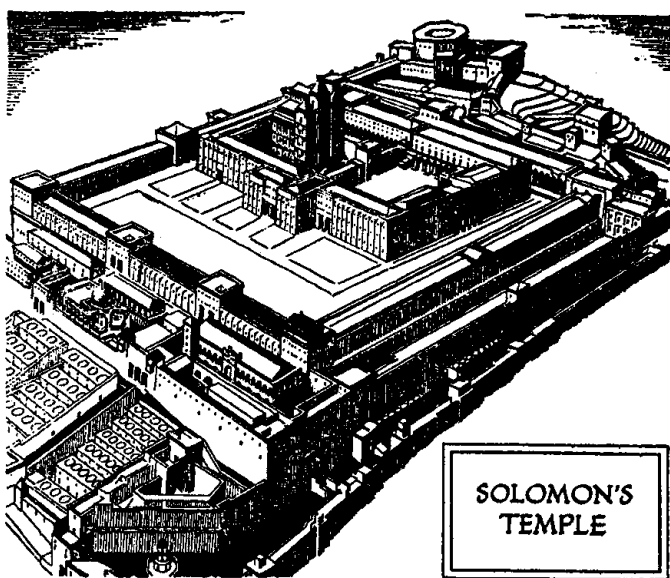


# The Sword AND Staff

*"Preach the Word" (II Timothy 4:2) • "Feed the Flock" (I Peter 5:2)*

## "BEHOLD, YOUR HOUSE IS LEFT UNTO YOU DESOLATE" (Matthew 23:38)



● By **JAMES E. GIBBONS**—1535 Fairfield Dr.  
Mount Airy, NC 27030 USA

**I**SRAEL had the unique experience of God dealing with them in a direct, personal way. His Shekinah presence in the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire had led them into the Promised Land and had taken its residence between the cherubim on the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant. This was in the Holy of Holies of the tabernacle. As time passed in the history of the nation and David was king, he wanted to build God a house (II Samuel 7:1-17). God allowed his son Solomon to build the temple (I Kings 6:1). With the dedication of the temple, God's Shekinah presence entered the building (I Kings 8:10,11; II Chronicles 7:1). It was indeed the house of God. Needless to say, this holy place was most sacred and dear to the Israelites. It was the heartthrob of their national and religious life.

The thrill of such a unique situation and relationship is expressed in Psalms 122:1, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD."

Although the temple standing in the time of Christ was not the original one built in the days of Solomon, it was still recognized as the house of God. The nation had gone through turbulent times and changes. Although the experience of the Babylonian Captivity had weaned them from idolatry, religion in the time of Christ was in a bad state (and especially among its leaders). Politics and materialism had reduced their religion to mere formality. Early in his ministry Jesus had run the money changers out of the temple, saying, "Take these things hence; make not *my Father's house* an house of merchandise" (John 2:13-17). Three years later the situation was no better and a second cleansing of the temple occurred. As Jesus "cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers," he quotes Scripture and says, "It is written, *My house* shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves" (Matthew 21:12,13).

Sometime before this, the religious leaders had decided that Jesus must die (John 11:47-53). They said, "If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both *our place* and nation." On one of those eventful days leading up to his crucifixion, the Lord had wept over Jerusalem, and then said, "Behold, *your house* is left unto you desolate" (Matthew 23:37,38). Following this, the disciples

(Continued on Page 11)

**THE SWORD AND STAFF**  
Post Office Box 147  
Mt. Airy, N.C. 27030 U.S.A.

E-Mail Address:  
*JGibbons@InfoAve.Net*

**INFORMATION:**

■ We are totally dependent upon your financial backing in the publication of this religious paper. To get on the mailing list, send a contribution. Subsidizing gifts are definitely needed along for us to continue this unselfish labor of love for God and truth. You may use the date affixed beside your address as a reminder to send an offering (perhaps annually). No notices are sent. Make out your checks to CHURCH IN MOUNT AIRY. The extent (and frequency) of publication is determined by incoming support. James E. Gibbons is editor. (Money received for printed material is all considered as an offering). We do not assume responsibility for material from other sources and writers beyond that which appears in this paper. This publication is available in English and Spanish. Please indicate preference. □

—THANK YOU—

## Proverbially *SPEAKING...*

*THE FEAR of failure keeps many in that category.*

The purpose of having a sheepfold is not only to keep the sheep in, but to keep the wolves out.

*Nothing works like work when it comes to getting the Lord's work done.*

You cannot do as you please unless your purpose in living is to please God in everything that you do and say.

*To die without accepting Christ is to be a fool forever.*

Don't take the low road, but take the high (John 14:6), and it will lead to a home on high.

*People who are oblivious to time, many times are in danger of falling into oblivion.*

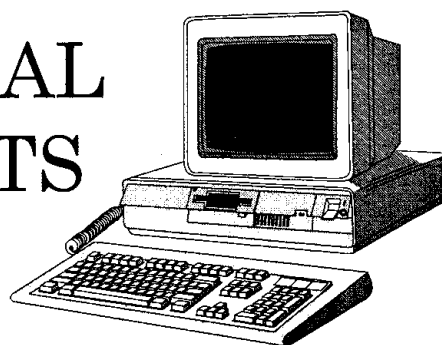
All things come to them who wait, and then if we are not alert, they may just pass on by.

*He has gained much who does not want much.*

We can give without loving (I Corinthians 13:3), but we cannot love without giving (I John 3:16-18; John 3:16).

*A man who is afraid of failure will do ANYTHING or NOTHING.* □

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS



## IS ETERNAL LIFE A PRESENT REALITY?

**T**HE QUESTION is asked, "Do Christians have eternal life now?" Is eternal life a present reality? We might just as well ask, "Are Christians saved now? Do they have salvation?" or, "Are Christians redeemed?" All of these are parallel in thought to that of eternal life.

Obviously we are not in heaven. Obviously we have not been clothed with our eternal bodies yet. And obviously Christians are still dying and being buried. However, there are Scriptures that seem to present eternal life as a present reality. John in his writings speaks of this like it is an accomplished fact. The epistle of I John especially emphasizes that we can know that we have eternal life.

Although eternal life is presented as present reality, it is also represented as something still conditional, and as something to be realized in the world to come. This is likewise true

## Mister Compromiser

Mister Compromiser, that is his name;  
The art of pleasing men involves his game;  
To take a stand for truth he knows not how;  
Beliefs that are his own he won't avow.

Then to decide which way he finally goes  
He checks the wind to see which way it blows;  
For him to stand alone would never do  
Lest he appear to all a varied hue.

A bone in back he does not seem to have,  
And thus to take a stand it won't allow;  
A man of "yes" it seems he'll always be,  
For on his own he dare not try to see.

The praise of men he wants at any cost,  
Although in seeking such the truth is lost;  
It makes no sense to think and act like this  
And in the sight of God be found amiss.

—By James E. Gibbons

of parallel verses about being saved, salvation, and redemption. We are saved, we are being saved, and we will be saved. All of these Scriptures are true from the point of view the writer happens to have in mind at the time.

We dare not take one Scripture and tag “this only” to it. That is the cause of denominationalism (among other things), taking a part of the truth and treating it as if it were all of the truth. We need to see the big picture. Calvinism would take the verses that say we are now saved (a present reality) and say there is no way that a Christian can be lost after having entered into salvation (“once in grace, always in grace”). Other erroneous thoughts abound.

