

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

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This monthly religious journal is published for the benefit of the Church of God universally. It is our supreme purpose to reach the world for Christ through the printed page. Our burden is to reveal the truth of God's Word to all mankind, to expose sin and error, war against apostasy, and to eradicate the longstanding traditions of men that have no biblical foundations.

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

- A personal God (John 4:24)
- A divine Christ (John 1:1, 14)
- An infallibly inspired Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- Salvation from sin (Matt. 1:21)
- The new birth (John 3:3, 5-7)
- A holy life (Luke 1:73-75; Titus 2:12)
- Sanctification (1 Thess. 5:23)
- Unity of God's people (John 17:21; Eph. 4)
- Divine, physical healing (James 5:14-16)
- The ordinances (Matt. 28:19-20; John 13; 1 Cor. 11:23, 34)
- Eternal life (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43)
- The Trinity (1 John 5:7, 8)

**SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS
PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH**

- Jesus organized it (Matt. 16:18)
- On a good foundation (Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:11)
- Christ governs it (Eph. 1:22-23; Isa. 9:6)
- God admits members (1 Cor. 12:13-18)
- Sin puts you out of it (Rom. 11:22; Ex. 32:33)
- The saved only are members (John 15:2-6)
- Membership is offered to all (Rev. 22:17)
- Final rewards (Rev. 20:12-15; 21:3-4; 22:14)
- Bible name of the Church (Acts 20:28; Gal. 1:13; John. 17:11)

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CONTENTS

The New Jerusalem	3
Radio Log	6
The Battle	7
Especially for Young People	13
They Stood Upon Their Feet	14
The Standing Place of the Church	20

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Guest Editorial

The Gospel Day in Type

Part 2 of 2

Genesis 11:1-9 reads: "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. y. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make its a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."

In the last issue we began a study of this text and found that these literal occurrences serve as a type of the Gospel Day. In verse 1 we see a description of the morning time, a time of oneness: they were of "one language and one speech." This is a portrayal of the unity and harmony at the commencement of the Gospel

Day. In verse 2, the scene changes and we see a type of the morning-time apostasy. This verse states, "They journeyed front the East," signifying that they moved away from the light. As we begin to view our text in this issue, we see that apostasy gave rise to human invention, to men taking the initiative and raising human, man-made structures and substituting human materials for the Divine. Also, we see the development in type of man-made religion. Let us examine this text.

Our Scripture lesson says in verse 3, "They said one to another, [Notice there was no divine seeking of God; no prayer was employed. These were men who had not the Spirit. They were sensual (see Jude 19) and followed their natural, debased, human instincts. They communed with one another and came to a consensus between themselves.] Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone." I want you to notice what they said and that their foundation consisted not of what God made, but of a man-made substitution.

What is the stone? In Acts 4:10-11 Peter said, "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him cloth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone [Jesus Christ of Nazareth] which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner." Christ is the stone, and He is the only One who is to be the foundation for our lives and for the church.

In Matthew, Chapter 7, Jesus gave the illustration of two homes being built. He said in verse 25, "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not for it was founded upon a rock." Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10:4, ". . . and that Rock was Christ." Christ is the foundation that God ordained. First Corinthians 3:11 reads, "For

[continued on page 25]

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

The New Jerusalem



Brother Roger L. Decker

A New Heaven and a New Earth

The Old Testament revealed types and shadows of good things to come. What were the good things to come? Hebrews 9:11 says, "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building." Those things under the Law, in the Psalms, and spoken by the Prophets found their fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

We want to study the New Jerusalem, which is the Church of God. In the Old Testament, Jerusalem was God's dwelling place here on earth; the name means "founded by God." Literal Jerusalem

was twenty-five hundred feet above sea level. It was built on a mountain plateau, and it was surrounded by other mountains. It also had springs and valleys. It was a type of the Church of God, of which the saints are members.

There is no better place to study the New Jerusalem than Revelation, Chapter 21. Revelation 21:1-2 states: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. [The Revelation was written in symbolic language. This is a symbolic picture of the evening-time Church of God.] And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride

adorned for her husband."

Verses 9-10 read: "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God."

These Scriptures are not speaking of a literal city coming down from God out of Heaven. Verse 10 says that John was carried away in the Spirit so he could see it. If a literal city were coming down from God out of Heaven, he would

not have needed spiritual discernment to see it. This New Jerusalem came down from God out of Heaven, not from man. Its origin was with God. Any church that did not have its beginning with God is the wrong church. I am not talking about a church that came out of, up from, or broke off from. It started with God. Again, Revelation 21:2 reads, "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven [man was not even involved], prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Heaven is where the church began.

When John received a glimpse of this New Jerusalem coming down from God; it was not up or out. This is a perfect picture of the evening-time church. John saw a new heaven and a new earth. False religion had been exalted in men's lives, and people could not get a clear vision of the church through the dark and cloudy day. Therefore, false religion was reigning in the lives of men and women.

God again became exalted in the lives of men and women, and there was a new earth. Whenever God moves in, things begin to take place. All things become new, and one becomes a part of the New Jerusalem. He was not talking about the Heaven where God dwells. He was talking about where false religion had been exalted and reigning in men's lives. In other words, their earthen vessels could not die out to sin. When John saw this New Jerusalem, he saw a new heaven and a new earth, and he saw God again move in. This gives us a perfect picture of a visible Church of God.

The Birth of the Church

When did the New Jerusalem really come into being? Something took place on the Day of Pentecost that was different from any other time. A new nation was brought forth; that was the birth of the New Jerusalem. We read in Acts 2:1-2: "And when the day of Pentecost

was fully come [Pentecost was a day, not a church; no Pentecostal Church is mentioned in the Bible], they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind [denoting the power of the Holy Spirit], and it filled all the house where they were sitting." They were not tarrying around an altar saying, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus." The Bible says they were sitting in a house. This was the birth of the church, the New Jerusalem. Isaiah 66:5-10 says: "Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompense to his enemies. Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child [this simply means new converts; the church did not give birth to Christ, for He purchased the church]. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her."

We read in Isaiah 66:15-24: "For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh [speaking of His Spirit and the Truth]: and the slain of the LORD shall be many. They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the

abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.

"For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory. And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles. And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.

"And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD. For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh."

Isaiah said that worship would not be only one day a week, but every day. On the Day of Pentecost, there were some new Jews. Had it not been different, the people would not have taken notice and become excited. Acts 2:12-16 reads: "And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this [had they remained the old Jerusalem, they would not have amazed anyone, but those onlookers were amazed]? Others mocking said, These men are full of

new wine. But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." Here we have the birth of the church, the New Jerusalem.

New Testament Salvation

The disciples were not born again until the Day of Pentecost. In other words, they did not have New Testament salvation until then. New Testament salvation was not opened up to all flesh until the Day of Pentecost. John 7:37-39 says: "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" There had to be the Cross and the Ascension before the Holy Spirit was given.

The Spirit of God was not given to cleanse one from sin, but rather to keep one from sin. The Holy Spirit is actually God living within you. The three distinct personages of the Godhead are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. The Spirit of God is, God living within you. Jesus purchased the church with His blood. When you repent and believe in the blood of Jesus Christ, that is when you receive forgiveness of sin. The Spirit of God dwelled among the disciples before Pentecost in the personage of Jesus Christ.

The New Jerusalem was intact until the Day of Pentecost. There was groundwork for it. There were people who were clean. The disciples were clean through the Word that He spoke to them. In

John 14:17 Jesus said, "Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Who? Jesus Christ.

On the Day of Pentecost, the New Jerusalem came into existence. That which was literal became that which is spiritual. I repeat, the New Jerusalem came down from above. That is the reason men and women must be born from above; it has to start with God. Salvation came down out of Heaven from God. Man cannot save you or redeem you. To get old-time salvation, it takes the Spirit of God coming down from God out of Heaven to your soul.

What makes it a new heaven? Where Jesus is, it is heaven. What makes it a new earth? He makes all things new. When the Spirit of God comes in, you become a new Jew. You go from being an unbeliever to being a believer. The Church of God is made up of God-fearing Christians who will not compromise; they will not recant or bow down to that which is wrong. They will not disobey their Heavenly Father. Revelation 12:11 says that "they loved not their lives unto the death." The Church of God and the New Jerusalem are the same. When John talked about the New Jerusalem, he was talking about the people of God, the new Jews. The saints of God are the new Jews, not literally but spiritually.

All Things Become New

Let us look at the contrast between the old and the new. Revelation 21:5 says, "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new." Christian friend, do you remember when you first got saved? Perhaps you thought, "How am I ever going to get out of this mess and lay down that bad habit?"

Look at Revelation 21:5 again: "And he that sat upon the throne

said, Behold, I make all things new [in other words, he was saying, 'I am going to give you a new heart and the mind of Christ']. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."

Second Corinthians 5:17 tells you, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." The Scripture says that the New Jerusalem is holy. We read in Revelation 21:2, "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven [that which comes down from God out of Heaven is holy], prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

Concerning the church, Ephesians 5:25-27 says: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it [that is quite a strong love]; That he might sanctify [set it apart] and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

Jesus, speaking of those who believe on His name, said in John 17:22, "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one." The Bible also says that this New Jerusalem has great light to light up that city. Revelation 21:11 says this about the New Jerusalem: "Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." Peter said in 1 Peter 2:9, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." Saint, the Lord called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

"The Church of the Firstborn"

Only the saved can enter this New Jerusalem. John wrote in

Revelation 21:24, "And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it." You cannot join the Church of God; you have to be born into her. We do not have a secretary take your name when you come to an altar of prayer. You cannot join the church as people join man-made religions. When you are saved, you are born into the church. If you commit sin, you are out of the church. If we tried to keep a record, we would get all messed up. We would have some people in the church who should not be, and we would have others out of the church who should be in.

