

# THE NEW CREATION

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## **CDMI Main Office**

36 Chapel Lane, Somersworth, NH 03878

**Website: CDMI.org**

## **New Creation Editor**

Bob Whittaker  
356 Fairgreen Pl  
Casselberry, FL 32707  
bobwhittaker64@gmail.com

## **Printing & Distribution Center CDMI**

36 Chapel Lane  
Somersworth, NH 03878  
Manager: Bruce Blake  
bblake351@gmail.com

## **Donations CDMI**

2462 E. Laurel Street  
Mesa, AZ 85213  
Laureen Shaw  
bowenshaw@msn.com

## **Bible Correspondence Courses CDMI**

P.O. Box 540  
Warrenville, IL 60555  
Manager: Allan Crawford  
ahcrawford@ameritech.net

**CDMI Website: <http://www.cdmi.org> Phone: 239-237-6319**

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**NOTE:** The thoughts presented in the articles are those of the writer and are not necessarily totally endorsed by the New Creation Staff. *“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* – 2 Timothy 2:15.  
*“Prove ALL things and hold fast to what is good.”* – 1 Thess. 5:21.

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## The Lord Is My Shepherd

*“My sheep hear my voice and they follow me.”*  
*“They will by no means follow a stranger.”*

There are many voices in the world today, but the voice of the good shepherd is the one to earnestly listen for and obey. Jesus’ voice is very heart-warming. Where do we find his voice? There is only one source and that is in the Holy Scriptures, recorded and preserved for us from the days of the Apostles until now.

True, we are benefited by servants or ministers – apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, and pastors – who in all humility seek to bring to our attention the word of life from the Scriptures. We do well to not ignore these, but we are responsible to examine their teachings in light of the Holy Scriptures and the learning that the Lord gives through his holy spirit, remaining true to our Lord – to hear his voice.

Since the understanding of the written word is interpretive, we will understand the meaning of all Scripture only in part. We know that our heavenly Father said to Israel that the things revealed belong to us and our children (spiritual Israelites now) and that which is hidden cannot be understood. We rightly spend much time seeking to understand, but with so many translations and shades of meaning to words, nobody is going to have the same or full understanding of Scripture.

However, the Scriptures are uniformly consistent in their expressions of moral excellence. Although fallen humanity, including ourselves, are in a weakened state, we should be attracted to the moral magnet the Heavenly Father holds out, and being attracted, rejoice in the moral rectitude that the Scriptures present to our minds. Someday we will know as we are known, and things which are so difficult to reason through will be made plain. At that time we will see him as he is because we shall be like him. Being like him, we will enjoy eternal fellowship, grateful that our good shepherd led us day by day, strengthening us, encouraging us, speaking to us through his word, the words of life. So let’s be courageous, following our good shepherd’s voice and remembering the great inheritance reserved in heaven for us.



R. Whittaker

## The Museum of the Permission of Evil

*“One generation passes away, and another generation comes; but the earth abides forever.” Ecclesiastes 1:4 [NKJV]*

Really? Does the earth really abide “forever”? There is no Hebrew word meaning “eternity”, such as we have in modern English.

The Hebrew word for “forever” is “olam” [ST 5769], which means “open-ended” or “no specified ending”. Thus, the Law Covenant [in its many ordinances] was stated to be “forever” [olam] even though God knew that arrangement would come to an end at some unstated point in time, and even specified so in Jeremiah 31:31-34 when God through the prophet spoke of a “new covenant”. The Hebrew Scriptures use this word numerous times referring to the Tabernacle and its various rituals; and that system has ended. But many other times the word is used of God, His attributes, and His promises; these are truly “forever” and “eternal”.

So, context and usage are important, as is a basic understanding of the plan of God.

But, specifically, what about the earth? The 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics, simply stated, is that everything in the physical universe is “running down”, that “disorder” always increases. There is no reason to think that this will ever change in the future.

Still, there are many Scriptures which strongly imply that the earth will be preserved forever.

*“Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name): ‘If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the Lord, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.’” [Jeremiah 31:35-36]*

See Genesis 8:22; Psalms 72:5, 17; 89:35-37; 148:6; Isaiah 60:21; 66:22; and other texts.

God will see to it that the sun does not burn out. As the sun [with its solar system] speeds through not-so-empty space, it will gather in all the Hydrogen atoms [and other materials] that it needs to fuel its thermonuclear furnaces.

The earth will not run out of resources; the mountains will not crumble until earth is simply a smooth ball; the oceans will not cover the land; the atmosphere will not evaporate into space. Other stars may burn out or explode; other planets turn cold or hot. But not the earth; not the sun.

Any why will God do this? Because HERE, on this earth, is where it all happened.

### A New Marvel

It seems implied in Scripture, if not definitely stated, that Adam was the very first human created anywhere in the universe. This was a new marvel to the angels.

*“When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” [Job 38:7]*

*“And so it is written, ‘The first man Adam became a living being.’ The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.” [1 Corinthians 15:45, 47]*

But this new “marvel” failed and lost both the paradise-garden home and life itself.

Paradise Lost -- HERE, on this earth.

But, also Paradise Restored -- HERE, on this earth.

Sin, evil, suffering and death were permitted HERE; restoration was HERE; the wonder of salvation by Jesus was HERE. This history, in all its details, will be preserved as an eternal remembrance of the “Permission of Evil” and the Restoration therefrom.

Here is where Adam and Eve were created and placed in a paradise-garden, and ultimately fell from God's grace. Here was the great flood of Noah. Here is the land where Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob walked. Here is the land of Israel. Here are the Jewish people following God, or turning away from Him, with appropriate results. Here are the lands of purer, and also apostate, Christianity. Here are multitudes of false gods and religions. Here are great wars, famines, plagues, the depths of human depravity as well as some very noble heights. Here Jesus lived and taught, died, and was raised from death. HERE -- on this planet Earth.

THIS is where it happened, and it will be preserved for all eternity as a monument to God's wisdom, as well as His love, justice, and power.

The vast historical information about the Permission of Evil, and the Restoration, is too eternally important merely to be remembered only in the minds of those who experienced various parts of it. So, there needs to be a permanent repository of ALL this information.

THIS earth will be the "Museum of the Permission of Evil", always open for instruction, and remembering.

### Necessary To Be Humble

But first, God's intention is to humble the inhabitants of earth, and thus prepare them to be teachable in the Kingdom. *"The proud looks of man shall be humbled, the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day."* [Isaiah 2:11, 17]

Present earth museums contain various artifacts such as ancient bones, pottery, tools, machines, books, pictures, sculptures, and so forth. But, to help in the restoration process, it seems more is needed, information that is real, actual and moving. So, it is likely that everything has been recorded by God.

Jesus said everything hidden will be revealed:--

*“For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.”* [Luke 8:17]

Perhaps this is one method of how the revealing could be done.

