probation.

Revelation 19:11-21. *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and*



he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven

followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Jesus is still behind the scenes. There is combat among the nations, they are making fire bombs, apostate Protestantism and the papacy will be bombed, as we read in the above verse. God's children living at this time will be thoroughly protected. Jesus is orchestrating events but this time there will be NO MERCY MINGLED. All these nations will be thoroughly destroyed. Then our Prince will come.

Revelation 14:14. *And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.*

If people will not listen to our Prince, they will suffer dreadful results. Finally our Prince will welcome the redeemed home. **AMEN.**

*Submitted by Ariadne Kondoukas
From a sermon by John Thiel*



Even if our salvation is complete in Jesus, God has different ways and methods to save us from self and attract us to Him. *“For we must needs die, and [are] as water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect [any] person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.”* 2 Samuel 14:14.

The leprosy of sin has banished us from the presence of God. We have lost our kingly origin and our right to the kingdom of peace and love, but all heaven is involved in our redemption and there are many people in our every day interactions that are God’s appointed agents to help us go back to Him. Have you examined your life and seen the wise and loving methods the Lord is using in your particular case to humble you and make you surrender your will to His?

Let us study how the Lord patiently, lovingly and wisely led a man to conversion.

“Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, [but he was] a leper.” 2 Kings 5:1.

The main character in this story is Naaman, a famous and beloved person among his people. He was a conqueror, a victor, but he suffered from a terrible disease that corrodes man’s flesh to the point that he cannot be recognized by his own relatives and friends: leprosy. Leprosy is a symbol of sin that has managed to erase the image of God in man. This incurable and disgusting disease isolates man from society and separates him from the company of his beloved ones. The leper lived in a cave or lazaretto and shared his fate with others in his same miserable condition. Would this be the end of that man who was so much loved and admired by the people of his time? Is it God’s will for us to be corroded by sin to the point that we may have to live as outcasts?

“And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman’s wife. And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord [were] with the prophet that [is] in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.” 2 Kings 5:2, 3.

Here we meet the second main character in our story, a young girl. This girl was a captive in the home of the leper, Naaman, but she had no hate towards her master, the conqueror of her people. She did not murmur or complain because she was taken away from her country or her relatives, but she was sensitive and sympathized with the pain of others. She was aware of the drama that was lived in the bosom of that family and she was there to serve. She did not concentrate on herself and her needs, her loneliness or the injustice committed to her and her people, but she tried to find a way to be helpful and the Spirit of God used her as a link between this pagan and God’s prophet. This girl is an example of what a Christian is to be like; a help, a solution, a person who brings hope in desperate situations. With her kindness and faithfulness she had conquered the heart of her mistress and the captain’s wife influenced her husband to follow the counsel of her maid.

Although it was a private and personal case, Naaman went to his king to be recommended to the king of Israel. He was a captain of

the king's army and was submitted to his lord. He followed the way of order. Naaman took with him silver and gold. He was ready to pay a high price for his health, but what a big disappointment was to see the reaction of the king of Israel! The king confessed his impotence to help him and as it often happens when someone does not understand something or cannot find a solution, he tries to find fault in others. He thought the king of Syria wanted to make war with him. Political issues have to be taken to statesmen, but spiritual men can only solve spiritual matters. The king of Israel, the leader of God's people, ignored the existence of the Lord's prophet! Unfortunately there was no cooperation between the leader and God's real servants.

"And it was [so], when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." 2 Kings, 5:8.

The prophet of God was not asleep; he was aware of what was going on among his people. He knew his mission and was ready to fulfil it.

"So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean." 2 Kings 5:9, 10.

