

Hebron Messenger

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NO 25

THEY BEHELD JESUS. 3

"And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him" (Mark 9:15).

The next thing we read in the above verse is that these same people, seeing Christ, and being "greatly amazed" at Him, forthwith "ran to Him". This, too, is important for us, and something from which we may learn much. Once we have SEEN the Lord, we, too, NEED TO MOVE IN HIS DIRECTION, AND WE NEED TO MOVE SWIFTL! That is the way to Christian experience. We must RUN TO CHRIST. We may say that these people in our verse were not only "greatly amazed", -they were greatly, and irresistibly, attracted. The Christ Whom they were seeing was not only magnificent. -HE was magnetic; -they could not but RUN TO HIM. Christ Himself said that if He were lifted up, He would "draw all men" unto Himself (John 12:32).

We now venture to say that this always is the case when Christ is really "seen". And, it takes place TO THE DEGREE that He is seen!

I well remember a young Brahmin student who was present at a Gospel meeting I was addressing in South India. He sat on the floor right in front of me, and his eyes were wide open! I just went on with my message and when I spoke to him afterwards he said. "O, I do find your Jesus so very, attractive". I had been speaking on the reasons why Christ came into the world, and emphasizing, particularly, that He came "not to BE MINISTERED UNTO but to MINISTER, and to GIVE HIS LIFE a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28). I remember pleading personally with the young man afterwards, and urging him to respond to the evident workings of the Holy Spirit in his heart, and just COME TO CHRIST, - specially as He Himself lovingly invites us to do so (Matt. 11: 28)! 'We agreed to pray together right there, and I believe he did come, - "running", I feel sure, into the outstretched arms of Christ.

It is interesting to note that, according to the Bible, there is always MOVEMENT in saving faith. The literal meaning in John 3:16, for instance, is that we believe "INTO" Christ, and it is the same in many other similar passages; -as we trust we MOVE. Indeed, we "run to Christ", as did those who saw Christ coming down from the Mount.

And that word "run", of course, always brings in the idea of urgency, That is particularly important in these "end-days" in which we are living. How sad, and how shameful, if, after all the opportunities we have been given, our lamps should be found without oil in the hour when the Bridegroom comes! (See Matt. 25:1-13).

We conclude, now, with a brief consideration of the closing phrase in our verse, -"they SALUTED Him". The original word here (aspazomai) literally signifies "they drew Him to themselves", or, shall we say, "they EMBRACED Him". All who are familiar with Eastern

customs will know that the normal salutation in those parts is an EMBRACING, -with each party extending the arms and firmly drawing the other to himself. This, we feel sure, was the picture in Mark 9: 15, -not just a formal salutation by any means, but a welcoming of Him with outstretched arms.

This, surely, has a message for us today, This is how the Lord would have us come to Him. He wants us to embrace Him, -to press our hearts to His heart, 'and, greater wonder still, to know HIM pressing His heart to ours! If we have "seen" Him, and if we are "running to" Him, THAT is the salutation He is waiting for.

Perhaps we should not try to go further with this particular aspect of our study; -it is all too sacred and wonderful, for feeble words. And there are delicacies here that we cannot, and need not, go into right now, -but the Holy Spirit will lead us in "as we are able to bear it" (See John 16: 12-14).

The great BIBLE-MYSTERY that lies behind what we are here saying is that of the believer's present LIFE-UNION with Christ. That is" the supreme reality into which God's grace is calculated to Lead us; -"... he that is JOINED UNTO THE LORD is one spirit" (1 Cor. 6: 1, 7}. That, and nothing less than that, is God's glorious purpose for His people, and perhaps the simple picture in Mark 9: 15 is some small indication of it; -"they embraced Him"; -they CLASPED HIM -to themselves.

We are reminded here of two beautiful verses from the pen of Frances R. Havergal:

Jesus, Thy life is mine,

Dwell evermore in me:

And let me see

That nothing can untwine

THY LIFE FROM MINE.

Jesus, my life is Thine,

And evermore shall be

Hidden in Thee,

For nothing can untwine

MY LIFE FROM THINE.