The various earthly scenes will possibly be available as 3-dimensional holograms, in full color, with surround-sound and perhaps smells. One could walk around such a hologram and see it from all sides. Perhaps to see the crucifixion of Jesus; or Lazarus walking from his tomb; the great Flood; the destruction of Sodom; and many more. The people of earth, including the resurrected dead, could certainly profit by this. Not only on the large scale, but also on the individual level.

The very thoughts and motives of individuals could be made known, especially when a wrong-doer and his victim have to face each other and be reconciled. Humility, repentance, and forgiveness will go hand-in-hand, and that will be a real test on both parties. Forgiveness must be asked for, and forgiveness must be given, in order to progress in the Kingdom.

And many mysteries [that are not salvation issues] will be solved, such as finally knowing what happened to people, ships, and planes that simply “disappeared” without a trace. And where Enoch was “translated” to; what the “star” of Bethlehem actually was; who built the pyramids; and numerous other puzzles.

### Beyond the Kingdom

Will there be future physical creations that could profit by this museum? We are not told anything about the future arrangements after the 1000-year Kingdom ends.

But we know that --

1. The physical universe is immense, and seemingly empty of intelligent physical life.

2. We also know that God is a Creator.

So, it seems likely that creation will continue. If so, we [the human race on earth] are at the very early days of creation. God is dealing early on with sin and evil in His creation. When that process is completed, it seems likely that creation will eventually continue elsewhere.

These future beings will have to be taught about sin and its evil results. They will not experience sin, but their instruction could be enhanced by this recorded form of observation, by viewing various incidents of earth's recorded history.

### Never Repeated; Never Forgotten

Sin and evil will never be permitted again; but this experience will never be forgotten.

*"Affliction shall not rise up the second time".* [Nahum 1:9]

Human creatures [and angels, too] will each and all find that God's powers and abilities and wisdom simply overwhelm the finite mind.

God [Yahweh] once said to Moses -- Tell the children of Israel *"THE ETERNAL"* has sent you [Exodus 3:14 Moffatt]. The ETERNAL has had countless eons to formulate this plan, and millennia to carry it out. The ETERNAL will be supremely successful.

All creation, once reconciled, will be safe in the arms of the ETERNAL.

*"The ETERNAL shall reign forever --  
Your God, O Zion, to all generations.  
Praise the Lord!"* [Psalm 146:10]

L. Schneider



## The Lord Will Provide

This article's title may suggest that God may not always provide, but rather can or will, when in fact one with understanding knows God does provide.... ALWAYS. It may not be a wanted car, or even food enough to add pounds, or something within a desired timeframe, but surely, all that is given, **or the lack thereof** is from God, done whether or not realized, in our best interest. One explanation for the above is shared in James 4:2-3, "*Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*" Let us explore what is entailed in these two verses that seem pretty straight forward yet require some understanding to appreciate.

First of all, faith is required, for we must not only ask, but believe that God will fill our needs. Remember the lack of faith given in 2Ki 7:1-2, "*Then Elisha said, **Hear ye the word of the LORD**; Thus saith the LORD, Tomorrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria. Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven (send rain now), might this thing be? And he (Elisha) said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, **but shalt not eat thereof.***"

In this account, the drought made food so scarce that for hunger, a woman boiled her child. Yet, the people were called on to believe the words of Elisha, God's prophet, even as we are called on to believe God's promises and instructions for life provided in His Holy Scriptures. We must believe in God's ability to provide what may seem to be impossible as in the case above, where God's promise was kept with food abundant the very next day, which the unbeliever saw, but never tasted, being trampled by the crowd.

No doubt, in the coming resurrection of the dead in God's kingdom for which we pray, this unbeliever will in what will seem like the "twinkling of the eye," awaken from the sleep of death and remember the power of God that his eyes witnessed, and will be-

lieve, even as we are instructed to do in this life, that we may become a New Creation in Christ, with our focus not on the temporal, but spiritual. Give this some thought. Is there any difference between the past and now? The promises may be different, but faith is required today as it was then, and by faith we should never doubt the ability and promises of God.

So, what is it that we should ask in prayer that would be pleasing to God? Is it long life, riches, a needed car, a job, safe travel, or deliverance from a trial that may be working good in our life? Should the focus of our prayer be on ourselves, or on the Lord as a **desired faithful servant**? All the things listed above in this paragraph have a focus on what we desire in the flesh, not in the spirit of service to God, which should be our primary desire and focus. If there is any doubt, listen to Solomon's response when God asked him what he wanted. Solomon answered in 1Ki 3:9, *"Give therefore thy **servant** an understanding heart to judge **thy** people, that I may discern between good and bad:...."* And God's response in 1Ki 3:10-13, *"And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for **thyself** long life; neither hast asked riches for **thyself**, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; (to better serve the Lord) Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. And I have also given thee **that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honor:** "*

Here, Solomon's sole desire was God's help that he may properly serve the Lord in the position he was given as king. He was not self-centered, but rather had his focus on better serving the Lord. Should our focus be any less? And I would suggest further that we should not take God for granted in our requests but use what he has already given us to help ourselves. Remember what Paul said in 2Th 3:10, *"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."*

We are told in 1Th 5:17-18, *“Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”* Praying is an important demonstration of our faith, for doing so acknowledges our firm belief that God is our Creator, Master and Father, who indeed wants to give us every good gift as His children. That would not exclude chastisements for our good (Rev.3:19).

Jesus clearly told us that God knows our needs before we ask (Matt 6:8), so our prayers should acknowledge that fact with thanksgiving, come what may, acknowledging our faith in Him and His promises, and that His will be done in our lives. Faith must be built upon a solid foundation, rooted in God’s Word, with obedience to that Word. Remember Job who demonstrated this solid foundation of faith. Upon losing his family and his vast possessions, Job fell down and worshipped, saying in Job 1:21, *“... Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; **blesse**d be the name of the LORD.”*

Job without fault suffered greatly, but through it all he loved the Lord, and was able in the end to acknowledge his great blessing, having grown spiritually, saying in Job 42:5, *“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.”*

Let us remember that God has endowed us with talents and resources *“according to our several abilities”* that we must use to serve Him as faithful servants, (Mat 25:14-30) as well as use to provide for our daily needs. As Rev 3:3 reminds us, *“Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come upon thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”*

Let us not be like the five foolish virgins who were unprepared (Mat 25:1-13) for the Lord’s return and judgement. Let us *“watch”* by serving Him continually, and therefore not be found wanting at His return.

J. DiCesare

## Stepping into Temptation

*“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.” James 1:14-16 (ESV)*

*Temptation* can be defined as an inducement to do something wrong or evil. Three powerful forces work together to try to ruin a believer’s character and witness: *Satan, the world’s culture, and our own lustful fleshly tendencies*. Being tempted isn’t a sin, but *yielding is*. We commonly hear the expression “*falling into temptation,*” but in reality, we walk into it, one step at a time. It is important to realize that the battle against temptation begins *in the mind*. Throughout our journey in this life, we have *choices* we can make to stop a downward progression into the dangerous territory that temptation would lead us, or we can choose to go ahead and thus suffer the consequences.

