

Hebron Messenger

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NO 14

HELP FROM ABOVE-4

SEVENFOLD HELP OR BLESSINGS FROM THE LORD (PEACE).

Verses 3 and 4 of Psalm 121 reveal to us an important attribute of God. That attribute is His never failing watchfulness over His people. "He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep". These verses bring us much comfort and assurance. According to these verses, God assumes the place of a watchman. Wealthy families employ a security guard to look after their house and property. These guards have to be awake throughout the night to protect the families which employ them. When the members of the family know that the security guard is faithful, they sleep in the night peacefully. This is the blessing we receive from our Heavenly faithful Security Guard. The restful sleep speaks to us of deep peace. David was surrounded by distress and hounded by the enemy, but he said something remarkable in Psalm 4:8; "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety". This peace and sleep came to him because of the assurance he had of God's watching care over him. So according to Psalm 121 peace is the third blessing that we receive from the Lord Who made the heaven and the earth. Do you have true heavenly peace in your heart?

The Bible speaks to us of three kinds of peace; peace with God, peace of God, and peace with man. Many people today seek after peace. They say, "I have no peace in my heart; please help me to obtain the same". What they mean by saying this is that they do not have the peace of God. But little do they realize that they need peace WITH God before they can have the peace OF God. The Bible says that we are enemies of God because of our sin. But God in His love has made a provision to abolish this enmity through the death of His Son. "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Romans 5: 10). And this is what the Lord Jesus did when He was hanging on the cross. He took the sinful hand of man and the holy hand of God and brought them together. If you lack peace, your primary need is to establish peace with God. That you can do by confessing that you are a sinner before God, and receiving the Lord Jesus into your heart as your Lord and Saviour. Once you establish peace WITH God that way, you will experience the peace OF God in your heart. The Lord Jesus wants us to have perfect peace in our heart.

The Bible speaks to us of seven kinds of peace that we can experience as believers. These are also the seven tests of peace. Please check if you have this kind of peace.

1. PERFECT PEACE - "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3). An alternative translation to "perfect peace" given in the margin is "peace, peace". This is the kind of peace God wants to give us. It is an ever-abiding peace. It comes to us through the assurance of forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Keep your mind rested on the

Lord Jesus, then He will give you perfect peace.

2. GREAT PEACE -"Great peace have they which love thy law; and nothing shall offend them" (Psalm 119:165). This verse speaks to us of the peace we derive from reading the Scriptures. Can you truly say that you love the Word of God? In Psalm 1 the Lord speaks to us of the blessedness of the man who meditates on the Scriptures day and night. Believers must overcome the sin of daydreaming. Instead, we must meditate on the Word of God. "My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly" (Psalm 119:167). "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:103). If we love the Word of God, we will have great peace in our hearts.
3. ABUNDANCE OF PEACE -"Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth" (Jeremiah 33:6). Whatever God gives us, He gives us in abundance. Man does not know how to give in abundance. In John 14:27 the Lord Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you not as the world giveth, give I unto you". He gives us abundance of peace. Some people have peace only when their circumstances are favorable. Some Christians lose their peace when someone utters one or two words against them. They begin to worry over what others have said about them. Some even go into depression. Such believers cannot say that they have abundance of peace. We must learn to claim Jeremiah 33:6 for our lives on a daily basis. We must pray saying, "Lord, please reveal to me the abundance of peace that Thou hast promised". Nothing can penetrate or disturb this God -given abundant peace.

(To be contd,) N.J.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron,
Golconda Crossroads,
Hyderabad -500 020, A.P., India.
Telephone No.27613066, 23-6-2005

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the lamb foreordained for our redemption-redemption by His precious blood to make us His true worshippers and witnesses. May we be impelled by His Holy Spirit to walk worthy of His Kingdom and glory, and partake of our privileges with the lamb, in His Holy City, the New Jerusalem (1 Pet.1: 18-20; John 4:24; Acts 1: 8; Rev. 21: 1-3).

Continuing our thoughts on the Holy City, the New Jerusalem¹, we may consider some of its characteristics.