John 10:9 says, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." Jesus Christ is the Door of the church. Any other door does not enter the church. When a man can put you in, then a man can put you out. If a man can take you in without your being saved, you

are in a false church. There is only one true church. The Church of God does not have any brothers or sisters; she is one body, one church. Some people are going from one hill to another when they need to come back to Mount Zion, the Church of the Living God. You should not be moved about by every wind of doctrine, or by every little breeze that blows. You need, to be settled, firm, rooted, and grounded in your convictions. God's doctrine will fall as rain, and if you are not really hooked in, you will fall.

I want to emphasize, there is no difference between the New Jerusalem and the church. Hebrews 12:22-23 states: "But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect." The New Jerusalem is the

church. God has only one church, and you do not have to be confused concerning which one it is. The church is the one that has the Word of God for a foundation and teaches the Word of God in its fullness. God will not make room for sin. We invite sinners to come into the congregation, because you have to have sinners to make saints, but God will not tolerate sin of any kind in the Church of God.

Many places have the name Church of God over their doors, but they are not a part of the true church. You need to stick with the church that has been proven, tested, and tried and is still preaching the Truth. If you want to make Heaven your home, you need to stay with that which is right. If you remain with that which is right, you will not seek that which is wrong. The New Jerusalem is the Church of God. Are you a member of the blood-bought church?

(Cassette-4251M)

Radio Log



LOCATION	STATION	DAY	TIME
Newark, Ohio	WCLT-AM 1430	Sunday	7:15 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
Anderson, Indiana	WQME-FM 98.7	Sunday	8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.
Gaffney, South Carolina	WAGI-FM 105.3	Monday	8:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

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Revelation 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great

red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

The Battle



Brother Daniel Webster

A Spiritual Warfare

Our Scripture text portrays a woman standing ready to give birth to a child and a beast ready to devour that child as soon as it was born. Revelation 20:7-9 shows a picture of warfare: "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."

Today the church is in a warfare. The Bible lets us know that we are not in a physical warfare, but a spiritual warfare, and we are to be involved in it for the rest of our days.

Revelation 12:13-17 tells us: "And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped

the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

These are also Scriptures that portray a battle. Those who hold the testimony of Jesus Christ and keep His commandments are the only ones in this warfare. Merely being religious will not put you in, but you must be born again of the Spirit of God and let that Spirit rule your life daily. I am glad that we have a Helper, One who is here to help us. Jesus said in Matthew 11:12, "And from the days of John the Baptist

until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Often we talk about the weapons of our warfare and about the things we need to fight the battle, but we also need to know who the enemy is. Paul wrote in one place that we are not ignorant of Satan's devices. We do not want to be ignorant of the things the enemy is trying to work. Being unaware of his devices will easily bring defeat. I am glad that we can know exactly who our enemies are and know how to overcome them. Our victory is only through the power of God. We cannot do it ourselves. Jesus has promised that we can have victory.

Fight the Good Fight of Faith

In Matthew 10:34 Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." Everywhere Jesus went in the midst of His ministry, people were opposing Him, even though He was healing bodies, opening blinded eyes, and bringing the Gospel of peace to the world. In the midst of that, a warfare was going on in His presence. People were ready to kill Him, and eventually they did nail Him to the Cross for His stand for God and His Word.

Jesus let His followers know that if people hated Him, they would hate them also. We need to be aware that the enemy is here to bring opposition to us, and it is not going to cease until we leave this world. Nevertheless, God's grace is sufficient. When you compare the alternative of not fighting the battle, that is an awful thought. If you do not fight the good fight of faith, you are going to be lost forever. On the other hand, you can fight and be guaranteed to win. God promised that He would fight for you. All you have to do is put forth the effort and show Him that you want to fight the good fight of faith, and He will give you the power to overcome every foe. That is the only way to

make it through.

When you enter the Kingdom of Peace, you obtain peace, but at the same time you enter a warfare. In the old days, the inhabitants of kingdoms sometimes had to battle enemies to defend their kingdoms. It is no different spiritually. When we enter the Kingdom of God, we enter a battle zone to defend the Church of the Living God. A paradox is "a statement that seems contrary to common sense, and yet is perhaps true." It is like something bittersweet. In a sense, the Kingdom of God is bittersweet. John wrote in Revelation 10:10, "And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter." Nevertheless, John took it.

When we enter the Kingdom of God, we enter a spiritual warfare, but it is a battle that we each can win. You can be victorious; the only other option is to be a loser. To be a winner, you must fight the good fight of faith. We each should want the same testimony that Paul had when the time came for him to leave this world. He said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

Jesus said in John 15:18, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." This warfare that we are in, as recorded in 2 Corinthians, Chapter 10, is not a physical warfare, where you fight against people. It is a warfare that starts in the mind with the soul of man.

Pulling Down Strongholds and Casting Down Imaginations

The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the

knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." Our battle is in the mind, for the most part. All our temptations start with what we think on and what we look upon.

Paul said the weapons of our warfare are mighty through God, to the pulling down of strongholds, or those things that are strong in your life that the devil tells you, "You will never be able to give that up. You might as well forget it." Thank God, you can pull down those strongholds.

The great walls of Jericho seemed impassable. They seemed as though they would never fall, especially when people were just walking around the walls; but God said, "They are coming down," and they did. Every stronghold in your life can be pulled down by the grace and power of God if you are obedient to the things that God shows you.

God says things, but when your own human reasoning says, "Well, I just can't believe it will work that way," then your thoughts are trying to rise above God's thoughts. That is foolishness. God said, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways" (Isaiah 55:8).

Paul mentioned "Casting down imaginations." People can imagine just about anything. They can scare themselves to death through imaginations. For example, you can sit alone in a quiet house and imagine sounds. You may imagine that someone is outside your window looking at you or you may imagine that someone is running through your yard, when, in reality, no one is there.

Spiritually, you can also imagine things that can defeat you. Therefore, you need to cast down those imaginations. When God gives you a commandment, you may think, "Well, that is just not necessary," as Eve did. You may imagine, "I am smarter than that. I can get by with that." However, that is a foolish imagination. Such

reasoning will get you in trouble. You need to listen to the Word of God and be obedient.

Bringing Every Thought Into Captivity

God has been good enough to give most of us minds able to reason. (Now, unfortunately, a few cannot do that, but God considers that.) That ability to reason can be for your betterment or your downfall, because you can easily reason away the commandments of God, and then you will be disobedient, just as King Saul was.

The Bible lets us know that Samuel told King Saul to go out and destroy all the Amalekites and not to spare any of them. What did he do? He reasoned, "Well, I will just bring back the best and offer them to God as sacrifices." Because of his reasoning, he disobeyed God, and his disobedience cost him the kingdom. You need to guard against that kind of reasoning. That is part of this warfare. You are going to battle that every day.

God's Word says, "Thus and thus," and immediately the mind wants to come up with a reason that you do not have to do it. Most people like to find the easiest way to do things. That is the reason people have invented all kinds of conveniences; however, you must be careful that wanting an easier way does not carry over into spiritual things. God does not have an easy road. He has a way laid out that is simply, "Thus saith the Lord." You must obey or you will leave the highway of holiness.

The thought may come to your mind, "Well, surely I can get around this. I can bypass this commandment and still get by." No, you cannot do that. You must be obedient and cast down evil imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bring all those thoughts into captivity. That is the difficult part. You see, our minds like to wander, but we need

to bring our thoughts into captivity and refuse to think on things that God does not want us to think upon. You may find yourself daydreaming about all kinds of evil if you do not bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

Being saved does not mean that evil thoughts cannot enter your mind. That is where all temptations originate. To illustrate, you cannot control birds that may fly over your head, but surely you can keep them from building a nest in your hair. Similarly, when it comes to your thought life, you can say, "That is a thought that I do not want to dwell on," and then ask God to help you. He will help you, but there is going to be a warfare. The thought might not leave right away. You might have to pray more than once, and you might have to fast to get rid of some thoughts from which God wants you to be free.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians in Ephesians 6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." We are not fighting human beings in the sense that we fire a gun at them or use a sword or use our tongues against them. That is not the way the Christian fights this war. Paul wrote that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood. This war or conflict that we are fighting is one principality that we must wrestle against.

Adhering to Biblical Principles

There are things in the Scriptures that are not written in black and white. You cannot read in the Bible, "Thou shalt not smoke tobacco." Nevertheless, there are principles of holiness, and we must cleanse ourselves from things that we ought not to be doing. When you start taking hold of principles, the enemy will say, "But the Bible does not say that." No, but the principle is there.

Some people will fuss with you if you start telling them about holy living and how God wants us to live, especially when you explain that some things are evil and that we should not partake of them. Some people say, "Well, I don't see that written in the Word anywhere." No, but it is a Biblical principle. You are going to have a battle if you stick to Biblical principles, because the enemy does not want you to do that.

Some people make excuses and say, "Well, if I don't read it in the Bible in black and white, then I don't have to be obedient to it." Friend, that is not the way God's Word works. God's Word lays out an outline. The Bible clearly tells us that there would not be enough space in this world to record all the volumes of deeds that Jesus did while He lived here for thirty-three years. How can God's Word contain all His thoughts? The Bible says to hear what the Spirit has to say. The reason He put that in the Word was that He knew there is no way one could put into writing every single thing that needed to be said to each individual down through the ages of time.

Now, there are Biblical principles and then there are personal convictions. Nevertheless, the one who has those convictions is very much obligated to those particular things. God is a personal God. That is the reason the enemy wants to discourage you. He will tell you that you cannot fight this fight, and in yourself you cannot. Nevertheless, God is there, and He has promised to be with you. He will give you the strength to carry out the things that He would have you to do.

Two Princes and Two Kingdoms

Again, we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities. A *principality* is "the position or the territory or the jurisdiction of a prince." Two princes are mentioned in the Bible: the Prince of Life and the prince of

darkness, and these two princes and their principalities are in constant warfare against each other. The Bible lets us know that the prince of darkness is Satan. Matthew 9:34 states, "But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils." The Pharisees were accusing Jesus of casting out devils through the prince of devils. Well, the prince of devils is the devil himself, and he has all kinds of spirits, and he uses those spirits in his kingdom, or principality. That principality is one thing that we fight against daily through people yielding themselves to those spirits and doing whatever those spirits would have them to do.