Naaman, came to the door of the prophet's habitation with a chariot full of gold and silver, but the prophet did not come out. He sent his servant to receive him. What a terrible disappointment for Naaman! How humiliating! It was almost an insult! As a captain of the army he was used to having people obeying his orders and paying compliments to him and now, in the country that he had recently defeated, the prophet considered him not worthy to be received by him at the door of his house. The faith that had been awakened in his desperate heart, that faith that was mostly an intellectual knowledge, had to be tested to the utmost. Instead of being cheerfully welcomed and treated according to his rank, he was told by the prophet's servant what he had to do. He had to follow a therapeutic

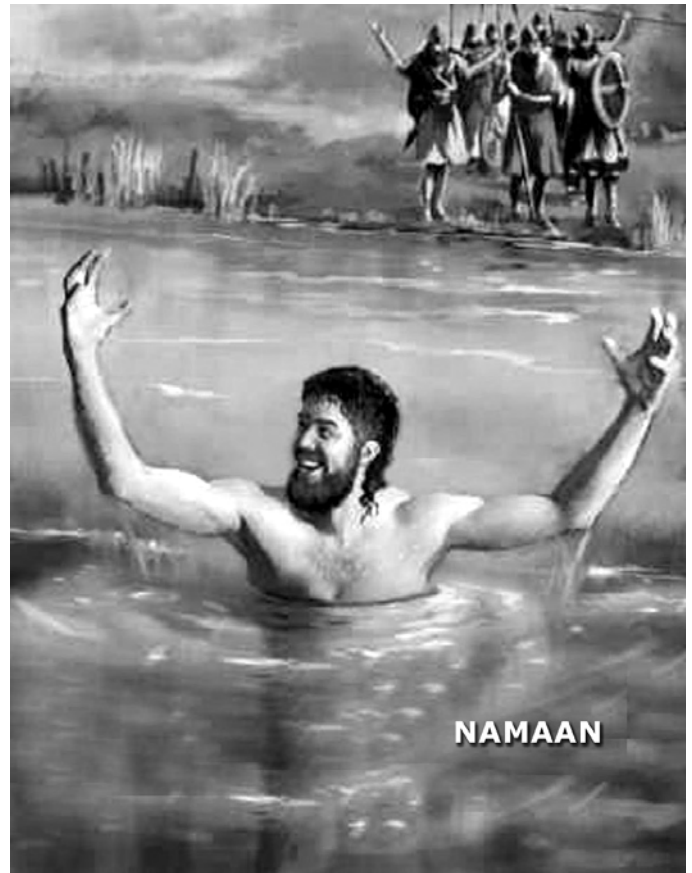
method that had no logic whatsoever. Who did the prophet think he was? What did it mean he had to wash in the Jordan seven times?!

"But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper." 2 Kings 5:11.

Naaman had his own idea as to how he was to be healed and his disappointment was translated into anger. Does it not happen to us that when we are terribly disappointed we get angry with others or with ourselves because things do not happen the way we expected? The same things will happen with those who have their own opinion of how they are to be saved. They do not like God's method. They are not satisfied with it; they want to be saved in a miraculous and passive way and disappointment is inevitable. Naaman wanted to be instantly healed by the prophet without the need that he himself did something. But the prophet told him he had to dip himself seven times in the waters of the Jordan River. He had to do something himself. He had to give testimony of his faith. Jesus says, *"Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*

Naaman had come to Elisha, he was at the door of his house. Jesus says, *"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."* Naaman had to be obedient in order to learn humbleness.

Instead of accepting the yoke, his intellectual and national pride led him to say, *"[Are] not Abana and Parpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a*



rage." 2 Kings 5:12. He had taken such a long trip, he had brought so much richness and so many men with him to be told he had to dip in the water of a river! In his country there was also much water and the rivers of Syria were so much better than those of Israel! Does it happen to us sometimes that we identify so much with our country that we tend to think that nothing can be compared to its beauty, its cuisine, its costumes? Have we ever thought that there is much national pride and idolatry involved in that? Have we forgotten that we are called to be citizens of heaven and are just pilgrims on this earth?

What will Naaman do? Will he overcome his disappointment and anger? Will he go back home to his wife and his king as a leper again? Will he deny the faith that made him leave his country in search of healing by not complying to its requirements? Will he reject this only possibility of being healed? Let us see what happens.