There are many Scriptures that we could examine on this subject. However, we have singled out and list the following verses under these respective headings to illustrate this. Some of the words are featured in ***bold Italics*** to call your attention to the truth in the verses. Read the Scriptures in their context, and meditate upon them (with their implications). See and appreciate the big picture of all of God’s truth.

BEING SAVED

1. *Being Saved Is A Present Reality*

- (1) “He that believeth and is baptized ***shall be saved***; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16).
- (2) “Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved [***were being saved***]” (Acts 2:47).
- (3) “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He ***saved*** us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost [Spirit]” (Titus 3:5).
- (4) “Who has ***saved*** us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began” (II Timothy 1:9).

2. *However, It Is Conditional*

- (1) “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, ***if ye keep in memory [if you hold fast]*** what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain” (I Corinthians 15:1,2).
- (2) “And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprougeable in his sight: ***If ye continue in the faith*** grounded and settled, and be

not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven” (Colossians 1:21-23).

- (3) “Notwithstanding she shall be saved in child-bearing, ***if they continue in faith, and charity [love] and holiness with sobriety***” (I Timothy 2:15).
- (4) “But Christ as a Son over his own house; whose house are we, ***if we hold fast*** the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end” (Hebrews 3:6).
- (5) “For we are made partakers of Christ, ***if we hold*** the beginning of our confidence ***steadfast unto the end***” (Hebrews 3:14).
- (6) “***If a man abide not in me***, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned” (John 15:6).

3. *Being Saved in the End*

- (1) “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?” (I Peter 4:17,18).
- (2) “But he that shall ***endure unto the end, the same shall be saved***” (Matthew 24:13; 10:22).
- (3) “To deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, ***that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus***” (I Corinthians 5:5).

SALVATION

1. *Salvation Now*

- (1) “For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in ***the day of salvation*** have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time, ***now is the day of salvation***” (II Corinthians 6:2).
- (2) “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you ***to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth***” (II Thessalonians 2:13).
- (3) “But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and ***things that accompany salvation***, though we thus speak” (Hebrews 6:9).

2. *Conditional Salvation*

- (1) “***How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation***, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him” (Hebrews 2:3).
- (2) “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, ***work out your own sal-***

(Continued on Next Page)

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS...

(Continued from Previous Page)

*vation with fear and trembling*" (Philippians 2:12).

## 3. Salvation Yet to Be Attained

- (1) "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for *now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed*" (Romans 13:11).
- (2) "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he *appear the second time without sin unto salvation*" (Hebrews 9:28).
- (3) "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith *unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time...Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls*" (I Peter 1:4,5,9).

ETERNAL LIFE

## 1. Eternal Life Is A Present Reality

- (1) "He that believeth on the Son *hath everlasting life*: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).
- (2) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, *hath everlasting life*, and shall not come into condemnation; but *is passed from death unto life*" (John 5:24).
- (3) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me *hath everlasting life*" (John 6:47).
- (4) "We know that we have *passed from death unto life*, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer *hath eternal life abiding in him*" (I John 3:14,15).

## 2. But It Is Conditional

- (1) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, *If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death*" (John 8:51).
- (2) "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall *keep it unto life eternal*" (John 12:25).
- (3) "Fight the good fight of faith, *lay hold on eternal life*, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (I Timothy 6:12).
- (4) "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute [give], willing to communicate [share]; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, *that they may lay hold on eternal life*" (I Tim-

thy 6:18,19).

- (5) "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit *reap life everlasting*. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season *we shall reap if we faint not* [do not lose heart]" (Galatians 6:8,9).
- (6) "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall *receive the crown of life*, which the Lord has promised to them that love him" (James 1:12).
- (7) "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: *be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life*" (Revelation 2:10).

## 3. To Be Realized Hereafter

- (1) "In *hope of eternal life*, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2).
- (2) "And this is *the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life*" (I John 2:25).
- (3) "That being justified by his grace, we should be made *heirs according to the hope of eternal life*" (Titus 3:7).
- (4) "And he said to them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, *Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting*" (Luke 18:29,30).
- (5) "*Who will render to every man according to his deeds*: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, *eternal life*" (Romans 2:6,7).
- (6) "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous *into life eternal*" (Matthew 25:46).

REDEMPTION

## 1. Redeemed Now

- (1) "In whom *we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins*, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7).
- (2) "In whom we have *redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins*" (Colossians 1:14).

## 2. Redemption to Come

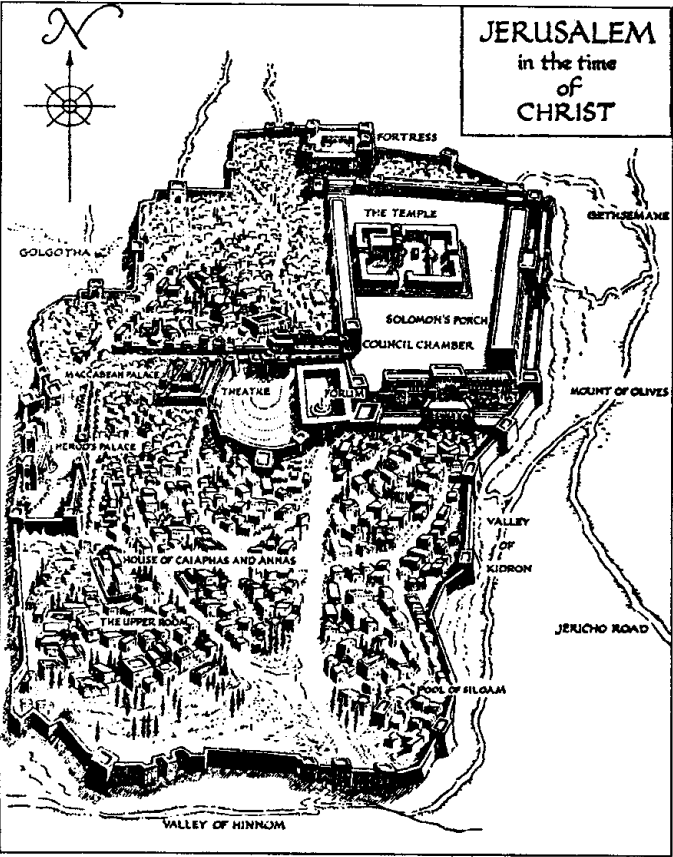
- (1) "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto *the day of redemption*" (Ephesians 4:30).
- (2) "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, *waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body*. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen

is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (Romans 8:23-25). □



A Series Involving the Bible and Prophecy...

# “NOT ONE STONE UPON



## ANOTHER”

● By **DAVID VAUGHN ELLIOTT**  
1805 McBride Road  
Mount Airy, NC 27030

**T**HE JEWS no longer offer bloody animal sacrifices like they did centuries ago. Why? They can't. God commanded that those sacrifices be offered only in the temple in Jerusalem. The Jews have no temple. They have had no temple for nineteen centuries!

### Jesus Prophesied It

The year 70 A.D. marked the end. The Roman armies under Titus leveled the magnificent temple and all Jerusalem. Such an earth-shaking event was no surprise to the early Christians. Forty years before it became history, Jesus had prophesied that it would happen.

“Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came to Him to show Him

the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, ‘Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, **not one stone shall be left here upon another**, that shall not be thrown down” (Matthew 24:1,2).

These astounding words were only the introduction to Jesus’ discourse on the future of Jerusalem and the temple. Among other things, He called attention to the fact that this destruction was already the subject of a former prophecy. “ ‘Therefore when you see the “abomination of desolation,” spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place’ (whoever reads, let him understand), ‘then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains’ ” (Matthew 24:15,16).

