

# Hebron Messenger

Published Fortnightly

VOI. 44

September 3rd , 2006

NO 18

## THINGS WHICH GOD HATH PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM -4

We now approach a subject, which may surprise many, but it is something plainly taught in Scripture. We refer to the fact that Christians are CALLED TO JUDGE ANGELS.

We read in Corinthians, "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? Know ye not that we shall JUDGE ANGELS?" (1 Cor. 6:2,3).

It is perhaps regrettable that, in our modern parlance, the word "judge" often carries with it the idea of condemnation or punishment. The context of 1 Corinthians 6, however, makes it clear that the thought here is rather that of decision - making, or, shall we say, "settling affairs". Paul, we note, was discussing with the Corinthians their deplorable practice of taking their differences, or disputes, before heathen judges, and he is most alarmed that they should even think of such a thing! Do they not know that God's people shall "judge the angels"? People with such a high calling and destiny should never be running to heathen tribunals to get their problems solved!

When we mention "angels", of course, we are touching a very big subject, but here we only need to mention one very important point. The Bible makes it clear that God's PLAN FOR MAN is something far greater than anything He had ever planned for angels! We are told that the government of the world to come was NOT given to angels, but to MAN (Heb. 2:5). God's mind is "full of MAN"(v.6), and it is MAN that has been "crowned with glory and honor"(v.7). It is true that "for a little while" (v.7-RV. marg.) man was placed under angels (as to location and relationship), but that was something like a "probation period". We know that even our earthly kings have to spend some of their early years under the care and supervision of carefully chosen "tutors" who watch over their early training for the great responsibilities that lie ahead. In the end, however, it is the king that rules!

This ascendancy of man over the angels is also seen in the Psalms, where we read, "... he shall give his angels charge (orders, Berkeley) over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways" (Psa.91 :11). So the angels are, indeed, MAN's servants! (Perhaps we should make it clear that we are here discussing MAN as originally conceived by God, and not man in his present fallen condition! Sadly, God's thought was lost to the fallen Adam race, but it has been recovered in God's NEW MAN; — Christ and His redeemed people.

We repeat, then, that God's redeemed people, are, indeed, called to JUDGE ANGELS; "the saints shall judge the world ... we shall judge angels" (1 Cor. 6:2,3).

All that this entails, and exactly how it will work out, we may not, at present, know. But it IS one of those great "things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Cor. 2:9). And we may be sure that, whatever our appointed task may be, it will be carried out in closest fellowship with Christ, and under His much higher supervision. Perhaps we are to be given the honour of endorsing His decisions, and pronouncing, and implementing, His right verdicts. This would, no doubt, include the "judging" of those FALLEN angels mentioned in Jude 6. Even Satan (Lucifer)

would also be included, for he, certainly, is a FALLEN angel (See Isa. 14:12- 15). Paul told the Roman Christians that the God of peace would soon CRUSH (N IV.) Satan under their feet (Rom. 16:20). This, however, is a still greater subject, and we only mention it briefly. The simple fact is that God's people shall, indeed, "judge angels". It is part of their CALLING! (To be contd.) C.R.G.

## **LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER**

**Hebron  
Golconda Crossroads  
Hyderabad, 500020  
A.P. INDIA. Telephone no. 27613066**

**23/8/2006.**

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious and prayer - answering Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our forerunner, Who hath entered within the veil, made a High Priest forever after the order of Melchisedec, able to save us to the uttermost. May we be those who walk in the steps of the patriarch Abraham, strong in faith, staggering not, and patiently enduring, to obtain what God hath promised, through Christ Jesus our Lord (Heb. 6:19,20,12,15; Rom. 4:19-21).