"And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, [if] the prophet had bid thee [do some] great thing, wouldest thou not have done [it]? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?" 2 Kings 5:13.

How important it is to have faithful and wise advisors! Generally, when someone is in a position of authority, his words and opinion are an order and people have not the courage to contradict him, but Naaman's servants were his friends. The greatest proof of their love toward their master was that they had the courage to make the General change his mind. They spoke to him in a logical and humble way, with much tact, and he was convinced. The Lord never leaves us alone. He always has someone near us who can help us see people and situations in the right light so that we are not blinded by our own thoughts and feelings. Surely Naaman was kind and considerate with his servants and they did not fear him but respected and loved him like a father.

"Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean." 2 Kings 5:14.

Naaman overcame himself, humbled himself and obeyed. There is no faith without works. When he had passed the test, his skin became like the one of a little child. Not only was he healed from the leprosy, but also from his unbelief, which is the worst sin in God's eye. Unbelief is always a result of pride, of trusting our own understanding instead of the Lord's word and promises.

Naaman had to dip himself in the water seven times. Why not three or five? Seven is the number that symbolizes perfection. He was going to be perfectly and completely healed. In Leviticus 4:6 we read about a very solemn ceremony that took place in the temple, "And the priest shall dip his finger in the blood, and sprinkle of the blood seven times before the Lord, before the veil of the sanctuary."

Every time a sinner brought an animal to be sacrificed, the priest had to perform this rite with the blood of the victim. Our salvation is not something simple, but a process that has seven stages, namely:

- 1) Acknowledgement of our sins
- 2) Repentance- sorrow for the sin under the influence of the Holy Spirit
- 3) Confession
- 4) Justification – Forgiveness
- 5) Reconciliation – restoration of the relationship between man and God
- 6) Sanctification- the process of being cleansed from sin
- 7) Redemption - glorification- when the image of God will be restored in us and we shall be in His holy presence

Naaman's skin was as clean as that of a child. He was a

new creature, he now knew the true living God personally and started a new life under His guidance.

When he went back to the man of God, he offered him much silver and gold. But what was the prophet's answer?

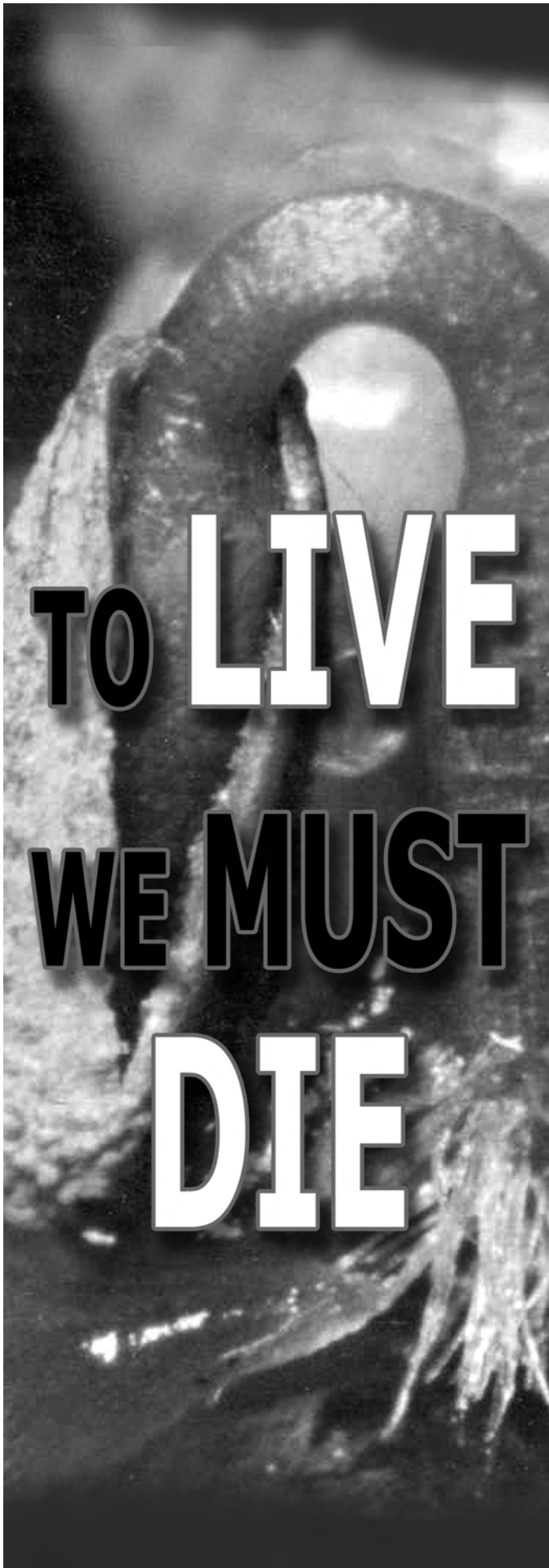
"[As] the Lord liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take [it]; but he refused." 2 Kings 5: 16.