The process starts in our thoughts. While it is impossible to prevent every luring thought from entering our mind, we can choose how long to hold on to each one. By entertaining an idea, even briefly, we take another step downward. One of the devil’s greatest deceptions is to convince us that experiencing the pleasures of sin in our fantasies isn’t really that bad. After all, we haven’t carried it out. But Satan knows the power that thoughts have and by gaining this foothold, he has seized a powerful motivator of the human will—*desire*. Those “*harmless imaginations*” can easily turn into passions that crave satisfaction. That’s just a small step away from uniting the desire with action, at which point all opposition has vanished and sin has won.

Resisting temptation becomes harder with each progressive step taken by wrong thinking. Thus, we need to reject tempting thoughts in the beginning; not dwelling on the promised pleasure, but considering sin’s result. The cost is always far greater than sin’s fleeting enjoyment.

Yielding to temptation can open the door to addiction. For instance, pornography has become one of the plagues of our day and has ruined the lives and marriages of countless people. It is the result of giving in to the temptation of sexual perversion. Lust of the flesh can lead to having an adulterous affair which often ends in divorce and broken families, where the children are severely hurt.

It is important to realize that no one is an island unto themselves. Almost all the ramifications of temptation reach out and affect others around you. In some cases, it can have a rippling effect down through time and even for future generations. A prime example is when Adam and Eve succumbed to temptation and sinned in the Garden of Eden. It not only affected them but also every person born since as Romans 5:12 (ESV) tells us, *“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.”* Since that day sin is crouching at the door of all our minds, waiting for the opportunity to enter in.

In one of Aesop’s fables, the story is told of a donkey that stuck his nose into a blacksmith shop. When the blacksmith complained, the donkey said, *“Don’t be stingy. You have the whole shop and I only want to put in my nose. It is really stormy outside, and my nose is so cold.”* So, the blacksmith said, *“Oh all right.”* But a little later, he noticed that the donkey had put in his right foot also. When the blacksmith again protested, the donkey pleaded again how cold he was and how little room he was taking up. Still later, he put in his other forefoot and little by little he gradually worked his whole body into the shop and then turned on the blacksmith and drove him out of the shop. He was now in control.

What a lesson for us! Satan at first tries to edge his way into our lives a little at a time. If we give in to him, then he gradually usurps more and more of our time, attention and thinking, resulting in the new creature becoming weaker and weaker and finally losing control to Satan’s evil schemes. Our aim should be to see that we are aware of Satan’s tactics and

of our own weaknesses, and then watch and pray, which will rob our enemies of their victory in our lives.

Sin will always influence a Christian's sanctification and their relationship with God. Unforgiven sin creates a barrier between us and God and deters any further spiritual growth. When we sin, and we will, let us immediately follow the advice found in 1 John 1:8-9: *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* When we do this, we are free to progress in our Christian walk.

It is important to know that in Christ we are no longer slaves to sin. Christ has set us free. "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36 – ESV). The Apostle Paul in the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans stresses this wonderful provision that is ours: *"For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace" (vs. 14). "But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness" (vss. 17-18). "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life" (vs. 22).* As it was with Paul, so it is with us, we can say, *"I can do all things through Him (Christ) who strengthens me"* (Phil. 4:13 – ESV). This is affirmed to us in Romans 8:37-39: *"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any thing else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* How can we not joyfully exclaim, "Hallelujah, what a Savior!

E. Weeks

## The Gospel of Christ

*“...I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16).*

One of the claims made by almost all religions in the world is that through loyalty and faithfulness to their beliefs, one is able to attain salvation, yet the concept of salvation varies greatly from one religion to another. Let us look at a few:

To the American Indian, salvation means spending eternity in a happy hunting ground; for Hindus, salvation means a reunion with Brahma known as Nirvana; before attaining to this ultimate in salvation, the Hindu believes that he will come back to earth several different times in what is called reincarnation. He may come back at one time as an elephant, another time as an insect. What he is when he comes back depends on how well he has used his present life. On his final exit he will find his Nirvana, which is in reality a condition of perpetual unconsciousness. In Buddhism, Nirvana is the state of perfect blessedness achieved by the extinction of individual existence, being absorbed into the supreme spirit.

We cite these as illustrations of the fact that the idea of salvation greatly varies. One thing common to all religions is that *faith* results in salvation. That is what the Apostle Paul tells us concerning the Christian religion when he says, *“I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation”* (Rom. 1:16). The great difference is that the Apostle is speaking of the *true* religion and *true* salvation via faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Still, this does not give us a great deal of information. If we should ask a dozen people what their idea was concerning the Gospel and what Salvation means, we would probably get many different and contradictory answers.

Simply because the Apostle says that the Gospel is the *power of God unto salvation* does not bring before our minds what is the great hope of the Gospel, in all its completeness, or what Christianity really means, not only for us, but for the entire human race. In the opening verses of this chapter, Paul gives us some help along this line. He speaks of this same gospel and calls it the Gospel of God. Then he goes on further and says it is the Gospel of God *which had been spoken in early times by all the prophets*. Thus, the Apostle is suggesting here that if we wish to find out more about this Gospel, one way to do it is to examine the testimony of all the Holy Prophets of the Old Testament period. Going back to the testimonies of God's prophets, we find that they do indeed tell us many wonderful things regarding the Gospel of God.

The word *Gospel* itself simply means *glad tidings* or *good news*. We find the prophets make many wonderful statements which, taken at their face value, sound good and are very descriptive of *good news*. For instance, the prophet Isaiah in the 35<sup>th</sup> chapter tells us of a time when all the blind eyes will be opened; all the deaf ears shall be unstopped; the lame man shall leap as an hart and the tongue of the dumb shall sing. The same prophet tells us of a time when there shall be a highway, a *way of Holiness*, a roadway on which conditions will be made so plain *that "a wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein."* He speaks of a time when the *"ransomed of the Lord shall return with songs of everlasting joy upon their heads,"* and further states that these *"shall obtain everlasting joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."*

Now all of these statements surely are descriptive of *good news*, but they tell us little about all that is meant of the Gospel. Turning to the 65<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah, we find the prophet gives us further *good news*. He describes a time when *"they shall build houses and inhabit them and plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them."* Certainly, that is *good news* indeed, but where will these houses be built and where will these vineyards be planted? Are we to understand this to mean that in



heaven people will be building houses and planting vineyards?  
Just what does the prophet mean?