Jesus thus both confirmed and enlarged upon the prophecy made by Daniel six centuries earlier. What was the condition of the temple when Daniel made this prophecy? What was the importance of the temple in Jerusalem, anyway?

### The World’s Most Holy City

What makes Jerusalem a unique city is that 3,000 years ago the Creator of the Universe chose it as His dwelling place! God told the Jews through Moses: “You shall seek the place where Jehovah your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name **for His habitation**; and there you shall go. There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices” (Deuteronomy 12:5,6).

Years later, at the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem, King Solomon quoted what God had said to his father, David. “**I have chosen Jerusalem**, that My name may be there...Your son [Solomon] who will come forth from your own loins, he shall build the temple for My name” (2 Chronicles 6:6,9).

It was Jehovah God who thus chose Jerusalem and the temple. It was Jehovah God who chose when and how to bless Jerusalem and the temple. It was the same Jehovah God who would choose how and when to punish Jerusalem and destroy the very temple that was His dwelling place.

### The First Temple Destroyed

Years passed. Hezekiah came to power. He was one of the best kings Judah ever had. But Hezekiah’s son, Manasseh, was one of the worst.

“He [Manasseh] even set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which Jehovah had said to David and to Solomon his son, ‘In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;...**only if** they are careful to do according to all that I have commanded.’...‘Because Manasseh

(Continued on Next Page)

## “NOT ONE STONE UPON ANOTHER”



(Continued from Previous Page)

king of Judah has done these abominations... therefore thus says Jehovah God of Israel: “Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle” ’ (2 Kings 21:7-12).

Even though Manasseh’s grandson, Josiah, was a very good king, “Nevertheless Jehovah did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath...And Jehovah said, ‘I...will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, ‘My name shall be there’ ’” (2 Kings 23:26,27).

Disaster came by the hands of the famous Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. You can read about it in 2 Kings 24 and 25. The forces of Nebuchadnezzar came up against Jerusalem four times. They carried away to Babylon the best of the people of Judah. They carried away countless treasures of gold, silver and bronze, including all the articles of the temple. They slaughtered multitudes, burned the temple and palaces and broke down the walls. Jerusalem was in total ruin.

### Restoration Had Been Promised

The prophet Jeremiah was in Jerusalem as an eye witness of this devastation. He had repeatedly told the people that such devastation was a certainty. But he also foretold that after seventy years God would punish the Babylonians and bring His people back from captivity. See Jeremiah 25:1-11; 29:10-14.

One of the good-looking youths who was carried captive to Babylon was Daniel. He was well aware of Jeremiah’s prophecies and reached old age without forgetting them. In time, the Persians conquered Babylon. Daniel realized that this political change coincided with the completion of the seventy years that Jeremiah had foretold.

It was time for prayer, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. Daniel’s prayer (Daniel 9:1-19) has three leading themes. First, God is faithful, righteous and

forgiving. Second, Judah and Israel are wicked sinners, deserving God’s punishment. Third, Daniel pled with God to now remember the desolation of Jerusalem. In the latter part of the prayer, Daniel speaks to God of “Your city,” “Your holy mountain,” “Your people,” and “Your sanctuary.” That’s Jerusalem, Zion, Judah (Israel), and the temple. The seventy years were accomplished. Daniel longed for the restoration of the people of God.

While Daniel was still praying, the angel Gabriel came and spoke to him. Gabriel’s prophetic words are found in Daniel 9:24-27: the famous Seventy-Week Prophecy. Do not forget the setting of this great prophecy: Jerusalem is in ruins, the temple is no more, and the people of Judah are in captivity.

### Prophecy of the Second Temple

First, notice that this prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27) has to do with “your people” and “your holy city.” The prophecy is thus inseparably connected with Daniel’s prayer. Second, notice “abomination” is mentioned once in the prophecy. “Desolate (or desolations)” is mentioned three times. This connects this prophecy with Jesus’ prophecy in Matthew 24:15: “the ‘abomination of desolation’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet.”

Gabriel said, (Daniel 9:25): “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to **restore and build Jerusalem...**” There it is! There is the answer to Daniel’s prayer. That is all he wanted. He wanted God to remember His promise to restore Jerusalem after 70 years. God does not directly answer Daniel with a “yes.” Rather, God’s reply *assumes* a “yes” answer. It uses “yes” as simply *the starting point*.

Daniel got more than he asked for. Yes, Daniel, Jerusalem is going to be rebuilt. However, Daniel, one day in the distant future, they will *again* “destroy the city and the sanctuary” (verse 26). Is it all futile? Why rebuild Jerusalem and the temple of God only to have them destroyed again? Nevertheless, that is exactly what the prophecy says. It is to that part of the prophecy that Jesus refers in Matthew 24 when He says “Not one stone shall be left here upon another.” Solomon’s temple had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. A second temple would, indeed, be built. Nevertheless, it, too, would be destroyed. God said so!

### The Arrival of the Promised Messiah

The 70-week prophecy foretold that the Second Temple would end up like the First Temple. If that were the sum total of the prophecy, it would be a rather dismal picture. However, there is much more. Daniel asked about the temple, Mount Zion, Jerusalem and Israel. But none of these in them-

selves are important. The important thing is that they were the means by which God would bring the Messiah into the world. Gabriel told Daniel *when* the promised Messiah would come. He would come sometime between the building and the destruction of the Second Temple!

Gabriel said (verse 25) that from the command "to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be..." a certain length of time. After that time, "Messiah shall be cut off." Also, someone will come to "destroy the city and the sanctuary" (verse 26).

The main historical outline of the prophecy is quite clear. First, a command would be given to rebuild Jerusalem. Second, the Messiah would come and be cut off (killed). Third, the Second Temple and Jerusalem would be destroyed. Gabriel spoke to Daniel in 538 B.C., the first year of the Persian Empire. Jerusalem and the Second Temple were destroyed in 70 A.D. by the Romans. The Messiah had to come before 70 A.D.

*And come He did!* "When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son" (Galatians 4:4). As Jesus started His preaching campaign, he proclaimed, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). Some believed. Many did not.

As His ministry drew to a close, Jesus prepared for His "triumphal entry." From the Mount of Olives, He looked down upon Jerusalem. His eyes filled with tears. The time for the Messiah had come, but because the Jews would crucify Him within the week, Jerusalem's doom was sealed. "Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, 'If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace!...For the days will come upon you when your enemies will...level you, to the ground; and they will **not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation**'" (Luke 19:41-44).

The fullness of time had come. The time for the arrival of the Messiah. The time for the Kingdom of God. But the Jews did not recognize the time. Jesus gave them all kinds of proof that He was the Messiah. The crowning proof was His resurrection. But yet another great proof came in 70 A.D., with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple. With this destruction, God closed the door on any future possibility of the Messiah coming. The Jews today who are still awaiting their Messiah might as well rip Daniel 9 out of their Scriptures! Daniel 9 forever proves them wrong. *The Messiah had to come before the Second Temple was destroyed.*

### The Siege of Jerusalem

Daniel and Jesus prophesied it. History records it. History outside the Bible. Many times we must search records other than the Bible in order to fully appreciate the Bible. The Bible records in detail the fulfillment of the prophecy that Jerusalem would be rebuilt. (See the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.) The Bible records in detail the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would come and be cut off. (See the four Gospels.) But what about the prophecy that the *Second* Temple and all Jerusalem would be leveled to the ground after the death of the Messiah? The Bible nowhere records the fulfillment of that prophecy. We must look elsewhere for the information.

