

Hebron Messenger

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NO 20

THINGS WHICH GOD HATH PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM - 6

Before we conclude these meditations, there is one more matter to which we should draw attention. The Bible also tells us that Christians are CALLED TO ADOPTION

(Gk. "huiuthesis"; SON- PLACING).

This may sound obscure to some, but, as we proceed, it will become clear. We read in Ephesians, that Christians are "predestinated ...unto the adoption of children", or, as the Revised Version renders it, "Foreordained unto ADOPTION AS SONS" (Eph. 1:5).

To understand this verse, we need to know what the New Testament means by "Adoption"; — something very different from our present - day usage of the word. To put it simply, New Testament "adoption" is, more precisely, a COMING OF AGE; shall we say, a transition from "minor status" to "major status". Amongst both the Greeks and the Romans, this important occasion was celebrated by an impressive public ceremony. The happy father would take his matured "boy" (Gk. teknon) to the central forum, and, in front of all the gathered citizens, would take off the lad's "boy-garment" and replace it with the official "man-garment"; — at the same time proclaiming, "This is my SON; — he has successfully passed through the required training period, and has proved himself worthy to bear his father's name. He is no more a junior ("teknon"), but A SON ("huios"), — a trusted participant in our society". The Greek term for this whole ceremony was "huiuthesis", literally a SON-PLACING. In our New Testaments, this term is consistently translated "adoption". And we may say that it is with this IN VIEW that Christians have been saved and CALLED.

Paul no doubt had the same picture in mind when he wrote about the whole creation waiting for what he calls, "THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD" (Rom. 8:19). One version puts it, "Creation waits expectantly, and longs earnestly, for God's "sons" to be made known". This is an amazing picture, indeed! God will one day set His "sons" on the very forum of the universe, and, before all the gathered Hosts of Heaven, will declare, "THIS IS MY SON". And all creation will be left wondering! O Lord, speed the day!

And we must always remember that "adoption" is, first and foremost, for the FATHER'S sake; — He has planned an "adoption to Himself" (Eph. 1:5), — and His will be the great joy in that day. In the case of that Roman father, while there would certainly have been great joy on the face of the emerging "son", we venture to say that the JOY OF THE FATHER would have been far more, and far deeper! For years he had watched over the growing lad, and inwardly shared those necessary disciplines, — being himself afflicted in all those afflictions (Isa. 63:9). But now he HAS A SON, — trained and ready to share his business with him! So, his, in fact, is the greater joy! THAT, we would say is the main reason why we must PRESS THROUGH our "child-training". Our Heavenly Father must have that upon which His heart is set.

As we now conclude these meditations, we are reminded of a very solemn word in Peter, — ‘Wherefore..., brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure’ (2 Pet. 1:10). Perhaps we have seen something more of our “calling”, — let us now be sure that we do not miss it! The Lord will surely help us if we will look away TO HIM! All praise to His Name!

Some may be asking, now, what is the INMOST SECRET for those who would make their calling and election sure. In that connection, our minds go back to the verse with which we commenced these meditations, and where we were told that God had prepared these things “FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM” (1 Cor. 2:9). That, we would say, is THE KEY TO ALL. We must be LOVERS of the One Who is calling us! It has been said that “God hunts for our love more ways than one” (Samuel Rutherford). Perhaps one of those “ways” is by setting such amazing prospects before us! We ask, who could do other than LOVE HIM when we get these “glimpses” of the “things prepared” for us?

Katherine Kelly, in her well-known hymn “Give me a sight, O Saviour, of Thy wondrous love for me”, finishes her song with the lovely words:

“Then, melt my heart, O Saviour

Bend me, — yes, break me down

Until I own Thee Conqueror

And Lord and Sovereign crown”.

We might well make that our prayer as we see, again, the wonders of our calling. May He, indeed, help us! (Concluded) C.R.G

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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21/9/2006.

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in Whom, we being many are one Body, everyone members one of another, having gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us. As everyone hath received the gift, may we be those who minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. The Lord grant that we may be fervent in spirit in our service for Him, patient in tribulation and continuing instant in prayer, without fainting (Rom. 12:5; 12:11; 1 Peter 4:10; Luke 18:1,8).