Continuing our thoughts on 'patiently waiting' and confidently expecting the divine performance, let us learn that 'waiting for God's time' is as much our duty, as is our rendering obedience to His commandments, while meekly bearing our affliction. It is the prerogative of God to 'date' all events as well as do all things for us. Our 'times' as well as ourselves and all our affairs are in His hand (Psa. 31:15). The Lord is the disposer of all things in regard to not only their means, but also in regard to their seasons. "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven" (Ecc. 3:1). And God requires us to accept His time-table, defer to His good pleasure and bow to His sovereignty, confiding in His wisdom. Let us not be tempted to fret and fume, because He is slower than we desire in undertaking for us. It is not sufficient that we make known our requests, we must also "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him" (Psa 37:7). Putting away all unrest in our hearts, resisting all workings of unbelief, we are to wait. "I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry" (Psa. 40:1).

When it seems extremely painful to wait patiently, we must know it points out our unwillingness to accept God's timing, which is really a spirit of insubordination. Fretful impatience takes issue with God's authority and calls into question His goodness. Solemn indeed are the sins of this nature recorded in the Word. "And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him" (Exo. 32:1). And Aaron yielded to their evil demand. When the servant of God bade Saul tarry seven days at Gilgal until he should come and offer the sacrifices and show the king what he should do (1 Sam. 10:8), because the prophet did not appear as Saul had expected, he impatiently, impiously, took matters into his own hand, and in consequence lost his kingdom (1 Sam. 13:8-14).

Let us all therefore seek to perceive what an evil thing it is not to quietly wait for the Lord's time. Once we give way to the spirit of impatience, we open the door to many dangers, attended with disastrous consequences to ourselves. Thus Abraham found it. Although the Lord had promised him and assured him that "...he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir" (Gen. 15:4), Abraham yielded to the suggestion of Sarah for obtaining a son by Hagar. Though the carnal plan resulted in the birth of Ishmael, Abraham's impatience was a source of domestic trouble for years to come. Impatience leads to setting aside God's means and employing our own. "And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices" (Jer. 18:12). Many yield

t such worldly methods today — organizations and even churches — to their loss and confusion. The Lord write this word upon our hearts.

Following is the brief report of the International Convocation held at Syracuse, NY, from July 19-23, received from Bro. Koshy. "Over 250 people representing twelve nations attended the Holy Convocation. The theme was, "I may win Christ" (Phil. 3:8). As usual the Lord brought several of His servants to minister the Word, from Sri Lanka, India, Australia, U.K., and parts of U.S.A. From children in the nursery to adults at the main plenary sessions, all enjoyed the Holy Convocation — particularly the international spirit of the family gathering of the people of God, expressing the global view of the family of God, as is not done elsewhere. The Holy Convocation helped the people to understand and appreciate the believers from other nations, cultures and socio-economic background and to realize the unity and oneness we have in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. So I want to thank you on behalf of all of us in Syracuse for your prayers and support to host this Convocation. Please pray that the Lord may make His mind very clear to us regarding the next year's Holy Convocation".

With a sense of sorrow and loss we mention the Home-call to Glory of His handmaiden, Sis. (Mrs.) Flora Kurien, (wife of God's servant Bro. Joseph Kurien) on 9th August after a period of hospitalization ending in the I.C. Unit of Apollo Hospital, Hyderabad. About two and a half years ago their only daughter Elisabeth also was called Home. The funeral service on 10th August was well attended by hundreds of believers and our fellow- servants and families from all over Andhra Pradesh. Bro. Eddy Williams from Jehovah — Shammah gave the main message at the graveside, before we committed the body to the grave, and Bro. Joseph Kunen himself prayed, challenging the unsaved and worldly Christians to repentance and faith, and share with him the glorious and blessed hope of the Lord's return. The Lord has been pleased to use Bro. Joseph Kurien with Sis. Flora, since their marriage in 1983, in Karimnagar, Bangalore, Kazipet, Tenali and finally at Kadapa, where he is serving the Lord now. Let us pray for his continued comfort and confidence to continue In His heavenly calling Unmoved and undismayed, for the up-building of His saints and the furtherance of the Lord's Testimony in the land.