Why did the prophet of God assume this attitude? *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."* 1 Peter 1:18, 19. No richness of this world can pay for our salvation.

May the Lord help us to accept His precious blood shed for us in Calvary and not to look for any other way to be saved because *"neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* Acts 4:12. **AMEN.**

Teresa Corti





The life of a Christian is living, and also it is dying. Before we can be born again and live the new life in Christ, we must die to self and to the world. This dying process is painful...it hurts us.

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.” Rom. 6:6-8.

Paul also writes, “That which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die.” 1 Cor. 15:36.

“Verily, verily I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it: and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.” John 12:24-25.

If there would be something good in us, then only the evil part should die, and the good part be preserved. Apostle Paul writes, “For I know that in me (that is in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing.” Rom. 7:18. In a natural man, that is, in an unconverted person, whether he professes religion or not, dwelleth no good thing. His every motive, every desire, and every deed is prompted by selfishness.

He likes to be noticed and appreciated. He wants to gratify his flesh, his eyes, his ears, and give to himself beautiful things to enjoy. He is seeking security, ease and comfort. He is easily offended and dissatisfied. He loves himself, he has made himself his ideal. Even his desire for eternal life is prompted by selfishness.

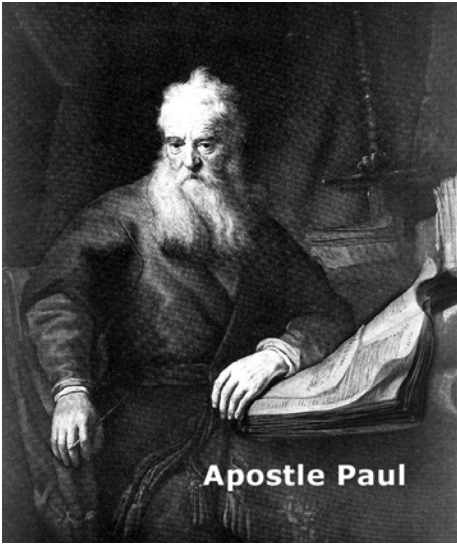
“There are those who for a time are successful in the struggle against their selfish desire for pleasure and ease. They are sincere and earnest, but grow weary of protracted effort, of daily death, of ceaseless turmoil. Indolence seems inviting, death to self repulsive; and they close their drowsy eyes, and fall under the power of temptation instead of resisting it.” GW, p. 135.

Sis. White writes, “indolence seems inviting.” That means freedom from pain, laziness, love of ease and comfort seem inviting, and, “death to self” is repulsive. No one enjoys the death to self, because it hurts us. It means to carry a cross and to deny ourselves things that we naturally would enjoy. It means to deny to ourselves food and drink that are not healthy, also worldly entertainment; it means to turn off the television and to read the Bible instead. It means to deny to ourselves the enjoyable things that money could buy and give this money to the missionary work instead. It means to deny to ourselves the company of those that do not love God.