We are especially indebted to Flavius Josephus at this point. Josephus, a Jew, was born seven years after Jesus' death. Some thirty years later, when the fever of war greatly increased between the Jews and Romans, Josephus led the Jewish forces in Galilee. There he was overtaken and surrendered to Vespasian, who thereafter became Emperor in Rome. Vespasian left his son, Titus, in command of the campaign in Palestine. Josephus accompanied Titus to Jerusalem, where he was an eye-witness of the war.

Josephus dedicated his last thirty years to writing all about the Jews. His first work was the *History of the Jewish Wars*. In it, he enters into great detail about their war with Rome, 66 to 70 A.D.

Josephus tells of all the infighting among the Jews. He describes the siege of the city by the Romans, and how the Romans conquered the city wall by wall. He tells of famine, robbers, misery and death. Many of the people wanted to surrender to the Romans, but the hard-liners would not hear of it. Many tried to escape the city. The situation became much like that of the Berlin Wall. When the hard-liners even suspected that someone was about to attempt escape from the city, they would slit his throat!

### The Second Temple Destroyed

The Romans had respect for the holy sites of the nations they captured. Titus did not want to destroy the temple in Jerusalem. As the Romans captured more and more of the city, the hard-liners took to the temple area itself as a last fortress from which to fight. Titus pled with them: "if you will but change the place whereon you will fight, no Roman shall either come near your sanctuary, or offer any affront to it; nay, I will endeavour to preserve you your holy house, whether you will or not" (*Wars*, book 6, chapter 2, paragraph 4).

(Continued on Next Page)



# “NOT ONE STONE UPON ANOTHER”

*(Continued from Previous Page)*

The hard-liner Jews (Josephus calls them the “seditious”) rejected Titus’ offer. Thus were these hard-hearted, stubborn, unbelieving Jews the very instrument of the fulfillment of the prophecies of Daniel and Jesus!

Court by court the Romans took the temple area until all that was left was the holy house itself, with the cloisters surrounding it. Some Roman soldiers set fire to these outer rooms. Titus attempted to intervene. However, his soldiers were so infuriated by the stubbornness of the Jews that they could not be stopped. The temple could not be saved. The almighty Creator God of the universe had decreed its destruction!

As the end neared, Titus took opportunity to speak to those who remained of the Jews to see if they would accept surrender. (They did not.) As he opened his speech, he made a remarkable statement. Remarkable because it reminds us of Daniel’s prayer and Gabriel’s prophecy. Titus said: “I hope you, sirs, are now satiated with the miseries of your country, who have...like madmen, after a violent and inconsiderate manner, made such attempts, as to have brought **your people, your city, and your holy house to destruction**” (book 6, chapter 6, paragraph 2).

Fire! Plunder! Slaughter! Blood! Captives! Of these latter, Josephus says: “he put them in bonds, and sent them to the Egyptian mines [see Deuteronomy 28:68]. Titus also sent a great number into the provinces, as a present to them, that they might be destroyed upon their theatres, by the sword and by the wild beasts; but those that were under seventeen years of age were sold for slaves” (book 6, chapter 9, paragraph 2).

Josephus opens book 7 with these words: “Now, as soon as the army had no more people to slay or to plunder...Caesar gave orders that they should now demolish the entire city and temple, but should leave as many of the towers standing as were of the greatest eminence...and so much of the wall as enclosed the city on the west side. This wall was spared, in order to afford a camp for such as were to lie in garrison...but for all the rest of the wall, it was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited.”

Titus returned to Rome. He and his father, Vespasian, and his brother, Domitian, were the cen-

ter of a fabulous celebration. Among many other things carried in the triumphal march were the seven-branched lampstand and the table of showbread that had been taken from the temple in Jerusalem. When Domitian later became emperor, in 81 A.D. he built the Arch of Titus, in memory of Titus’ capture of Jerusalem. The arch remains in Rome to this day. Still to be seen on the inside of the arch is a bas-relief of the Roman soldiers carrying the lampstand and table of showbread!

*(Continued on Page 10)*

## BIBLE QUESTIONS

*(Random Questions Over the Bible)*

1. What does the first verse in the Bible and the last verse in the Bible say?
2. What all did God create on the first day of creation?
3. Although God made light on the first day of creation, on which day do the sun and moon appear?
4. What are three expressive similes used in the book of Genesis to describe the vast and prolific number of descendants to come from Abraham, and what is another one not as well known spoken by Jacob?
5. Prophetically, what expanded meaning does the apostle Paul see in the promise of the great numbers of descendants which were to come from Abraham?
6. Where was the region of Bashan in Israel, and what does it seem to have been noted for?
7. Who was hanged on the gallows he had built to execute another man?
8. Which is the longest chapter in the Bible?
9. Which disciples did Jesus call “sons of thunder”?
10. What are the names of four of the brothers (half brothers) of Jesus given in the Scriptures?
11. What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
12. Who was Agabus, how many times is he mentioned in the New Testament, and under what circumstances?
13. What was the name of John Mark’s mother?
14. Against the people of what city in the book of Acts did Paul and Barnabas shake the dust off their feet and go on to another city?
15. What are the last words actually spoken by the apostle Peter in the New Testament?
16. What chapter in the New Testament has the greatest number of times the word “brethren” (brothers) found in it?
17. As mentioned in Acts 22, what were two ways people became Roman citizens?
18. Which epistles in the New Testament do not bear the names of their author?
19. Which epistles in the New Testament not only bear the name of Paul, but are coupled with Timothy?
20. Which epistles in the New Testament not only bear the name of Paul, but jointly bear the names of Silas and Timothy?

**(NOTE: Answers found elsewhere in this issue of the paper)**

➔ <http://web.infoave.net/~jgibbons/index.htm> ◀



# READERS'

## ...Response

**APOLOGY:** Please accept our humble apology for slowness in getting correspondence answered. "We" have no staff of secretaries, etc. to handle such, and this is done by the "editor" as time allows. Be it known that you are sincerely appreciated. ☐

### FLORIDA:

■ *"I have enjoyed THE SWORD AND STAFF and pass it on to others. I have placed an order for 1995-1996 volumes of THE SWORD AND STAFF and 5 copies of POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS..."*

### GEORGIA:

■ *"...I have been following your series on the Bible and Prophecy and using each lesson in turn, as they were published, in our adult assembly. They are great. I just finished reading 'The Suffering Servant' and can't wait to present it to the church...with your permission of course...Keep the good news flowing."*

### NORTH CAROLINA:

■ *"We are thankful that you continue publishing such a great paper! We have enjoyed it for years..."*

### VIRGINIA:

■ *"Please take my name off your mailing list."*

■ *"I like your magazine...I hope you continue to stand up for the Truth. May God bless you and guide you. Thank you."*

■ *"Please remove us from your mailing list. We have enclosed our mailing label. Although we believe you are doing fine work for the Kingdom of God, we believe it would be best for you to remove us from your mailing list..."*

### TENNESSEE:

■ *"It would be in the interest of several 'lettermen' in the church...for you to publish a book containing the 'Proverbially Speaking' and 'Barbs With A Point' sections of THE SWORD AND STAFF for use with outdoor church signs with messageboards. As one in*

*search of short 'Sentence Sermons' or 'Highway Headlines' myself, I know how difficult it can be sometimes to locate good sources for use in this capacity. JUST A THOUGHT."*

