

Hebron Messenger

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NO 16

ARRAYED IN WHITE ROBES

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:9,13,14).

Heaven is the inheritance of saints. It is a place prepared for happy living. In heaven there is perfect joy and everlasting bliss. We must confess that the joy which God gives us upon the earth is no- perfect. We will have perfect joy only in heaven. All our songs of praise are exercises preparing us for heaven. If we are properly exercised in offering praises and worship to God, heaven will not be new to us. We will not need angels to teach us the manners and customs of heaven. If we really love Jesus, we will not be strangers in heaven. There is no angel in heaven who can sing the song we sing. The Bible gives some description of the condition of people in heaven. Just as parents explain things to children through pictures, God uses earthly things to describe heaven. For instance, one of the glories on earth is a bride on her marriage day. Every one looks at the bride. God tells us that the great multitude of the redeemed people are like a bride, dressed in white robes. Now let us see what the white robes indicate.

Every Roman family had slaves. After many years of slavery, when the master set his slave free, he gave him a white robe. It signified perfect freedom. Now the white robes worn by the saints of God in heaven, speak of perfect freedom. On this earth we are in bondage. Many saints have all kinds of troubles, sicknesses and sorrows. We have to fight against many evils. We face many temptations from the Devil. But the day we enter heaven, we will enjoy perfect freedom. No more sickness, no more pain, no more sorrow, no more death; just perfect freedom. That is why saints in heaven are given white robes.

Secondly, a white robe is a sign of purity. In heaven we shall be without any spot or wrinkle. Here on the earth our garments get defiled. Every-day we need to be washed in the blood of the Lamb. Heaven is a place of spotless purity. "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life"(Rev.21: 27). There will not be any disorder or division among the saints there.

Thirdly, white robes speak of priesthood. In the olden days a priest had to prove that he was a descendant of Aaron. If he could prove that, he was counted worthy to wear a white robe and minister to God. Every saint is a member in the family of God, by being born again through faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is clothed in white. He is called a priest. Saints are not only priests, they are kings also, who will reign forever. Peter says, "...ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood..."(1 Pet.2: 9). We will enter heaven as kings and priests.

Fourthly, white robes speak of victory. In ancient days when a captain returned to his hometown after winning a battle, he would be dressed in white and would ride on a white horse. That is what we read in the Bible; "And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean" (Rev.19:14). For saints in heaven, warfare is over and victory is won. There is no more allurements of the world, no more temptations of the flesh. The devil is defeated and the victory is celebrated. Here on earth we have to fight always with spiritual enemies, but in heaven there is victory.

Fifthly, white robes speak of a festival. Jews wore white robes on holidays. In heaven saints enjoy eternal holiday and eternal rest. They have finished their work. They put off their working

garments. There is no more manual work for them. They have entered into their rest. "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Rev.14:13).

These saints who were given white robes, had come out of tribulation. For us, tribulation speaks of original and habitual sin. Even from the day of our birth, we are filthy. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psa.51: 5). From the very beginning of our life we are cursed. Those whose sins are forgiven and who are sanctified in the Name of Jesus Christ, have a right to receive a white robe. Tribulation also speaks of the pressures of the world. The enemy occupies our mind with the world, and defiles our heart with the attractions of the world. Because of that, we find it difficult to pray, read the Bible, and make sacrifices for others. Those who overcome the World will wear white robes. Also the tribulation refers to remembrance of our past sins, the depth of sin in which we were found before the Lord saved us. The Devil is always active to remind us of our failures. But we have to put our faith in the precious blood of the lamb and overcome the enemy. "And they overcame him by the blood of the lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death" (Rev.12: 11). The Lord Jesus Christ encourages us by saying, "My reward is with me". "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life"(Rev.22:12; 2:10). Those who overcome will receive from His hands a white robe and a crown.