- (1) It is divine in its origin and heavenly in its character. It comes down from God out of heaven.
- (2) It has "the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal" (Rev.21: 11). Her light is therefore the outshining of the glory in which she is set, for jasper is the symbol of the glory of God (Rev.4:3). The Church is glorified together with Christ with the glory of God, and is here displayed as such. In Rev.21: 18,19, it is stated that the building of the wall, and the first foundation, are both alike of jasper. The glory of God is

thus the stability and security, as well as the light and beauty of the heavenly city. The wall excluded everything unsuitable to that glory as well as guarded everything according to it.

- (3) The next feature is, that it "...had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the lamb" (Rev.21: 12-14). It must be carefully observed that all this concerns the wall of the city, and its distinguishing characteristic is the number twelve -twelve angels, twelve tribes, and twelve Apostles. It has twelve gates. Angels have become the willing doorkeepers of that city, the fruit of Christ's redemptive work in glory. Thus man is in possession of the glory of the highest place in creation, and providential order of God, of which angels had previously been the administrators. The twelve gates denote human perfection of governmental administrative power. The gate was the place of judgment. The number twelve, as we have often seen, denotes perfection and governmental power. The character of it is noted by the names of the twelve tribes. They were not the foundation, but this character of power was found there. There are twelve foundations, which are the twelve Apostles of the Lamb. They were in their work the foundation of the heavenly city. Thus the creative and providential display of power, .the government (Jehovah), and the assembly once founded at Jerusalem, are all brought together in the heavenly city, the organized seat of heavenly power. It is not presented as the bride, though it is "the Bride, the Lamb's wife". It is not in the Pauline character of nearness of blessing to Christ. It is the assembly as founded at Jerusalem under the twelve, the organized seat of heavenly power, the new and heavenly capital of God's government.
- (4) It is measured (Rev.21: 15, 17), indicating that it is owned and appropriated by God. The measurements are, it need hardly be said, symbolical -symbolical of a divinely given perfection. Thus the city is a cube equal on every side-finite perfection.
- (5) Then we have the materials of which the city and the foundations were formed. We may say that the city was formed in its nature, in divine righteousness and holiness -gold as transparent as glass. That which was now by the Word wrought in, applied to men below, was the very nature of the whole place (Compare Eph. 4:24). God helping we may continue these thoughts on the characteristics of the heavenly city.

God willing, myself and Bro. D.S. Christopher are planning to reach U.S.A. to participate in the North America Convocation to be held in a college facilities at Syracuse, from 14th to 17th July. Bro. D.S. Christopher would be leaving on the 4th July from Hyderabad and myself on 6th July from Chennai. Do pray for His mercies for our travel -myself with infirmities of age. Pray that the Lord's quickening touch and the word too be granted us, if we have to minister with others, for that brief period.

We would value your prayers for the speedy completion of the renovation work of the old main building at Jehovah-Shammah, as the 64th Anniversary of the Lord's Testimony raised there falls on the 12th July. The Elders and the Church are planning for Special Thanksgiving Gatherings from 9th to 12th July, inviting Bro.Neville and others, in which the branch assemblies also may be enabled to participate.

Kindly pray for young sister Olive, (daughter of late Bro. Samuel, brother of late Dr.Simon) as she is in a very critical stage, unconscious under ventilator care for more than a week, in Apollo Hospital, Chennai.

Bro. Solomon and others of the Church at Beer-Sheba, Ahmedabad, would have us to pray for one Bro.Nitin Macwan, aged about thirty years, who has to undergo surgery for a

hole in the heart. He is now hospitalised in Ahmedabad, and is in a critical condition.

Bro. Raju, God's servant at Kosur, near Challapally is hospitalized at Guntur since a week. His condition is critical, suffering from severe Hepatitis. Please pray for his recovery. Bro. Nandan Rao, God's servant at Kavali covets our prayers for the marriage of his youngest son William Booth with Sis. Kavitha, God willing to be solemnized at Zion Prayer House, Kavali, on 25th June.