*"Enjoy THE SWORD AND STAFF very much. Keep up the good work!" (e-mail)*

### KENTUCKY:

■ *"Thanks for your paper. I use many of your outlines and charts in Bible school."*

### PENNSYLVANIA:

■ *"Enjoyed the last issue of THE SWORD AND STAFF, especially the article on the Holy Spirit." (e-mail)*

■ *"Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Please find enclosed my check to cover my renewal and also money for one new subscription to THE SWORD AND STAFF...Thank you kindly for your patience and great work for Jesus and His kingdom. We all love you and your work."*

### OHIO:

■ *"My son-in-law ordered this magazine sometime ago, and I have enjoyed it so much. Would like for you to send me your bound volumes as marked and add some new names to your mailing list. Thanks so much..."*

■ *"Please send me 5 copies of POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS. I enjoy THE SWORD AND STAFF very much and pray you will continue to print it and bless us. It is refreshing to know that there are those who love the truth. God bless you."*

■ *"Appreciate so much your faithful stand on the Word of God. It's good to know that there are faithful, God-loving, Christ-centered, Bible-believing, Truth-telling Evangelists who love God MORE than those around them who want to water things down. Your articles and lessons are Great! Keep up the Good Work! May our God continue to bless you as you Worship and Serve Him." (e-mail)*

### MICHIGAN:

■ *"Just read your article on 'Be Filled With the Spirit' in THE SWORD AND STAFF and had to comment on your otherwise excellent study. On page 10, almost in passing, you wonder, 'Could this be what the Lord had in mind in Matthew 18:20...' No, I don't think the context will allow for this interpretation."*

*"This is already one of the most abused verses in all the NT. I've often heard it used to excuse the poor turn out at prayer meetings! The two or three mentioned in 18:20 refer to the two disputing parties in 18:15 who are to be reconciled with one another; and the third party (18:16) who is the witness or mediator in the reconciliation process. The powerful promise of the Word of God is that when we follow the Scriptural reconciliation process that his personal presence is there with us!"*

*"I know that the Lord is always with us, but have you ever noted that there are two special promises of his*

*(Continued on Next Page)*

## READERS'...Response

(Continued from Previous Page)

presence in the NT? Here, where brothers are being reconciled one with another, and in Matthew 28:20 where he promises his personal presence in the evangelizing process. The great promise is that he is personally with us in the two toughest areas of Christian living—witnessing and reconciling...”

### ILLINOIS:

■ “My mother sent my name to you in May of ’73. I have enjoyed the publication, and have kept all of them. I have often intended to send you some support, but just didn’t. Well your last issue was the straw that broke the camel’s back, so to speak. I have just started leading an adult Sunday school class on the subject of the Holy Spirit. When your latest *THE SWORD AND STAFF* showed up in my mail box, I decided the Lord was giving me another gentle push (only a little harder this time) to help you in this effort. Thanks for staying with me all these years, and keep up the good work.”

### IOWA:

■ “Please put us on your mailing list. I was given a paper today, and read it from cover to cover—enjoyed it all... Enjoyed Bible Questions and answers; also Proverbs.”

### MISSOURI:

■ “Thank you for your paper and work of love! Keep on telling it like it is!”

■ “Thank you for *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. I sure appreciate reading it each time...”

### LOUISIANA:

■ “...Your web page is great and I’d like to ask your permission to use one of your poems in my weekly newspaper column...I always give credit to the author and ask permission when using someone else’s material. Perhaps you would not mind if on occasion I feature something you have written.” (e-mail)

### NEVADA:

■ “Am sorry to have seemingly forgotten you; we really enjoy receiving this good paper. The teaching is great and straight, and your journalism and printing are ‘out of sight’. God bless your good work.”

### CALIFORNIA:

■ “Cancel No more mail.”

### OREGON:

■ “We do appreciate your publication and your compassion for mankind. God bless your every effort.”

■ “I really appreciated your web page and the blessing I received from it. It is very nice and well presented. Please place us on your mailing list for *THE SWORD AND STAFF*...I also wanted to ask if it would be okay to print some of your Proverbs and Barbs in my monthly bulletin for the church here? Do I need to nominate you as author on these as well? Please let me know

if this would be okay! Your Bible questions are especially good because they are challenging, they are not your normal questions; thanks for encouraging more study of the Word through them.”

“God bless you in your work.” (e-mail)

### WASHINGTON:

■ “Please remove us from your mailing list. Thank you.”

### AUSTRALIA:

■ “Just to acknowledge, with grateful thanks, your most recent issue. Appreciations. May you be encouraged in your Christian walk. God bless...” (e-mail) □



## Allegiance and Loyalty to Christ, His Word, and the Local Church

**MOST DENOMINATIONAL** and related problems have to do with allegiance and loyalty. If the allegiance and loyalty of professed Christians was only to Christ, his Word, and his church (meaning the local, autonomous church; that’s all that is found in the New Testament), instead of looking beyond and having a fixation of loyalty on some denominational system, some religious movement (whatever it is called), some religious convention (or gathering), some college (or school), or even some religious publication (or publishing house), most of the problems of division and apostasy confronting us today would be solved and vanish away. This is true of supposed New Testament churches, too. There is one Lord. Let the Lord Jesus Christ indeed be the Lord of all (and over all), and all of our problems (of this nature) will be taken care of. Amen!—*J.E.G.* □



## “NOT ONE STONE UPON ANOTHER”

(Continued from Page 8)

### Why Did It Happen?

Parallel to Matthew 24 are Mark 13 and Luke 21. Our Savior said, in Luke 21:20,22: “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near...For these are the days of vengeance, that **all things which are written may be fulfilled.**” Written especially by Moses in Deuteronomy 28 and by Daniel in chapter 9, but certainly in other texts as well.

“**The days of vengeance.**” The vengeance of the almighty God of heaven. If you are not well acquainted with the contents of Deuteronomy 28, you will want to read it again. If the contents of this chapter had been first written and published by a religious writer today, he would be attacked for being strongly anti-Semitic!

Josephus, a Jew who did not believe in Christ, over and again refers to the destruction of Jerusalem as being by the hand of God. For example, when he was pleading with the Jews to surrender to the Romans, he said to them: the “king of Babylon [Nebuchadnezzar] made war against us, and when he took the city and burnt the temple; while yet I believe the Jews of that age were not so impious as you are. Wherefore, I cannot but suppose that God is fled out of this sanctuary, and stands on the side of those against whom you fight” (book 5, chapter 9, paragraph 4).

Much more to the point of the reason for God’s vengeance, are the remarks of an eighteenth century writer named Thomas Newton. In his *Dissertations on the Prophecies*, he says: “The predictions [of Matthew 24] are the clearest, as the calamities were the greatest which the world ever saw: and what heinous sin was it, that could bring down such heavy judgments on the Jewish church and nation? Can any other with half so much probability be assigned, as what the Scripture assigns, their crucifying the Lord of glory?...and upon reflection, we shall find really some correspondence between their crime and their punishment. They put Jesus to death, when the nation was assembled to celebrate the Passover; and when the nation was assembled too to celebrate the Passover, Titus shut them up within the walls of Jerusalem. The rejection of the true Messiah was their crime; and the following of false Messiahs to their destruction was their punishment. They sold and bought Jesus as a slave; and they themselves were afterward sold and bought as slaves at the lowest prices. They preferred a robber and murderer to Jesus, whom they crucified between two thieves and they themselves were afterward infested with bands of thieves and robbers. They put Jesus to death, lest the Romans should come and take away their place and nation [see John 11:46-48]; and the Romans did come and take away their place and nation. They crucified Jesus before the walls of Jerusalem; and before the walls of Jerusalem they themselves were crucified in such numbers that it is said room was wanting for the crosses and crosses for the bodies. I should think it hardly possible for any man to lay these things together, and not conclude the Jews’ own imprecation to be remarkably fulfilled upon them, (Matthew 27:25) ‘His blood be on us and on our children’” (dissertation 21, paragraph 11).

