

## REST WITH US

*"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels." (2 Thessalonians 1:7)*

Our sojourn in this "present evil world" is attended by much trouble, for we are in "the land of the enemy." The real point is not whether we experience trouble or not, but is our response to that trouble. This text points us to a time when all of our trouble will disappear. Then, there will be no more enemy in the land, no more agitation, and no more difficulty.

The Spirit carefully points us forward – all the way to the revelation of the Lord from heaven. He will not condone our vision focusing on "the here and now," or even on the immediate future, as men conceive of things. **Our hope is not in temporal deliverance or rest, and we must not conduct our lives as though it was!**

Notice, our attention is drawn to "the Lord Jesus Christ." The more prominent He becomes in our thinking, the less emphasis we will place upon our troubles for His sake. **Trouble ceases to be a disheartening burden when the Lord Jesus is in our eye.** As this text will affirm, it is not what we will or will not do, that is to be the center of our attention, but what the Lord Jesus Christ will do. Things begin and end with Him.

**REVEALED FROM HEAVEN.** This revelation will be of the fullness of Christ. It will not be a veiled revelation, as when He first entered into the world. Then, "the world knew Him not" (John 1:10). It will not be like His post-resurrection appearance to the two on the road to Emmaus, whose "eyes were holden that they should not know Him" (Lk 24:16). Nor, indeed, will it be a partial revelation, as when He spoke with His disciples for forty days concerning things related to the Kingdom (Acts 1-3). The return mentioned in this text will be a full and undeniable disclosure of the glorified Christ. Then, "every eye shall see Him" (Rev 1:7).

Jesus will be revealed from heaven "in His glory" – "in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels" (Matt 25:31; Lk 9:26). The awesome glory that was revealed at Sinai was only a faint reflection of the glory that will be seen when the Lord Jesus is "revealed from heaven." This is when the Father will "show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Tim 6:15). The earth and the heaven will flee away from the face of the Son in all of His glory (Rev 20:1-1). The "Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God" (1 Thess 4:16). By saying "Himself," the Spirit means He will come in all of His glory and splendor, with no part of His Person hidden or left subject to the interpretation of men. Then He will come "with power and great glory," driving away the mists of

## IN QUEST OF HEAVEN

Emphasizing Edification and Participation

The WORLD OF TRUTH Fellowship

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 AM Service

WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRIES, Associated

### A STATEMENT OF OUR PURPOSE

GLORIFY GOD Bring blessing to God and joy to angels  
GLORIFY GOD Build up the saints in the most holy faith  
GLORIFY GOD Honor the Lord Jesus for His great salvation  
EDIFICATION Foster an appetite for the things of the Spirit  
EDIFICATION Encourage speaking with the words of Scripture  
EDIFICATION Foster an environment in which the Spirit can work  
EDIFICATION Provide an opportunity for believers to express their faith  
EDIFICATION PARTICIPATION

**Group Teaching and Discussion - 9:00 A.M.**  
**Singing, Testimonies, and Prayers - 11:00 A.M.**  
**Preaching and Breaking of Bread - 11:30 A.M.**

**FOCUSING ON EDIFICATION AND PARTICIPATION**

obscurity and convincing everyone of His Person (Matt 24:30).

This revelation will be a time of unprecedented joy for the people of God. As it is written, "that when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (1 Pet 4:13). Presently, the Lord Jesus is our "Master in heaven" (Col 4:1). But we are eagerly looking for Him to come "from" heaven to receive us unto Himself, that where He is, there we may be also (Phil 3:20; John 14:3). Now, the saints are in the posture of waiting – waiting with anxious anticipation. As it is written, we "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for His Son from heaven" (1 Thess 1:10). Then we will experience the "rest" that remains "for the people of God" (Heb 4:9). Good ministers put the people of God in remembrance of this, thereby enabling them to bear up under their troubles.