Bro. C.R. Rajamanickam, elder in the church at Jehovah-Shammah covets our prayers for the marriage of his daughter Jacinth with Bro. Jeremiah (son of Bro. Aaron of Vellore), God willing to be solemnized on Monday, 4th July, at Jehovah-Shammah, Chennai.

Praying that the Lord may keep us all in the vision and the values of heavenly Jerusalem, coming down from God, out of heaven, and serve Him accordingly,

Rev. 21 : 1- 3, 9 Col. 3: 1- 4 Heb. 13:12-15

I remain, Yours in His grace.,

K. PHILLIP,

STRIVE IN PRAYER -2

BAKHT SINGH

We who are believers have become co-intercessors with the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is our great heavenly High Priest. Often we do not realize, what a great privilege it is to be co-intercessors with the Lord Jesus Christ, to intercede for God's servants and His people. We also do not realize how much others depend upon our intercession.

There is going to be a time of much suffering, persecution and difficulties for all believers. Some believers are tempted even now to call themselves, Harijan Christians to get admission into colleges secure jobs or scholarships. They are ashamed to confess the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some people are ashamed to carry the Bible or pray in public. By our intercession such people can be delivered. Those who are overcomers have the privilege of interceding for people who are in such danger. If we fail God by not interceding, as we should, God can raise another testimony, but we will suffer with other people. In this respect, now we have a tremendous responsibility for all those who are facing great persecution. Our intercession is so very necessary for God's servants, fellow believers and all God's people in the whole world. Paul the apostle went on requesting believers in different assemblies to intercede for him. "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me- (Rom.15:30). "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known. The mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak" (Eph. 6:18-20). We have to intercede individually, as a family, and as a church. By our intercession God can deliver many people and prepare them for the coming persecution. At the same time we also can be strengthened. May the Lord grant us a travailing and agonizing burden of prayer for God's servants, fellow believers and those whom we meet here and there.

GOD'S SERVANT

BAKHT SINGH

This message is primarily intended for those who are in the Lord's service, who have heard the call of God to serve Him and to give all that they have to Him. Secondly, it is for those who have a real and sincere desire to be used of the Lord even though they are not able to give their whole time to His service. There are some who have not heard a call to give up their jobs, but they have a clear consciousness of God's desire for them to be such as can be used by Him.

Now, first of all it is necessary that you should be very clear and sure in your calling for God's service. Some of you may have been used by God during the past weeks, months or years in a greater or lesser measure, and there may be a tendency to be satisfied because of what has happened in the past. Let us remember, however, that there is a still greater blessing and fruitfulness in store for all of us, in a greater and enlarged ministry. God wants us to bring forth "much fruit". There are times when by some means the other He reminds us of past mistakes, that these may be brought before Him, and confessed. By this means those very same weaknesses, faced and overcome in His strength can enable us to be more useful in the future. Such experiences can be compared to a very costly handkerchief which has been spoiled by a drop of ink on it. Let however that spoiled handkerchief be given to an artist, and that very spot can be changed into a beautiful flower. In this way, the costly but spoiled handkerchief becomes still more valuable. In the same way when we are faithful and sincere in confessing our failures and mistakes, these very mistakes can be used of the Lord to increase our fruitfulness.

Once in a very wealthy home many guests and great persons came to stay for a week. The mother told the children not to ask for anything while the guests were there. One small girl, however, became very impatient, and could not wait so long. One day she took something from the table herself so the mother told her to leave the table and go to a corner, where she had to stand with her face to the wall and window. The poor child shed many tears because of this punishment, but nobody noticed her. In the party, however, there was a very clever artist. When all were asleep he came downstairs with his brush and paints, and in the very same corner where the child had stood, he drew a beautiful design. Next morning when the guests came for breakfast, they saw a change in the corner, and before they had food, they went to admire the beauty and scenery of the wall-painting. The guests understood why the picture had been drawn there, and from that day, the child was given much more love, because through her punishment others had been benefited. In the same way, even though you have made mistakes do not be ashamed to confess them before the Lord, because they can be used of Him to bless you and others. (To be contd.)