You who claim a right to go to heaven, have to prove your right. What is your proof? Are you born again of the Spirit of God? Are you washed in the blood of the lamb? Do you bear the image of God? If not, humble yourself at the feet of the lord Jesus, Who died a cruel death as your substitute. He was "delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom.4:25). The Word of God says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1: 9). "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa.1 :18). If you repent of your sins and receive the lord Jesus as your personal Saviour, you too will have a white robe, and will join one day, the redeemed throng in heaven, who adore the Lord Jesus Christ. D.S.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron,
Golconda Crossroads,
Hyderabad -500 020, A.P., India.
Telephone No.27613066

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, -"Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace". May He be our safety, security and sufficiency, as we by faith affirm and maintain our true position in the heaven lies with Him. Thus our spiritual horizon may become larger and our vision of things above, clearer and fairer (Isa.9: 6,7; Eph.2: 6,1 0).

Psalm 125: 1, 2 remind us that Mt. Zion not only speaks of ascendancy, concerning those who wholly trust in Him, but also of security. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people...(v.2). The heights are places for strongholds, for refuge. And our strength and safety lie in getting away from low things, leaving behind what is mean and contemptible, and getting up into fellowship with the Lord on high. On the low level we become playthings of evil and cross -currents, for there are always evil powers, which are at work down there in the dark. We will find deliverance and safety by rising on to a higher ground.

The devil and the evil forces are tremendously concerned with getting us down and holding us down, so that they can harass and play havoc with our spiritual lives. Down...down..., that is the drive and direction of the evil one, who plans to pull us down and keep us down in the place where he has strength. Our refuge is not to fight on that low ground, but flee to the heights, to escape to the Lord, in the secret place of the Most High.

I think, the Lord Jesus did just that. When He was aware of all the pressures and the down-drag of earthly conditions and disappointments, even with His own disciples, He said, "Let Me go away for a while to the mountains to My Father". It was thus that He was able to return marvelously fortified. We can do the same; finding our way of escape, by fellowship with God in the heights.

Vision is a further reality when we consider the mountains. It is a fairly obvious matter that mountains are places of vision, places where one can see the distances. At the end of the Bible, we are taken to an exceeding great and high mountain and shown the Holy City, the New Jerusalem. Thus the last scene in the Bible is that of a mountain, and that mountain is truly a place of vision, showing the Church in full expression of her heavenly glory. Surely it is of supreme importance that God's people should have their vision enlarged. Our vision is too small and our purpose in life is also too small. We tend to narrow our thoughts so much that it is important for us to ascend into the Mount of Vision. The loss of vision always brings about a falling to pieces (Prov.29: 18). Those Christians who have no great sense of God's purposes and of His ability to reach His end and fulfill His intentions, will find themselves at the mercy of doubts and fears, which defeat them down here on earth.

The writer and reader may both agree with all that has been said and yet remain puzzled as to how such an elevation to the heights can be realised. The answer is, gravitation upward, which we must believe and claim, as it is already a power at work, in the new nature we have received by faith union with the resurrected Lord. Thus the beginning of our Christian life is the discovery that Christ came from heaven to take us to heaven, and so has given us life from above. From the day that a man comes into vital union with our risen and ascended Lord, there begins within him a process of gravitation upwards. He now discovers that he does not really belong to this earth, but has a heavenly nature, which responds to God's call to the life on high. As he progresses, he finds that the new life leads him further and further away from the world in which he lives, and although this involves him in some difficulties and even embarrassment, he cannot find himself at home here as he once could. This very inward pull is the evidence that he is a child of the heavenly country.

The consummation of the believer's life is certainly upward, for he is to be caught up to be forever with the Lord. So this life is a constant movement upward, from its first beginnings to its glorious end. This means that like his Lord, he must learn to respond to the heavenly gravitation, not clinging to earthly interests and possessions, and not being bound by earthly considerations. He is thus always giving an inward answer to the call of heaven.