The key to it all, of course, is what we said at the beginning; -they "SAW" Jesus. That is what we should pray for, and that will lead us to all that is to follow.

"And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him" (Mark 9:15).

(Concluded)

C.R.G.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron
Golconda Crossroads
Hyderabad -500 020
A.P., India
Telephone No: 27613066
December 11th, 2005

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the exalted and enduring Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will, and doeth the same for our good -for us who love Him and have been called according to His own purpose, and who have set our love upon Him, Who first loved us and gave Himself for our sins on the cross. May the love of Christ constrain us to live unto Him, continuing in His "purpose ...according to election" (Rom. 9:11), and promoting the same, submitting to His sovereignty (Eph. 1: 11; Rom. 8:28; 2 Tim. 1:8-10; 1 John 4:9, 19; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15).

Speaking about the sovereignty of God, let us remember, it means the Godhood of God'. It means the character and being of the One Whose pleasure is performed and Whose will is executed. To recognise the sovereignty of God is therefore, to gaze upon the sovereign Himself. It is to come into the presence of the august "Majesty on High". It is to have a sight of the thrice Holy God in His excellent glory .The effects of such a sight may be learned from those Scriptures which describe the experience of different men of God. highlighted in the Word of God. Men like Job. Isaiah and Daniel, reveal what our attitude should be toward\$ the sovereignty of God-first and foremost, one of godly fear. It needs to be stressed today, that the sovereign God is a God to be feared. And nothing will foster this godly fear, like the recognition of the sovereign Majesty of God.

Coupled with this godly fear there should be the unique realisation that the sovereign Himself is my Father Who wills and works only that which is good for me. This ought to overwhelm our hearts and cause us to bow before Him in adoring wonder, rendering Him our heartfelt worship. At all times we must learn to say, "Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight". In the history of Israel, inspite of their worship of the golden calf, and the anger of God, which would have consumed them, the sovereignty of Jehovah acted in mercy, with the intercession of Moses. In the midst of terrible failure and breakdown of the divine purpose through their disobedience and idol worship, the Lord descended and proclaimed His Name (Exo. 32: 10-14; 34:5-10), which revealed His sovereign mercy and full forgiveness to Moses. And we read, "Moses made haste, and worshipped" (34:9).

Besides godly fear, and adoring worship to our sovereign King enthroned at the right hand of the Majesty on High, we who acknowledge His sovereignty must maintain an attitude of "implicit obedience". A sight of God leads to a realization of our littleness and nothingness, and issues in a sense of dependency and casting ourselves upon Him. Again a view of Divine Majesty promotes the spirit of godly fear coupled with adoring worship and these in turn beget an obedient walk. Here then is the divine antidote for the native evil of our hearts. Naturally a man is filled with a sense of his own importance, with his greatness and self-sufficiency; in a word, with pride and rebellion. But the great

corrective is to behold the Mighty God, for this alone will really humble him. Man will live either to serve and please himself, or he will seek to serve and please the Lord. None can serve two masters.

Irreverence begets disobedience. Said the haughty monarch of Egypt, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go" (Exo. 5:2). To Pharaoh the God of the Hebrews was merely a God, one among many, a powerless entity Who needed not to be feared or served. How sadly mistaken he was and how bitterly he had to pay for his mistake, he soon discovered. But what we are here seeking to emphasise is, Pharaoh's defiant spirit was the fruit of irreverence and this irreverence was the consequence of his ignorance of the Majesty and -authority of the divine Being.

Now if irreverence begets disobedience, true reverence will promote and produce obedience. To realise that the Holy Scriptures are a revelation from the Most High, communicating to us His mind and defining for us His will is the first step towards practical godliness. To recognise the Bible as God's Word and that its precepts are the precepts of the Almighty, will lead us to see what an awful thing it is to despise and ignore them. To receive the Bible as addressed to our own souls, given to us by the Creator. Himself will cause us to cry with the Psalmist, "Incline my heart unto thy testimonies. Order my steps in thy word" (Psa. 119:36,133). Once the sovereignty of the Author of the Word is apprehended, it will no longer be a matter of picking and choosing from the precepts and statutes of that Word, selecting only those which meet with our approval. It will be seen that nothing less than an unqualified and whole-hearted submission becomes the creature. May we be granted grace to maintain this attitude towards the sovereignty of God. We may continue in our next issue.