Sis. (Miss) Joan Aaron, the Lord's handmaiden at Hebron, was promoted to Glory on the 21st August, after a short period of hospitalization. She was among the first believers at Guntur to testify in the waters of baptism, for which her services in a Mission School were terminated. Later, she along with her brother and sister, late Bro. Edwin Aaron and late Mrs. Vijayam Noel Barrow served in the newly started assembly at Kurnool more than four decades ago, and were an encouragement to the ministry and fellowship among sisters. Finally, she came to Hebron and ministered to sisters as well as young girls during the Vacation Bible Schools and Youth Camps. She labored faithfully for more than three decades, in the editing and, proof reading of the Hebron Messenger. She was outstanding in her zeal for the preaching of the Gospel and showing love to God's servants and saints. The funeral on the 22nd August was largely attended by believers and God's servants from the twin cities. In the words of Rev. 14:13, she rests from her labors and her works do follow her, to be rewarded at the coming of our Lord.

Please pray for the Holy Convocation to be held at Berachah, Gangtok, Sikkim, from 30th September to 8th October. Bro. Devamani, the Lord's servant at Gulbarga, covets prayers for his son Timothy and Sis. Glory who were united in marriage at Gulbarga on 3rd August.

Let us pray for our country and nation as a whole, and those at the helm of affairs for its good governance, as the country entered into another year of her independence on August 15th. Pray that the freedom enshrined in our country's constitution for religious worship and the practise of our faith may be maintained, for the extension of God's Kingdom.

The Youth Reunion held at Hebron on 15th August drew a company of about two thousand brothers and sisters. The ministry of the Word through Bros. Paul Sudhakar and Jayaraj besides the youth leaders and helpers, was a means of renewal and refreshing to all believers, besides being an opportunity for making decision for Christ for more than a hundred people. Pray for the

follow up work.

Praying that we may await with patience the fulfilment and enjoyment of God's promises, after having done His will in Christ Jesus our Lord,

2Cor. 6 : 1,3,4, Psalm 40:1-5,8, James 1:4,17,18

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP.

### **WE BEHELD HIS GLORY - 6 BAKHT SINGH**

Adam lived for 930 years. Nowadays teeth start falling off at the age of 40, and artificial teeth are used. In many cases hair becomes grey at an early age. That is the modern age. But Adam lived for 930 years! He must have had a wonderful body, but he was blind spiritually, and was thrown out of the garden of Eden under the condemnation of sin. Yet the thief on the cross had more wisdom than Adam. Even though he died, he went straight into God's Kingdom. Is not the glory of the House built by Jesus Christ greater than the former? The devil thought that by making Adam and Eve disobey God, he would rob them of every right that God had given them. God had given to Adam dominion, power and authority over the whole creation. He was the king of the whole earth, but because of sin and disobedience he lost that privilege and the devil was ver<sup>9</sup> happy. But now in the Lord Jesus Christ we are going to be kings in the new creation, which will be far more glorious than this creation. In this way God will put the devil to shame (Rom. 16:20). God's purpose for every one of us is to forgive us our sins and make us kings and priests in God's Kingdom (Rev. 1:6). The heaven and earth were made by God. God spoke, and it was so! But the coming new creation is going to consist of you and me. All of us put together will be called by that name: the new creation, the heavenly Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem. Even though God's glory came down in the temple, which Solomon built, it could not remain there long, nor be seen by everyone. But this glory, the glory of the Lord Jesus will be seen in us and around us for eternity. Before we were saved by grace, we were nothing but foolish vessels defiled and ruined, but in His hands we shall be transformed, and become worthy to contain God's fulness and show forth His glory throughout the ages to come.

Let us look at another instance of the saving power of the Lord Jesus in Luke 7. The Lord Jesus said, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace" (v.50). To whom were these words addressed? To a woman who was despised and hated by every one because of her sinful life, so much so, Simon was saying in his heart, "This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner" (v.39). She was despised and hated by everyone and yet our Lord had chosen her, to show His glory and to pour His love and grace into her saying, "Thy faith hath saved thee." Take yet another case in John 8:11. The Lord said, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more", to a woman, who had been caught in the act of adultery. Those proud men were angry with her and said, "Such a woman must be stoned." Yet such a person was chosen, forgiven and transformed by our Lord, and one day you will see her shining in the new creation like a diamond! Such is the grace and glory of our Lord.