Continuing our thoughts on Apostle Paul’s prayer for patience, we may state the following. While our sense of weakness and inability should ever drive us to our knees for divine enablement, prayer is not to be substituted for diligence in other directions. It is our responsibility to avoid everything which hinders the exercise of patience and make use of those means which promote it. It should also be remembered that in the answering of such prayers, God will not cease dealing with us as moral agents. God indeed “draws” us, but it is “with cords of a man, with bands of love” (Hosea 11:4), working upon us as rational beings. As the phrase “guide our feet into the way of peace” is preceded by “give light to them that sit in darkness” (Luke 1:79), so Christ explained the expression “draw him” by adding, “they shall be all taught of God” (John 6:44, 45). We are not forced but directed. God’s “drawing” is by teaching without doing violence to the

liberty of man. He convinces the judgement that it is fit and proper that we submit to and wait for Him. The will (ours) accepts the verdict of the understanding. Then the affections are brought under the authority of the Word.

God alone can direct our hearts. "...the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ" (2 Thess. 3:5). There is both a general and particular "directing". In His Word God has declared His mind to us through His statutes. "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God" (Micah 6:8). Yet, so unresponsive are we by nature, that something more is necessary before any of us renders to God His due, namely, the inward operations of the Holy Spirit, Who teaches us how to apply the rule to the details of our lives, and in the orderly exercise of our graces. God can direct our hearts, incline our minds, move our wills, without any violence done to our free agency. He will do so in answer to fervent prayer. He has already begun to do so if our prayers are sincere. These prayers are really the breathings of holy desires, which He hath worked in us by the efficacy of His grace, by making attractive and desirable the duties to which He calls us.

There is a very close connection, in fact, an inseparable one, between the two things Paul prayed for in Rom. 15:13. Not only is patience an effect of love, but our patient waiting for God will be in proportion to our love for Him. Love to God produces patience; rather faith working by love does so. "...the trying of your faith worketh patience" (Jas 1:3). Yet whenever spiritual faith operates, it "worketh by love" (Gal. 5:6). Love to God makes our soul cleave to Him and bear up under all dispensations of His providence. "Blessed is the man that endureth (patiently bears) temptation (trials): for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (Jas 1:12). That identifying mark is mentioned because it is the love, which enables one to meekly submit to the most painful trials. "...What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 21:13). It was love to Christ which fired Paul, to endure persecution and imprisonment, not simply with unrepining patience, but with triumphant joy. Love makes the will of God, and the glorifying of Him in Christ, dearer to us than all other aims.

How essential it is then that we should use our utmost endeavours for the quickening and strengthening and increasing of our love for God! For if that cardinal task is neglected, it is certain that our patience will weaken and flag, whether in a steady continuance in performing God's perceptive will, meekly bowing to His providential will, or quietly waiting the fulfillment of His promises and His answers to our prayers.

Not only does the love of God promote patience toward Him in a general way, but also specifically in connection with "waiting for Christ". Those that love God will point all their thoughts and desires to one aim, that God may be enjoyed and glorified. It is the yearning of the new nature to delight itself in God to the fullest measure and manner of its capacity, and therefore the language of the saint is, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God" (Psa. 42:1).

Yet how little is that longing realised in this life! How distant and how broken is our communion with Him ! However, a full, uninterrupted and eternal enjoyment of God in Christ is promised to His people. But that is only at Christ's coming. ". . .we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2). We shall be like Him both in holiness and happiness. Then He will say to His faithful servants, "...enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matt. 25:21). May the Lord hasten that day, as we earnestly yearn and look for Him, loving His appearing.

The saints, servants and elders of Siyon Prarthana Bhawan, Ranchi, covet our prayers for the Special Meetings, God willing to be held in their midst from Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th October, based on the theme "Our inheritance in the Lord".

The saints, servants and elders of Jehovah Jireh, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai, covet our prayers

for their Annual Youth Camp, God willing to be held in their midst from 20th October to 22nd October.

The saints, servants and elders of Beersheba, Ahmedabad, covet our prayers for the All India Holy Convocation to be held in their midst from 21st October to 25th October.

Please pray for the comfort of Bro. Jagdish, responsible brother at Mysore and his brother Boaz, as their mother Sis. (Mrs.) Mary Sathyaveerah was called Home on 15th September. Praying that the God of all grace may direct our hearts into the love of God and into patient waiting for Christ, our life and hope,

2 Pet. 3 : 11-14, James 5:7,8, Luke 8:15

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP.