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NO 15

HELP FROM ABOVE-5

SEVENFOLD HELP OR BLESSINGS FROM THE LORD (PEACE -2)

Peace is the third blessing we receive from the Lord Who made heaven and earth (Psa.121 :3,4). In our last issue we have seen that there are seven kinds of peace mentioned in the Bible, the first three being perfect peace, great peace and abundant peace. We shall now see the remaining four kinds of peace.

4. Overflowing Peace: "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea" (Isaiah 48:18). This is an important aspect of the peace, which God gives us. His peace in us is like a river. Wherever a river flows it brings life. It reaches distant places bringing blessing. God will fill our hearts with peace and it will overflow to reach others. This is how believers become peacemakers. Firstly, we help people to make their peace with God. Secondly, we influence people to make peace with one another. Can you truly say that you have overflowing peace? Have those around you felt that peace overflowing from you? Thousands of people have been blessed by the hymn, "When peace like a river attendeth my soul" written by Spatford Horatio. He wrote this well-known hymn when he lost his son due to Yellow fever and his four daughters in a shipwreck. He is a beautiful example of a believer who has overflowing peace. His peace overflowing in the form of that hymn has blessed many. It is at the time of sorrow and distress that this overflowing peace of yours can bless others. Please ask the Lord to give you that overflowing peace.

5. Peace which passeth all understanding: Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6, 7). This peace comes to us through prayer. Unfortunately many believers choose worrying rather than praying. In these verses God tells us to choose prayer instead of worrying. "Peace which passeth all understanding" means peace that is not humanly possible. Prayer is a wonderful provision of God to His people. We think about prayer in relation to our needs and God providing them. But through this verse He tells us that our prayers bring us much more blessing than the answer itself. Long before we receive answers to our prayers He gives us "peace which passeth all understanding". In the well-known hymn "What a friend we have in Jesus" we sing, "...oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear - All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer".

Yes, when we do not pray we forfeit the peace of God. Sometimes when we pray, God does not give what we ask for, but He gives peace that passeth all knowledge. This is a unique experience for a praying Christian. God may not save the life of the loved one for whom you are praying, but He will fill your heart with His peace. Please remember, our peace does not depend upon God granting our requests. It depends upon our praying. If you have not experienced this peace which passeth all understanding, then you have not truly prayed. The present day popular Christianity is answer-oriented. But true Christianity offers you peace more than meeting your need. The Lord may give your heart's desire in answer to your prayers but it is His prerogative will to fill your heart with peace which passeth all knowledge.

6. Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you" (John 14:27). I consider this verse to be the most important verse on peace. The Lord Jesus promises to give us HIS PEACE. Do you know anything about His peace? That is the peace which is found in the heart of the Lord Jesus. That peace has come to Him through His knowledge of all things and His sovereignty. He knows the end from the beginning. So He has no worry. He has ordained everything. He has taken all decisions. He has no competitor. He is not challenged by anyone. He has no enemy powerful enough to defeat Him. So He has total and absolute peace. The wonder of wonders is that He is willing to give us that peace. We cannot fully contain that peace in our hearts. But still He says that He will give us His peace. So let us pray and ask Him saying, "Lord I want Your peace; I do not want any other peace, I want the peace that is in Your heart". Beloved, this peace comes to us through the knowledge of God's plan and programme for this world. It is revealed to us in the Bible. All the details of the first creation in the beginning, as well as the creation of the new heaven and new earth at the end, are given in the Bible. If we fully believe them we will begin to experience His peace. Let us learn to look at this world from His perspective. As a result our hearts will be filled with His peace.

7. Ruling Peace: "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also you are called in one body; and be ye thankful" (Col. 3:15). This ruling peace comes to us when we surrender our lives totally to the Lord. As long as we run our own lives God's peace cannot rule in our lives. Can you truly say with the hymn writer that you have surrendered all to the Lord Jesus?

"All to Jesus I surrender; Now I feel the sacred flame; Oh the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to His name!"

If you want to be joyful in your life as a member of the Body of Christ, you must surrender fully to the Lord Jesus Christ. There is much disturbance in the Body of Christ today. This is due to lack of ruling peace. Surrender your life to Christ so that you may experience the ruling peace.