Isaiah again prophesies in the 25th chapter, telling us of the time when *“the Lord will make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, well refined, of fat things full of marrow.”* He tells us that at that same time the Lord will *“swallow up death in victory, and wipe away tears from off all faces,”* and that *“the rebuke of His people will He take away from off all the earth.”*

In this same prophecy, Isaiah tells us of the hearty response of the people when these blessings are dispensed to them, saying, *“Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him. We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”* (Isaiah 25:9)

All of these are wonderful promises of *good news* from the pen of only *one* of God’s holy prophets. If we examined the testimony of *all* the prophets, we would be equally thrilled by the marvelous things they have foretold. But to put them all together to form a pattern of meaning that will teach the real plan of God and how that salvation will be brought to all the people takes much study and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In Galatians 8:3 the Apostle Paul gives us further insight when he tells us that *“God preached beforehand the Gospel unto Abraham.”* This statement is very revealing, for many of us have held the idea that the gospel was first preached by the angels on the night Jesus was born into this world. Indeed, that was a wonderful declaration of *good news* concerning God’s plan for the salvation of the world; nevertheless, according to the Apostle Paul, this was not the first time the gospel was preached. No, it was given to that faithful patriarch, Abraham, with this promise: *“In you and in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed”* (Genesis 12:3). Surely this promise was *very good news* and a wonderful part of the gospel. The Gospel of God is surely not a narrow gospel, nor is it a restrictive message. It is a blessing of *“all the families of the earth.”*

As we trace this wonderful theme song of the Bible down through prophetic testimony of the Old Testament, we find that it *never narrows down*. It is always all-comprehensive, just as was the statement made to Abraham, and also when Jacob was on his deathbed he uttered prophecies concerning things that would happen to the descendants of his twelve sons. He said, concerning Judah, that out of his loins would come one whom he designated as *Shiloh*, meaning *peacemaker*. This was really one of the promises of the coming Messiah, for it says, *“unto him shall the gathering of the nations be.”* The implication is that all the nations would come in for blessings through this prophetic One described as Shiloh.

Turning again to Isaiah, in the 9th chapter, we read another prophecy concerning Jesus, the promised Messiah. *“Unto us a child is born and unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder. His name shall be called wonderful counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”* Then it continues, *“Of the increase of His government and of His peace there shall be no end”* (Isa. 9:6-7). In other words, His government will ultimately reach and encompass all nations, bringing blessings promised to Abraham and to *all the families of the earth*. As the prophecies unfold pertaining to this promised seed of Abraham, we find it becomes associated with the setting up of a Divine government in the earth -- the Kingdom for which Jesus taught us to pray: *“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*

In Daniel 2:35 we have another prophecy concerning this kingdom, one which likens it to a great mountain that fills the whole earth. Daniel said this illustrated the wonderful kingdom of the LORD which would one day fill the whole earth. We see this Kingdom to be just as broad and all-comprehensive in Daniel's prophecies as when the promise was first made to father Abraham.

Continuing on to the time when Jesus was born and the angels announced His birth, we find it had not narrowed down at all. They said to the shepherds, *“Fear not, for behold, we*

*bring you glad tidings of great joy which shall be unto all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord”* (Luke 2:10, 11). This was indeed *glad tidings, the gospel or good news* which was to be to *all the people*.

In this announcement by the angels, the plan of God took another step forward. Until this time, it was a matter of God's promises reiterated in various forms and expressed in different ways by one after another of the prophets. Now, however, *fulfillment* began. It became more than a promise, for *the Savior was born!*

When we consider this background of thought, with Jesus as the central theme in this glorious Gospel of God (also called the gospel of Christ), it is interesting to note some of the things which Jesus said when He began His ministry some 30 years after His birth.

A rich young ruler came to Jesus and said, *“Good master, what good thing must I do to inherit eternal life?”* (Matt. 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-25; Luke 18:18-27). This man was interested in salvation; he wanted to live. Jesus referred him back to the law given to Israel at Mount Sinai which was epitomized in the ten commandments. The reason Jesus did this was because the law had promised that anyone who could keep it would gain life. *“To the man that does these things he shall live by them”* (Romans 10:5; Leviticus 18:5; Nehemiah 9:29) was the promise.

This rich ruler answered, *“All of these have I kept from my youth up.”* The account does not go into all the details, but seemingly the young man realized he was aging just like everyone else, and there was no evidence that keeping the law was benefiting him in the sense of preventing his growing old and dying. Of course, no imperfect member of the fallen, dying race *could* keep that law. Then Jesus graciously said to him, *“Yet one thing you lack; go sell what you have and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven, and come*

*follow me*" (Matt. 19:16-22). With that, the young man went away sorrowful. The account says it was because he had great riches, implying that he wasn't willing to pay the price. Jesus was really giving him the qualifications for being a disciple and not just for salvation. To give up his riches was to 'deny himself,' something not required for salvation but for discipleship. When this man left at this point, Jesus went on to say how difficult it would be for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven, that it would be easier for a camel to go through the needle's eye gate than for one rich to divest himself of his wealth for Christ's sake.

Much of what Jesus said about riches being a detriment to entering the kingdom of heaven was also bewildering to the disciples, for at this point in time they had not been fully initiated into the gospel with its invitation to a *heavenly calling*. Jesus replied to them, "*I realize this thing is impossible to you, but with God all things are possible.*" What Jesus was really doing for the moment was putting them off, not giving them a direct answer. But this did not satisfy the disciples, and they came back to Jesus again with a statement which they thought would compel Him to give a direct answer to their initial question.

They said to the Master, "*We have left all and followed you...*" In other words, we've done just what you asked this rich young ruler to do -- now what is our reward? You can see what was going on in their minds. These disciples believed and expected that by becoming associates with Jesus, they would then have a part in His kingdom on earth. They also believed that the kingdom promised in the Old Testament would be immediately established in Judea by Jesus and that in some miraculous way He would be enthroned as King of the Jews, and they would be associated with Him.

Then Jesus did give them a direct reply: "*He who has left all and followed me, in the regeneration, shall sit with me on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*" Now here, Jesus is reassuring the disciples that He was not overlooking the

great objective of His coming to earth and of their being called to be with Him. He describes that great objective as "*the re-generation.*"

The Apostle Paul refers to this a little differently in 1 Corinthians 15, that wonderful chapter in which he tells us of the resurrection of (all) the dead. Paul speaks of Adam as *the first* Adam and then speaks of Jesus as the *last* Adam, saying, "As all in Adam die, so in Christ all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:21, 22 & 45).

All of the promises which we have quoted, mostly from Isaiah, describe a blessing of an earthly nature and are spoken of by the Apostle Peter as being descriptive of what he calls the "*times of restitution of all things spoken by the mouth of all God's holy prophets*" (Acts 3:21).