The prince of darkness is also referred to in John 12:31-32, where Jesus said: "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." The judgment of this world is here, because God has cast down the prince of darkness. The prince of this world no longer has the authority he once had. The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 5:8 that he goes around seeking whom he may devour.

There was a time in Job's day when the prince of darkness went around and did what he pleased, yet God still had a hedge around His people. Nevertheless, Satan seeks whom he may devour. If you enter the Kingdom of God, the devil has to ask permission to bother you. He cannot just bother you any time he chooses. On the other hand, when you are not saved, you do not have any control over that. The Bible tells us in Ephesians, Chapter 2, that the condition we were in before salvation was one where the prince of darkness ruled our lives every day we lived.

Paul said in Ephesians 2:1-3: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now

worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

Before we were saved, we deserved the wrath that we were getting because we were children of disobedience. When you have a disobedient child, he deserves the wrath that you put upon him. So it is when you are not saved. You are subject to the prince of the power of the air, and he rules your life, to do with you as he pleases, not as you please.

The Two Yokes

Often we sing a song that says, "His yoke is easy, His burden is light." You have one of two yokes that you must put on. You are always going to be yoked: you can be yoked either with Jesus (and He takes most of the load) or with the prince of the power of darkness (and he will let you carry all the load). He wants to get you in trouble, and then he will stand back and laugh. The difference between these two yokes is that when you are under Satan's yoke of bondage, he will not let you loose whenever you feel like leaving. Jesus is a kind Master, and you have the liberty to leave; however, you will suffer the consequences for that. When you are under Satan's yoke, you must cry out to God and ask Him for help, because He is the only One who can break that yoke of bondage. The stronger than the strong man has to set you free. Thank God, then you can take on the yoke of Jesus and sing, "His yoke is easy, His burden is light."

Before I was saved, I was in great bondage, saying, "I will never do that again," only to do it again. I hated myself for the things that I was involved in, hoping and praying that I would never get caught. That was an awful way to live. Thank God, when Jesus moves

in, you do not have to worry about getting caught, because there is nothing to get caught for when you are walking with Jesus. His yoke is different. The prince of darkness will destroy your soul.

You cannot see the kingdom of darkness in the sense that it has physical boundaries, but the power of Satan rules the lives of those who do not have the power of God. You may say, "Well, I am a pretty good person. I don't swear or tell lies, and I treat my neighbor right. I just don't have Jesus." Nevertheless, you are in the principality of darkness, because you are either in light or in darkness.

Just being a good person will not get you to Heaven. You need the Kingdom of Christ in you to make Heaven your home. You cannot sit by idly and expect to go to Heaven. God does not promote laziness, but He promotes working in the Kingdom of God and doing that which is right.

John wrote in Revelation 1:5 that Jesus is referred to as the prince of life: "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood." He is the prince of the kings of the earth, and He has made us kings and priests unto God; He is our leader. Isn't that wonderful? Thank God, we have a kingdom of kings and priests, and we can be part of that by the grace and wonderful power of God.

Friend, you do not have to dwell in darkness. You can be saved. Do not let Satan tell you, "There is no way that you can be saved. The strongholds are too strong. You can't break loose." In your own self you cannot, but God has more power than you could ever dream of. He can do that which you are unable to imagine.

Before being saved, I had visions of being a grandfather, still smoking reefers, rocking my grandchildren on my knee, because I knew I could not let loose of that habit. However,

on February 10, 1980, something so wonderful happened that changed my life completely, and I have never had the desire to go back to those ways since then. Now, that does not mean that I have not been tempted. Soon after I was saved my former friends offered me drugs. It seemed that as soon as I started witnessing to people that I was saved, suddenly they wanted to supply me with free drugs. Thank God, I would still rather have Jesus! They shook their heads at me. Some of them even bet that I would only last about six weeks. By the grace and wonderful power of God, I am a living testimony that God can take a person out of bondage and keep him out. Nevertheless, you will have battles to fight.

I had things to lay aside after I was converted. I was also bound by cigarettes, and that was a battle. Thank God, through prayer, He delivered me from that habit. You can refuse to yield to that temptation by the grace and power of God. The Lord helped me to break free of that habit, and now I cannot even stand the smell of them. When I first got saved, I will not kid you, resisting them was hard, but God helped me. I could have walked across the street to buy them, but instead of doing that, I dropped to my knees and prayed, and God gave me the power over them. Just because you get victory over one thing does not mean that is the end of the battle. Often Satan changes battlefields and starts over, but thank God, through the grace and power of God, you can be victorious!

The Greatest Battle Today

What is one of the greatest battles that God's people face today? You can read about it in Revelation 3:14-22, where Jesus said: "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I

know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

The greatest battle that we are fighting today is lukewarmness. This battle has become the most intense battle that we have ever faced. Lukewarmness will cause you to become idle, not really being in sin but not really on fire for God, just drifting along. Unfortunately, that will always take you down.

Jesus would rather that you were an out-and-out sinner or on fire for God than to be lukewarm. Many churchgoers do not claim to be out in the world doing the evil things the world does, but where is their testimony? where is their praise for God? where is the Spirit of God in their lives?

Friend, if you are lukewarm, the Bible lets you know that you need to repent of that, because in that condition, you are useless to God. He wants people whom He can use. If you do not claim to have Jesus in your life, He can help you. On the other hand, when a person is lukewarm, he feels, "I'm all right.

Don't bother me with what God says. I've read the Bible through once or twice, so I know what it says."

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 6:3-5: "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; [Many people claim to have Truth, but Truth will teach you godliness. When you live godly, you cannot live worldly. You are either worldly or godly.] He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."

The Irony of Deception

Things you have gained in this life have nothing to do with your spirituality. All good things come from God, but having wealth does not make you saved. You must go deeper than that. You need to make sure that you are hearing what the Spirit says to you. Too many people have the attitude, "I am in need of nothing. You can't teach me anymore; I have learned it all." Well, when people get that attitude, they are almost beyond help. James said that if you hear the Word but will not do what it says, you will become deceived. He wrote in James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Friend, do not be just a hearer of the Word of God. You ought to do what it tells you to do. In being only a hearer, you will deceive yourself. The irony of deception is that you do not realize that you are deceived; that is the saddest part of deception. Jesus said, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not [you are deceived] that thou art wretched, and miserable,

and poor, and blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17). These are descriptions of a lost soul.

Jesus was saying, "You claim to be God's, yet your actions show the world, 'I don't need anything. I don't have time to go to church all the time, only when it's convenient.'" Such a person is in a position of being deceived. That is an awful condition to be in.

God has a church on fire for Him. Are you lukewarm? If you are willing to repent of that condition, it is not hopeless. If it were, Christ would have abandoned the Laodicean church altogether, but He did not. He said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). If you are willing to hear His voice and open the door, God is willing to move in. Jesus wants to move in and enjoy supping with you and feeding your soul. He said in verse 21, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

The world starts to look good to those who are lukewarm. They just keep drifting closer to the world. Lukewarmness is not something that you can shake off in a quick blink of an eye and say, "Okay, I am done with it." It will constantly work on you, and it is something you have to constantly be reminded of. Beware of the spirit of lukewarmness. It will defeat those who fail to guard against it. It is going to put them in a place where they will become idle, and eventually they will no longer have spiritual life. In this spiritual walk, you must either fight the good fight of faith or give up, only to wake up in hell as the rich man did. You need to remember that this world is not your permanent home.

Seek God With All Your Heart

Your faith is going to be tested daily, and sometimes hourly. God is real, and Satan knows He is real. Satan is going to do everything he

can to cause you not to believe that. Nevertheless, God can help you. He will not leave you alone. We read in Revelation 12:14, "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." God will lift you up and protect you. He will place you in the hollow of His hand. God gave the woman wings to fly above things. Verse 16 says, "And the earth helped the woman." God was there to help this woman, and He is going to do everything He can to help you. God is not a respecter of persons. He will help whoever desires help.

Sinner friend, when the enemy tells you, "You can't get saved and live a holy life," God will be there to help you. Surely in your own strength you cannot, but all things are possible with God.

Hebrews 13:5 says, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." God has promised that He will never leave you or forsake you. He said He would be with you always. Haggai 1:13 tells us, "Then spake Haggai the LORD's messenger in the LORD's message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD." You need to be encouraged. If you want to live for God, He will be with you always. Haggai 2:4 says, "Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts." If you want to work for God, He has promised to be there to help you.

Jesus told His disciples, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:20). God has promised to be with you. He wants to encourage you to fight the good fight of faith, to overcome lukewarmness that presses in on

you daily, and to keep the victory. If you want to live for God, Jesus is saying, "I am with you; do not give up."

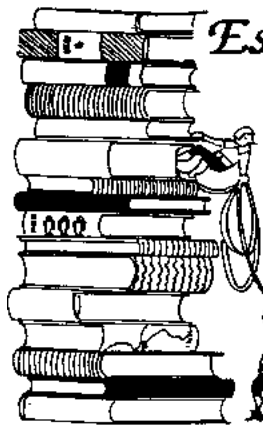
God wants you to take the first step to live for Him. He will give you the wings of eagles to fly above the troubles of life. God can help you to overcome all that comes your way.

We read in John 13:33-35: "Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Jesus said, "I am going away," but in another place He said, "I will send a Comforter to be with you."

Christian friend, if you want the world to recognize who God's people really are, then you need the love of God working in you day after day. The enemy knows that it is through God's love that the world can see that we are His disciples. Therefore, we need to have love for one another. The love of God will not be there when a lukewarm spirit is in you.