Again in John 4:4 all the disciples wondered when they were told by the Lord Jesus that He was going through Samaria, for the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans. Probably they came

and said, "We don't want to go that way"! But the verse says, "He must needs go" that way, to see the woman of Samaria; to meet the woman who had five husbands and was living in sin. She was wonderfully transformed by the loving Savior and became a mighty witness of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Yet again in Luke 17:11-19, in the last journey of our Lord Jesus Christ from Galilee to Jerusalem, He went purposely to seek and to save the lepers of Samaria. Can you not see that no matter how ruined your life has been by sin, the Lord Jesus Christ seeks you to save you and to transform you? None of us deserve His love and grace; "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God". It is only by His grace that we are being called by Him; called to show forth His glory for eternity (Eph. 3:21).

A carpenter needs a piece of wood to show forth his skill; a blacksmith needs a piece of iron, and an artist, a brush and paint. God has chosen us to show forth His skill. The mystery is that God wants such material to show His manifold wisdom 'and heavenly power in a heavenly place. In Kerala people make many good things from castaway coconut shells; but in Madras they use such shells to keep sand or water in. Coconut shells in skilled hands can become articles of treasure. Thus, when we come into the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will be transformed, and even the heavenly host will wonder how such persons could become so glorious, though ruined by sin! There is only one answer, and that is, by the Lord Jesus Christ alone. By our own merits or works of any kind our future glory will not become greater than the past, and that work will be complete only when the Lord comes a second time.

I will give one more illustration. A man went to a shop where they sell diamonds and precious stones. There he saw a stone of a very high price. The other stones were brighter, but this stone was of a dull color. So the man said, "How is it that you are demanding a high price for this dull-colored stone?" The shop-keeper said, "Stretch forth your hand". The man did so and the shop-keeper placed the stone in his hand. "Keep your hand closed for five minutes" he said. When he opened the hand after five minutes the same stone was shining far more brightly than all the other stones in the shop. The heat of the human hand made it shine so brightly. That stone is called sympathetic opal. In the same way, in the nail-pierced hand of the Lord Jesus Christ you can become a shining jewel for His glory. It does not matter how ugly you are, how defiled, how ruined, how filthy, how dirty! Let Him take you in His nail-pierced hand, and then men will see the light of God coming on your face and into your life, and you will be like Him. One day, indeed, we shall be with Him in immortal glorified bodies and that glory will be far greater than any other we have ever experienced, It is for this purpose and end that the Lord Jesus Christ is calling us. (To be contd.)

# Hebron Messenger

Published Fortnightly

VOI. 44

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006

NO 19

## THINGS WHICH GOD HATH PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM -5

We now approach what is surely the greatest marvel of all the things, which God hath prepared for them that love Him. Christians are CALLED TO BE THE BRIDE OF CHRIST.

This is a truth with which most of us have probably been familiar for quite a long time. We have known such Scriptures as Eph. 5:25-27, Rev. 21:2, etc., and may have vaguely "accepted them", — albeit with a bare minimum of comprehension. More than likely, we have been inclined to regard such ideas as "largely poetic", and not to be taken too seriously. Once, we ourselves did just that, but we are now convinced that those Scriptures need to be read, and accepted, in a far more realistic and serious way. The Holy Spirit urges it upon us that Christians ARE destined to be the Savior's chosen bride! Quite obviously, details must again elude us, but we may be quite sure that the fullness will far surpass the figure, and the experience will be far greater than the expectation!

The very words "Bride" and "Wife" always suggest a closeness of relationship unsurpassed and unsurpassable, — and a depth of mutual care and devotion which is "beyond all words"; — it is "holy ground" indeed, — and we must tread carefully. But, even so, this IS the relationship which has been appointed and reserved for God's redeemed people in the all-surpassing grace of God. We are to know our Christ, and to enjoy all that He is, in ways that we had never dreamed of! It is all, as Paul said, "a great mystery" (Eph. 5:31, 32), and we can only wait in wonder for the ultimate unfolding. True it is that God's Christ has loved US with an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3), and, from a past eternity, has been drawing us "with cords of a man, with bands of love" (Hos. 11:4).