In the Greek text, *restitution* has the meaning of *reconstitution* or *restoration*, giving us the thought that the *original* plan of God in the creation of Adam was for the earth to be man's home, and this will be carried out in the restoration or restitution. While the human race lost life in Adam, they will have life restored in Christ. This restored life will be here on earth which was God's original plan. In both the Old and New Testaments, various terms are used for this restoration process. *Restitution* is the word used by Peter in Acts 3:21. Paul used the word *resurrection* which means a *re-standing*. In the Old Testament we find a *re-turning*, when "*the ransomed of the Lord shall re-turn from death*" (Isaiah 35:10).

All these words emphasize the same thought, that the great objective and hope of salvation for mankind in general is that of being restored to life upon the earth. The word *regeneration* is another one that gives us the same thought, with a shade of difference in meaning, since it emphasizes the fact that those to be restored will be the children of the first Adam who will then become the children of the last Adam, the *re-generated* race.

This is the thought that is brought to our attention in Isaiah 53, where Jesus' suffering and death are described prophetically. In verse 8 we are told there that He would "*be cut off from the land of the living: and there would be none to declare His generation.*" But then in verses 10 and 11, it says, "*He shall see His seed. He shall see the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied.*" Thus it will be that His family, His seed, His generation will be the *regenerated* human family brought back to life. This will be accomplished during the thousand years of His reign on the earth.

Jesus is telling the disciples that He has not lost sight of this great objective in the plan of God, and that there will indeed be a time of *regeneration*. But, he says, they will NOT be among the ones regenerated *at that time*, for if they follow faithfully in His footsteps, suffering and dying with Him, they will have treasures in heaven and be with Him and have the great privilege and honor of sharing with Him as "heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ" in that work of regenerating the race to life on earth (Rom. 8:17).

We see from this conversation, first between Jesus and the rich Ruler, and then the larger and fuller explanation as He talked with His disciples, that in the *gospel of Christ* there is the free gift of *Salvation* and also an invitation extended to a *Heavenly Calling*, an outgrowth of *Salvation*, and only extended to those who are willing to follow in His footsteps *during the present Gospel Age*. "*IF any man would be my disciple, let him deny self, take up his cross and follow me*" (Matt. 16:24). This is an *invitation to a High or Heavenly calling and distinct from Salvation!* During the earthly 1,000 year Kingdom of God, salvation will be extended to the world. If they accept Jesus' death for their sins and obey the righteous laws of the Kingdom, they will be given all the help they need to be humanly perfected as was Adam before he sinned; but the *opportunity* to be with Jesus and partake in this "heavenly calling" will not be available then. That part of the Kingdom will extend salvation only to life on earth...the life that was lost in Adam will then be completely restored in Christ. As these are awakened from the sleep of death, they will have the opportunity of living

forever on a perfected earth which was God's intention from the beginning of Creation.

In Galatians 3:8, we said how Paul tells us this gospel was preached beforehand to Abraham. Then in verse 16 he identifies *Jesus* as the promised seed of Abraham. In verse 27-29 he states, "*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ, and if you are Christ's* (if you are really or actually following in the footsteps of Jesus and belong to Him), *then are you Abraham's seed (through faith, we have Abraham as our father) and heirs according to the promise.*"

Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do men say that I am?" After He heard the answers he asked again, "But who do *you* say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said, "*Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in Heaven. And upon this rock* (this great foundation truth pertaining to Jesus being the Christ which Peter had just uttered) *I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*" (Matthew 16:18).

This is the foundation truth of the Bible. Jesus Christ is its central theme and chief corner-stone, and the only means of having this wonderful promise fulfilled, *that all the families of the earth will be blessed*. But as we know, the families of the earth who lived in Abraham's day and before are all dead. The families of the earth who lived from Abraham's day on down to Jesus' time are in their graves; those who have lived since Jesus' time are also still all dead and buried, and *dead people cannot be blessed*.

When this *called-out company*, (Acts 15:14) *His Church*, is complete, being fully "*conformed to the image of God's dear Son*," this preparatory work of the great gospel arrangement will be finished; then nothing will prevent the complete fulfillment of the promise to *bless all the families of the earth*. The very gates of hell (Hades is used here, descriptive of the death condition) will be thrown wide open. The prisoners of death will be called forth by the power of God and given an opportunity

to receive the blessing of life through Christ and the Church, His Bride. This is God's Divine Purpose.

When we consider just how wonderful the gospel of Christ is, no wonder the Apostle Paul could say, "*I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.*" Neither are we ashamed of the gospel of Christ, realizing how it portrays the great Love of our Heavenly Father and the Son of His Love, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Reprinted from the CDMI booklet of the same title*



### **The Glory of the Gospel**

Upon the Gospel's sacred page  
The gathered beams of ages shine;  
For, as it hastens, ev'ry age  
Fulfils its prophecies divine.

On mightier wing, in loftier flight,  
From year to year the truth shall soar,  
And, as it soars, its blessed light  
Shall scatter darkness more and more.

More glorious still, as centuries roll,  
Shall Truth's fair banner be unfurled,  
Until in strength, from pole to pole,  
Its radiance shall o'er flow the world—

Flow to restore, but not destroy;  
As when the cloudless lamp of day  
Pours out its floods of light and joy,  
And sweeps the ling'ring mists away.

*Hymns of Dawn*



## Sifting

*“Simon, Simon, indeed Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat, but I have prayed for you.”*

*Luke 22:31-32 (NEB).*

This verse implies that there is not merely one sifting, but two distinct siftings. One is Satan's; the other is Christ's. One is destructive, the other constructive. One is for the purpose of blighting, the other for the purpose of blessing. When Satan has done his sifting, no wheat will be left – nothing but chaff. When Christ has done His sifting, no chaff will be left – nothing but clean, pure grain. Satan wants people to make them his tools; Christ wants people to make them His instruments.

A beggar, ragged and dirty, came one night to Dante Gabriel Rosetti's home. He laid some sketches down on the table and asked the artist, *“Tell me, sir, what do you think of these?”* With one swift glance Rosetti answered, *“They are excellent. Who drew these?”* No answer. The old man laid another group of sketches on the table and asked a second time, *“What do you think of these?”* *“Very inferior,”* was the reply. *“Who drew these?”* The old man was silent for a moment, then said, *“I am the author of both sets of sketches. The first set I drew many years ago. These others I tried to draw the other day.”* And then almost in terror he continued, *“Sir, these represent what I might have been. These others represent what I have come to be.”* A genius had gone down through drink. He had fallen into Satan's sifter and gone through.

Peter fell into Satan's sifter for a brief while and got into serious trouble, but then repented and came back to his Lord. Christ put Peter into His sifter at Pentecost and through the fire of the Holy Spirit burned up all the chaff and left only the pure wheat. Peter became God's chosen instrument to interpret Pentecost to the crowd in Jerusalem, to the believers in Samaria, and to the household of Cornelius. He became the author of two of the most beautiful and precious letters of the New Testament.