If you have found yourself coming short of the power of God in your life and the world looks more attractive to you than it used to, that should serve as a warning to you that you are hungering for something that you lack. You need to seek God with all your heart. Do not let Satan convince you that you can lose this battle and get along. You need to fight the good fight of faith. If you are lost, if you will obey the Lord, He can save your soul. Christian friend, if you have found yourself drifting, God can bring you back on course. He can rekindle that fire. He is not willing that anyone should perish. The Lord wants you to be saved and on fire for Him. If you will listen to God, He will do that for you.

(Cassette C-4349)



Especially for Young People

One Soul For Every Year Lived



The doctor of a small southern town stands as the community's lone symbol of defense against disease and death. He sees patients all day, often works all night, and has built a small hospital, the only one for miles around. Yet he tries to live like normal people. He has two paramount rules: first, the doctor is home for dinner in the evening (rarely at breakfast, never at noon); and second, he does not bring the hospital home with him. He comes home to be husband and father.

At the dinner table one evening, the doctor was unusually quiet; his face wore an unfamiliar frown and strain of anxiety. His wife said, "Come on, dear, let's get it out in the open."

"No, no; this is professional. I don't want to worry you with it. I'm just concerned about a boy."

"Well, what about him? Can I help?"

"No, I'm afraid not. He's going to die and no one can help, but if I ever wanted to save a boy, I want to save this boy. His name is David. But I got him too late. I usually stop in his room to talk to him each morning, and this morning he caught me off guard. He said to me, 'Say, Doc, would you change places with me if you could?'"

"No," I said quickly without thinking, and then tried to cover it up. 'David, how old are you?'"

"Eleven."

"Well, David, I'm sixty-six, and if I had to go back and be eleven all

over again, I don't think I could stand it. Youth is beautiful, but a little trying on us older folks.'

"David smiled and said, 'That's okay, Doc, but you're not fooling me. I know I'm not going to get well, but I'll tell you something—I wouldn't trade places with you either.' That surprised me, and he went on to explain, 'Doc, I'm eleven years old, and I've got eleven souls to bring to Jesus, one for every year I've lived, and I'll bet you haven't got that.'

"So I sat down beside him, and he told me all about it. He said, 'Doc, nobody at our house was a Christian, but we got to listening to a Gospel radio broadcast and liked it. I was the first one saved in our house. Then I got my mother, then my brother, my dad, my sister, and some of the kids in the neighborhood. Well, when I came to the hospital, I had ten souls that I'd won for Jesus. So, I said, "Now, Lord, You know I probably won't get out of this place and I've got ten souls, but I'd like one more so that it could be eleven—one soul for every year I've lived." And Doc, last night, I got the night nurse—so that makes eleven.

One soul for every year. That's why I wouldn't trade places with you—guess you'd have to go some to make it one soul for every year you've lived."

The shrill, insistent bell of the telephone cut across the quiet. The doctor arose, saying, "I'll get it; it might be about David." He returned to the table slowly, his head bowed, but after seating himself, suddenly sat erect. "Well, David is gone, but what a reward for a little boy. One soul for every year! I wish I could say that."

The next Sunday was the doctor's birthday, and his wife noticed that when the offering plate in church was passed, the doctor gave an unusually large roll of bills. On the way home his wife inquired, "I'm not at all disapproving dear, just curious. How much was in that roll of bills?"

"Sixty-six dollars," said the doctor tenderly, "a dollar for every year, but what a shallow kind of substitute for David's gift—a soul for every year. Surely, I wish I could say that."

Selected

***Since Christ is the way,
why waste time traveling
some other way?***

Revelation 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

3 And they sing as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that

made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of jests.

13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

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.

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

Revelation 11:11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

THEY STOOD UPON THEIR FEET



Brother E. David Stegmeier

The Two Witnesses

In the last verse of our Scripture text, in using the word they, the

writer was referring to the antecedents: the Word and the Spirit. No matter how ornate a church building is, it is not the

temple of God. The people of God are the temple of God. Paul preached this message on Mars Hill, and the essence of his message is

found in Acts 17:24, which states, "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands." God does not dwell in a literal building. When God's people bring Him to the church building, the Spirit of God can be felt in a very wonderful way. The temple of God is made up of those who are redeemed, or born-again.

If you are a saint, you are the temple of God. Paul said to the saints of God in Corinth, "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (2 Corinthians 6:16). To determine whether you are truly the temple of God, as Revelation, Chapter 11, says, the Word and the Spirit (which are the two witnesses) must stand up and testify. They must witness; they tell you the truth. We measure the temple by the Word. Isaiah 11:4 says, "... with the rod of his mouth."

You must worship God in Spirit and in Truth. You cannot be wrangling and jangling at home and still be a child of God. You must live right at home and at work. Also, you have to be very sensitive to the Holy Spirit. You must be careful of what you say, of how you act, and of your attitudes, in your daily life so that you can take the Spirit with you to the church services. If you take Him with you, you can worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. To truly worship God, you must have the Truth and the Spirit; you cannot have the Truth without the Spirit. Some people have the Spirit, but they do not have the Truth that God wants them to have. God wants you to have both.

Each of us needs to pray much and seek God before we go to the worship services so that we can have something to offer. It makes the services good when we each

have something to contribute in the Spirit. We must sing in the Spirit, testify in the Spirit, pray in the Spirit, and worship in the Spirit. Jesus said in John 4:23, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth."

Revelation, Chapter 11, speaks of the two witnesses. Some people in the religious world say that the two witnesses are Moses and Elijah, but that is not true. The two witnesses are the Word and the Spirit. We do not have to go outside the Bible to understand the Word of God. If we had to have other books, the Bible would tell us. If we have only the Word and the Spirit, we do not have to be led into error. We can stay in the Truth and be led to that which is right. All we need are the two witnesses: the Word and the Spirit.

The Holy Ghost Is a Witness to Us

Awhile back, a religious man in our community brought his children to my house for music lessons. While my wife was teaching the children, I took him out in the backyard, and we sat down at the picnic table and talked for along time about the Word. I said, "Brother, if you and I were on an isolated island someplace and all we had was the Word and the Spirit, we could be led in the Truth; but there are too many books, too many philosophies, and too many articles that men have written that confuse people. If we went only by the two witnesses, we both would teach the Church of God, because that is all that is mentioned in the Bible. We both would teach a sinless life, because that is what is taught in the Bible. People are confused because of man's own ideas, dogmas, and teachings."

Biblically speaking, the two witnesses are the Word and the Spirit. Paul wrote in Romans 8:16, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." God's Spirit is what bears witness with our spirit,

telling us that we are the children of God. Paul told the Hebrew church, "Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us" (Hebrews 10:15). Jesus said in Matthew 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

In Zechariah, Chapter 4, Zechariah gave a prophetic picture of the church and the two witnesses. He spoke of the candlestick and the two olive trees, the two anointed ones, that pour themselves into the candlestick. Revelation, Chapter 1, tells us that the candlestick is the church. We are the light of the world. God wants us to stand up and let our light shine before men. Church of God, we have the light. I am not speaking arrogantly, but God has given His church the ultimate light. The light is Jesus. Let us stand up for Him. One song says, "Stand up for Jesus." It is time for people to take a bold and firm stand for what is right. I believe in taking a firm stand and letting it be known where you stand.

The Bible says the two witnesses stood upon their feet. The two witnesses will make known to us the will of God. God reveals His will through the Word and the Spirit. Jesus said in John 5:39, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

Those Who Live Hypocritical Lives

We read in Revelation 11:10, "And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth." Wherever the Word of God is preached and accompanied by the Holy Spirit, torment is felt by those who are hypocritical. Why does the child of God feel comfortable? Because he is living according to the Word of God, and the Spirit within him testifies to the Word and the

Truth. Something within him says, "Amen. Praise the Lord!" John wrote, "And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them. . . ." The religious world is rejoicing in their dogmas, their creeds, and their ideas rather than in the Word of God. Verse 10 says they shall make merry and send gifts to one another. This is speaking of people who live after the flesh rather than according to the Word of God. Many ministers today are not gifted by God. Men have endorsed them rather than God. One must get his credentials from God. He still gives His gifts, and He still calls His ministers.

Torment is inflicted upon those who live hypocritical lives. We find in Matthew 15:7-9 that Jesus said: "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Our world is full of that: teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. The Psalmist spoke of the miserable condition of people who sit around the Truth but never measure up. Psalm 1:5 says, "Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous."

In Isaiah 28:17 Isaiah wrote of a deplorable condition: "Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies [the Truth sweeps away lies], and the waters shall overflow the hiding place." If you stay around the Church of God, the Truth will uncover your hiding place. If you are not living right, it will make you very uncomfortable and very miserable.

Isaiah went on to say in verse 20, "For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it." I don't know about you, but I like a comfortable

bed and covers to cover my feet. I cannot sleep when my feet are uncovered. Sinner friend, if you are where the Truth is being preached, you cannot cover yourself and get comfortable. You must either measure up or measure out.

Killing the Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:7 says, "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit [speaking of the Protestant beast] shall make war against them." False religion is making war against the Spirit and the Word of God. They fight against the Word and the Spirit. Sometimes that comes right around the realms of the church. If we would take this chapter apart, we would see that it speaks of how Roman Catholicism trod the Word under foot. When the Protestant beast came along and made war against the Word and the Spirit, they fought against it and overcame it. However, that condition left the people spiritually dead.

How can people kill the two witnesses? When they set up their own ideas, dogmas, creeds, and doctrines of men, the Word of God loses its effectiveness. Today people have so much human reasoning and many ideas that war against the two witnesses.

Again, Revelation 11:11 states, "And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them." In other words, after three and one-half centuries, or three hundred fifty years (the time from A.D. 1530 when the Truth began to be preached by Martin Luther until A.D. 1880) the Word and the Spirit stood up, and they are still standing. Whenever the Word of God and the Spirit of God are standing, it means they are reigning supremely. Wherever there is a real Church of God congregation, the Word and the Spirit reign

supremely. God's people honor the Word and the Spirit. The two witnesses are highest in rank and authority, and they exercise power that cannot be exceeded or overruled. You cannot exceed the power of the Word and the Spirit. Exalting the Word and the Spirit to their rightful places in the church is allowing them to stand up. People put the Word and the Spirit in their rightful places when they accept the leadership and the instruction of the Word and the Spirit. When the Holy Spirit speaks, they are quiet.