We shall now list some of the verses relevant to our subject, and we suggest that they be read quietly and prayerfully, so that something more of their deep significance may be REVEALED to us. Here are the verses:

"...Christ ... loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing" (Eph. 5:25-27).

"Let us be glad and rejoice, ... for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready" (Rev. 19:7).

"... Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife" (Rev. 21:9).

"...thy Maker is thine husband" (Isa. 54:5).

"...I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in justice (RV.), and in loving kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in

faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD" (Hos. 2:19,20).

"...I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Cor. 11:2).

"... married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead" (Rom. 7:4).

"... as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee" (Isa. 62:5).

Perhaps what we all need here is a better understanding of the simple statement that "GOD IS LOVE"! (1 John 4:8,16). It has been dramatically and unmistakably revealed that the Great God of Eternity; — The Power who stands behind all things, is, above all else, a LOVING GOD. One of the greatest love-stories ever written is that of Jehovah's undying love for the nation of Israel. What CAN we say of the unprecedented forbearance that is described; - epitomized, perhaps, in the final anguished cry, "How shall I give thee up, Ephraim?"(Hos.11:8). That history, we would say, is designed to give us some little idea of the greater LOVE OF CHRIST FOR HIS BRIDE, - the Church! And we are compelled to ask,- if that was the love of God for a "perverse and crooked" Israel (Deut.32:5), what, in the ages to come, will be the LOVE OF CHRIST for a perfected and glorified Church? The answer, perhaps, is best spelt out for us at Calvary. Once we begin to comprehend that love, we can only fall at the feet of our Redeemer-Bridegroom, and present ourselves to Him, a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1). And we may be sure that the One Who gave Himself for us at Calvary, will give Himself to us throughout the ages of eternity. The atoning work of the Cross will then be over, but the very same Love that led n to that atoning work will be living on for ever,-and flowing out to us from our heavily Bridegroom. All praise to His Name! (To be contd.) C.R.G.

#### **LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER**

**Hebron  
Golconda Crossroads  
Hyderabad - 500020  
A.P., India  
Telephone No: 27613066  
09.09.2006.**

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath reconciled us to Himself, by the death of His Son, that standing in this grace, we may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. We are learning to "glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope", by the love of God being shed abroad in our hearts (Rom. 5:1-5).

Continuing our thoughts' on the subject 'patience', let us remember that it is highly beneficial for us to exercise this grace. "And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you... blessed are all they that wait for him" (Isa. 30:18). 'Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is" (Jer. 17:7). "The LORD is good unto them that wait for him... It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation (deliverance) of the LORD" (Lam. 3:25, 26). Waiting is not only a duty but a benefit. This waiting patience is termed by Christ as possessing of our souls (Luke 21:19). Whatever title we have to our souls, we have no possession of them without patience. As faith puts us in possession of Christ, so patience gives us possession of our souls. The soul of an impatient person is dispossessed, for he no longer acts as a rational creature. The exercise of patience enables us to preserve a holy serenity of mind, keeping under the tumults of passion, so that

neither terror nor grief prevents the dominion of reason. By resigning ourselves to God's will and confidently awaiting the fulfillment of His promises, we are kept calm and cheerful, and have a considerable enjoyment of His mercies amidst trouble and tribulation.

It is impossible but that affections and passions will be stirred up in a season of trial and affliction, but patience takes off their excess and fierceness, calming the storm within. It subdues the violence of emotion, which rends the soul and distracts reason, enabling its possessor to rule his own spirit (Prov. 16:32), instead of roaring "as a wild bull in a net" (Isa. 51:20). Patience checks angry murmurings and brings us into submission and silence before God. "I... opened not my mouth; because thou didst it" (Psa. 39:9). Since impatience proceeds from self-love and is a species of self-will, patience works the soul into a self-denying frame or attitude. When providences cross our designs or impede our expectations, we are provoked and restless. But when the trying of faith works patience, the heart is more weaned from the creature and brought into rest in God. Thus it produces a spirit of quietness and submission causing us to realize that the trial is of the Father, and that when He deems best, He will deliver us from this trouble or supply that, which will be most for His glory and our highest welfare. We shall be able to say, "...It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good" (1 Sam. 3:18).