*J.T. Seamands*

## The Things Eternal

Eye hath not seen nor ear heard nor can a mortal mind  
E'er grasp the glories far beyond the realm of all mankind.

We look about us day by day, beholding God's great power;  
The miracle of new-born things, the fragrance of a flower.

Yes, we behold its beauty rare, as in our hand it lies  
For one brief moment - then 'tis gone, it fades before our  
eyes.

Just temporary earthly things, our faith cries out for more,  
Those wonderful *eternal things* God hath for us in store.

So seek ye first the heavenly things which never pass away  
That you may see Him face to face in realms of endless day.

*Alex Charcharos*

"...but seek you first his righteousness and kingdom; and all  
these things shall be super-added to you!"

Matt. 6:33 (Diaglott)

"William Hunt, a great artist, was coaching a class in landscape painting. It was in the late afternoon and he had suggested that they paint the sunset. As the sun was sinking below the horizon, he looked over the shoulder of one of his most promising art pupils and noticed, to his dismay, that the young man, instead of painting the glorious sunset, had spent all his time painting an old red barn with decaying shingles. In alarm, the great artist and teacher exclaimed, '*Son, son, it won't be light long! You haven't time for both shingles and sunsets. You must choose!*' Let us not spend our days, hours, energies, and purses on painting old barns and shingles - the mundane earthly things of life - for it will not long be light. Rather, splash the sun, the spiritual things on the canvas of your life while it still is light and yours will be the royal life God intended. You will not merely be existing - you will be truly living for that which is eternal."

Selected

## The Holy Bible



The Scriptures are that collection of sacred books generally known as the Holy Bible. It is the bestselling book in the world. Portions of the Bible have been published in over 1000 languages and dialects. For centuries its enemies have tried to suppress, prohibit or destroy it. Thousands of Christians have died in its defense and are still being persecuted, imprisoned, tortured and killed for their beliefs in some countries today. Still the Word of God lives on. For those who love the Author of its contents, the LORD God, it continues to be a tower of strength and comfort even in the most adverse circumstances.

In its large sphere of influence, the Holy Bible has been described as "*The Torch of Civilization.*" Its teachings are in opposition to intolerance and selfishness. It promotes sympathy, liberty and good will toward all. Its moral principles have been incorporated in the laws of almost all civilized nations. Its moral influence has been recognized by many as the most beautiful philosophy in the world.

But the Holy Bible is more than a book of philosophy and morality. It is the Book of Books for all Christians. It reveals the wondrous and harmonious plan of the Creator for the salvation and redemption of all mankind. The first three chapters of the Bible describe the creation of man, his fall from God's favor due to his disobedience, and man's condemnation to death. The last three chapters describe man's restoration to God's favor and the destruction of sin, suffering, and death. The first three chapters describe how, through Satan, sin, evil and death entered into the world; while the last three chapters reveal how Satan and all his works will be destroyed. The Bible reveals in Genesis how man was created perfect and given dominion over all the creatures of the earth and how, subsequently, because of sin, he lost his home in Eden and life itself. Revelation assures us that all that was lost will be restored to Adam and all mankind.

The Holy Bible continually points to one prominent figure: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (See Matthew 3:17; Luke 1:32; John 3:16.) Jesus is spoken of under many names and titles. Some reveal that he came into the world primarily to be the Redeemer of mankind. (See Luke 19:10; John 3:17) Others reveal him to be the King and Ruler of all the redeemed that he purchased with his precious blood on Calvary's Cross. (See Psalm 2:8; Daniel 7:13, 14; John 18:37.) The Old Testament prophets who wrote and spoke under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit prophesied the coming of a Messiah who would come to earth, being rejected and crucified by his own people. (See Deut. 18:15; Isa. 9:6, 7; John 1:45; Luke. 24:27.) The inspired writers of the New Testament confirmed that The Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ, did indeed come to earth and was crucified as a ransom for all. (See Matt. 27:32-50; Mark 15:12-39; Luke 23:33-48; John 19:17-37; 1 Tim. 2:5, 6.) They not only described his death but also explained the purpose of his death and the redemption that resulted from it. They point out that according to the Plan of God, his death was in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, confirming that Jesus arose from the dead and is now sitting on the right hand of God. (See Matt. 28:1-20; Luke 24:1-53; Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-31; 1 Cor. 15:20; Acts 2:24, 5:31; Phil. 2:9; Heb. 1:3.)

The Holy Bible expounds upon teachings that cannot be found in any heathen religions. It clearly shows that there will be a resurrection of the dead. (See John 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15.) It shows that this resurrection is the only hope for man after death. The harmonious testimony of the Holy Bible teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ will return again to fulfill and complete God's glorious Plan of Salvation (Acts 3:19-21). Those followers, during the Gospel Age in which we are now living, who have faithfully followed in his steps, will arise in the First Resurrection to live and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ during the coming 1000-year earthly Kingdom for which Jesus taught his disciples to pray. (See Romans 8:17; 2 Timothy 2:12; Rev. 20:6.) During these thousand years, there will be a resurrection of all mankind. The Holy Bible reveals that the dead will arise to live on the earth, and that they will be given

the opportunity to live on a restored earth in perfection forever, if they are obedient to the righteous laws of the Kingdom (See Isa. 11:1-9, 25:6-9, 65:17-25; Rev. 21:1-4.)

These prophecies assure us that we are now living near the dawn of that Millennial Age, when the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, will rule the earth with justice, restoring mankind to life and happiness and at-one-ment with their Creator. It will be during that time that *God's will* shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. It will be then that "*the knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea*" (Hab. 2:14). This will be a grand and glorious time! It is truly a bright shining hope in these dark and uncertain days in which we live.

CDMI Tract

### **The Word of God**

OH, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!  
True wisdom its pages unfold;  
And though we may read them a thousand times o'er,  
They never, no never, grow old!  
Each line hath a pleasure, each promise a pearl,  
That all if they will may secure;  
And we know that when time and the world pass away,  
God's Word shall forever endure.

Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!  
The lamp that our Father above  
So kindly hath lighted to teach us the way  
That leads to the arms of His love!  
Its warnings, its counsels, are faithful and just;  
Its judgments are perfect and pure;  
And we know that when time and the world pass away,  
God's Word shall forever endure.

Poems of Dawn

## Effectual Prayer

*"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."—James 5:16*

The purpose of this study is to review some of the promises made by God to His people, to draw to the reader's attention the necessity for a continuing prayer life, and to point out that one must maintain a personal relationship with our heavenly Father if desired results are to be achieved. Promise and prayer are so deeply intertwined in the Christian's walk that attention must always be directed toward a closer walk with God by being devoted to His plans and purposes.

### Prayers of Old Testament Servants

First there was Adam: he had a close relationship with his Creator until it was severed by his disobedience (Gen. 3:8). Noah did all that God instructed him to do and was saved from the deluge (Gen. 8:20). Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had fellowship with God, in spite of their weaknesses and shortcomings. The faithfulness of Joseph and Moses was retold through the centuries (Heb. 11). Even after David's grievous actions, when he repented, he was forgiven.