Isaiah gave a picture of a condition that exists in a society that casts away the law of the Lord. In Isaiah 5:24 he spoke of a people who had cast away the law of the Lord and despised the Word of the Holy One. In verse 20 Isaiah wrote that they call evil good and good evil. We have that condition in our society today. That which is evil, people call good; and that which is good, they call evil. Family values, traditional values, and values built upon the Word of God are evil to the world.

The Bible says in Jeremiah 6:16 to ask for the old paths, for therein is the good way. The rest of Isaiah 5:20 says they put darkness for light and light for darkness. Most of the world believes that everyone sins more or less every day. That is putting darkness for light. Sin brings darkness. The truth is, you can live without sin. When men teach this false doctrine, they put darkness for light. They are wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight. We need God's wisdom. We must look beyond self, or beyond human understanding, and look to God. He is our wisdom, our understanding, and our knowledge; He is our everything.

Isaiah, Chapter 5, says they justify the wicked for reward, and that is exactly what is going on today. The religious world justifies the wicked for reward. They tell people, "You are all right. Just give me a little money." They will take a bribe. That is their support. Verse 23

also says they "take away the righteousness of the righteous from him." Today man has replaced the Word and the Spirit (the two witnesses) as the true leaders and instructors of the Church of God. Man has usurped the authority of the Word and the Spirit. The Word and the Spirit must have ultimate control and authority in the Church of God. Too many have taken things into their own hands and forgotten that God is still in control.

We sing a song that says, "God is still on the throne." God is still on the throne, but our society is in a mess because the Word and the Spirit are not allowed to stand up and witness or speak as they ought. In the early morning time, they could do all these things, but it was not long until men trod them under their feet. Then the two witnesses began to mourn and go around in sackcloth. In many places the Holy Spirit is grieved.

"Grieve Not the Holy Spirit of God"

The Bible uses the dove to illustrate the nature of the Holy Spirit. I read an article once of a man who decided to test that theory. He trained two doves to fly up to his window. After quite a while, he coaxed them to eat out of his hand. One day as they were coming up to his window, he closed his hand and they fluttered away. It took him a long time to coax them back, but when he closed his hand the second time, they never came back. The Bible says, "Grieve not the Holy Spirit." Ugly attitudes, unforgiveness, jealousy, bickering, talking against someone, criticizing, backbiting, and faultfinding grieve the Holy Spirit. If you are not careful of how you speak to your husband or wife, you can grieve the Holy Spirit. Giving someone an ill look can grieve the Holy Spirit.

Let us read Ephesians 4:30-32: "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all

bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, [Sadly, sometimes clamor is going on among those who profess to be Christians. Why is there a deadness and a dark countenance in the hearts and lives of professing Christians? Often it is because of clamor, which grieves the Holy Spirit. I do not want to grieve the Holy Spirit, do you? I want Him to witness to my spirit that He is there.] and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, [Sometimes people feel they have graduated beyond these basic principles, but no matter how long you have been a Christian, you still need to be kind. Fanny Crosby said, 'Be kind to the erring one.'] tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Our economy is perhaps better than it has been for many years, science and technology are advancing rapidly, and great advances have been made in the field of medicine; nevertheless, our world is suffering greater diseases and tragedies than any other generation. Why? It is due to sin in people's lives and not dealing with it. The Bible tells us that the last days shall be as the days of Noah. Today the earth is filled with violence, as the Bible says the days of Noah were. Some time ago on the front page of a newspaper in Detroit was a story of a young man who bludgeoned his family to death with a hammer, and then he went on a shooting rampage and killed many people. Our world is filled with violence.

A Time of Uncertainty and Unrest

You might ask, "Are you a prophet of gloom and doom?" No, I am a prophet of great hope, but our hope is in Jesus. Our hope is in giving audience to the Word and the Spirit. Today is a time of great uncertainty and great unrest; it is a difficult time. Even the public schools are becoming places of war,

hatred, killing, and destruction. Our children need more than just an education: they need spiritual help from God; that is the greatest need of a child. You might wonder, "Do you push your children toward higher education?" Not necessarily. I tell them, "Do what God wants you to do." If you do not need more education for your vocation, then only get what God wants you to have. We must take God into consideration in every move we make. We read in Proverbs 3:6, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." God still talks to His people.

We live in a perilous day. This is a difficult time for Christians. Paul wrote to Timothy that it is a time when people love themselves and their money more than they love God. People are lovers of self more than lovers of God. Today people are unusually proud and arrogant. As a pastor, I try to be extremely careful, because people do not take discipline very well today. However, if one does not take discipline, he is not really a child of God. In the years that I have been a pastor, people who have grown tremendously have done so because they have been willing to take discipline. On the other hand, people who have not accepted correction have dried up or are no longer under the sound of the Gospel.

Today some people sneer at the man of God, and they sneer at God. They are hardhearted. There are many troublemakers and people who betray one another. May God help us to be true to Him and to one another. Immorality does not bother many people today; they are becoming desensitized to it. Most people prefer pleasure rather than worshiping God. Sunday morning, when we all need to be at the house of worship, many people play Little League games or make other plans instead of attending the worship services.

In the natural world, sometimes witnesses are put to death so they

will not speak. I read in the newspaper that the young man who bludgeoned his family to death was very strongly suspected of killing his former wife and mother-in-law, but there were no witnesses. Some witnesses want money to keep still. I read an article in the paper about a Roman Catholic Bishop in California who was guilty of heinous crimes. The person with whom he was involved said, "Give me eight million dollars, and I will keep still." Either he could not come up with the money or he did not want to, so he turned in his resignation to the Pope and was dismissed.

Stand Up for Jesus

Thank God, we still have witnesses today who are standing tall and strong. They are unbiased and honest, and they tell it like it is. They are speaking out clearly, and they are giving a distinct message. I am glad that some people are still respectful of the Word and the Spirit of God. In many places people are getting a mixed message rather than a clear testimony by the Word and the Spirit. First Corinthians 14:8 says, "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" To prepare for the battle, people need a clear and distinct message from the Word of God.

I have taught music for many years in the public schools, and I have often thought, "Why does the Word use the trumpet?" Well, the military has used the trumpet for years and still uses it to call the troops and to tell the troops certain commands. No doubt, a trumpet is used because of its piercing sound. It is different from other instruments. Even a cornet, which is similar to the trumpet, does not have the same piercing sound that the trumpet has. God's people want a clear and distinct message, a message that says, "This is what God says; do it." The church is hearing a clear and distinct

message. We know what is right and what is wrong. We know when to go forward and when to keep still. The Spirit and the Word are standing tall; they are standing on their feet.

Again, Revelation 11:11 reads, "And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them." Child of God, if the Word of God and the Spirit of God are going to stand up and testify, they are going to use your feet and your hands. God is looking for individuals who will stand up and witness and testify for Him. This is a day of great opportunity. When we allow the two witnesses to stand up and testify, then the world can find hope and comfort and a way out of the dilemma that they are in. People have many difficult problems; therefore, we need to be bold for God and stand. If you are living holy, you need to stand up and let it be known.

Our Scripture text says they stood upon their feet. I thought of the young lady in Littleton, Colorado. When the young man came into the classroom with a gun, he asked the class, "Do any of you believe in God?" When this young lady raised her hand and said, "I do," he shot and killed her. Standing for God may cost us our lives. God wants us to stand for Him.

I would like to share an article entitled, "Stand Up." It is a true story of something that happened a few years ago at the University of Southern California. A Professor of Philosophy at this university was a deeply committed atheist. His primary goal for one required class was to spend the entire semester attempting to prove that God could not exist. His students were always afraid to argue with him because of his impeccable logic. For twenty years, though some argued with him in class at times, no one had ever really gone against him because of his reputation. On the

last day of each semester, he would say to his class of three hundred students, "If anyone here still believes in God, stand up." In twenty years no one had ever stood up. They knew what he was going to say next. He would say, "Anyone who believes in God is a fool. If God existed He could stop this piece of chalk from hitting the floor and breaking. It is such a simple task to prove that He is God, and yet He cannot do it." Every year he would drop the chalk on the tile floor of the classroom, and it would shatter. The students would do nothing but stop and stare. Most of the students thought that God could not exist. A number of Christians had slipped through, but for twenty years they had been too afraid to stand up. Well, a few years ago a freshman who was a Christian happened to enroll. He had heard the stories about this professor. He was required to take the class for his major, and he was afraid. For three months that semester, he prayed every morning that he would have the courage to stand up, no matter what the professor said or what the class thought. He hoped nothing they said would ever shatter his faith.

Finally, the day came when the professor said, "If anyone here still believes in God, stand up." The professor and the class of three hundred students were shocked as this young man stood up at the back of the classroom. The professor shouted, "You fool! If God exists, He would keep this piece of chalk from breaking when it hits the floor." He proceeded to drop the chalk as he had done before. However, it slipped out of his fingers, rolled off his shirt cuff, on to the pleat of his pants, down his leg, and off his shoe. When it hit the ground, it just simply rolled away, unbroken. The professor's jaw dropped as he stared at the chalk. He looked at the young man, and then ran out of the lecture hall. This young man then walked to the front of the room and shared his faith in Jesus for the next

half hour. Three hundred students stayed and listened as he told of God's love for them and of His power through Jesus Christ.

God will not be mocked. He wants you to stand up for what is right. I want to stand up for Jesus, don't you? In my stand for Christ over the years, sometimes I have had to stand against my own flesh and blood and against friends whom I had known since I was a little boy. Yet, in standing firm, I have seen many of them come to the Truth. God wants us to stand strong for Him.