WE BEHELD HIS GLORY -8 BAKHT SINGH

When God made the first man Adam, He gave him a strong body. He could eat anything at any time and any quantity. What a strong body! He gave Adam great wisdom also He knew the name of every tree, every bird and every animal. He gave him power over the whole earth, and yet his body was a body of dust. Our hope is that one day we shall be given an immortal, glorified, and spiritual body. What Adam received could not last for ever, but we are going to possess the whole new creation for eternity, and for that privilege we are being prepared. Do we hear His voice clearly every day? (Heb.3: 7,8,15). By inward peace we hear His voice, by His grace we obey His voice, and see His glory. The more we hear His voice, the more we can see His glory. Go upon your knees and pray for a while patiently with faith : "O Lord, speak with me, give me Thy message for myself, for my neighbours and friends". When the Lord speaks with you, your face will shine with His light. You will find the same light shining more and more as you obey Him. First see for yourself the glory of God, and then others will see His glory in and through you. At last when the work is complete, the angels of God will see God's glory in you (2 Thess. 1: 10).

There are 360 verses and 28 chapters in the Bible, which speak of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is coming with His full glory. He is coming with His mighty angels to be glorified in His saints, because on that day we shall be transformed and be like Him. We are going to be presented by the Lord Jesus Christ one by one to the angels, and our glory shall be greater than that of all the angels. Then they will wonder how foolish, weak, stupid sinners and corrupt men like us could become so glorious. They might say, "We have been in heaven all these centuries hearkening to God's voice, yet we do not have that glory. Lord, how have these people become so glorious?" Then He will answer, "By My grace, and that is all! Out of My fulness they have received My grace into their hearts".

Today the Lord is calling you to become a part of the latter House. "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former" (Hag. 2:9). Your glory will be far greater than the glory of Israel in the past, provided you become a part of God's House. For that purpose you require peace. Now please tell me, have you found that peace? I am not asking about your Bible knowledge or how many hours you spend in prayer or fasting and so on. My simple question is, and you must answer it truthfully: "Have you found true peace, heavenly peace the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ? Does peace increase in your trials and troubles? Are you able to defeat the devil by that peace? Do you find God's will with the help of that peace? If not, please come to Him and let Him give you His peace. Then through you God will show forth His glory in a greater measure.

Many people remember the blessings of the former days. They write down their experiences of thirty, forty or seventy years back. Do not live in the past! God has something far better than that for you. It does not matter what great blessings or joy you might have had ten, fifteen, or twenty years ago. God has something better for you for eternity. "The glory of the latter house shall be greater than that of the former." One day we shall be like Him, and be with Him as His Bride, ever going on to experience more and more glory. But that work must begin in our hearts by peace. Have you found that true peace? If you have not found it, do not deceive yourself. If you have not found it, seek for it. The Lord Jesus Christ wants to become your peace. He is saying, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). That peace will take away all your fears. It will solve all your problems. It will keep you conscious of His presence and help you to find God's will and make your face more glorious day by day. Finally, it will make you immortal and you will be filled with God's glory. (Concluded)

PREPARATION FOR KINGSHIP BAKHT SINGH

Scripture Portion: Luke 12:32

God wants to show us what He has been thinking and planning for us long before we were even created. Yea, before He ever thought of creating this world, from eternity past, He has been planning what to give us and how to give it to us. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ : According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Eph. 1:3,4). To realize this we have to enter into God's heart.

In Western countries many young girls in anticipation of getting married make and keep things needed for their new home. With great joy they gather curtains, pillowslips, tablecloths, baby clothes, etc. and preserve them in a "hope box". In the same way, before the world was created we were in the heart of God. With great longing and love, He has prepared for us a kingdom and He wants to give us that kingdom. With our natural understanding we find it very hard to believe all these high thoughts for us, but when we receive eternal life we find it possible to believe what He meant, when He said: "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom". What He promises He will fulfill. Heaven and earth will pass away but His Word shall not pass away. (Matt. 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21 :33).

The words in Luke 12:32 are God's words and not man's words. The Lord is saying to you and me, "O My little flock, little children, do not be afraid. Believe My words, and behave as the children of a King, for you are being prepared to be kings". Joseph's life is an illustration of this. God chose him from his birth for a very high purpose. His brothers did not know it and neither did he know it. Joseph means adding, increasing, multiplying and enlarging. Though his mother gave him that name she never knew the spiritual meaning of that word. We find Joseph going in search of his brothers with a very good intention. But his brothers wanted to kill him. Somehow they threw him in a pit and afterwards sold him. He could not understand why they did so. He must have thought, "I love my brothers and yet they have treated me like this". But God was telling Joseph, "Yes My son, I want to prepare you so that you can occupy a very high position in Egypt". Then he was taken to Potiphar's house, where he was falsely accused and put in prison. (To be contd.)