When Hezekiah was being threatened by the invasion of the Assyrian army, at first he paid the tribute demanded by Sennacherib's messengers; but after Sennacherib sent a message to the people telling them not to listen to Hezekiah when he told them that the *"Lord will deliver us,"* he went to the LORD in prayer. *"O Lord God of Israel, You are God, even You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; You have made heaven and earth. Lord, bow down Your ear, and hear: open, Lord, Your eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib ...to reproach the living God...Now therefore, O Lord our God, I beseech You, save us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord God, even You only"* (2 Kings 19).

Hezekiah acknowledges God as being the only One to whom he can turn in his time of need. He remembered that God was the source of power in all the earth, not Sennacherib.

God heard Hezekiah's prayer and sent him an answer: "*That which you have prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard. . . . He shall not come into this city...By the way that he came, by the same shall he return. For I will defend this city, to save it, for my own sake, and for my servant David's sake*" (2 Kings 19:20, 32, 33, 34).

How did all of those who served God's purposes communicate with Him? Their contact was through prayer. So it has been with all those to whom God has spoken. Those who would serve God learned the necessity for keeping a close relationship with Him. They learned through their failures that having the ability to accomplish the tasks given them was completely dependent upon their strength and guidance through prayer. We have notable examples in Jacob, Moses, Job, David, Solomon, Elijah, Jeremiah, Ezra, and Nehemiah.

### **The Pattern of Prayer**

A careful study of the scriptures shows that Jesus set the example for His disciples; He was always in communication with His Father immediately before events of major importance occurred. Possibly the disciple who requested our Lord to teach him to pray in Luke 11:1 had made such an observation. But there are requirements before prayers may be heard and answered. A proper relationship must exist with the Father; a righteous relationship. And only God may make that determination.

### **Ingredients of Effectual Prayer**

Scriptures teach us that in addition to having a right relationship with the heavenly Father, the one offering prayer must believe and have faith. "*Without faith it is impossible to please God; for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. By faith Noah prepared an ark to the saving of his house...and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith*" (Hebrews 11:6,7). By faith Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses all prayed to God and received strength necessary for their tasks.

Faith may be evidenced in tasks, but it may also be expressed in "*waiting on the Lord*" (Ps. 27:14). If we believe,

then we have faith that our prayer will be answered and that gives us the patience to wait; we will be positive that an answer will come according to God's will -- *"Wait, I say, on the Lord."*

Unanswered prayer is often because of unbelief. A doubt is evidence of unbelief. *"And all things, whatsoever you may ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive"* (Matt. 21:22). *"According to your faith be it unto you"* (Matt. 9:29). The cardinal rules for prayers of request are *believing* that one will receive an answer and *knowing why*.

### **Texts of Promise**

In Prov. 10:24 we are told that the *"desire of the righteous shall be granted."* Even before Jesus came the righteous people of God were given promises that would help them expect answers to their petitions. God wants us to receive all that He has in store for us. Only our lack of belief hinders this. *"Ask, and it shall be given you; Seek, and you shall find; Knock, and it shall be opened unto you"* (Matt. 7:7, 8). Remember, the answer is there for the asking, but you must first ask, believing that whatsoever you ask of the heavenly Father will be granted unto you according to His will. *"The Lord is near to all that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him: he will hear their cry"* (Psa. 145:18, 19).

We have these texts of promise, but do we claim them? Do we believe that these promises are for us as well? Do we think of ourselves as being unworthy and so they must be for someone else? *"No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly"* (Psalm 84:11,12). 'That could not possibly mean me!' one might say to himself. How easily one might believe the subterfuge of the Adversary, but consider these words: *"Delight thyself also in the LORD and He shall give you the desires of your heart"* (Psalm 37:4).

### **Praying "Amisss"**

*"You lust, and have not; you kill, and cannot obtain: you fight and war, yet you have not, because you ask not. You ask and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may con-*



sume it upon your lusts" (James 4:2,3). Praying amiss is the result of not knowing how to ask or for what. To know how to pray and what to ask, one must study the Word of God. Solomon prayed that he might have wisdom and the Lord granted his plea and said, "*Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked for long life; neither asked riches for yourself, but have asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; behold, I have done according to your words: lo, I have given you a wise and an understanding heart...and I have also given you that which you have not asked, both riches and honor: And if you will walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, ... then I will lengthen your days*" (1 Kings 3:11, 12, 13, 14). "*Seek first the kingdom of God . . . and all these things shall be added unto you*" (Matthew 6:33) is another scripture that gives a similar lesson.

Here we find instruction that will help us to avoid praying amiss. What God is saying is that He will give us every single thing we can find in the Bible. If we can find it and ask for it, He will give it to us. There are so many gifts we could receive if we only knew how to ask. So the relationship between study and prayer is this: If you find one verse dear to you because it is something you want, start praying about it. As you find (seek and you shall find), ask (ask and it shall be given unto you), and receive (knock and it shall be opened unto you). You will become much more intense and careful; *careful* because we realize the power of our prayer, and *intense* because we see the relationship between study and prayer.

Take the Book; find the promise; show it to the Lord. Hezekiah showed God the letter from Sennacherib. God knew what was in the letter—before it was written he knew—but this act of Hezekiah demonstrated a real and honest faith and humility before the Lord. He was acknowledging that what God promised to do, He would do and he was claiming that promise.

Study and prayer enhance each other so much so that one would suggest that it be one subject—*study prayer*. Prayer brings the soul into the very Presence of the Lord and prepares the way for divine blessings and superlative joy.

*Francis Earl*

## A Portrait of Jesus:

### *Bread of Life for All*

*"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again." John 6:35*



In reading through the Gospels, we come across many miracles. It is curious that two very similar miracles took place during Jesus ministry and seemingly very close in time. The feeding of the 5000 and a few chapters later both Matthew and Mark record the feeding of the 4000. It is interesting to note that only the men were counted, but there were most assuredly many more women and children there who were not counted. Have you ever wondered why there are two accounts of a similar story? Let's look at the Mark account.

*"Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people...they all ate and were satisfied."-- Mark 6:41-42*

*"When he had taken the loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people...the people ate and were satisfied."--Mark 8:6-8*

It was an extraordinary feat that could only be accomplished by the power of the Son of God. The people had never seen anything like this before. It is interesting to note that Satan tried to trick Jesus into using this power when He was tempted in the wilderness and He hungered. (Matthew 4:1-4) Jesus knew that His power was to be used only for the glory of God and to help others. It is incredible to think that he fed so many people with so little and then had 12 and 7 basketsful left over at the end of each miracle.