Paul writes, “I die daily.” 1 Cor. 15:31. Every time we deny to ourselves things that we would naturally enjoy, we die to selfishness.

“Paul’s sanctification was a constant conflict with self. Said he, ‘I die daily’. His will and his desires every day conflicted with duty and the will of God. Instead of following inclination, he did the will of God, however unpleasant and crucifying to his nature.” Test. Vol. 4, p.299.

This dying process continues every day. It is called the narrow way because every step that we take forward requires self denial. It is a continual struggle against self and selfish desires. The old man struggles to come back. Old desires and habits keep tempting us and it



Apostle Paul

There is a constant struggle between our mind and our flesh. And so often the flesh is the winner and the mind becomes servant to the flesh. When the stomach wants a certain kind of food, the mind becomes active trying to supply it. When the eyes want to see certain kinds of pictures or programs, the mind quickly tries to satisfy them. This means to lose the battle.

“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.” Rom. 8:13.

We do not have just one tree of knowledge that is forbidden to us, but we have many of them on every side. That is why John writes to us, “Love not the world, neither the things of the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” 1 John 2: 15, 16

Sister White asks a question and also answers it. “Why is it so hard to lead a self-denying, humble life? Because professed Christians are not dead to the world. It is easy living after we are dead.” Test. Vol. 1, p. 131.

Now we understand the next quotation from the Spirit of Prophecy. “The new birth is a rare experience in this age of the world. This is the reason why there are so many perplexities in the churches. Many, so many, who assume the name of Christ are unsanctified and unholy. They have been baptized, but they were buried alive. Self did not die, and therefore they did not rise to newness of life in Christ. 6 BC, p. 1075.

This is the reason why many professed Christians harbour bitterness, ill feelings, and resentment towards others. If they have difficulty loving their brothers and sisters in faith, how could they love their enemies?

Haman felt resentment and ill feelings towards Mordecai, and by it he only accomplished his own death.

Now the

is a constant struggle to keep them away.

Paul recognized this danger and he writes, “I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, but not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” 1 Cor. 9:26, 27.



Haman felt resentment and ill feelings towards Mordecai

important question is, how can we die to self and to the world? To begin, we need daily Bible reading; it is like a filter to purify our thoughts. By beholding Christ we change to His image. Never should we lose sight of Him. Constant prayer keeps evil thoughts away from our minds.

Fasting gives us self-control over our flesh. Missionary work is a powerful weapon to destroy selfishness in us.

By practicing all this, Paul gained victory over self and the love of the world.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.” Gal. 2:20.

Paul had died and Christ lived in him. This must be also our experience or we will never be able to sing the song of victory with the 144,000.

“The Christian life is a battle and a march. In this warfare there is no release; the effort must be continuous and persevering. It is by unceasing endeavour that we maintain the victory over temptations of Satan.” MH, p. 453.

If it is your sincere desire to die to self and to the world that the new birth can take place in you, then God has promised to help you in the process. To help you die as Paul did, God has to place you in fiery trials. “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” 1 Pet. 1:7.

Jesus said, “It must needs be that offenses come: but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh!” Matt. 18:7

“God in His great love is seeking to develop in us the precious graces of His Spirit. He permits us to encounter obstacles, persecution, and hardships, not as a curse, but as the greatest blessing of our lives.” MB, p. 117.

“These self-sufficient souls are not few, and they have lessons to learn by hard experience of discomfiture and defeat. Few have the grace to welcome such an

experience, and many backslide under the trial.” TM, p. 169.