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NO 21

HOW LOVELY IS YOUR TABERNACLE! (Psalm 84:1 NKJV).

Psalm 84 written by the sons of Korah is an exquisite description of God's Dwelling Place and all that contributes to its incomparable beauty. It certainly can be applied to us as we are being built up into His spiritual House as believers (1 Pet. 2:5). The Altogether Lovely One (S. of S. 5:16), is the One Who is building God's Tabernacle as He said in Matt. 16:18, "I will build my church". God did reveal in various ways at different times the loveliness of His tabernacle to the prophets of old and they through their writings have given us their perceptions of it. They are not complete, yet we see in them something to wonder and adore God.

Jacob as he travelled alone through the unfriendly wilderness towards Padanaram, halted at a "certain place" and with the stones of "that place" he laid down in "that place" to sleep. He called "that place" Bethel, but not before seeing a vision in his dream and expressing his perception, "Surely the LORD is in this place" and described it as, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven' (Gen. 28:11-19). Awe inspiring and yet giving an insight into heaven and all the glory inside! David said about the proposed building of God's House, "... the house to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious through all countries" (1 Chro. 22:5). What a splendid vision! Again he said, "All this ... the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, the works of these plans" (1 Chro. 28:19) — a vision of the grandeur of His temple given by the Spirit of the Lord. Asaph calls it the Perfection of Beauty (Psa. 50:2). John in the isle of Patmos saw the tabernacle of God descending from above having the glory of God (Rev. 21:10,11). These are but a few examples of the beauty of His Dwelling Place. May the Lord give us also such spiritual perceptions that would change our lives and behavioural attitude both toward and in God's House as we seek to dwell therein and serve Him. Oh! the day is soon coming when all creation in heaven and in earth will glorify the Lord and praise Him for His wisdom as they see the work completed, the work of His House, His rest forever.

Psalm 84 was written by the Korahites, belonging to the family that rebelled against God's chosen and anointed leaders. What abounding grace that God should open their eyes to see the loveliness of His tabernacle and to record the same for our hope! This Psalm reveals in a very easily understandable way (Unlike some preachers who complicate God's Word) some things which contribute to that loveliness. In these articles we shall by His help enumerate a few as we have seen and understood from this Psalm.

The first, undoubtedly, is the Lord's Preeminence. See to whom the song is addressed, The Lord of hosts. This title pertains to the Sovereignty of the Lord. It is also mentioned four times in verses 1,3,8 and 12 (Preeminently Sovereign in v.8). Yes, the Lord is preeminent in His Tabernacle. The number four as we understand, refers to the Church. We see that in Acts 2:42; "the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers". Then in Acts 27:29 we read of four anchors. When the soldiers had crucified the Lord Jesus, they took His garment and made four parts, one for each soldier (John 19:23). How true is His Word as we read in Psalm 107:2,3, "... whom he has redeemed ... from the four corners of the earth, east and west, north and south". They are the garments of salvation to all who believe. Reader, are

you clothed with the garment of salvation? Allow the Lord to remove the filthy garment of self and sin. In love He died for you on the cross and though you crucified Him yet He now offers to cover your nakedness by the garment of His salvation and the robe of His own righteousness. Only then can you be built up into His House and begin to know how preeminent is Christ in His House.

It is God's plan that Christ should have preeminence in all things (Col. 1:18). If the preeminence of the Lord is hidden by the craftiness of man, to fulfil his own evil desires and ambitions in God's Dwelling Place, then that loveliness will be hidden. John in the 3rd epistle mentions one Diotrephes, who loved to have the preeminence amidst the church (v.9). This is the spirit of the prince of the world, the one who seeks to ascend above the heights of the clouds and be like the Most High (Isa. 14:14). He prompts saints to seek preeminence in the church and in the ministry, and in the name of ministering to the Lord they in their selfish ambitious spirit minister to themselves. Instead of worshipping and praising God in His temple, they seek with the natural gifts they possess, to rise up into prominence and so hide the wondrous beauty of the Lord and His Tabernacle. O! let Him have the preeminence, the Sovereignty, the Majesty. Let His honour dwell there forever so that the transcending beauty of His Tabernacle may attract many to submit themselves to the Lord and His Throne. So firstly, it is the Lord's preeminent Sovereignty that brings beauty to His Tabernacle. (To be contd.)E.W.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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21-2-2006.**

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

All praise, honour and glory be unto the Lord, even our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who hath in mercy led us into the last quarter of the year. May His presence go with us and His precious promises continue to be our enablement by the operation of His divine power to make us partakers of His divine nature. May we be found diligent to add to our faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance and to temperance patience — patience specifically in connection with "waiting for Christ", Whom we love, honour and obey (Rev. 5:12,13; Exo. 33:14; 2 Pet. 1:4-6; 2Thess. 3:5; Psa. 26:8).