Having meditated upon the authority of the Scriptures as the Word of God, let us have grace to honour and believe and submit to it, by which we can be preserved -especially the promises we prayerfully seek to appropriate for the days ahead -the New Year, -as highlighted in our Motto Texts. These promises among the many in the Bible may be used of the Holy Spirit as a guide-line for our walk and work, or witness and worship. It is necessary to study the contextual setting of these promises, with the preparation of our hearts, thus fulfilling the conditions and instructions underlying therein for their fulfillment and enjoyment- personal, family, as well as fellowshipwise. The following are the Motto Texts for the year 2006.

"Behold, I am alive for evermore" (Rev. 1: 18)

"Them that honour me I will honour" (1 Sam. 2:30)

"I the Lord will hear them, I... will not forsake them"(Lsa.41: 17)

The following servants and handmaidens of the Lord were united in marriage according to His revealed will, at Beer-Sheba, Kadapa, on the 18th November by Bro. G. T. Benjamin, with other senior servants of Rayalseema also helping, amidst a big company of saints and our Fellow-workers from different parts of Andhra Pradesh -Bro. S. Prabhudas with Sis. Manjula, Bro. D. Barnabas with Sis. Jyothi and Bro. B. Timothy with Sis. Mary Prasanna. They covet our prayers for the ministry to which they have been called and appointed unto The Gospel Campaign in the villages has already begun in Punjab, to be followed by the Convocation at Tera Kalan, God willing, from 6th to 10th December. Pray for God's servant Bro: Eddy Williams and fellow-labourers in Punjab for all the wisdom, enablement and sufficiency for all needs and for the ministry of the Word through His chosen servants.

Please pray for the Lord's servants and elders at El-Shaddai, Kalimpong, that the Lord

may help them in all the preparatory work for the Holy Convocation to be held there from December 17th to 25th, and that He may send His anointed vessels for the ministry of the Word.

Please pray for the comfort of Bro. G. Prabhudss, a senior brother in the church at Hebron and his family members, as his eldest son Solomon Raj, met with a sudden death on the 8th of November.

Praying that we may be granted a fresh vision of the exalted position of our Lord Jesus, His sovereignty and supremacy, to love and serve Him with singleness of heart and mind, according to the good pleasure of His sovereign will,

Isa. 53 : 10, 12 ; Eph. 1 : 4,5; Heb. 13:20,21

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP.

A LIVING WELL -6

BAKHT SINGH

Joseph took an oath of his brethren saying, "... God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence" (Gen. 50:25). He did not want his tomb to be worshipped as Mohammedans and Roman Catholics do. It is a sin before God. Joseph told his brethren to take his bones with them, because he did not want to identify himself with the Egyptians. Though he was a great man in Egypt, he said, "I am not an Egyptian". He remained a Hebrew. Many people these days want to go abroad and settle down there. Before they leave India they give many promises, saying that they will return after two or three or five years, but they go on extending their period and finally have no desire to return to India. They say that India is a very poor country. They forget their friends, relations and everything. Joseph however said, "I am not an Egyptian; I belong to the Hebrews". Even though his brothers hated him, and sold him as a slave, he identified himself with them. The reason was, he accepted everything in his life from the Lord (Gen. 50: 19-21).

If anyone had a reason to have a desire to take revenge, it was Joseph. If he wanted, he could have taken revenge when his brethren came to buy corn. But God had taken away from his heart every thought of hatred, bitterness and jealousy, because he saw God's hand on him, making him like a well of water. He wanted to share the inheritance given by the God of Abraham. He desired that like the well at Sychar, which had become his well, his life too should become a blessing. Through hardships, poverty and sufferings he had become like a living well. He had learned to love his enemies and keep his heart free from every bitterness and jealousy. When our own brethren, children, relations and friends whom we love, say or do something against us, it is very hard to forgive them. We do not mind when enemies work against us, but when friends or near relations turn against us, we cannot forgive or forget. But Joseph called his son Manasseh, which means, to forget, because God had enabled him to forget all his past sufferings and trials and all the ill-treatment shown to him. Joseph called his second son Ephraim, which means fruitful, to show that God had made him fruitful by his afflictions, and that his life had become a blessing to all people. Through his life God was showing that Jacob's well had become Joseph's well, a well of blessing to all nations and people, a well full of life,

peace, joy and happiness, and a well free from all worldly glory.