So far as Christ is concerned, even His physical going up to a mountain illustrated, how eager he was to respond to this call. And I believe when at last He ascended to the Father, His heart was filled with the deepest satisfaction, at Home-going. It will surely be the same with us. We shall not go reluctant and with regrets; we shall be rising to where we belong and what we were made for: We shall be rising to the final ascendancy and in doing so, we shall be answering to everything in our new constitution. Spiritually we are a mountain people. Let us now seek-grace day by day, so that we may repudiate all earth-boundness and refuse to dwell in the valley. We may often have to pass through it, but we must never settle down there, for we belong to the heights in Christ. "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come" (Heb.13:14). The Lord accomplish His word in our life and walk, and thus progressively make us "ride...high"(Isa. 58:14), ready for His return.

The Lord blessed the Special Anniversary Gatherings in the church at Berachah, Neemum village, in the outskirts of Chennai, closing by Sunday the 25th July. Bros. Theodore Reginald and John Stewart, besides elders from Jehovah-Shammah participated, with others from sister assemblies. Pray for Bro. Solomon, the Lord's servant there, with co-brethren, for the follow-up work.

Brethren of the New Jerusalem church at H.B. Colony, Maulali, Secunderabad, are thankful for the Special Gatherings from 23rd to 25th July, held in their midst, in connection with their anniversary. Bro. Paul Sudhakar took the Bible studies and Bro. Habakkuk ministered on the Lord's day.

The dedication of the new Prayer House Salem, at Kondepi, Ongole, took place on the 24th July, when Bro. G.T. Benjamin ministered the Word, besides God's servant Bro. John Subba Reddy and others from Eschol, participating and helping. They covet our prayers for the future ministries and responsibilities.

The dedication and thanksgiving service of the new first floor gathering place of the Bethany church at Borabanda, Secunderabad, was well attended by believers, God's servants and leading brethren from various assemblies of the twin cities on July 26th. Bro. G.T. Benjamin rehearsed the small beginnings of that work more than twenty years ago, and the sacrificial, prayerful and exemplary labours of the beginners, most of whom are no more. Yet the Lord has added others over the years and enlarged them. Bros. Nathaniel, Jayapaul and others sharing the responsibility there, covet our prayers as well as ministerial help, from Hebron. Bro. Paul Sudhakar and myself also shared in the ministry.

Kindly pray for Sis.(Mrs.)Lily Dawn Moses, wife of late Bro. Dawn Moses, who was all along with his honoured servant, late Bro. Bakht Singh, as helper, singer and interpreter, from the inception of the Lord's Testimony at Jehovah Shammah Chennai, more than six decades ago. She is the oldest member in the church, and also leading in the V. B.S. ministry year by year. As she has been hospitalised for cardiac problem in the M.M.M. Hospital, let us pray for speedy recovery.

Praying that we all be enabled to live on the higher plane of life, in faith union with our risen Lord, so that when Christ our life shall appear, we may also appear with Him in Glory,

Isa. 58 .13, 14
Col. 3 : 1-3
Psa. 91 : 1,2,14;15

I remain,
Yours in his grace,
K.Philip

WE BEHELD HIS GLORY -3 BAKHT SINGH

The third occasion on which Simon Peter met the Lord Jesus Christ is recorded in Luke 4:40. That happened in the very street of Simon's house. When the news of the healing of his mother-in-law spread everywhere, people brought sick folks to the Lord. Multitudes came with all kinds of infirmities and the Lord healed everyone of them with no exception. Simon Peter was standing at the door of his house watching all that was happening, saying " in his heart, "Wonderful power! What a great power"! But he was still the same old Simon. No doubt, a good man outwardly, but inwardly a sinner. Unknown to Simon, God was seeking him very lovingly and patiently and going after him. I believe, unknown to us the Lord seeks all of us. That is why He burdens so many people to pray for us. Even though many a time, you refuse to receive Him, yet He comes to you pleading, "O My son, My daughter, give Me thy heart". You seek worthless, things, but your loving Saviour is calling you for His heavenly Kingdom.