**WITH HIS MIGHTY ANGELS.** The vastness of the angelic hosts is staggering to consider. The "mighty angels" are also called "an innumerable company of angels" (Heb 12:22). ALL of them will accompany the glorified Christ when He is "revealed from heaven." As it is written, "the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him" (Matt 25:31). They will "gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity" (Matt 13:41). They will precisely and thoroughly gather "together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them" (Matt 13:30).

As the appointed reapers, they will "gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matt 24:31), and "from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven" (Mark 13:27). It is the holy angels who will facilitate our "gathering together unto Him" (2 Thess 2:1).

The holy angels who are "all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation" (Heb 1:14), will be seen by those to whom they have faithfully ministered. They will gather together those for whom they have cared, whom they oft delivered and succeeded in ways unperceived.

When the Lord is "revealed from heaven," the earth will at last be "reaped" (Rev 14:16). The "vine of the earth" will be pulled out in its entirety (Rev 14:18-19), and the "wheat" of Christ will be forever gathered into His "barn" (Matt 13:30).

While you experience trouble, you can contemplate the "great and notable day of the Lord." Then you will behold in His fullness the One who has reconciled you unto God, and put you at variance with "this present evil world." That consideration will sustain you.

# THE SCHEDULED PART

## STIMULATING QUOTES

- “The Lord removed the things that would hinder growth.” *Yasha Sims* (AM Introduction)
- “The foundation is where we named our entrance into the kingdom.” *Barbara Hutchcraft* (AM Calling)
- “When God wants everyone’s attention, He can get it.” *Gene Hutchcraft* (AM Sermon)
- “The words of Isaiah were bigger than Isaiah.” *Aaron Hutchcraft* (AM Exhortation)
- “Abraham knew the promised Seed would be, in fact, the promised Seed.” *Robert Cobb* (AM Table Meditation)
- “New beginnings do not need to be looked at through earthly lenses.” *Michael Blakely* (PM Intro)
- “There was a time on earth when sin and death did not exist.” *Jonathan Blakely* (PM Sermon)
- “Every man’s destiny is determined by the identity with either Adam or Christ.” *Ricky Sims* (PM Exhortation)
- “God remembers what He wants to remember, and forgets what He wants to forget.” *Mims memory is a matter of His will.* *Michael Blakely* (PM Table Meditation)

Taken from 6/05/2011

Song of Preparation ..... *Brother Ricky Sims*  
 Opening Word and Prayer ..... *Sister June Blakely*  
 Class teaching/Discussion ..... *Brother Robert Cobb*

### BREAK FOR FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

Calling us higher ..... *Sister Melissa Parker*  
 Singing with grace ..... *Brother Ricky Sims*  
 Specials, Expressions of Faith, Testimonies ... *Open to all*  
 Scripture Shower ..... *Sister Logan Williams*  
 Reading of Sermon Text ..... *Sister Sydnee Williams*  
 A Message From the Word ..... *Brother Jeremy Williams*  
 Exhortation ..... *Brother Tony Parker*  
 Song for Lord’s Supper ..... *Brother Ricky Sims*  
 The Lord’s Supper ..... *Brother Mike Blakely*  
 Servers ..... *Jonathan & Matthew*  
 Closing song ..... *Brother Ricky Sims*  
 Final Scripture/Benediction ..... *Antonio Lizzano*

# IT WAS NOT FOR THEM

*“Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.” (1 Pet 1:12)*

The holy prophets are a cluster of people to whom much was given – things concerning the coming redemption, and the One who would bring it to pass. Yet their ministry did not pertain to themselves, or the generation in which they lived. Their words were intended to minister to generations after their own. What marvelous faith they had to endure – ministering things that were not opened to them, nor intended for them while they remained in this world!

Precisely when or how this revelation was made to them, we do not know. Just as Paul was not given to understand his “thorn” until he had sought three times to have it removed, so the prophets, AFTER diligent inquiry, were told “they were not serving themselves.” How this devastates the notion that pleasing self is the acme of all human experience!