Thirdly, the same well became Joshua's well. Joshua called all the children of Israel together at Shechem (Joshua 24:1). At God's command they had entered Canaan after crossing the river Jordan. Now forty years later, in his old age Joshua gathered the people in the very same spot, because what God had promised had been fulfilled. As long as they were under Joshua's leadership, the Lord worked with them. As they obeyed God they saw the blessing of God being given to them individually and as a nation. Now in his old age, after forty years of serving the Lord, he rehearses what God had done for them during the past, keeping His promises and fulfilling His covenants. Then he sums up his own attitude saying, "... if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Josh. 24: 15). These words were spoken by Joshua at the well of Jacob.

How many blessings we receive by obeying God and by serving Him whole-heartedly! We, become like a well of living water by obedience, by whole-hearted service and by refusing to be deceived by others. Joshua said: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord". He kept on claiming God's promises and obeying His commands. He and his people did not conquer the enemies by the power of their weapons, or through their own strength, but as they obeyed the-Lord God, He helped them to conquer the land. We too can receive such blessings if we serve Him whole- heartedly and our lives will thus become more fruitful. Though the people promised that day to obey the Lord, yet afterwards they failed and in Judges we see how they left God and became like a very dry well. In Joshua's time they were like a well full of water, full of victory and blessing. In Judges they were full of defeat because they disobeyed God.

If you want to be a well of living water, you must obey God whole-heartedly, and no matter what happens, you must not be deceived by the world. Then and then only can your life be like Jacob's well, Joseph's well, Joshua's well, the well by which the Lord Jesus Christ sat and promise living water to those who believe in Him.

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NO 26

"UNTO YOU IS BORN A SAVIOUR!"

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night." And, 10, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:8-14). Let us look at this picture. We see shepherds, very insignificant people. They are in a field, far away from the comforts of home. It is night, when wild beasts and thieves can roam about and do harm. To such a people, at such a place, and at such a time, the angel of the Lord appeared; and the glory of the Lord shone round about them!

Dear Reader, here is good news for you also. "The angel of the Lord said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" (verse 10). The words of the angel "all people" include you as well. Are you burdened with care due to lack of a job, or lack of money, or lack of health, or lack of friends? Are you troubled by fear of enemies, fear of the future, or fear of death? Are you weary, or are you sad? The loving God Who created you, and Who loves you more than your own mother, has sent His angel to give you good tidings of great joy!

What is this good news? It is this: "Unto you is born this day...a Saviour". This Saviour was born two thousand years ago. The word "Saviour" means "One who saves". Perhaps you have been thinking that no one can save you from your fears, your sorrows, your cares, and your misery; and that no one can give you real peace and joy. Perhaps you have been thinking that you can never enjoy real happiness in your life. Here is wonderful news for you. There is a Saviour Who has the remedy for all your troubles; Who can satisfy all your needs; Who can open the windows of heaven and pour out His blessings upon you in such abundance that you will hardly have place to receive them. He will fill your cup until it overflows. He will give you such joy that it will be impossible to describe it in human words, and so wonderful as to be full of glory. Isn't that good news? But perhaps you think that this is too good to be true. God says, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?" (Jer.32: 27). Let us reply, "Ah Lord GOD! Behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee"(Jer.32: 17). The message of the angels was for all people.

The Saviour was born to bring salvation for all men, in every part of the world. He was born in the city of David, that is Bethlehem, in Palestine, which is the junction of the three great continents of Asia, Africa and Europe. Two thousand years ago Palestine was the meeting place of the great Eastern and Western civilizations: a fitting place for the Saviour of all mankind to be born in. The Saviour was born among the Jews, but He belongs as much to them as to you and me, or anyone else in any country of the world.