"The Trumpet Call Obey"

In one song entitled, "Stand Up for Jesus," verse 1 says: *"Stand up! stand up for Jesus! Ye soldiers of the cross; Lift high his royal banner, It must not suffer loss: From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army shall he lead, Till ev'ry foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed."*

If you decide to no longer stand up for the Word and testify to the will of God, you will be the loser. That is even happening in places that call themselves the Church of God. Rather than the Word and the Spirit standing up, human instrumentality is dictating what the church should do. If you are truly the Church of God, you will allow the Spirit to have the final say. The Bible says that we are not to private one word or a sentence, but we are to take the tenor of the entire Word of God. Our standard is

all sixty-six Books.

Verse 2 says: *"Stand up! stand up for Jesus! The trumpet call obey; Forth to the mighty conflict, [We are living in the midst of a tremendous conflict today. I have never seen a greater conflict. I am not looking to see where people are standing. Your ultimate quest should be, "Where is the Truth?" Wherever it is, that is where you should be. Where Truth is, you will find me standing tall. I want to stand where there is Truth, where the two witnesses are standing on their feet, not where they are clothed in sackcloth or where they have been killed. In the sixties people came up with the idea that God is dead. In most places the Word and the Spirit had been killed.] In this his glorious day: [This is a glorious day. I thank God for Truth. Our glory is not in the buildings or the choirs that we have. Truth should be our greatest asset.] Ye that are men, now serve him, Against unnumbered foes; [People have written to me about numbers, saying, 'So many people are standing here and standing there.' The songwriter said, 'Against unnumbered foes.' God's people have always been a minority. Noah was in the minority. Joseph was in the minority, and so were many others.] Let courage rise with danger, And strength to strength oppose [I am not in opposition to people; I am in opposition to violating the principles of God].*

Verse 3 says: *"Stand up! stand up for Jesus! Stand in his strength alone;*

The arm of flesh will fail you [you need to lean on the Lord] Ye dare not trust your own: Put on the gospel armor, And, watching unto pray'r, Where calls the voice of duty, Be never wanting there." If you have a duty in your congregation, you should be at your post of duty. Sometimes you will feel as if you are doing it in vain, but God will reward you.

The last verse states: *"Stand up! stand up for Jesus! The strife will not be long; This day, the noise of battle; The next, the victor's song. To him that overcometh, A crown of life shall be; He with the King of glory Shall reign eternally."*

Again, Revelation 11:11 says, "And after three days and an half, the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet." Where are they standing? According to Revelation, Chapter 14, they are standing on Mount Sion with the Lamb. Friend, Are you standing boldly for God? I do not want to grieve the Holy Spirit. I want to stand for Him, allow Him to use me, and be where He would have me to be. I want to stand where the Spirit and the Word of God are standing and witnessing to His will. Are you taking a clear, clean stand for Him? Do people know where you stand? If they do not, you need to ask God to give you the grace and the courage to stand for Him.

(Cassette C-4186M)

**The Word is solemn—don't TRIFLE;
The task is difficult—don't RELAX;
The opportunity is brief—don't DELAY;
The path is narrow—don't WANDER;
The prize is glorious—don't FAINT.**

Revelation 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and

over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just

and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

The Standing Place of the Church



Brother David Watson

The Way of Holiness

We that are of the church have a standing place. There has always been a holy place for God's people to stand. When God set a bush on fire and it was not consumed by the fire, Moses turned aside to see it. God said, in essence, "Take off your shoes, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." The woman whom Jesus met at the well, in John, Chapter 4, wanted to point Him to the mountain where the Jews worshiped. Jesus let her know that His Father seeks those who worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. Jesus said to her: "Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true

worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:21-23).

We read in our Scripture lesson of people who are free and have overcome all powers of beastly natures. They have refrained from everything that man has tried to put on them. They stand on holy ground and sing a song of deliverance, just as God's people sang in Exodus, Chapter 15, after they had been freed from Egypt's bondage. Those who have met the Lamb and have been washed in His precious blood can stand and say, "I am redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb." Thank God, these are they who stand on the sea of glass. That sea of glass is the precious Word of God.

James 1:23-24 states: "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man

beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." The Word of God is your looking glass; it is what holds the image of Christ before you. It lets you see your own image and transforms you into the image of the Son of God. As a saint, you should no longer be conformed to your own image, but you should do as Paul said in Ephesians, Chapter 4. Verse 24 says, "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." This is where the saints of God stand.

The patriarchs of old were standing on the precious Word of God. They stood on that which God gave. Church of God, we are only the Church of God as we stand on the Word of God, no matter what the world does. John wrote in Revelation 4:6, "And before the

throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind." As John received this panoramic vision, he let us know that the Word has come from above, and it is clear as crystal. Isaiah, in Isaiah 35:8, prophesied of the highway of holiness. He said it is so plain that a fool will not err therein. No one can get on the way of holiness by mistake.

Those spoken of in Revelation 4:6 were standing before God's throne. This is where God reigns, this is where God speaks from, and this is where God's people hear the precious Word. Men and women who are saved and redeemed stand on the Word of God and stand upon their feet. They say, "Preach the Word; give me what the Word says, and it will do my soul eternal good." If you reign with the Lord, you must let the Word of God reign within you. You have to stand on the sea of glass. Standing on the Word of God.

In Isaiah, Chapter 11, Isaiah spoke of a day when the Lamb of God would fix it so that all beastly natures would lie down together and the power of the Holy Ghost would fix a man's soul so that the beastly nature would no longer have control. Instead, the Word of God would have control and come as food to a man's soul; therefore, he could eat and enjoy the supper with other saints of God around the table of the Lord, and he could stand on holy ground with the Son of God.

As saints of God, we know who we are, we know what we are doing, and we know where we are going. For example, I do not have to ask, "Who am I?" Since I am saved, I know who I am. Thank the Lord!

Isaiah declared in Isaiah 11:9, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." I want you to understand what Isaiah was talking about. The people whom Isaiah spoke of are

standing on the Word that God calls water, and they cover the sea. They are people who understand the Word of God. The Word of God is holy, and we have knowledge and understanding from His Word; we can see through this glass. God used men from Genesis to Revelation. God's people are a mighty people. They stand on holy ground, and that holy ground is where you and I, as saints of God, stand when we stand on the Word of God. We have a knowledge of the Son of God.

Now, there is a sea that is in opposition to this sea that the Lord has given. That sea is found in Ezekiel 28:1-2: "The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God." There are religions all about the camp of the saints that have their own seas.

Revelation, Chapter 20, tells how the enemy compassed the camp of the saints. Many claim that this is the holy sea. In John 5:39 Jesus said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." The Word of God does not testify concerning man's glory and honor. The glory that the saints have is the glory that God gives; it is God's glory and honor. Those in the sea that Ezekiel spoke of claim their own glory, setting their hearts as the heart of God. In other words, they exalted themselves and lifted themselves up to a pinnacle. When the Word of God gets in a man's soul, he does not exalt himself; he exalts God. Instead of looking for a high seat, he looks for a low seat. Instead of looking for someone to set him on a pinnacle, he is looking for ground where he can stand and lift up the Son of God to a lost and dying world, so that others can see the church that Jesus built, which is on holy ground.

People who stand on holy ground are washed by the blood of the Son of God. The Apostle Paul spoke of them in the Book of Ephesians, Chapter 5. He had to war against the goddess Diana. The Book of Acts, Chapters 17, 18, and 19, can give you more insight concerning that. Also, in 1 Corinthians 15:32, Paul expressed that he had fought with beasts at Ephesus. Paul wanted them to know that the people who stand on this ground are holy people and that this church is a holy church. He preached to them that Jesus Christ gave Himself an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

Paul also showed the people that the church that Christ gave Himself for is without spot, wrinkle, and blemish. She is comprised of people who are free from man, free from sin, and free from all "isms." She is holy, and she stands on holy ground. Thank the Lord, the Church of God can stand on the Word and claim deliverance. The church is free in the Spirit and free in her deeds. In John 8:36 Christ said if the Son has made you free, you are free indeed. The Church of God does not agree with anything that the Word of God disagrees with, it does not bind anything that the Word of God does not bind, and it does not loose anything the Word of God does not loose. However, it will bind that which the Word binds, and it will loose that which the Word looses.

The saints do not have any kind of talk or actions that Jesus does not have. They are free in their deeds by the Word of the Lord. Also, they are free to pray, free to glorify God, and free to preach the Word. Paul said, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:2). Thank God, man does not tell me what I can preach; God has made me free. Whenever man puts his attachments upon you, you get some kind of binder with it. Thanks be to God, when He saves you and

stands you on the Word of God, He frees you and looses you to preach the Word. You stand on holy ground when the Son of God gets hold of you.

Deliverance in the Midst of Fiery Trials

In our Scripture lesson, the angel was about to release some wrath. The wrath is the Word of God; it will plague that which is wrong and bless that which is right. In the Old Testament, you can read about the children of Israel being carried into Babylonian captivity. Then the Babylonians wanted to change the names of some of them. Is that not what they do today? Instead of giving people the name of God, they give them some man's name. They want to put their names on them to mark them. That is the reason they ask, "What faith are you?" They are asking you for a mark. What image are you carrying around?

When the three Hebrew boys were down in Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar had a golden image set up, and he wanted everyone to bow down to the image at the sound of the music. However, the three Hebrew boys refused to bow. Today people think it is strange if you do not accept their religion. I am not interested in religion, but I am interested in old-time, heartfelt salvation. That which comes from God does the heart better and gives the soul understanding through the revelation of God. The three Hebrew boys and Daniel prayed much. Those brethren were wise. God's people are a praying people yet today.

When the day of dedication came for Nebuchadnezzar's image, everyone was to bow at the sound of the music, but the three Hebrew boys refused to bow down. The Chaldeans could not understand that, so they went to the king and told him about it. He questioned them, and when they stood their ground, he got in a rage of madness, and decided, "I will make an end of

these fellows. Heat up the furnace seven times hotter!" The three Hebrew boys said in Daniel 3:17-18: "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. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods."