Why was the temple in Jerusalem so destroyed that not one stone was left upon another? Because that is what God wanted! The Jews rejected the Son of God. God rejected the Jews. The sacrifices of the

temple were no longer needed. The perfect sacrifice had been made.

Gabriel made it plain to Daniel. The temple and Jerusalem will be rebuilt. The Messiah will come and die. The temple and Jerusalem will again be destroyed. Only God could have that knowledge centuries ahead of time. Only God could bring it to pass. Jesus Christ is thus proven to be the Messiah long promised to Israel. The destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 70 A.D. became the final and climactic proof that Jesus of Nazareth was and is, indeed, the Messiah, the Christ, the King and Lord of all. To serve Him is to invite salvation. To reject Him is to invite the wrath of God. *Not one stone remained upon another!* □

(Note by author: This is only the first article regarding Daniel’s seventy-week prophecy and Jesus’ enlargement upon it. Look for more in future issues.)



## “BEHOLD, YOUR HOUSE IS LEFT UNTO YOU DESOLATE”

(Continued from Page 1)

are amazed at the things the Lord said in reference to the temple: “There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Matthew 24:2). When Jesus died on the cross, “the veil of the temple was rent in the midst” (Luke 23:45). Then with the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. by the Romans there was not one stone left unturned of the temple. It was left desolate.

Did you notice the change in the mode of expression in reference to the temple? In the Old Testament the temple was called the *house of God*. Jesus called it, “*My Father’s house.*” But the religious leaders spoke of “*our place,*” and finally Jesus declared, “Behold, *your house* is left unto you desolate.” They looked upon the temple as their own personal possession to do with as they pleased. It was center stage (along with their religion) for their own personal purposes, ambitions, and aggrandizement. (Their religion was dominated by their traditions, Matthew 15:1-9). Jesus, God Incarnate, could not stand in their way. He must be eliminated. Thus, Jesus simply tells it like it is. It is no longer God’s house, but their house. God had left it. Thus, Jesus made the solemn statement.

Perhaps there are many lessons here for us if we would have a mind to learn them. God has a house today in which He dwells, and that house is the church (not the physical church building, but the people). Paul addressed the Corinthians, “Know ye not that ye [plural] are the *temple of God*, and that

(Continued on Next Page)

# “BEHOLD, YOUR HOUSE IS LEFT UNTO YOU DESOLATE”

*(Continued from Previous Page)*

the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God [the church], him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (I Corinthians 3:16,17). This truth is also brought out when Paul instructed Timothy about the public life of the church. He said, “These things write I unto thee...that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the *house of God*, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Timothy 3:14,15).

That being the case that the church is the house of God, that means it is *not* our house. But the “our house” mentality abounds all about us today. In the diverse denominational world in which we find ourselves, it is not uncommon to hear people speak of “our church” and “your church,” i.e., as “our church” (our denomination) believes this as opposed to “your church” (your denomination) believing that. Of course along with this comes all of their traditions, systems, and peculiarities which they look upon as distinctively belonging to them and being their own. With such a mindset it seems to have never occurred to them to think simply in terms of the “Lord’s church” and that alone. In fact, it would be hard (impossible) for them to do this. This mentality is further seen today when we hear of “churches” voting on whether to accept premarital sex, homosexuality, women preachers, or what-have-you (as if the “church” had a right to do this—*how presumptuous!*). The true church is “the pillar and ground of the truth,” and there is no voting on the truth (it is either accepted or rejected). It never changes. The supposed church has become “our house.”

On a lesser scale some are controlled by this kind of mentality who in a sense talk about New Testament Christianity and the undenominational church. They talk about “our movement,” “our brotherhood,” “our fellowship,” “our people,” etc. Theoretically some people may have come out of denominationalism, but the denominational way of thinking has not come out of them. The human element dominates. Consequently some have set up denominational conventions and gatherings for “our people” and “our brotherhood” (even putting national and regional names for the gatherings). Where they get the authority to speak, as if they were speaking for everyone, we know not. (Is the church looked upon as “our house”?) Let’s get back to the “house of God” mentality. There is nothing wrong with being right (although some would try to make a person feel guilty for having strong convictions).

The “our house” mentality is not absent in local church situations today either. Reference to “our church” in the exchange of words is not always harmless and innocent. Indeed, it may have become just that as people use the church for whatever purposes that please them (patriotism, culture, recreation, entertainment, etc.) When we look upon the portfolio of offices and functions of some churches, having a mind disciplined to think only in terms of the Scriptures, we are completely at a loss to understand what is going on. What has happened to the Lord’s elders and deacons? Where is the New Testament evangelist? Have churches lost the distinctive concept of their unique and spiritual mission (I Peter 2:5)? Self-indulgence seems to preoccupy the modern church. Instead of being “the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Timothy 3:15), it has become the pillow and lounge of mirth. What about worship that is indeed spiritual (instead of the church being an entertainment center)? Let the church be the church. Let it be the house of God.

The theme of this article is of such a nature that many applications can be made, but one more thing comes to mind before we close. It is not uncommon to hear people speak of “our minister.” The denominational concept of minister seems to have been fully accepted in most churches. The “our” in this reference may seem relatively harmless, but is he a hireling (John 10:11,12) that he may be thus spoken of? And from the other perspective, we have heard preachers talk about what “my church” is doing and “my elders.” It gets wearisome.

The whole point of this article is to call us back to a “house of God” mentality when thinking about the church. Christ purchased the church with his own blood; it is his (Acts 20:28). Let us not take over possession of the Lord’s house. Remember ancient Israel. Let us be the Lord’s church in word and deed. □

## I AM ONLY ONE

*I am only one,  
but I am one.  
I can’t do everything,  
but I can do something.  
And what I can do,  
that I ought to do.  
And what I ought to do,  
by the grace of God  
I shall do.*

—Edward Everett Hale

## Across the Chasm

**OVER** a deep gorge in Arizona lies a great tree, forming a natural bridge. Ages ago it fell in its prime, apparently a failure. Yet, gradually changed, it is now a tree of solid agate. It has become of noble use and great value, being used by countless human feet to cross the chasm.

On the cross Christ himself seemed a failure to the eye of man, yet he has become the bridge between earth and heaven on which his redeemed may pass over. Once rejected—now honored! □

—*The Biblical Messenger*



## BARBS...

with a Point

**WHERE** you are physically many times indicates where you are spiritually.

*You can't be a part of the big picture until you are part of the small one.*

A person who will lie has a basic flaw in his character and will likewise prove untrue in other circumstances.

*In God's Book and order of things repentance must come before forgiveness can take place.*

Sometimes even prayer is a cop-out when we do not accept responsibility and pray that God will do for us that which we should be doing ourselves.

*Sectarianism takes part of the truth and treats it as if it were all of the truth.*

What some may look upon as patience and long-suffering when examined more closely really is procrastination and indecision.