Notice the words of the angel, "a Saviour who is CHRIST THE LORD". That Saviour is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the One without sin. He went about doing good; He opened the eyes of the blind, healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, and delivered the devil-possessed. He brought joy to all who went to Him. He preached the greatest sermons the world has ever heard. He died as a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. He predicted that He would die and rise again on the third day. His enemies heard this; so, after He had been crucified and buried in a tomb, they sealed it, and set watchmen to guard the tomb and see that no one came near it. In spite of all this on the third day, the Lord Jesus rose again in a glorious resurrection. Today all who confess their sins and accept Him as their own Saviour, are forgiven and transformed and filled with heavenly peace and joy. Even today, no one who goes to the Lord Jesus will ever be cast out; no one who puts his trust in Him will ever be disappointed. He is really "the fairest among ten thousand", and He is "altogether lovely". He is indeed worthy to be called "Saviour".

The message of the angels brought blessing to the shepherds in the fields. They believed the angels and went to see the Holy Babe. God led them and they found the Babe lying in a manger, wrapped in simple peasant clothes, so small, so humble yet so beautiful in the beauty of holiness. If you also seek the Saviour you shall surely find Him. God says, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (Jer.29: 13). Will you not also come to the Saviour today? The Lord Jesus came into the world because He loved you. Will you not love Him and go to Him to give Him your heart, your life, your worship and devotion?

People all over the world are celebrating the Birth of the Saviour, the Lord Jesus. Don't you think that the best way for you would be to put your trust in His love and power, and accept His salvation, which He offers to you so lovingly and freely? If you do this today, it will be the happiest day of your life, and the coming New Year will be full of wonderful new blessings for you.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Bethany prayer house
Tara kalan, the, Ajnala, Amritsar, Punjab
December 12th, 2005

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, put to death in the flesh, the Just for the unjust, but quickened by the Spirit, that He might bring us to God. May His Name be praised and adored, Who was made a little lower than angels for the suffering of death, that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, and deliver us from the fear of death and its bondage (1 Tim. 3:16; 1 Pet. 3:18; Heb. 2:14,15).

The season ahead, spoken of as Christmas in Christendom, is marked with song and festivities across the world, in remembrance of the Saviour, born in Bethlehem, taking the Name Jesus to save His people from their sins. We read concerning this in Matt. 1:

21. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" -as spoken by the angel of the Lord to Joseph, concerning Mary espoused to him. This was the fulfillment of the prophetic word through Isaiah the prophet, nearly 700 years before the Incarnation of God's Son, a supernatural event; "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Matt. 1: 23; Isa. 7:14).

Though the Scripture is silent concerning the date of the Saviour's birth, we should rejoice that He came when the fullness of the time was come - "...God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, ...that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Gal. 4:4,5). So let us pray that through song and Scripture, the Saviour's birth be heralded and made known to men and women in all lands. The glory of the Lord, let us pray, may shine round about those who are sitting in darkness as unto the shepherds in that memorable night, so that they may respond with haste to meet the Saviour and enter into life and peace through faith (Luke 2:9-11).

We would like to consider five characters, highlighted in the Scriptures, associated with the birth of the Saviour into this world. Firstly the shepherds, -simple people abiding in the field watching over their flock. God sovereignly chose them to be the first witnesses of this supernatural event of God incarnate in the person of His Son taking the name Jesus. The shepherds moved with "haste" to Bethlehem to see the "thing, which is come to pass". For them the message was a reality without doubt and they moved with haste, made known the saying which was told them concerning this child, and returned glorifying God, having seen the fulfillment of what the Lord spoke. Human tendency is one of doubt and delay, and hence we are slow to run in the way of His commandments (Psa. 119: 32). We can be preoccupied with our present affairs, our flock, fields and friends, and fail to render ready obedience to the heavenly revelation or directions. Thus we remain straitened in ourselves and not attain to spiritual enlargement.