In these fiery trials and persecutions something ugly and bad has died and something beautiful has been created. A noble character is not gained by chance, nor can it be inherited. It is gained by strict self-discipline, and by stern effort. When tears dim your eyes and your heartaches, and sorrows seem to be your lot, and death seems preferable to life,

then something beautiful is created. Peter writes, “Being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.” 1 Pet. 2:24

When we understand the only process there is to sanctification then we will say like Paul, “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” 2 Cor. 12:10

Dear friend,

If it is your sincere desire to be saved and one day be in heaven, then you must die to self and to the world, and God will help you accomplish it. Once you have experienced the death to sin and to the world, then the wonderful experience of new birth will take place and Christ will live in you and His character will be developed in you. Then you can love your enemies, and nothing will offend you anymore. Then your joy will be full and you will be rejoicing in the Lord every day. May this be the experience of every one of us. Amen.

Timo Martin, Canada

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WORKING TOGETHER



CHILDRENS CORNER

Many years ago there was a physician with a young family, who had bought a farm to raise his children on. Both he and his wife felt that nowhere could the children be trained to be diligent workers as thoroughly as a good farm.

The doctor had to borrow a lot of money to purchase the property, and as long as he had steady employment, the payments were faithfully made. Should he fail on a payment, the property would be returned to the original owner. In those days doctors did not make a lot of money like they do today. Although Mr. Mason had plenty of patients, the pay was small and it was not steady. He therefore used the farm to earn more money in order to make his mortgage payments. The children, even the youngest, were taught to labor for, and look forward eagerly to the time when the land would be completely paid off and the farm would be theirs.

The creditor was the doctor's father-in-law, through his first wife, was a good man when he lived. If they had difficulty making a payment and it was delayed, he didn't mind. He patiently waited for his money. For ten or fifteen years that they lived there, they had not missed one payment, though

now and then it was a little difficult to scrape the money together. Little by little the large debt was diminishing.

At this point in time the father-in-law died. He had only two children – daughters. The younger one, the doctor's wife also died, childless. The older daughter married a hard, scheming man who took over the business of his wife's father. He remarked to his wife that he would lose no opportunity of obtaining Mr. Mason's land since he had a large family with his second wife and would surely be late with a payment sooner or later.

After the war of 1812 in America, money was scarce and the payments were getting a little more difficult, but they were still being paid. At that time one of the crops the doctor grew was rye, which was not only used for food, but also when full-grown, but still with the milk inside, they used it for "braiding." The stalks were soaked in strong hot soap-suds, then were spread on the grass for the sun to whiten. When sufficiently bleached, and ready for use, they were cut at each joint, and the husk stripped off, and the straw thus prepared was then tied in bundles for sale. They were often used for trimmings on bonnets.

Boys and girls were alike taught to braid, and the long winter evenings were not spent in idleness. Mr. Mason raised large crops of rye and each child, almost as soon as he could walk, was taught to braid. At six years of age a dollar a week was easily earned; at eight, three dollars; and more for the older ones. The children saved their money to purchase their own clothing.

Does anyone think that such a life was cruel and hard? Never was there a greater mistake. It was of great value to those young spirits. They had something real, that they could understand, to labor for. There was life and courage and true heroism in it. It was an education that was worth more than all the money millionaires bequeath to their children; an education, which prepared them to be helpful and courageous as adults.

After some time, Dr. Mason seemed to become troubled. For several days he spoke very little. Everyone noticed it, but no one said anything. One evening when he came to supper looking so worried and despondent, his wife asked him if he was feeling sick.

"No, I am quite well in my health. But,



Lucy, I have so far been unable to collect money for this payment. So much is owed to me that I was sure I would have the money, but many are unable to pay me.”

“How much money are you lacking?”

“About a hundred dollars; but it may as well be thousands, since I have no way of getting it now. There is so much sickness this winter and I have no rest, but I have little time to collect any money. If I don’t have the money before midnight tomorrow, we are ruined. I have kept it from you as long as I have dared, still hoping that those who should pay me would do so.”

“Have you told them how very important it is that you should have the money?”