Continuing our thoughts on the subject, 'The patient waiting for Christ', — this includes our steady performance of the duties entrusted to us till our work is finished, which demands the honour of His Name always, high above that of our own. In the work entrusted to us our hearts must be set upon; — the publication of His Gospel, the coming of His Kingdom, the vindication of His truth, and the edification of His Church. It should also be the yearning of our new nature within, which makes us strive to please Him. If the deepest aspiration of our hearts could be realized, never would we do or say anything which might bring the slightest reproach upon God's cause. We would rather "shew forth His praise" continually. Alas! how often this aspiration is thwarted by the activities of indwelling sin. How often we find that the good we would do is not performed, and the evil we hate breaks forth (Rom. 7:19). How often we are made to mourn over the corruption of the Gospel and the dishonour done to God's truth! But it will not be always thus. At the coming of Christ our longings will be realized. The divine promises and threatenings will be accomplished. "... he shall come to be glorified in his saints" (2 Thess. 1:10), and all His enemies will be at His footstool.

Where there is true love for God, there will necessarily be love for His incarnate Son, the anointed One. "Christ" ever refers to Him, in His official character as Prophet, Priest and Potentate. As God loves His people in Christ (Eph. 1:3-5), and for His sake (Rom. 8:39), so we love God in Christ. God can neither be known, approached, nor loved, apart from the Mediator, the Son of His love. God is fully-declared in and by Christ (John 1:18; 2 Cor. 4:6). Those who imagine that they love God, yet at the same time regard Christ as merely a creature, and do not rest their eternal on the sufficiency of His propitiatory sacrifice, are fatally deceived. Christ accounted the hostility of the Jews toward Him by saying, "...ye have not the love of God in you" (John 5:42). And when they boasted that God was their Father, He told them, "...If God were your Father, ye would love me" (John 8:42). Those who do not love the Lord Jesus with all their hearts and do not render divine honours to Him are unregenerate and in their sins. "... He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father" (John 5:23).

Christ the Mediator is the grand object of His people's affections. "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity" (Eph. 6:24). He is by way of eminence, the One Whom they love. "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice (that is, ye shall rejoice) with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Pet. 1:8). This is an essential element in Christian character. When a soul is quickened by the Holy Spirit and brought to understand and believe in the Gospel, he perceives that in the Lord Jesus there is everything that is desirable, that in Him all excellencies centre in their absolute perfection, and that benefits that He has obtained for him are inestimable in value, countless in number and everlasting in duration. Contemplating His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, the loving believer exclaims that He is "the chiefest among ten thousand", and "altogether lovely" (S. of S. 5:10,16). Reflecting on what He has done and suffered and promised, the believer declares, 'I love Him because He first loved me' (1 John 4:19).

It is the very essence of love to seek union with its object, to be present with and have intimate fellowship with it. So it is with the Christian with reference to the object of his affections. Yet such longings can but very imperfectly be gratified in this life, for though faith in exercise makes Him real, and precious to the soul, the believer sees Him now through a glass darkly. As regenerated ones we look forward to the time, when we shall see "the King in His beauty" — see Him face to face. The Lord keep us in this blessed hope, in faith and patience.