This does not mean the holy Prophets would not participate in the coming salvation, for Jesus affirmed they would (Lk 13:28). They are included in the vast body of those redeemed by the blood of Christ (Rev 11:18; 18:20,24). Yet, when they were in the body, God showed them their message was intended for later generations, and not, at that time, for themselves. Like Abraham, they lived in anticipation of the fulfillment of the truth shown to them, AFTER their own time. How my heart is knit to these holy prophets! They set before us an exemplary standard of what it means to serve the Lord.

Now the Spirit declares that in prophesying, the prophets were “serving” us. They spread before us a vast table of rich things – food for the soul that delights the heart. When our blessed Lord expounded things concerning Himself out of the holy Prophets, it caused the hearts of Cleopas and his companion to “burn within” them (Lk 24:27-32). Paul affirmed He spoke “none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: that Christ should suffer, and that He should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles” (Acts 26:22-23). Let those who spend their time outlining the close of history, the rise of anarchic governments, and activities in the holy land, consider this! Let them turn their attention to “the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow.” Then the Prophets will serve them! If the Prophets were “serving” us in their

essential message, what possible reason could be adduced for ignoring that message? How is it that anyone would choose the prattling of psychiatrists, economists, or mere motivators to their prophecies of Christ?

The Apostles are referred to as announcing the fulfillment of the Prophet’s message in preaching the Gospel. They did not declare Jesus as “the answer to all of your problems,” but the fulfillment of what the Prophets promised. This announcement was made “by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven.” Their exposition and emphasis were therefore flawless, and could thus be used to implement the promised salvation. Here the uniqueness of the Gospel is seen. It is not the a word outlining the manner in which we are to live, but the announcement of Divine provision—“salvation.” It is a message that could only be known or proclaimed in the energy of the Holy Spirit. Any Gospel that does not require the Holy Spirit is no gospel at all. The Holy Spirit, who “searches” all things, announces in the Gospel “The things which God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Cor 2:9-10).

The preaching of the fulfillment of the Prophet’s word has elicited the attention of holy angels. There is precious little in the world that draws their attention. They are primarily “ministers,” not students (Heb 1:13-14). Yet, in their ministry to the “heirs,” they have been exposed to a message that intrigues them. The “Gospel” concerns “things into which angels long to look.”<sup>MASB</sup> Too, this Gospel is “NOW reported” to us – not merely to those who have never heard it before. And, if this message has fascinated holy angels, “who are greater in power and might” (2 Pet 2:11), how is it that any mortal would not be attracted by the message? What would constrain a person to probe into the writings or words of uninspired men – many of whom are actually God’s enemies – when the holy angels long to inquire into the Gospel? What would compel a person to become an expert in some supposed facet of religion, all the while ignoring its central message? If saints will “judge angels” (1 Cor 6:3), it will no doubt be true that holy angels will have something to say to any person who knew of the Gospel, yet did not look intently into it. God is greatly to be praised for a salvation, and the Gospel of it, that has so impacted upon even holy angels.

## QUOTATIONS FROM OUR CLASS— BROTHER AARON

“... I am the Resurrection and the Life ... (Psa 106:6-12)

06/05

- ◆ “God sends His Word to discern our hearts.”
- ◆ “Actually, the day of judgment has, in a sense, already begun.”
- ◆ “Since the Garden, man has his own created standard of judgment.”
- ◆ “The chief source of pride is ignorance of self.”
- ◆ “When you are introduced to yourself, the door of humility is opened to you.”
- ◆ “The word ‘manifest’ is a good Holy Spirit word.”
- ◆ “A guilty conscience will make man attempt to hide from God.”
- ◆ “When you see what you really are, the need for mercy is also seen.”
- ◆ “Your heart is like a counsel chamber.”
- ◆ “The wicked one works in the area of thought.”
- ◆ “As long as you are in sin, there is no hiding place.”
- ◆ “The conviction of the day of judgment will reach the inner recesses of the heart.”
- ◆ “One cause for living for self is broken when you are convinced of the day of judgment.”
- ◆ “You do not deal with flesh on a fleshly level.”
- ◆ “The books will be opened – they are being written now.”
- ◆ “Because all things are naked and open to the eyes of God means He did not overlook Joshua and a Caleb, or Korah, etc.”