“No; I did not wish to speak of it. Mr. H. is watching greedily for a ‘slip,’ and we will not expect to have any mercy at his hands. Under our hard labour and good care, this farm has risen greatly in value – so much that he will not spare us even one hour, if he can get a hold of it. I am extremely discouraged about it. It is the darkest time we have seen yet. But I must be off, and will probably be kept out all night. To think that there are not forty-eight hours between us and ruin! And my hands are so tied by several severe cases, that I may not find one hour to make up that money that is needed.”

For a few minutes after the doctor left, the children stood silent and sad, watching their mother. At last she said, -

“Children, we can help father through this, and save our home, if you are willing to submit to some little self-denial. No; I should have said to great self-denial. Each of you has worked diligently to buy new garments for winter. You need them and deserve them, and I should be happy and proud to see you all neat and comfortable. But to help father, are you willing to let me try to clean, mend, or make over your old clothes, and use what you have earned to help brighten this dark day? The braid you have on hand, and what is now due at the store, is all your own, or to be spent for your own clothes, and if each one of you is not perfectly willing, I do not wish you to give it up.”

It was a beautiful sight to see those eager faces watching their mother, ready to

answer the moment she had finished. The children enthusiastically agreed to mother’s plan.

“Thanks dear children. Now, then, hasten. First bring me all your braid, and let us see how much it will come to.”

The braid, in ten-yard rolls, was brought, and its value estimated.

“With that which is now due us at the store, we have nearly sixty dollars! Well done, for all these little fingers! But now we must work to make up the remainder. Your father spoke of a quantity of straw, which, if cut would bring in something. He will be away all night. If you work well, we can cut many pounds before midnight.

By the time the candles were lighted, all was ready to begin.

The younger children were excused at their usual bedtime, but the others worked with mother until the tall clock in the corner struck one. Then all retired for a few hours’ rest.

Dr. Mason returned home in time for breakfast, and his wife asked if the eldest son could drive her over to the neighbouring town to dispose of some braid for the children. He replied that he must be gone again nearly all day, and neither son nor team could be spared from the important work at home. Mrs. Mason, who never allowed her plans or wishes to interfere with her husband’s, now repeated her request, and urged it until he yielded, apparently from sheer surprise that his wife could be so persistent.

The doctor went on his usual round, and the mother and her son departed on their mysterious errand. Their business accomplished, they returned well satisfied and ready for supper when the father arrived.

A deeper gloom was on his face when he entered; but no word was spoken until all were seated at the table. Then in a slightly agitated voice his wife inquired, “Have you been successful in obtaining the money?”

He shook his head, but remained silent. Each young quivering face was turned first towards him, then in earnest, questioning glance to the mother.

“Be not discouraged, dear, even at this late hour.”

“Are you in your right mind, Lucy? There are only six hours between us and ruin. Can you talk about hope now? I have none.”

With a warming gesture to the children, she rose, stepped to her husband’s chair, and passing her arm around her neck, said, gently, “Yet still hope on, my husband; God will not forsake us.”

He moved impatiently from under her arm; but as he did so, she dropped a roll of money onto his lap and went back to her chair.

“Lucy! Lucy! What is this? Where did you get it?”

All were wild with excitement. Each child laughing, sobbing, shouting, but one glance from that strong but gentle mother quelled the confusion, and she replied, -

“It is our children’s offering, and is enough to make the payment this month. I persisted in going away this morning against your wish, because I saw no escape. We cut the straw last night – many willing hands made quick work; I sold it, and their braid added to it, and that was enough.”

Those who witnessed that scene will never forget it; Dr. Mason with his arm around his wife, and both in tears, calling her happy names, the children clinging about their parents, so joyful that their home was saved, and they had helped to save it.

After this difficult hurdle, Dr. Mason was able to make the needed payments for the final two years and resolved never to borrow money again.

The family was saved because they worked together. The children sacrificed to help their parents. Children, today, should help their parents as they see a need. More importantly also, children can learn to make sacrifices to give money to Jesus. Jesus has promised never to leave us or to forsake us, and as we put our money in the bank of Heaven, Jesus will provide for us in our times of need.