The second character we consider is Simeon, a man just and devout, who had revelation by the Holy Ghost that he would see the Lord's Christ before death. He came by the Spirit into the temple where the child Jesus was brought to be presented to the Lord. Then he took the child Jesus in his arms and blessed God. "...now let test thou thy servant depart in peace, ...For mine eyes have seen thy salvation. ...light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel" (Luke 2:25-32). What the priest in the temple could not discern, Simeon did, and his hope was fulfilled as the Lord had spoken. God would have us to be 'Holy Ghost taught and led' men in His temple, to expect Him with the lively hope of seeing the Son of His love and be like Him at His coming.

The third character is Anna the prophetess, spending time in serving God in prayer and supplication; in happiness in speaking of the Babe with thanksgiving, to all who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. We must be those who look for the blessed appearance of our great God and Saviour, redeemed from iniquity, a peculiar people, purified and zealous of good works, as we read in Titus 2:13-15.

The fourth company is that of the wise men who journeyed for several months, over mountains and moor. They were guided by the star and reached Jerusalem with the enquiry before Herod the king, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him" (Matt. 2:2). Troubled Herod called for the priests and scribes. They found from the Scriptures that He was born in Bethlehem. They reached the house, saw the young child with the mother, fell down and worshipped "HIM" -not the mother. They presented gifts. Gold speaks of the divinity of the Saviour. Frankincense speaks of His holy humanity and myrrh speaks of the body being wound for burial. Myrrh was also a component in the anointing of Aaron for priesthood (John 19:39,40; Matt. 2:11,12; Exo. 30:23-25, 30). The wise men were the first worshippers of Him, Who was born to be the King of kings and Lord of lords. The gifts they gave spoke of His holy, sinless life and sacrificial death, burial, and the

anointing Jesus received to enter in to His priesthood upon His resurrection and exaltation. They went another way, lest they be a cause of injury to the Person to Whom they rendered homage in love and loyalty.

Finally, we see the hatred of Herod in having schemes to kill the child Jesus, by slaying all the children in Bethlehem (Matt. 2: 16). The world and its rulers still hate our Lord and His true worshippers. In such a world, may we be found as those who make haste, like the shepherds, to divine directions and instructions. May we live in the earnest enjoyment of our lively hope -like Simeon abounded in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost, of seeing Him and being like Him. May we be taught to acknowledge and appreciate the uniqueness of the Lord's Person and work, expressing the same in audible worship and praise. May the happiness of Anna be ours, unto us who look for Him, may He soon appear the second time as we read in Heb. 9:28. Amidst all harm and hatred, pain and persecution, which Satanic powers are stirring up against His Church and saints in these end times, the Spirit of God may strengthen us to love and labour in the good of spiritual traits and features as seen in the individuals mentioned above and continue in our calling, not only for this Christmas but through the years He may grant us.

Please pray for God's servant Bro. Ambrose of Rajahmundry, for full recovery after his hospital- ization a month ago for prostate surgery.

Kindly pray for God's servant Bro. Habakkuk, as he also was hositalized for sometime and had to undergo a minor operation two weeks ago.

Pray for the ministry fulfilled by Bro. T. E. Koshy in Pakistan from 24th November till 12th December.

The Lord has been blessing the convocation at Bethany, Tera, from 6th December, following the dedication of the New Prayer House Canaan, at Jallandhar, on 4th December. Bros. Eddy Williams, J.C. Rao and myself, with others, are sharing the ministry of the Word in the gathering of nearly 400 on an average, drawn from various States.

Please pray for the comfort of Dr. Prakash, (One of the responsible brothers in the Church at Raikal), and his children as his wife Sis. Leela (the youngest daughter of late Dr. Dutt of Guntur) was suddenly called Home in a road accident on the 26th of November.

Praying that we may be granted abundant grace to worship and serve our King in His Kingdom, that cannot be removed, acceptably and in godly fear for His glory,

Phil. 3: 3,21; Micah 5: 2; Zech. 9: 9, 17

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP.

THE SECRET OF ENLARGEMENT

BAKHT SINGH

In Genesis 26 we have the record of the first time that God appeared to Isaac. At that time he was in a great depression because of the famine in the land. He was planning to go down into the land of Egypt, because in Gerar he could not get what he needed. It was a time of many difficulties, and he was about to disobey God. That is why at that time God appeared to him and said, "... Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of"(v.2).