When the men bound them and threw them into the fiery furnace, the fire killed the men who threw them in. When the king looked and saw four men loose and walking in the midst of the furnace, he took notice and said, "Did we not cast three men into the fire? I see four men in there. They are loose, and the fourth one looks like the Son of God!" Undoubtedly, he must have understood the form of the Son of God. They were walking on holy ground. While they were in that fiery furnace, God took the heat out of the fire. Those brethren walked around in the furnace and did not feel the effects of the fire. The king was moved and called for those brethren to come forth. I thank God for the victory when we stand on the Word of God. When the fiery trials come against us and we will not yield, the world will take note. We are standing on the Word of God, which is holy ground. We can overcome the power of the enemy.

You can read in Daniel, Chapter 7, about Daniel seeing four beasts. Do you know how Daniel got the interpretation of the dream concerning those four beasts, or four kingdoms? God revealed it to him. The head of gold represents Nebuchadnezzar. He was the head of that Babylonian kingdom, but the three Hebrew boys overcame it. This lets us know that no matter what the opposition of the world is, however small or great, the Word of God will empower us to stand on holy ground. That is when we can sing the songs of deliverance, the songs of the Lamb. We each can sing before the whole world, "I am redeemed." Praise God! We have been set free from bondage. We are

washed and made holy by the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Let the world say what it wants to say. We are holy people, and we stand on holy ground.

Put on the Whole Armor of God

Some people think holiness is foolishness, and others think holiness is a denomination, but holiness is neither foolishness nor a denomination. When the Word gets in you, you can claim holiness; but unless you stand on it and obey it, you are not holy. When you stand on God's Word, no matter what test is put on you, you can stand the test. When the storms are raging and the world says, "You are all washed out; you might as well give up," thank God, you can look to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. You can stand on the Word of God. Are you standing on holy ground with the Son of God?

The saints of God overcame the dragon; that power raged against the church, but she overcame it. When Jesus built the church, He told Peter, "... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). The gates of hell can never overcome the Rock that the church is built on. The church is standing on the solid Rock!

Revelation 21:11 states, "Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." Although the gates of hell are trying to prevail against the church, she is built on the Rock that cannot move. The dragon cast out a flood after the church, yet she prevailed. The beast has martyred and gotten drunk on the blood of the saints. It has set out to make religions in all forms of "isms," but the church is still standing on the mountain of God. She is standing on the Rock, holy and pure with victory over the beast, his power, his image, his mark, and the number of his name. Thank God, she is free and singing the song, "I

am redeemed."

In Revelation, Chapter 12, you find there was war in heaven, and the dragon fought, and Michael and his angels fought. Verse 7 says, "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels." The church does not fight with literal guns and swords, and she does not fight with hatred, envy, bitterness, malice, or jealousy. In Revelation, Chapter 8, when a great mountain that was burning with fire went into the sea, something happened to them. They did not stand and declare themselves free and on holy ground.

Saint, you do not have to be defeated when the world is against you. They may put you in jail, but they cannot take you out of the church. They can deny you a place to stand in this world, but they cannot take you off the Rock. Hallelujah! If you are determined to stand on solid ground, you can stand on holy ground with Jesus Christ. How did the brethren fight this spiritual battle in the morning time? They did not wrestle against flesh and blood; they put on the whole armor of God. They went out with the full uniform on. On the Day of Pentecost, they were baptized with fire with the Holy Ghost. After three thousand souls were saved, soon five thousand more souls were saved and began to get in the battle.

Opposition Against the Church

Some people could not stand for the church to move forward. They put the saints in stocks, and other times they questioned them and told them to get out of town. Has anyone ever told you to leave town? That has happened to me, but I said, "I am going to stay as long as the Lord tells me to stay." Often the morning-time saints went down to their company and prayed. In essence, they said, "God, why do the heathens imagine vain things? Why

do they rage?" The saints asked God to stretch forth His hand and work miracles, and He did. If you live as you ought to live, God will give you the authority to command His hand.

When Peter walked down the street, the sick were brought out and laid in the street and healed. One man who was lame from his mother's womb was healed at the gate Beautiful. Many times as his shadow overpassed the sick, they were healed. Many in Jerusalem were afraid to join themselves to those brethren because of the power that God manifested through them. They were standing on holy ground. Paganism was against them, yet they overcame it by the blood and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

As the morning-time saints went forth, opposition rose against them. The orthodox Jews battled against Stephen. Stephen spoke to them about Abraham of old and preached right up to the time of Jesus Christ. He asked them, "What house will you build the Lord?" God is not dwelling in buildings made by hands. The saints of God are God's house, or God's temple. Stephen was showing the people where the saints must stand and build, and that is on the Word of God. While he was preaching, the people became angry and gnashed their teeth on him: Those people were in outer darkness. They gnashed their teeth upon Stephen, and they stoned him.

While Stephen was dying, he saw another world coming into view, and he saw the Captain of his salvation standing and welcoming him home. Stephen prayed a prayer as Jesus did: "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:60), and then he died. He was standing on holy ground.

John wrote in Revelation 13:1, "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the

name of blasphemy." John was seeing a culmination in this chapter of what Daniel had seen (Daniel, Chapter 7).

The heathen spirit is still in our world, and it is against us yet today. All kinds of cults and false religions are around us. Notice that the beast had seven heads and ten horns, and upon the horns were ten crowns.. Where do you put honor? Do you put honor upon one who starts something? Those people started divisions. They had been in divisions and were making divisions, and they had a culmination in their divisions of religion. Many religions get together and come against Truth. Whenever the Jews brought Jesus Christ to crucify Him, two kings who had been angry with each other made peace when they came against Jesus. Some people who have come against me were divided among themselves, but when I became the center of their fighting, they joined with one another.

The whole world is against the church. You should never take for granted that, because some people look really close to the church, they are truly a part of the church if they will not stand on holy ground. They must stand on the Word of God and stand on holy ground to be God's people. If you leave God's Word and go to something else, what would you go to? If you were the devil, what would you do? You would fix everything you could just as close to the church as you could. You would get people to look like the church and act like the church, but without old-time salvation. You see, the devil is cunning. He does not care how religious you are as long as you are not on holy ground. John also saw that the beast had upon his head the name of blasphemy. Some people say, "Well, preacher, the name of the church does not matter." Acts 13:45 reads, "But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul,

contradicting and blaspheming." When God named the church, He gave it His name, and His name is God. This is of God: the Spirit of God, the Word of God, the salvation of God, and the Church of God.

Being Victorious

The Pharisees demanded of Jesus in Luke, Chapter 17, when the Kingdom of God would come. He answered: "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, to there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20-21). The church is not in Copper Hill or in Salt Lake City. The Church of God is made up of people who have been born again, who are filled with the Holy Ghost, who are standing on Truth, who are free from all men, and who are standing on holy ground with God. They are God's holy people, and they are free.

In Revelation 13:2 John said, "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority." We can read in Matthew, Chapter 3, of when John wrestled over authority when he faced the Pharisees and Sadducees. They wanted Moses' authority. Nevertheless, God is our dominion and our control. Man does not control us; God controls us.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:1-2: "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea."

In Exodus 13:21 a pillar of a cloud went before the church, which was a type of Holy Ghost leadership. It reads, "And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night." Romans 8:14 states, "For as

many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." When Israel passed through the Red Sea, that sea was standing hither and thither. They had to have faith to go through there. They were not baptized in that literal sea, for it was standing this way and that way. They were not baptized in a literal cloud. It was a type of the Holy Ghost of God. Unless you are ruled by the Spirit of God and the Word of God unto Jesus Christ as they were under Moses, you are in no wise standing on holy ground.

When people go to church puffed up or on Pouting Street, the devil is using them. God's people have been baptized by the Holy Ghost and are controlled by the Word of God. When disobedience and irreverence come, if they are going to overcome, they must yield to the Spirit and obey the Word of God. God loves obedience more than sacrifice. First Samuel 15:22 tells us, "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

Second Thessalonians 2:3-4 instructs: "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, showing himself that he is God." Yet the brethren kept preaching, kept standing, kept giving their blood by standing on holy ground. They kept wounding the head of the beast and came out victorious for Jesus Christ.

Some people like an easy ride, and they really enjoy the church when everything is going well. However, when the tests become difficult, they want to get up and move. Friend, you cannot overcome that way; you will be overcome. You have to stand on holy ground if

you are going to overcome.

In Revelation, Chapter 15, the saints had gotten victory over paganism, Roman Catholicism, and all the others mentioned in Chapter 13. At the breaking of that, a two-horned beast came up out of the earth and made an image to the first beast. Still the church kept marching forward. Throughout the ages of time, she has triumphed and lived victoriously. The church is the Church of the Living God.

You may ask, "Are you saying there have been no dark times with the church?" No, there have been times when the gates of hell have pushed and seemingly prevailed. The church went into the wilderness. You can read in the Song of Solomon, Chapter 6, that King Solomon asked, "Where is my beloved? She is beautiful and terrible as an army with banners." He went on to describe her beauty, and then he said, "I see my beloved coming up out of the wilderness, leaning on the arm of her beloved." Thank God, the church broke forth crystal clear, and she is beautiful. You may try to crush her and push her down, but she will break forth spotless and clean and holy, standing on holy ground. I thank God for the church that the devil and all his angels cannot prevail against. She is standing on holy ground.

Marching Forth Triumphantly

We read in Revelation 20:6-8: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."

The word sea points us back to

all those culminations of religion that have given themselves one to another and have set their worship and their decree to some knowledge of the past.