The 50th year (Golden Jubilee) gatherings and the ministry of the Gospel connected therewith, have been a time of refreshing and blessing to the saints, both for the church at Hephzibah, (Pallavaram, Chennai, gathering in the nearby school facilities) as well as for those of the House of Fellowship, New Delhi, who gathered in the facilities of the All India Prayer Fellowship. At Pallavaram, about four hundred or more attended although the number swelled much more by the week-end, bringing believers from the city area. Bros. Theodore, Eddy Williams, R.S. Kuruvilla, with Bro. Anand and others shared in the ministry of the Word, based on the theme, "Habitation of God" (Eph. 2:22). After the first few days of fellowship in the ministry at Hephzibah, Chennai, I joined the saints, servants and brethren at the House of Fellowship anniversary at Delhi. God's servants Bro. Neville from Colombo, Bro. John Stewart from Hyderabad, Bro. Paul Jacob from Pune and few others with Bro. J.C. Rao shared in the ministry, with the theme, 'God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord' (1 Cor. 1:9). Bro. Neville stressed the importance of adhering to the Word of God, quoting from the history of Israel, as well as from the sayings of the Lord Jesus in the New Testament. He also cited that this fellowship into which we have been called, is a fellowship with His Person, a fellowship in learning under His yoke, a fellowship in His suffering and reproach as well as a fellowship in the enjoyment of our inheritance with His Son. Sisters who came from Hebron were of immense help in ministering in the sisters' gatherings as well as children's classes both at Pallavaram and at Delhi. I concluded the message at Delhi, reminding the saints that, the Jubilee sound of the Levitical order sounding

forth proclaiming liberty on the day of atonement is not adhered to in the New Testament, in this dispensation of grace and of the Spirit of God. But the "sound from heaven that filled the house" and the waiting disciples on the 50th day after atonement, from the day of Pentecost is going forth now. It proclaims liberty and is able to work freedom in our lives now, to possess our possessions in Christ. May the Lord, we pray, help us to know the joyful sound and walk in the light of His countenance (Psa. 89:15), jubilant, radiant and fragrant, as His true worshippers, witnesses and workers, earnestly awaiting the day when "the trumpet shall sound... and we shall be changed" (1 Cor. 15:52).

The Special Meetings held at Allahabad have also been a means of blessing, leading souls to salvation and renewal in the faith. About three hundred participated. Bro. G.T. Benjamin and Bro. Devadas from Hebron, besides Bro. Jeremiah of Kappur, Bro. Rao from Allahabad and others participated in the ministry closing by 1st October.

On 2nd October, the church at Jehovah Shammah, Chennai, together with the believers the sister assemblies had a Gospel Campaign within the city. About 700 brothers and sisters participated and there was good response. Bibles and Gospel portions were sold to the tune of Rs. 4,300/-. Pray for the many contacts they made.

Praying that we may be diligent to be true recipients of divine power and be made partakers of divine nature awaiting expectantly the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

I Cor. 15 : 52-54, Psa 89:14-16, Isa 60:1,2,15.

I remain,

Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP.

PREPARATION FOR KINGSHIP - 2 BAKHT SINGH

Joseph was sold by his brothers and taken to Potiphar's house, where he was falsely accused and put into prison. Once more he must have wondered at his misfortunes specially when he was far from his kith and kin. There he lay in prison, forsaken and forgotten or so it seemed. Other people hated him. It looked as if he was wanted by none. But in the sight of God he was a prince, who was being prepared for his position as a king. This is God's way. In Psa. 105:21,22 we read, "He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance: To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom". Joseph was promoted far above others in the kingdom. He was given authority to bind princes. Just as there is corruption everywhere in these days, there would have been corruption there also, and the ordinary officers could not be expected to judge the high officials. So Pharaoh put Joseph in the highest position and gave him full authority to deal with any corruption he might find among the officers, no matter how high their position. Joseph had absolute authority to deal with any situation as it seemed best to him. He became the greatest person in Egypt and even his enemies had to come and bow down before him. God had trained him according to His own plan and not after the ways of the world.

In the same way, the Lord trains us also as it seems best to Him, to bring us to that heavenly Kingdom where He wants us to reign. He will take us through many dark pits of trials and difficulties and even imprisonment for the very same purpose. According to Matt. 18:18, we have the right and privilege to bind the powers of darkness. Just claiming a promise like a

parrot will not help us, but we must submit ourselves to God's training and discipline in order to be in a position to make them effective. So God in His sovereign will, permits all kinds of trials and difficulties to come in our way.

Daniel is another illustration. God chose him to be the president of all the provinces in Babylon and also in the empire of the Medes and Persians. Daniel began his career as a captive (Dan. 1:3). The great King Nebuchadnezzar brought young men from Jerusalem to Babylon. Daniel was one of them. We find that four of these young prisoners refused to eat the meat from the king's table. Then in Daniel chapter 2 we find this great king bowing down to this young captive (v.46). Later on we find how people became jealous of him for being promoted to the highest position in the kingdom (Dan. 6:3). All the people in the kingdom knew what a great and wise man Daniel was, because he had interpreted two dreams which all the magicians in Babylon were unable to interpret. But they were jealous of him.