(To be contd.)

N.J.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

International Assembly
4274 Lafayette Road
Jamesville, NY 13078
July 9, 2005

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious Name of our lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who abideth a Priest continually, merciful and faithful, at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Praise be unto Him, the High Priest in things pertaining to God, Who having made reconciliation for our sins, calls us holy brethren and partakers of the heavenly calling, even partakers of Himself and the glory that shall be revealed in that heavenly city, the New Jerusalem (Heb.2:17;3:1, 14; 1 Peter5:1}).

Thank and praise the lord for the journeying mercies granted to Bro. D.S. Christopher and myself to reach Syracuse in good time. As mentioned before, prayerful preparations are going on for the ensuing Convocation to be held from 14th to 17th July, and we stand in the value of the prayers of all of you dear readers, for the effective communication of the purpose of God during this short period.

Continuing our meditation on the heavenly city and its building, we may move on. The precious stones are the varied display of God's nature, Who is light, in connection with the creature seen in creation in Ezek. 28 and in grace, in the High Priest's breastplate in Exodus 28. They are now shown in permanent glory, adorning the foundations of the city. The gates had moral beauty (every several gate was of one pearl}. Christ becomes the attraction in the assembly, and that in a glorious way. The street on which men walked and came in contact with, instead of having the danger of defilement was itself righteous and holy -gold, transparent as glass (Rev. 21: 21).

(6) .It has no temple. "And I saw no temple therein: for the lord God Almighty and the lamb are the temple of it" (Rev. 21 :22). A temple would speak of concealment or of a special place where God manifested Himself to those who drew nigh to worship. But all that is past; even now while here, we have the liberty of access into the holiest of all (Heb.1 0:19). Yea, our place is in the light as God is in the light. In the heavenly city therefore, God is fully displayed.

(7) There is no need of created light. "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it... and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Rev. 21: 23).

Having directed attention to the characteristics of the city, we may now consider what is indicated next, viz. the relation of that city to the millennia' earth. First we are told that "the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it" (v.24). Two slight alterations will make this Scripture far more intelligible. The words "of them that are saved" are omitted in all the best editions of the New Testament,

as being unwarranted addition; and the word translated "into" should be given as "to" or "unto"; or otherwise it would seem as if the kings of the earth had access into the heavenly city!! What we are taught then is, first, that the New Jerusalem will shine with surpassing luster, which the nations will walk in its light -the light of the glory in which it is set and by which it is illuminated. It will thus be suspended above the earthly Jerusalem, and from there will it transmit the rays of the glory of God by which it is encompassed and transfused. Moreover the kings of the earth will render their homage by bringing their glory and honour as offerings unto it; thus recognizing that it is the object of God's delight and the scene of the display of His presence and glory, because the throne of God and the Lamb are there.

It is then added that "...the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into (unto) it. 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" (vs. 25-27). One cannot fail to be struck by the correspondency between this language and that addressed to the earthly Jerusalem by the prophet; "Therefore thy gates shall be open continually: they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought' (Isa. 60:11). And undoubtedly there will be an ultimate relation between the two cities, similar to that between the Holy place and the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle, though the distinction must ever be remembered, that the one city is heavenly and the other earthly in its character. The open gates are an emblem of the perfect security, which the city enjoys, there being "no adversary or evil occurrent". The absence of night tells that evil has passed away, and hence there is perpetual day. "It is not merely the absence of evil, but the impossibility of its entrance, which characterized the Holy City", for none but they which are written in the "Lamb's book of life" are found within.

Next we have the river of the water of life and the tree of life. 'And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations" (Rev. 22:1,2). All this again is the source of millennial earth, and reveals the source of millennial life and blessedness. The throne of God and of the Lamb are the fount as ever, of grace and life; and the leaves of the tree of life are for the healing of nations. The glorified only will feed upon the twelve fruits of the tree. Hence it is added, "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face". God helping, we may continue further in our next issue.