In these last days in which we live, we can have courage, strength, hope, and power because we have the Holy Ghost. While the church is being compassed on every side today, let us not grow weary. Let us look back to the letter that Christ wrote to the church at Ephesus. He commanded her to repent because she had left her first love. Let us remember those churches down through the ages of time to whom Christ wrote and the things that got among the members of the church. Jesus kept leading the church, and the church kept triumphing. God has not left His church. She is still controlled and led by the Holy Ghost of God and is still being led in battle against all "isms" and schisms and against all that is in the world that is against the Church of God. Saints, we must triumph! We must march on and be victorious for the Lord Jesus Christ!

Today we are in a battle against homosexuality, lesbianism, cults that are after our children, and spirits warring in our government to put us down. These opposing forces want God's ministry off the

radio. They want to silence the Word of God. Many people say, "Don't preach Christ to me!" Church, we are in a battle. Today moral standards are lower than at any time in my lifetime. You can see this everywhere you go. People are not ashamed of their ungodliness. Isaiah let us know they would come into the congregation of the saints and not even blush.

Many people are saying to their pastors, "You should not preach it so strong; maybe we could win more people." If people are going with God, they must obey the Word of God. Jesus preached that if a soul is begotten, he is begotten by the Word of God. How can one preach except he be sent? Jesus never sent us to use enticing words and the wisdom of men, but to demonstrate the power of God through Jesus Christ.

In our Scripture lesson, when John received the vision, he showed us all the things that would compass the church, and he encouraged us and showed us the judgment of those people. In Revelation, Chapter 21, he showed us the new heaven and the new earth, and he showed us that the first one passed away. The old confirmation age is gone, and the new heaven is the New Testament

church of this Gospel Day. John went up to the mountain and saw the Word of God clear as crystal, and he saw the church without spot, wrinkle, or blemish.

John looked back to the Patriarchs. Their names were written on the gates. They were tried severely and killed in every way imaginable, but the church continued to preach Christ. When John got over to the foundation of the church, he showed us the twelve Apostles' names written in the foundation. Why? They stood for Truth and preached Christ even though they had to die. They had victory! They saw the church that Jesus built, and they saw the greatness of her.

Thank God, today the church is not just a handful of people, but she is a blood-washed institution! She is marching forth to her eternal home. She has a hope, she is standing on the Rock, and she is marching to higher ground and to her eternal home, where she will have everlasting comfort, peace, joy, and love for evermore. Praise the Lord! Friend, are you walking on holy ground and living a victorious life? If not, you can through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

(Cassette C-4203M)

[Guest Editorial-continued from page 2] other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Yet our text says in verse 3, "Let us make brick." I want to emphasize that only God can make stone, but man makes bricks.

In the Exodus account, where the children of Israel were under such heavy bondage, Pharaoh commanded, "Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick . . ." (Exodus 5:7). Brick is something man made. Babylon is built of man-made materials. They will not give Christ His rightful place as the head and the foundation of the church. When the people said in verse 3, "Let us," in essence, they were saying, "Let man get an assembly together and call a

convocation." There was no divinity in their plans.

What holds together those bricks, or man-made doctrines? Verse 3 tells us, "Slime had they for mortar." This represents another substitution. Devilish spirits hold their doctrines together. They are not of a divine origin, but man made. What dwells in slime? Frogs: Revelation 16:13 says, "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [frogs will not dwell in moving pools; they dwell in stagnant pools that scum over with slime] come out of the mouth of the dragon [paganism], and out of the mouth of the beast [papalism], and out of the mouth of the false prophet [Protestantism]. For they are the spirits [these frogs are symbolic of spirits] of devils [or

the spirits that motivate those particular systems of religion] . . ." Spirits hold the bricks (the teachings and the doctrines) together. Bricks are something that man makes as a cheap, inferior substitute. We need to be ever reminded that behind every false teaching and every false doctrine is a spirit that propagates it.

In 1 Timothy 4:1 we find that Paul wrote to young Timothy and said, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith [why?], giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." Those devilish spirits are out to seduce the souls of mankind. In 1 John 4:1 John said, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits

[one rendering says to 'test the spirits'] whether they are of God. . . ." Spirits hold the systems together and hold people to their doctrines and systems. Our text also says, "Let us make us a name." When it is truly God's church, a name does not have to be concocted.

In Genesis 11:4, what was their intent and purpose? Verse 4 says, "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city." God had a city, but they would not accept His city. Hebrews 11:10 says, "For he [Abraham] looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." That is the city God wants us to dwell in, but they said, "Let us build us a city." Notice that this city was entirely conceived and concocted in the minds of men; it was totally of human origin.

What systems were produced as a result of those moves of men? We found that verse 1 tells about the morning time, and verse 2 tells about the morning-time apostasy. Next, we see in the interluding verses what started to develop. Then verse 6 says, "And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language [or one doctrine]; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." What does this portray? This, in type, portrays the same truth that we see in Revelation, Chapter 13, when he talked about the people being of all one language, or one doctrine, and nothing being restrained from them. This is a picture of when one man-made system held universal sway.

Revelation 13:1 says, "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns. . . ." The seven heads and ten horns reverts us back to Revelation 12:3, when we are first introduced to it as identifying factors of the great red dragon. Every historian knows that the Roman soldiers had a great red dragon insignia on their shields. Therefore, this great red

dragon is symbolic of Rome in its pagan form. Revelation 12:3 tells us they had the crowns on the heads, which was when Rome was in its pagan form. However, in Revelation 13:2 we see the same identifying factors (the seven heads and ten horns), but the crowns moved from the heads to the horns, or the minor kingdoms; so a transition took place. It was still Roman, but it was not paganism. What was it? It was papalism. Revelation 13:18 tells us the number of the beast is the number of a man. The one that exemplifies this beast is a man who bears the number "six hundred three score and six," which is the numerical expression. The inscription on the mitre of the Pope of Rome is VICARIUS FILII DEI. The numerical expression of this title equates to 666. Therefore, this beast represents Roman Catholicism.

Revelation 13:8 says this about the papal beast: "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." This tells us that this beast held universal sway, in the period from A.D. 530 to A.D. 1530. Our lesson text says in verse 6, "And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one. . . ." This Scripture says there was only one visible people and that nothing would be restrained from them. It portrays one system that held universal sway during the Dark Ages, the third period of the Gospel Day from A.D. 530 to A.D. 1530. During the rule of Roman Catholicism, that period known as the Dark Ages, that one system held universal sway.

What other system do we see portrayed in the progression of our text? Genesis 11:7-8 states: "And they said one to another, Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the

city." What is the picture here? In verse 7 the Lord said He would confound their language. In other words, what they said was so confusing that they were unable to understand one another. Therefore, according to verse 8, they were scattered, or divided. This is a figurative expression, in type, of Protestantism, or sectism. It brought confusion: everyone taught something different, which resulted in mass confusion. Hence, this confusing, confounding, and scattering represents the Protestant era, or the fourth and fifth periods of the Gospel Day, from A.D. 1530 to A.D. 1880.

Verse 9 says, "Therefore [or because of these events] is the name of it called Babel [the Hebrew word is *balbel*, which means to confound]." The Septuagint words it this way: "On this account its name was called Confusion." It was called confusion because it was contrary to God's plan, God's origin, and God's will. It has done nothing but bring confusion to the minds of men by presenting what men have thought to be alternate routes and alternate ways to get to Heaven.

The tower of Babel was an attempt by man to make their own way to Heaven. That is exactly what Roman Catholicism and Protestantism have done, but there is no other way. Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the [exclusive and singular] way." That unfinished tower and city stands as a timeless memorial and reminder that false religion cannot reach God or Heaven by their human endeavors and inventions.

Thank God, God still had a people who would hear His voice, heed His call, and take faith in His Word. In Genesis 12:1 Abraham received this message: "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country. . . ." Here we see, in type, the evening time, when God said, "Come out of her, my people" (Revelation 18:4). God had a man who listened and forsook his prior associations. Brother D. S.

Warner left his previous affiliations and was willing to strike out for a land that he knew not of. That land was Canaan land where the milk and the honey flow. Canaan is a type of the church, the milk is the Word (the sincere milk of the Word; see 1 Peter 2:2), and the honey is the sweetness of the Holy Spirit. Through Abram (later called Abraham) and God's call to him to "Get thee out," we see a picture of the sixth and seventh seals, the evening of time when God has been calling His people out and bringing them to where the milk and the honey flow.

Abram heeded a call that, to all about him, seemed ridiculous and unreasonable. In this evening time, when people get the Gospel call of Revelation 18:4 to "Come out of her," often this call seems unreasonable to those about them. It may cause a separation from those who are dear to them, but thank God for that land.

We read in verse 5, "And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance

that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came." Thank God for the promised land. It is not something beyond this time world. It is the occupied position in which the church dwells, where God's people have the Word and the Spirit, where they worship God in Spirit and in Truth, and where they have their enemies driven out and possess the fullness of the land. Also, they have the presence of God in their midst.

This lesson takes us through the Gospel in type and shows what produced Babylon, which was religious confusion. However, God was faithful and still called a true people who has obeyed His Word and followed Him and is a separate people. As Abram obeyed God's message, he became the Father of the Faithful, and a separate and distinct people rose in obedience to God's call.

The same picture was portrayed when Brother D. S. Warner and

other brethren took hold of the same message that was novel to them but seemed ridiculous to others. When they took a stand, they became fathers to the faithful in the evening time, and a separate and distinct body of believers was raised up. It was the body of Christ, the Church of God, that was restored in the evening time.

In summary, in Genesis, Chapter 11, we have a picture, in type, of the Gospel Day. Verse 1 portrays the first period, verse 2 portrays the second period, verses 3-6 show what led from the apostasy to the Dark Ages and the ultimate reign of Roman Catholicism and the Dark Ages, verses 7-8 show the Protestant era, and verse 9 shows the composite whole of religious confusion, or a Babel of confusion. Genesis, Chapter 12, shows the evening time by Abram taking his stand, taking faith in the message he received, and going forth to Canaan land, a type of the Church of God.

Brother Earl R. Borders