Have you ever wondered why Jesus fed 5000 and then a short time later he fed 4000 and why both Matthew and Mark recorded both miracles? The reason Jesus performed this miracle twice was because his audience was different. First,

we need to look at Luke 9:10, Luke tells the same story of the feeding of the 5000, but adds the detail that it took place on a hillside outside the town of Bethsaida. Bethsaida was a town on the north side of the Sea of Galilee. If we look at the context of the feeding of the 4000...a few verses earlier in Mark 7:31, Mark tells us that Jesus and his disciples crossed the Galilee and went to the region of the Decapolis. The Decapolis was located on the south side of the Sea of Galilee and consisted of 10 Gentile cities. So why is that significant?

Jesus came to satisfy the hunger of ALL people. Jesus was showing his disciples that he came not just to the Jews, but to the Gentiles also. Jesus had compassion on both groups of people. Both accounts tell us that the people in both locations ate until they were satisfied. This is significant because John tells us that Jesus declared that He is the bread of life and whoever comes to Him will not be hungry again. Jesus is the bread of life for both Jew and Gentile and only He can satisfy the hunger in the hearts of all people. This was true when He preformed these miracles and it is still true today!

D. Mathewson

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*“There is only one way by which the tempter can be met. He laughs at our good resolutions and ridicules the pledges with which we fortify ourselves. There is only One whom he fears; One who in the hour of greatest weakness conquered him; and who has been raised far above all principality and power, that He may succor and deliver all frail and tempted souls. He conquered the prince of this world in the days of His flesh and He is prepared to do as much again in each of us **if only we will fully surrender ourselves to His gracious and mighty indwelling.**”*

F. B. Meyer

# Prayer List

*“Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you.” (1 Samuel 12:23)*



## Let us be Prayer Warriors for our Brethren!

|                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Allen Family – VT (d)                | Jones, Arlene - VA               |
| Ammerman, Shirley & Family – NJ (d)  | Karavas, Anna - CA               |
| Anderson, Family– WI (d)             | Knapp, Jamie – NH                |
| Bews, Sandra and Family TX (d)       | Knapp, Joseph – IL               |
| Boswell, Arlene – IL                 | Leavitt, Denise & Richard – ME   |
| Buxton, Jean & Family - UK           | Lepitre Family - IL              |
| Carpenter, Gloria – KY               | Howes, Paul & Carla - UK         |
| Cline, Ruth – MO                     | Mazzotta, Eva – VA               |
| Cooper, Carmela – NJ                 | Miller, Alain – Canada           |
| Csutor, Judith – CT                  | Moore, Ralph & Maryellen – CA    |
| Day, Ronald – PA                     | Orsburn, Judi – CA (d)           |
| Dewys, Mary & Family – MI (d)        | Ostwald, Dick - WI               |
| DiCenso, Shirley Anne & Family - (d) | Parker, Geraldine – CA           |
| Dickson, Roberta Jo – CA             | Penton, Jim – Canada             |
| Duhaime, George & Family – CT (d)    | Phillips, Stella – OK            |
| Dunn, Kim - IL                       | Riggio, Fran – NH                |
| Fantuzzo, Tony – NY (d)              | Rowe, Bryan - UK                 |
| Feliciano, Carmen - NY               | Schultz, Becky & Family – MN (d) |
| Fischer, Mike & Liz – WI             | Schwartz, Ruth – TX              |
| Foster, Jean – IL                    | Seminoff, Brenda – CA            |
| Hauslein, Karen – MD                 | Thomassen, Sandi – NM (d)        |
| Hawk, Barbara – PA                   | Tuscia, Priscilla – FL           |
| Hildebrandt, Lois - FL               | Weeks, Jeannie (Mitchell) (d)    |
| Hogrebe, Joan – MO                   | White, Ken & Joan - NY           |
| Hopkins, Linda & Andrew – TX (d)     | (d) = death in the family        |
| Iannaccone, Marie & Family – IL (d)  |                                  |

## Entered into rest:

Ruth Kline, MO – Dec 2021  
Ed Weaver, NY – Feb 2022

**Important:** If you know anyone in the names listed above whom no longer needs special prayers, please advise us so we may remove their names. Also, if any of the information is incorrect, please let the editor know. Thank you.

## **Bible Correspondence Course New Graduates & Websites**

*Congratulations* to the following students who have completed their course and have been awarded a Certificate.



**Colin Larose of Montreal, Canada  
completed the Advance Course**

**Lloyd Walters of Sierra Vista, Arizona  
completed the Basic Course**

**You are invited to view the following websites:**

<http://www.cdmi.org> (Christian Discipling Ministries International)

<https://www.christianbelieversconference.com/>

<http://www.cbfchurch.com> (Christian Believers Fellowship in New Hampshire)

<http://www.biblefellowshipunion.co.uk> (Bible Fellowship in UK)

<http://www.bbschurch.org> (Lombard, IL)

<https://sites.google.com/site/quietwatersdevotions/home>

<http://www.cart-yorkshire.co.uk> (CART)

<http://www.campblessing.com> (Camp Blessing)

<http://www.newcovenantfellowship.org.au> (New Covenant News, Australia)

<https://e-biblia.org/> (Os Estudantes da Biblia, The Bible Students, Brazil - Portuguese/Span) email: [contact@e-biblia.org](mailto:contact@e-biblia.org)

## Conferences & Conventions

**The 113<sup>th</sup> Christian Believers Conference** is to be held at Gordon College in Massachusetts this summer, Thursday, August 4-Sunday August 7. The theme is **Magnifying the Word of God**. For information as it becomes available, go to the website [www.cbconference.com](http://www.cbconference.com)

**The Berean Christian Conference** is planning an in-person conference for July 2-9, 2022.

**Note:** If you would like to have your Convention, Conference, Camp, or Seminar published in The New Creation Magazine, send information or a program *at least three months in advance* of the issue month of the magazine to the editor, Bob Whittaker.

**Notice:** If you know of Christian friends who would benefit from receiving the bimonthly New Creation Magazine via mail, send their names and addresses to the CDML main office, care of Bruce Blake. The address is inside the front cover. Remember, the magazine is given at no cost. Also, please realize you can read the current or past magazines online at [CDML.org](http://CDML.org) or subscribe there.

### Donations

Many people around the world appreciate the New Creation magazine. For many, it is their only source of Christian communication. Also, for many, they only have it through the generous contributions of others. If you feel moved to help them in continuing to get the New Creation, please consider a donation to CDML.

### Article Contributions

Please send articles for possible publication to Dennis Gorham,  
4 Alicia Street Somersworth, NH 03878  
email: [dennisorham@comcast.net](mailto:dennisorham@comcast.net)

*Any information published in this magazine that you know is incorrect should be brought to the attention of the editor at his email address: [bobwhittaker64@gmail.com](mailto:bobwhittaker64@gmail.com). We strive for accuracy but do not have full knowledge.*