King Belshazzar gathered a thousand officers for a great feast. The king, his princes, his wives and concubines all drank wine. What a condition! Great princes behaving so shamefully, together with their wives! In the big cities in India and other countries you will find many officers having parties and feasts in clubs together with their wives, drinking wine and behaving shamefully. Then Belshazzar commanded to bring the holy vessels which were brought from the temple at Jerusalem so that they could drink from them, not because they did not have other vessels to drink from, but to blaspheme the holy and true God. Even king Nebuchadnezzar had bowed to Daniel acknowledging the God of Daniel as the true God, but here was his son and the nobles mocking God. It is the same in the world. When people become prosperous they mock God, His House and His people. Not only Belshazzar and his princes drank wine from the vessels brought from the holy temple, but they also praised their gods of gold and silver. While they were doing so, there came forth the fingers of a man's hand near the candlestick, and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. When he saw this, the king's countenance was changed, the joints of his loins were loosed and his knees smote against each other (Dan. 5:5). A great king, a mighty king, trembling with fear! This is the condition of worldly kings. You may become great persons like king Belshazzar. You may be intoxicated with pride and arrogancy because of your money, position etc., you may rudely refuse and insult people when invited to come for the meetings, saying, "Who will come for these meetings? They last so long. If they give me a chair at least, I may come, but even then just for a short time." Remember, a day will come when your knees will shake and you will tremble with fear when God uncovers your sins. Then no one will be able to save you.

King Belshazzar was willing to reward the men who would help him. Then the queen told him to send for Daniel, who would be able to read the writing and tell the meaning. Daniel was brought and he read the writing on the wall. (To be contd.)

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HOW LOVELY IS YOUR TABERNACLE! -2

Psalm 84 written by the sons of Korah reveals several things that contribute to the beauty of God's Dwelling Place. We considered in our last issue the first thing, i.e., the Lord's preeminence.

Secondly, the Psalm points to a praising people in the Tabernacle of God. It is their praises that make the Tabernacle of God lovely. "Blessed are those that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee" (Psa. 84:4). Yes, praise beautifies God's House. "For praise from the upright (those who worship the Lord in spirit and truth) is beautiful" (Psa. 33:1). Again, "It is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is beautiful" (Psa.147:1).

Now see how this praise is ascending to God in His House. As they enter His House, their attention is immediately turned to the altars, the altar of sacrifice. From there the sweet smelling savour of the burnt offering rose constantly, so that God might have compassion on those who had sinned and sought His forgiveness and favour. But that is not all that is seen. Something very moving and amazing encounters their gaze. "Yea, the sparrow hath found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, evens thine altars..." (Psa. 84:3). Oh! the love, the meekness, the compassion, the mercy of our God! How lovely indeed He is! That He should receive such lowly creatures into His own dwelling place! The Lord Jesus said, "Those who come unto me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). Sparrow is a very lowly (worthless) creature. The Lord Jesus said, "Are not two sparrow sold for a farthing?" (Matt. 10:29), and "five for two" (Luke 12:6), (just like today's business on the roads!). Swallow is a wandering bird (Prov. 26:2). And both these creatures of God are received by the Creator into His dwelling place at the altar! And in that very same dwelling place are those who praise Him for the altars that have drawn them to Himself. Jacob said, "I am not worthy" (Gen. 32:10); the centurion said, "I am not worthy" (Matt. 8:8); the returning son said, "I am not worthy" (Luke 15:19). Such unworthy sinners and saints as we are, we have a place of comfort, compassion and cleansing at the altar of His sacrifice. That is why we ought to be always a praising people.

Let us listen to Hezekiah's song. "The Lord was ready to save me, therefore will we sing my songs...in the house of the Lord all the days of our life" (Isa. 38:20). Because You have cast "all my sins behind your back" (v.17), "The living, the living, he shall praise thee" (v.19). Yes, it is at the altar of the cross that death has been vanquished and we have been forgiven, translated from death unto life. It is at the cross that we unworthy sinners and saints have been accepted through the blood of the Lamb of God. Yes, it is a praising people that make the Tabernacle of God a lovely place.