Bro. Eddy Williams and co-workers in Punjab would have us to thank the Lord for the three days servants' gatherings they could hold at Chandigarh. Also the Lord enabled them to lay the foundation stone for the small House of Worship at Jalandhar on 30th June, and granted them liberty and blessing during the meetings held there for three days as well as the 2nd Anniversary gatherings held at Ambala from 1st to 3rd July.

It pleased the Lord to call young sister Olive unto himself on 2nd July after several weeks of intensive care in the hospital in Chennai. Though young, she walked worthy of the Lord and His Kingdom, and was a challenging example to the believers "in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12). Her funeral service on Sunday the 3rd July was well attended by many hundreds. Let us pray for her mother Mrs. Sara Samuel and family, for their comfort while accepting the will of the Lord.

Praying that we all be enabled to press on, in our heavenly calling, obedient to the heavenly vision, sharing the privileges of the heavenly city,

Phil. 3.: 10-12, Heb. 12: 1- 5, Acts 26: 17, 19.

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K. PHILLIP

GOD'S SERVANT - 2 BAKHT SINGH

As we look into God's Word, we see our mistakes and faults, and the reasons why certain weaknesses have come into our lives. Let us then be ready to admit and confess all our mistakes and failures as the Holy Spirit opens up to us the Word of God. All of us have so much to learn and so much to understand. Often we find those who do not know anything, thinking that they know everything. There was once ~ man who was very fond of reading, and he once prepared a list of more than 6000 books by well-"known scholars, thinking that if he could read all those books, he would become a wise man. After studying those well-known books for many years he was asked by his friend what he had learned by so doing. He replied, "I have learned that I know nothing!" We too must remember that if we have learned anything from God after studying God's Word for many years, and have learned many precious lessons.. we shall admit in the end how little we know, and how much more we need to learn.

It is not good to look back on the past blessing of a past ministry. Whatever God has wrought in the past, must be remembered only in praise, and not as a substitute for present zeal and fruitfulness. God is able to give in future a more effective ministry of greater blessing. But first of all, it is necessary for each one to be very very clear of his call. Just by telling people that we are God's servant, or an evangelist, or a preacher, does not make us one. We must be able to prove that we are called by God. If you are depending upon some dream, that is no proof. We can see from God's Word that we must be able to prove to everyone how and when and where we have been called by God. We have to be sure that we have heard the voice of God, and that it is God Himself Who has called us and is preparing us for our ministry, so much so that even when we are offended or angered, we shall be able to convince people that we are God's servants and are in His service. We must be able to give a definite proof that we have been called by God.

In the military service those who are selected for a commission as Lieutenant or Captain, have to appear before the committee for an interview. Even if a young man is already highly qualified, has passed many examinations and comes from a, good family, he has to appear before this committee to be finally selected for that office. Once a well educated young man from a good family came for that interview. There were three or four committee members interviewing the candidates. As the young man came into the room, one of them said to him, "Will you go and get me a cup of tea?" The young man ran to a hotel nearby, and brought nice tea on a nice tray. He spent much money and brought all the things, which he thought would please the committee members. As soon as he came inside carrying these things the members said to him, "You are unfit to be an officer." 'Why?' he asked and they answered, "If you want to be an officer you ought to have told the servant to carry the tray and not carry it yourself. Officers should not demean themselves like this. You have forgotten your status, and are fit rather to be a server than an officer." So he was not selected even though he was well educated and came from a good family and had every other circumstance in his favour. In the same way for divine service there must be divine authority. Just by saying you saw a dream or vision, or heard a voice will not satisfy anyone that you are a God's servant. You must be prepared and proven before all, that there is divine authority behind you.

In the story of Elijah we see how at that time, God had to meet a very urgent and important need. The wicked king Ahab and queen Jezebel were trying to kill all God's servants and prophets. Even after God had revealed Himself in a mighty miracle through Elijah by sending fire on the sacrifice, Jezebel was determined to kill him. How much darkness prevailed in the kingdom! Everywhere there were groves and idol worship and every kind of corruption among people and priests. There was an urgent need to give God's word and message to His people, but even the mighty man Elijah did not know how God was! going to meet that need.

(To be contd.)