Such a thing is beyond our powers, out of reach of attainment, something contrary to flesh and blood. Yet it is not beyond the power of God to bestow, or the sufficiency of His grace to effect. That is why we find the Apostle making supplication for these sorely tried saints that the Lord, the Spirit, would direct their hearts "into the patient waiting for Christ" (2 Thess 3:5). Our feet too have to be guided into the way of peace (Luke 1:79), for it is a track completely hidden from the natural man, even the wisest of this world, — "...the way of peace have they not known" (Rom. 3:17). Equally so, none but God can rectify our evil tendency to impatience. The plainest and earnest sermons preached cannot of themselves effect it. What we write here will not do so unless God is pleased to apply the same to us all by convincing us of our sinful failures, moving us to confess them and cry to Him for His quickening power, "That he may incline our hearts unto him" (1 Kings 8:58), and that He will graciously stay our minds upon Himself (Isa. 26:3). The Lord make it true for us all. God helping, we will continue in our next issue.

God's servant Bro. C. Stephen of Karaikudi, together with elders and believers in Bethel, Madurai, would have us to pray for the dedication service of their newly constructed House of Worship named Hermon, God willing on 15th September. Bro. Theodore Reginald, myself and others would be participating in the service of that day. This would be followed by two days' gatherings on the 16th and 17th September, for their 50th Anniversary. Kindly pray for the same.

Bro. K. Isaac (son of God's servant, late Bro. K. Arvindam,) covets our prayers for the comfort of his wife and her sisters and father, as their mother Sis. (Mrs.) Agnes Prakasa Rao was called Home to Glory on 6th September in Hyderabad.

You may be aware of both the spoken and written imbalanced exposition regarding the local Church's functioning and its leadership structure widely made known by Bro. Paul Sudhakar, without seeking our united counsel. The things conveyed by him is several areas run contrary to the Biblical teaching, vision and vocation for which, his honored servant late Bro. Bakht Singh and his co-workers sacrificially labored, beginning at Jehovah Shamma, Chennai, 65 years ago and at Hebron, Hyderabad, nearly five decades ago, for the establishment of the Lord's Testimony, amongst the redeemed in the land. When we had a time of prayer and discussion with dear Bro. Paul Sudhakar, he was unwilling to withdraw his teachings, which we foresee can be detrimental to the growth and maintenance of this Testimony both in India and regions beyond. Hence we have been constrained of the Lord to restrain his ministry in our assemblies for a period of time. We do so with humility and prayer that he may correct himself.

Praying that we all be enabled to serve the Lord, obedient to the heavenly vision, and that the Lord may direct our hearts into the love of God and into the patient waiting for Christ.

2 Tim. 1: 8,13, Heb 10:36-38, Acts 26:18,19.

I remain,

Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP.

### **WE BEHELD HIS GLORY - 7 BAKHT SINGH**

When the Lord spoke about a latter House which would be filled with God's glory, which will be glorious in a far greater measure than the former House, He said, there will be peace there. "...and in this place, will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts' (Hag. 2:9). Just as by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ we are given grace and truth, so also we are given peace, as our Lord said in John 14:27; "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you".