The Lord Jesus Christ met Simon .for the fourth time in Luke 5. Multitudes came to hear Him, but the heart of the Lord was after Simon because He knew his inward longing. He has promised to satisfy the longing soul (Psa.107:9). When the multitude pressed upon Him to hear Him, He saw two empty boats on the shore, of which one was Simon's. He purposely entered into Simon's boat and taught the people. Simon never knew why the Lord had entered into his boat. There he was in the boat, looking very tired and sleepy, because he had toiled the whole night and caught nothing. I don't think he heard what the Lord taught that day. After the message was over, the Lord said to him, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught" (v.4). Peter said, "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing, nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net" (v.5). Peter never asked the Lord to help him at that time, but the Lord knew his need. Peter thought, "We have toiled all night, we are fishermen for many generations. We know all about the water and fishes. There is not a single fish nearby. But He is a great Person. Just because He has asked, I will do it. Just to respect Him I will go. I know, nothing, will happen". So half -heartedly, he launched out into the sea and something happened. He saw the water go up and down. There were fishes running here and there, and they came into the net. They did not come slowly but swiftly. They all wanted to go first. Peter was silent, thinking what a Person the Lord Jesus Christ is, that even the fishes obey Him! Peter knew that the fishes recognised their Master as He called them. The fishes knew their Creator. They

did not come into the net for Peter or for anybody else. Our Lord never said a word. His very presence spoke to the fishes in the water. They saw Him, they recognised Him as their Creator and they obeyed. Now Simon's eyes were opened. Till that time he only knew Him as a great teacher, a prophet and a miracle -worker. Now he sees Him as His Creator. He began to see his inward condition. God's Word says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked"(Jer.17:9). It also says, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts" (Matt.15: 19). That is why straightway, trembling, Peter fell upon his knees. (To be contd.)

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DWELLERS IN THE ROCK

"Let the...inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains." (Lsa.42: 11-AV)

The words of this verse can certainly be applied to Christian believers today for they, too, "inhabit a Rock"; -in their case, THE ROCK, - CHRIST JESUS (1 Cor.10: 4). Their language is that of David, "The LORD is my rock,...in him will I trust" (2 Sam.22:2,3). We may therefore say that the verse in Isaiah 42 reminds us of some very important things which we do well to bear in mind. We suggest the following:

I. The verse tells us where our "ROCK" is. Isaiah mentions "the top of the mountains", and that, most certainly, is the position of Christ our Rock today! We are told that God "raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, FAR ABOVE ALL principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named" (Eph. 1: 20,21). We read that "...God also hath HIGHLY EXALTED HIM, and given him a name which is ABOVE EVERY NAME" (Phil.2: 9). Yes, He is a "High Rock" indeed!

We all need to realise that the early Christians were a people wholly taken up with the thought of their living and Highly Exalted Lord and Saviour, and a glance at the early chapters of Acts makes that very clear. (See Acts 2:32-36; 3:13-15; 4:10,11, etc.). We should be the same!

II. The verse tells us where we are, -as believers IN Christ.

If "Christ our Rock" is "FAR ABOVE ALL MOUNTAINS", and we are dwelling in Him, -we can only be WHERE HE IS! As "inhabitants" of That Rock we can "sing from the top of the mountains" (Isa.42: 11). Paul tells us that God has "...quickened us together with Christ... and hath RAISED US UP TOGETHER, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph.2:5,6). In that sense, then, Christians have already "come unto Mount Sion, and unto...the heavenly Jerusalem" (Heb. 12:22). God has given us a new spiritual address; -we are "above only, and not beneath". (See Deut. 28:13). And it is all "in The Rock, Christ Jesus".

III. The verse tells us what our responsibilities are, -as "dwellers in the Rock", Two very important responsibilities are here mentioned. 1) We are to SING. Yes, indeed; -once we are within that Happy Place (Christ), we are to praise the Gracious God Who put us there! The next verse puts it, -"Let them give glory unto the LORD" (Isa.42:12).