The same applies to us also. Without finding God's will, we want to go to places where we will be able to get what we need. That is what many servants of God also are tempted to do. If they cannot get sufficient food or income in the place where they are staying, they want to go to places where their needs can be met. Thus, you find many have gone to Egypt, where they thought they could get more advantages rather than staying in the place, which God has ordained for them. Even though we have to go through hardships and sufferings, we should be in the place of God's will. Isaac obeyed God and stayed in the place where He told him to be. God reminded him that because of Abraham's obedience, He was going to bless him also.

In Genesis 26, Isaac obeyed God and so he was blessed because of Abraham's obedience. We see in verses 12 and 13 how God kept His Word and Isaac received in the same year a hundredfold. When we believe God's Word, even though things may be against us, what He has said will be fulfilled. In a short time, Isaac became very prosperous and wealthy, more than all the people in the land. We also will be rewarded abundantly if we obey, when God speaks to us through His Word. Though things may seem to be impossible to us, as we go on believing God and His Word, one day we will see God fulfill His Word. It does not mean we will not have any difficulties afterwards. By obeying God's Word we must have difficulties in our life, but what God has promised He will fulfill.

Because of the prosperity and divine favour Isaac enjoyed, the Philistines became envious and wanted to drive him away(Gen.26:14). Even so we shall find that as God helps and blesses us, we must be prepared for our enemies to become jealous of us. Jealousy may arise, for instance, when believers are shown favour by officers or given promotion in the office. They must seek to exercise patience and faith. Rather than involving himself in strife, Isaac moved away when the Philistines envied him. "And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there. And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after; the death of Abraham: and he called their names; after the names by which his father had called them (vs.17, 18).

The wells had been dug by Abraham but the Philistines had stopped them. Then Isaac began to dig because he wanted water, but the Philistines strove with him. Isaac had many servants and much wealth; he could easily have fought with those men; but he refused to be dragged into strife. He kept moving away. Even though he had suffering and loss, he refused to be dragged into strife and hatred. The name of the first well was 'Esek' that is, CONTENTION.

The name of the second well was 'Sitnah'; that is, HATRED. From there also he moved away. In the same way, people around us will try to drag us into strife and hatred by bringing false charges against us, and try to force us to quarrel. But as Isaac went away from contention and hatred we also must refuse to get involved in strife and hatred. Isaac

left that well also and went away. He did not grieve God nor disobey Him.

Then the Lord took him to a place called 'Rehoboth', a large place. Because he moved away from hatred and contention, God gave him a better and a larger place. Then God appeared to him again(v.24), and showed him that because of His covenant with Abraham, he had the privilege of being a source of blessing to many people. God appeared to him again only after he had gone away from contention and hatred. So also when we keep our hearts free from hatred, enmity and jealousy, we find that we are automatically drawn closer to God. Other people, by insulting and abusing us, want to create in us hatred, jealousy and enmity. But if we are free from these things in our hearts, God will take our part and we will enjoy His presence much more.

Abimelech went with his friends to Isaac to ask forgiveness. Isaac said, "Wherefore come ye to me?" (v.27), and they replied, "We saw certainly that the LORD was with thee" (v.28). So also, if we go on trusting the Lord and keep our hearts free from hatred or jealousy, our enemies will one day apologize. They will recognize that they cannot do us any harm, because they have tried every possible means and have failed. In an unseen way, the Lord worked on Isaac's behalf (v.32). The enemy took away the two wells, Esek and Sitnah, which were dug by Abraham and then by the servants of Isaac. Abimelech and his men sought to make a quarrel, and took away the wells, but Isaac and his servants refused to quarrel and quietly went away. God gave them two better wells. One was called Rehoboth and the other Beersheba', meaning that, what God has promised will be fulfilled. Even though for a short time Isaac had suffered loss because of the first two wells, the Lord gave him a large heart and a large vision to go to a large place.

We too will have to go through many trials. The enemy wants us to have a small vision. We cannot see afar off. We find it difficult to forgive our enemies for very small things and we get hurt and wounded. God wants us to come to a large place as we read in Psa. 18:16-19. May the Lord bring us to a large place and give us a large heart and a large vision.

(Concluded)

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