Those words were spoken by our Lord at the time when the disciples were sad and discouraged, because He had told them how He was going to be betrayed, reviled, mocked and killed. Having heard that, the disciples were very sad and said, "Lord, for your sake, we have left all and followed You. We have left our homes, our business, our parents and our children. At Your command, we have forsaken all and followed You. Now we have no home, no property, no friends; we are like orphans, and now Lord, You are also going to leave us. What about us? Where will we go? What shall we do now? Are You going away and leaving us like that?" At that time, our Lord said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you... Let not heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." That was going to be the strongest weapon with which to defeat the enemy and to come out victorious. The disciples were asking in their hearts, "How can we defeat Satan by peace? With atomic bombs we can defeat him: but how can we defeat him by peace?" Every country goes to some other country for help at the time of war, some to Peking, some to Moscow, some to Washington, seeking for weapons of defense. But the Lord Jesus Christ has a weapon stronger than any other and that is called peace.

Twenty-seven years after the Lord had spoken those words in John 14:27, Paul wrote these words: "The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly" (Rom. 16:20). Paul had seen the devil working in many ways and he had received many reports of his activities. He had seen the devil working like a ravening wolf (Acts 20:29). He had also seen him using many wicked devices, like a deceiver and as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14; 2:11). He had seen the powers of wickedness in high places let loose (Eph. 6:12). Yet now he was saying, "The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet". It is by inward peace that we defeat and confound all the enemy's weapons and prepare material for God's heavenly house. "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever" (Isa. 32:17).

Some people when they apply for a job canny many testimonials, some of which are very old. They paste the torn pieces on a paper and think that by showing these testimonials they will get a job. There are many people who think that worldly certificates they can have a share in

building God's House. They try to build God's House with human wisdom. Some others try to build it with money. There are some cows who do not give milk to just anyone. If a stranger starts milking them, they will kick them. If someone knows how to pat the cow and coax it, it will stand there quietly, while it is being milked. That is how many people milk rich people. They have to manufacture and memorize good stories. Some give more money if they are shown photos and films. Thus some people try to build God's House with cursed money and some by human knowledge. All these things are going to be shaken as we see in Hag. 2:7. Before the coming of the desire of all nations, he will shake all nations. Only those things which cannot be shaken will remain (Heb. 12:25-27). Everything will be shaken but not the peace, which the Lord Jesus Christ gives.

Thus Paul could say in Rom. 16:20, "The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly". If we can maintain the inward peace, then every weapon of the devil will be defeated. He may come as a ravening wolf, a roaring lion or like the angel of light. He may use wicked powers but for every attack, the same weapon of peace must be used. At the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ the angels proclaimed, "Peace on earth", and when He rose again, the first words He spoke to the disciples were, "Peace be unto you". Among many names given to the Lord Jesus Christ, one is "The Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6). Though you may know many things about the Bible, you may not know the meaning of atonement, new birth, justification, redemption, or restitution. When the Lord Himself becomes your peace, He will teach you and help you day by day, and by that peace you will become victorious.

By the same peace you will be able to find God's will as we read in Heb. 13:20-21. "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do so his will, working in you that, which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and forever. Amen. It is by inward peace that we find God's Will.

In the same way, by inward peace we are sheltered and protected from doubts and unbelief. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanks giving 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"(Phill. 4:6,7). The peace God protects us like a garrison. Suppose you are residing in a castle and you have a very strong army for protection, let there be any attack from enemy, you are safe inside because you are sure that your army is strong enough to protect you. In the same way, the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall garrison or surround you like an army. Even though the devil may come again and again against you, he looks at the peace and goes away. But when he sees on your face anxiety, sorrow, distress, he says "I will come inside". Then he is very happy. When he sees no peace on your face, he will come like wolf or a flood; but when peace is there, he goes away. It is peace, inward peace, heavenly peace, spiritual peace, which is our weapon. By that peace God is building His house. He is not depending your money for building His House. Some people think that because they give some money to the House of God, they get confession to absent themselves from prayer meetings or other meetings. The Lord Jesus Christ is not building His House by money or worldly knowledge or gifts. It is by inward peace and by our being willing to hear His voice daily that we can build His House (Heb. 3:5,6).

We saw in the previous messages, that the Tabernacle built by Moses and the Temple built by King Solomon were shadows of the House which the Lord Jesus Christ building. What Moses and Solomon built, were indeed glorious, but they passed away. But what our Lord is building will never pass away. (To be contd.)