Here, of course, is the all-important MINISTRY OF WORSHIP, and we feel we should pause here to mention that, according to the Bible, there is an executive power associated with the worship of God's true people; -it has a "Judgmental effect" against Satan, and against his "hosts of darkness", -spirit -beings who have always coveted the worship that belongs to God only. We recommend a study of such passages as Isaiah 14:12-15, and Psalm 149:5-9, -and also our Lord's own word in John 4:23.- We know it is a big subject, but it may help to explain why the longest book in the Bible is a song-book, and God has placed it right at the center of the Bible. Indeed, indeed, "Let the inhabitants of The Rock SING"!

2) We are to SHOUT. Isaiah 42:11 says, "Let them SHOUT from the top of the mountains". There, perhaps, we have what we could call the associated MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM, -telling out God's glorious Gospel to others! Paul realised that, being saved himself, he was now a "debtor" to the whole wide world (Rom.1:14), and, in 1 Cor.9:16, he says, "...necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" Surely no one could question that once we are sheltered in God's

Rock, and are singing the praises of our Saviour, we should not be slow in telling out the glorious Gospel to others! Billy Graham used to speak of the "sin of silence"; -may none of us be guilty of that! But we do need to realise that BOTH these ministries need to be fulfilled from WITHIN THE ROCK, and from our privileged position "at the top of the mountain"!

In conclusion, we would like to mention that The Rock is specially attractive to "feeble folk". In Prov.30:26 we read, "The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks". We could even say that true Christian churches are actually "Colonies of Conies", -happy in The Rock Christ Jesus!

Well might we al) sing:

Oh, safe to The Rock that is higher than I, My soul in its conflicts and sorrows would fly, So sinful, SO FEEBLE, Thine, Thine would I be, THOU BLEST ROCK OF AGES, I'm hiding in Thee.

May God help us all to find That Rock, -to shelter IN HIM; -and then to SING and SHOU,T as we should, -all "from the top of the mountain". C.R.G.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron,
Golconda Crossroads,
Hyderabad -500 020, A.P., India.
Telephone No.27613066

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who hath loved us with an everlasting love, washed us from our sins in His own blood and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father. By being "rooted and grounded in love", may we be enabled to know "the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge" to be filled with all the fullness of God (Jer.31: 3; Rev.1: 5,6; Eph.3: 17-19).

Paul the Apostle begins Ephesians with our being chosen in Christ in love, and accepted in the Beloved. Again he speaks of God's "great love wherewith he loved us" and adds as the climax, "the love of Christ which passeth knowledge" (Eph.1: 4,6; 2:4; 3:19).

It is God's love for man that lies behind all His dealings with him, from creation to the eternal state he should enjoy in the new creation New Jerusalem. This eternal, mighty, mysterious love of God became fully embodied in the Person of His Son, Who lived His life, did His work and gave Himself on the basis of His love for the Father, that the Father might have in man, that upon which His heart has ever been set. With infinite cost to Himself, the Son accomplished redemption for man on the cross, in the strength of that steadfast love.

Beginning with the Book of Acts and running through to the Book of Revelation, we have the love of God from eternity, as seen to be centred in the first instance, in that which is called the Church. "...the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). "...Christ...loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph.5: 25). We may classify it as God's love for the Church in the Beloved. Apostle Paul was a wonderful exponent and embodiment of God's love. It was the one note, deepest in his own heart, breaking out from time to time in nothing short of utter amazement. He "loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal.2: 20). "O the depth of the riches..." (Rom.11: 33) they are the riches, not only of wisdom and knowledge, but also of His love. And this man Paul, so to say, could never understand why that eternal love should light upon him and single him out to be the recipient of such marvellous, full, deep and rich revelation of that love, to make it known to all men. This revelation through and in Paul is something beyond our comprehension. However we should earnestly meditate upon it, that the Holy Spirit may bring us more and more into the good of it, to share it with others.

When Jesus the Son of God's love, stepped into the waters of Jordan prior to His entering into His public ministry, the Father's word from heaven was, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt.3:17). "My Beloved Son" -not just, "My loved Son", but "My beloved Son", that is, the One to Whom I am utterly given. Now the Apostle of the eternal love of God, affirming the doctrine of the love of God in the same depth and height, dares to use the same phrase for the believer. "...hath made us accepted in the beloved" (Eph.1 :6) that is, God giving Himself to us in the same way as He gave Himself to His Son. It may be considered as similar to the expression, 'betrothed', that is, complete giving, withholding nothing. Thus as you give yourself to something, you have wholly given to it. That is where God is over His Christ the Beloved, and that is transferred to us.