*Enthusiasm is contagious, even when accompanying error—so beware!*

If we are a child of the King, we shouldn't dress and look like unkempt urchins (nor gaudy, vainglorious children of this world).

*The clergy/laity concept is an artificial distinction that came into being in the context of apostasy.*

In religion some people are so reactionary against certain religious error that they cannot understand and enjoy the truth for what it is and thus become proponents of new error themselves.

*Time does not erode and wash away the guilt of sin, nor does death make a person a saint; only the blood of Christ can do this.*

It is hard to be impressed that people know the Lord, even though they may say they do, when they don't even seem to know the difference between right and wrong.

*Saying you have nothing to hide does not change the fallacy of that which is not hidden.*

The only way that you can get some people to tell the truth is to put them under oath, and even then, they can't always be trusted; but the true Christian's words are always his bond (Matthew 5:33-37; Ephesians 4:25; Revelation 21:8).

*Too many churches and preachers today worship the god of bigness instead of a big God.*

Where there is smoke, there usually is fire; but some are such masters of deception, they can take the smoke and make a smoke screen out of it to conceal the fire.

*Virtue, when taken to the extreme in an artificial and in a paranoid way, becomes vice.*

Many times everybody's business is nobodies' business—there needs to be leaders, and there needs to be defined, designated, and recognized responsibilities.

*The person who uses others will find in the end that others will have no use for him.* □



## Beatitudes for Friends of the Aged

**BLESSED** are they who understand my faltering steps and shaking hand.

**BLESSED** are they who know that my ears today must strain to catch the words people say.

**BLESSED** are they who seem to know that my eyes are dim and my wits are slow.

**BLESSED** are they who looked away when coffee spilled today.

**BLESSED** are they with a cheery smile who stop to chat for a while.

**BLESSED** are they who never say, "You've told that story twice today."

**BLESSED** are they who know the ways to bring back lovely yesterdays.

**BLESSED** are they who make it known that I am loved, not left alone.

**BLESSED** are they who know the loss of strength I need to bear the cross.

**BLESSED** are they who ease the days on my journey home in so many loving ways. □

—*Esther Mary Walker*



## Where is God?

**THE MAN** offered the little boy, who was returning from Bible class, a dollar if he would show him where God is. The little boy responded, "Mister, I'll give you a dollar if you will show me where God ain't!" (End of story).—*Selected* □

---



---

## It is Strange

**"IT IS STRANGE** that alcoholism is the only disease where it is considered illogical and unethical to annihilate the cause. To prevent malaria, we kill the mosquito; to prevent a germ disease, we kill the germ; to destroy beverage alcohol, however, is considered an infringement of personal liberties." □

---



---

## Twelve Rules For Raising Children

1. Remember that a child is a gift from God, the richest of all blessings. Do not attempt to mold him in the image of yourself, your father, your brother, or your neighbor.

2. Don't crush a child's spirit when he fails. And never compare him with others who have outshone him.

3. Remember that anger and hostility are natural emotions. Help your child to deal with these feelings and handle them in a wholesome manner or they may turn inward and erupt in the form of physical or mental illness.

4. Discipline your child with firmness and reason. Don't let *your* anger throw you off balance. If he knows you are fair, you will not lose his respect or his love.

5. Remember that each child needs *two* parents. Present a united front. Never join with your child against your mate. This can create in your child (as well as in yourself) emotional conflicts.

6. Do not hand your child everything his little heart desires. Permit him to know the thrill of earning and the joy of achieving. Grant him the greatest of all satisfactions, the pleasure that comes with personal accomplishment.

7. Do not set yourself up as the epitome of perfection. This is a difficult role to play 24 hours a day. You will find it easier to communicate with your child if you let him know that Mom and Dad can err, too.

8. Don't make threats in anger or impossible promises when you are in a generous mood. Threaten or promise only that which you can live up to.

9. Do not smother your child with superficial manifestations of "love." The purest and healthiest love expresses itself in day-in-day-out training, which breeds self-confidence and independence.

10. Teach your child there is dignity in hard work, whether it is performed with callused hands that

shovel coal or skilled fingers that manipulate surgical instruments.

11. Do not try to protect your child against every small blow and disappointment. Adversity strengthens character and makes us compassionate.

12. Teach your child to love God and to love his fellow men. Don't *send* your child to a place of worship, *take* him there. Children learn from example. Telling him something is not teaching him.—*Selected* □

---



---

## Mom or Dad, Could This Be You?

**A** **PREACHER** was calling on a man about his soul, and was concerned about his salvation. The preacher pleaded with the man to come to Christ, but he wouldn't budge.

The next Lord's day when the invitation was given, and the invitation hymn was sung, this man came down the aisle and said, "Preacher, I want to get right with God." He confessed his faith in Christ and was buried with him in baptism. After the services he told the preacher what made him come to realize the great importance of accepting Christ as Savior.

He said, "Preacher, after you left my home the other evening, my little boy climbed on my lap. He said that he heard what you said to me. Then he reached out his chubby arms, hugged me real tight, put his little mouth up to my ear and whispered, 'Daddy, we don't want to be a Christian do we?' Preacher, I went upstairs that night to bed, and then said, 'Oh God, I never realized the example I was setting for my son.' I want to get right with God. I want to be right with God so I can help my family to know Him."

If this applies to you, don't wait. Get right with God today.—*Selected* □

## SEVEN HUMBLE TOOLS

**Shamgar had an ox-goad;**

**Rahab had a string;**

**Gideon had a trumpet;**

**David had a sling;**

**Samson had a jaw bone;**

**Moses had a rod;**

**Dorcas had a needle—**

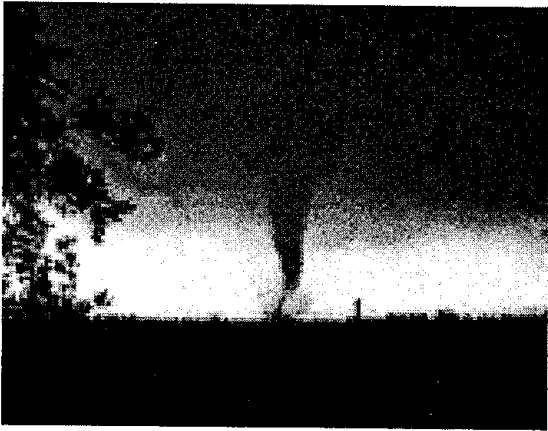
**All were used by God.**

—*Selected*

# Spiritual Food for Thought

~By J. Andrew Gibbons~  
Route 2, Box 91-F  
Westfield, NC 27053

## THE STORMS OF LIFE



WE HEAR of one destructive storm right after another. The southeastern part of the United States seems to be taking the brunt of storms and tornadoes at this time. But we are told that tornadoes are the third leading cause of death and injury in calamities of this nature after flash floods and lightning.

Just like other threats in life, one's preparedness may very well be the difference between life and death or minor and major injury. Storms are part of our physical lives, and we should be prepared at all times.

Storms of life are another thing which cause difficulties to many, spiritually speaking. Our preparation may determine the difference between our faithfulness or our failure. We may sometimes feel God is not fair. Remember God has never promised us a rose garden here. There are rainy days as well as sunny ones.

Life may not seem to make sense at times, but God has promised never to leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). God remains the same, but mankind changes. He is the God of consolation and comfort. He does not build a hedge around us so that we will never experience any difficulties, but he has promised HOPE.

Hebrews 6:19, "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast."