We are not only accepted in the Beloved, but also chosen in the Beloved. In the letter to the Ephesians right at the beginning, everything is put on that basis. "He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish, before him in love" (Eph.1: 4A.). An alternative rendering to that is, "He chose us in love before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy". He CHOSE us in LOVE. "Having foreordained us to the adoption of sons through Jesus Christ unto Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved, in whom we have our redemption" (Eph.1: 5,6, R. V.). Let us catch the emphasis. It is not that He just chose us, or He chose us for this or that. It is 'where' He chose us. It is all in the Beloved, in the Be-loved. It is not just that He chose us in Jesus Christ, but chose us in the Beloved, giving the character and quantity of our relationship to God. That being so, our very existence in relation to God is a love existence, a love relationship. It is what Christ's relationship is to the Father, and that is ours too; and in the New Testament that very word 'beloved' is frequently used concerning believers. Paul was tremendously fond of using it. Here he says inclusively "in the beloved", but again and again he called the saints, "Beloved of God". That is not just a pleasant thing said. Paul was not saying just a nice thing, in calling them beloved, to make them comfortable. For him the whole doctrine of grace was wrapped up in that. He comprehended the eternities, both past and future, in that; "in the beloved", "beloved of God". It is not language and words as far as Paul was concerned. Let us remember that Paul's horizon, his whole world, beyond which there was nothing, was what he frequently called "IN CHRIST". He used that phrase again and again, nearly 128 times, for that which corresponds to it. "He chose us in him", "In whom we have our redemption", -and so you go on to see all that he has to say, "in Christ". It is in the BELOVED. We may continue these thoughts in our next issue.

We thank the Lord for God's servant Bro. Dyva Prasad and the brethren in responsibility in the church at New Jerusalem, Tirupathy: as they graciously undertook the burden to arrange gatherings for two days for the servants of God in Rayalaseema area particularly, on the 11th and 12th August. The Lord granted us a profitable and encouraging time of fellowship, with about 100 servants of God who were present. God's servants Bro. K.M. Isaac of Cuddapah, Bro. Samson of Proddatur and Bro. Nehemiah of Anantapur shared in the ministry of the Word with us. In the evenings we had special gatherings for all after open-air ministry. Pray for God's servant Bro. Joshua who was united in marriage with Sis. Phebe, the Lord's handmaiden, on 12th evening. God's servant Bro. Abraham and saints of Avilalaare also thankful for a short meeting held in their Prayer House, Jehovah -Shammah. The servants of God covet our continued prayers for their effective ministry, in the various assemblies where they are based at present. Continue to pray earnestly for Sis. Esther Prabha, the handmaiden of the Lord from Hebron, as she is now hospitalised at C.M.C. Vellore, following the Chemotherapy she underwent at Hyderabad.

We covet your prayers for the following marriages of God's servants' children. Bro. B. Timothy of Khammam and family would have us to remember in prayer the marriage of their eldest son John Timothy with Sis. Jerusha (daughter of Bro. and Sis. Jabez of Gazzaram), God willing to be solemnised by senior brethren in the fellowship, at Carmel Prayer House, Gazzaram, West Godavari, on Monday the 6th September. Bro. and Sis. Pradeep Singha covet our prayers for the marriage of their daughter Shanti with Bro. Joshua (second son of Bro. and Sis. Pandit Isaiah) to be solemnised by senior brethren and servants from Hebron, in the church Beersheba, at Hanamkonda, Warangal, God willing, on 7th September.

Praying that as accepted in the Beloved, we may keep ourselves as His beloved, building ourselves in our most holy faith, and keeping ourselves in the love of God, loving His appearing for His beloved Church,

Jude 20,21
1 Cor. 15 : 58
2 Thess.2 : 14.15

I remain,
Yours in his grace,
K.PHilip

WE BEHELD HIS GLORY -4
BAKHT SINGH

Simon saw the great draught of fishes and fell down at Jesus' knees saying, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Luke 5:8). Now he saw something of the glory of the Lord Jesus. He said to himself, "He is my Creator, He knows all my thoughts". The Lord Jesus Christ reveals His glory in the beginning to all of us by uncovering our sins. He did not want to put Peter to shame. He came to soften his heart, change him and take away his old sinful nature. Now by His presence and His authority, He showed Peter his nature. So he said, "O Lord, I am a sinful man. Lord, have mercy upon me and don't punish me for my sins". The Lord said, "Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men." Thus Peter was able to see something of the glory of the Lord Jesus.

When the Lord Jesus Christ came early that morning at the lakeside, Simon's boat was empty because he had caught nothing. Through the empty boat and empty stomach, the Lord was saying, "Simon, I know your life is empty and barren, even though you are a good man outwardly." that is how the Lord Jesus Christ shows Us our condition. By showing His glory, he shows us our empty and barren condition without Him.

Further, we read in Matt. 16:13-16 how the Lord Jesus put two questions to His disciples First He asked, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets". The next question that Jesus put was, "But whom say ye that I am?" Peter straightway said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said, "...flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." Now divine light had shined into Peter through the prayers of the Lord Jesus Christ. So he knew He is Christ, the Son of God. He saw that He had all power as the Creator and that He came into the world to save sinners. Our Lord Jesus told His disciples that He must die in their stead. Peter knew that the Lord never spoke a single idle word. His yea was yea and nay was nay. Also He had all power and authority. Very lovingly He told them, "My dear disciples, I must give My body to be broken and My blood to be shed for you. I will allow wicked men to scourge Me and spit upon Me. I must die and rise again." Having heard that Simon took Him aside and rebuked Him, and said, "Don't say that, I won't allow you". Then the Lord said, "Get thee behind me Satan." So far his eyes were not fully opened.

Our Lord is so loving and long suffering that He took Peter, James and John on a mountain as we see in Matt. 17:1-6. There lovingly our Lord showed Peter, the purpose for which He had come to the world. As He prayed with them, He was transfigured. His face shone as the sun (Matt. 17:2). Then there appeared two prophets, Moses and Elias, for the sake of Peter, James and John. They had prophesied long ago about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, how He would suffer for sinners, so that their sins could be forgiven, and they could become partakers of the glory, the glory which they were seeing on the Lord's face. Now Peter's eyes were opened and he knew how the Lord must suffer for their sake. In the beginning they were wondering why He should suffer when He is all-powerful. Now their eyes were opened and they said, "O Lord, what a great love Thou hast for us! There is a high purpose in Thy suffering for us, that we unworthy men may one day become partakers of Thy glory and blessings." The Lord Jesus Christ was transfigured on the mountain that day, that they might know the purpose of His suffering and death.

Unless our sins are fully atoned for, we cannot become partakers of His glory and fullness. Many say that their sins are forgiven, but they cannot testify that one day they will see the Lord in His glory, receive glorified bodies, and become heavenly kings and be with Him forever. The Lord took upon Himself all our sins and judgment, so that we may see His glory and become partakers of His

coming glory (1 Pet.5:1). Even though we are ruined completely by sin, our sins can all be forgiven and washed away by His blood, removed and forgotten. But you must come to Him with a repentant heart. See Him as your Creator, as your Saviour, as your King, then you will see His glory. Oh! What a Saviour! Anyone of us can become partaker of the glory of the Lord Jesus. One day we shall be like Him, Hallelujah! If so far your sins are not forgiven, come to Him without any delay, without any question. Do not let Satan your enemy deceive you and hinder you from salvation. By -grace He invites you. God's glory is being offered to you. The Creator invites you. The loving Saviour loves you. The King of kings wants you. Come and receive this great salvation, so that you too may behold His glory and become a partaker of that glory. (Concluded)

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