Is your life anchored to the Rock that doesn't roll or shift? Jesus, the Christ, is sure and steadfast but to have the benefit of Christ's faithfulness, we have to be connected.

Jesus' disciples were upset with Him because He slept while the storm's waves and wind covered the boat. As they woke Jesus, they said, "Care not that we perish?" Jesus then rebuked the winds and the waves with the words, "Peace be still."

Then He turned to the disciples and rebuked them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" (Mark 4:35-40) The Master was with them, but they still doubted His concern for them.

Let us not think that Jesus or the Father doesn't care. God, the Father, does care. But our lives have to be connected by faith and obedience day after day.

I John 5:4, "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

Are you born of God? Then you can overcome any storms of life! □

## Punctuality: *Be on Time*

SOME PEOPLE are habitually late to appointments, getting work done, and even to worship services. Punctuality is a seemingly small virtue but it is a necessary one. There is nothing that will inspire confidence, create good will, cause pleasant human relations as much as being on time. The person who needlessly breaks appointments or fails to be prompt shows a disregard for others, and exhibits a recklessness of character. Often the failure of one man to meet his obligations promptly causes the ruin of many men and undertakings. Punctuality is the soul of business, and is a mark of character. It should not be just a matter of courtesy, but a point of conscience.

The planets keep exact time in their revolutions; nature is punctual. God expects man to be prompt. God says, "Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits" (Exodus 22:29). The foolish virgins were not condemned because they were vicious or did not want to attend the wedding; but they were not on time! (Matthew 25:10). The third chapter of Ecclesiastes points to the necessity of correct timing, and concludes with the truth, "He hath made everything beautiful in his time" (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

There are a great many things we cannot do, but in most instances we can be on time. Punctuality takes planning, programs and foresight. It takes a lot of courage to refuse to obligate yourself to do more than you can. Promptness is not easy to develop, but once it is a habit all of life becomes lots smoother. All should seek to develop this virtue because it is one of the indications of a deep concern for others and the will of God.

—Carroll Ellis □

### Answers to:

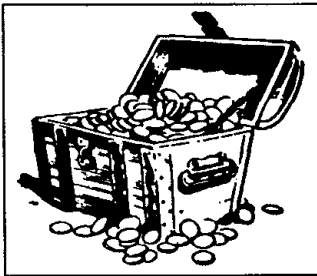
### BIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Genesis 1:1 and Revelation 22:21; 2. Heaven and earth (in the rough, raw material state) and light (Genesis 1:1-5; Exodus 20:11); 3. Genesis 1:3-5; 1:14-19; 4. (1) As the dust of the earth (Genesis 13:14-16; 28:14); (2) As the stars of the heaven (Genesis 15:5,6; 26:4); (3) As the sand of the sea/seashore (Genesis 22:15-18; 32:12); ONE NOT AS WELL KNOWN: As fish increase, meaning of Hebrew behind words translated "let them grow into a multitude" (Genesis 48:16, KJV) and spoken by Jacob on his deathbed in the land of the Nile River; 5. Christians—Galatians 3:6-9,29 (Romans 9:6-8); 6. East and NE of the Sea of Galilee; noted for cattle and livestock (Deuteronomy 32:14; Psalms 22:12; Ezekiel 39:18; Amos 4:1); 7. Esther 5:9-14; 7:9,10; 9:25; 8. Psalms 119; 9. Mark 3:17; Luke 9:51-56; 10. Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3; 11. John 11:35; 12. Acts 11:27-30; 21:10,11; 13. Acts 12:12; 14. Acts 13:14, 50-52; 15. Acts 15:11; 16. Acts 15 (found 11 times, fittingly in this chapter on the question of Gentile and Jewish Christians); 17. Acts 22:27,28 18. Hebrews; I, II, and III John; 19. II Corinthians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; Philemon, verse 1; 20. I Thessalonians 1:1; II Thessalonians 1:1. □



The  
**Sword AND Staff**  
**Treasure**

MANY who love the Word of God have discovered Treasure much to their liking when they obtained the bound volumes of *The Sword and Staff*. If you like this current issue, you will likewise be thrilled with the back copies in book form. Notice those still available (while they are still available), and place your order now for good reading. Make them part of your library *and part of your life*. You will be glad that you did. ☐



**THE RESTORATION MOVEMENT**

I HAVE COME to the conclusion that many who speak the most about "the Restoration Movement" and "our people" are among the least dedicated to "restoring" the New Testament church. They want some kind of denominational identity, and are insecure in simply identifying themselves with the church of the New Testament and that alone. The expression "Restoration Movement" has become a denominational mode of reference, and saying "our" people accents it. They really are accepting the imperfections of the *status quo* to which we have fallen heir and have no intentions of going beyond that in a full and actual restoration. One preacher actually said, "You have got to accept reality," having reference to what we have just said.—*James E. Gibbons* ☐

- ☐ 1995-1996 volumen encuadernado de "La Espada y El Caydo" (en español) —\$7.75

**(CLIP AND MAIL\OR WRITE)**

Gentlemen:

Enclosed find my contribution. Please put me on the mailing list of *The Sword and Staff*. ☐ New ☐ Renew

Name: .....

Address (with zip): .....

**Check for bound volumes of *The Sword and Staff***

- ☐ 1985-86 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$6.95  
☐ 1987-88 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$7.25  
☐ 1989-90 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$7.25  
☐ 1991-92 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$7.25  
☐ 1993-94 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$7.50  
☐ 1995-96 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$7.75  
☐ *Poems of The Soul and Proverbs* (by James E. Gibbons)—\$5.00; 5 or more copies, \$4.00 each.

*Do You Have Your Copy Yet?*

**Poems of the Soul and Proverbs**

*By James E. Gibbons*

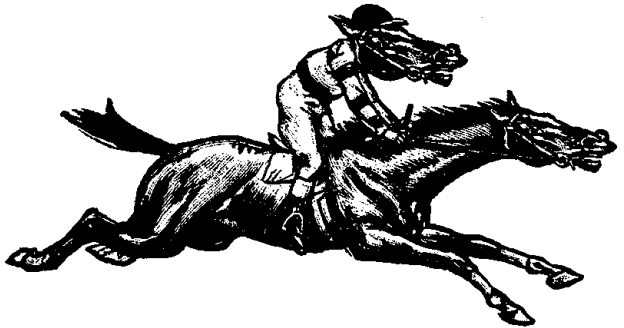
THIS different approach in expressing truth makes for interest and appeal. Many people have ordered and keep ordering this little book of poems and proverbs by the editor. Here are some ways it is being used.

- For personal reading
- For personal gifts to family and friends
- To give to whole churches
- To use in preparing church bulletins
- To give to senior citizens groups
- To give to the sick, the shut in and people in hospitals

It is suggested that you send \$5.00 for a single book, and if you order five or more, \$4.00 per book to help with the printing and mailing cost. Thank you! ☐

**Order Today**

**Confused About Which Way to Go?**



GO BACK TO THE BIBLE AND THE LOCAL  
UNDENOMINATIONAL, NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH  
AND YOU WILL BE RIGHT ON COURSE.

● **HELP US REACH OUT TO MORE PEOPLE AND CHURCHES WITH THIS PUBLICATION. Thanks!**

<http://web.infoave.net/~jgibbons/index.htm>

→ Check Out Our Web Site:

**THE SWORD AND STAFF**  
Post Office Box 147  
Mt. Airy, NC 27030 USA  
Telephone: (336) 789-1044

Non-Profit Organ.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Mt. Airy, NC 27030  
Permit No. 25