Thirdly, it is a pilgrim people that make His Tabernacle lovely. In the NKJV Bible, the rendering of Psa.84:5 is very enlightening; "Whose heart is set on pilgrimage". Oh! they are seeing only pilgrims in the House of God. Their heart is not occupied with the cares of this passing world, or with its transient pleasures, or its fashions, or with its riches that will corrupt sooner or later, but on pilgrimage (of course for them it was Zion). Believers like Lot whose mind is set on earthly things (enemies of the cross, Phil. 3:18,19) can never bring loveliness of heaven to

God's House. Is not this the reason of so much worldliness in God's House today? Though Lot started as a pilgrim with Abraham, he ceased to be one as soon as he entered into Sodom. He had the mortification to see all that he lived for, go up into smoke. Oh, let us take warning.

Our God Himself said once to David, "I have not dwelt in a house but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle" (2 Sam. 7:6). Our calling is to follow the Lord. Our God is a Pilgrim! The Lord Jesus said, "...the son of man has nowhere to lay his head" (Luke 9:58). Someone has said, "God's best citizens in this world are those who view all things in the light of heaven and eternity". They live here but have their citizenship in heaven (Phil. 3:20). They live in the flesh but not according to the flesh. Because those who live according to the flesh have set their hearts on the things of the flesh, and the flesh is most detestable to God and there is no beauty in it.

All the prophets of old like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob never surrendered this pilgrim mind-set, because it was firmly entrenched in them. 'By faith he dwelt in tents with Isaac and Jacob... and confessed they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth' (Heb. 11:9,13). Further, mark this truth emphasized by the writer, "And truly if they had been mindful (if they had set their heart) on the country from whence they had come out, they might have had opportunity to have returned" (v.15). O but their hearts were set on pilgrimage; they looked for a city, they sought a country, other than of this world. Reader, people who like Lot have their heart set on this world have hidden, if not taken away, the loveliness of God's Dwelling Place. Let this be our prayer; "Father, take away this earthly mind- set and give me the mind of Christ Who Himself declared that He was not of this world. Let my heart be set on the pilgrimage to heavenly Zion, for which You have chosen me from out of this world and so let me bring loveliness to Your House". (To be contd.) E.W.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

**Hebron
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14-10-2006.**

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the glorious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and even God our Father, Who bath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ. We have this treasure in earthen vessels, and our light affliction worketh for us a far more exceeding weight of glory, to be revealed at the glorious appearing of the Lord Jesus for His Church, when we shall see Him as He is. May this hope purify us more and more that we may be found before Him holy and without blame (2 Cor. 4:6,7,17; Col. 3:1,4; Eph. 1:4; I John 3:2,3).

The above texts remind us of the final state of the Christian, which will be very different from the present one. Here he encounters trials — numerous and painful; there, that day onwards, he shall enjoy the glorious and blessed effects of them (2 Cor. 4:17). It will be complete salvation — deliverance from the presence of sin, both internally and externally; full conformity to the image of God's Son — the subject of our hope — will be wholly realised. At present Christ is apprehended through the Word by faith, imperfectly and fitfully. But throughout eternity, Christ will be bodily present with the redeemed, and their knowledge of Him will be direct and immediate. The desire of His heart shall be accomplished: "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me" (John 17:24). This is a "season of heaviness"; that shall be one of unclouded bliss. "...in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psa. 16:11). Here we follow after, that we may take hold of that for

which Christ Jesus has apprehended us. Then each shall exclaim, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness" (Psa. 17:15).

Now this completion of the believer's salvation and the consummation of his longings will be at the coming of Christ, which will be a personal, visible appearance of Himself. "...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thess. 4:16,17). "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory" (Col. 3:4). In His glorified body Christ shall forever dwell in the midst of His people. His coming is also designated as, "the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:13) to His people, which implies a fuller manifestation of His excellencies to them, when a clearer discovery will be made of His personal glory and mediatorial honours, and when they shall know Him far better and more extensively than they do now. As faith lays hold of these precious promises and love stirs the believer's heart, he yearns for the fulfillment of them. Both stimulate hope and give strength to patient waiting.

God's people are to walk by faith and not by sight. Signs are "not to them that believe, but to them that believe not" (1 Cor. 14:22). Our Lord plainly declared, "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign" (Matt 12:39; 16:4). Faith looks upon Christ as if He had begun His journey and were now on the way, and makes the believer stand ready to meet and welcome Him. The Lord make it true and real for us.

Bro. T.E. Koshy covets our prayers for his itinerary—Oct. 12-17 in U.K; Oct. 18-27 in Thailand, and Oct. 28 to Nov. 14 in Pakistan. He also covets prayers for the comfort of the family as his brother George's wife was called Home in Trivandrum on Monday, the 2nd October.

Bro. M.G. Lingdong and saints are thankful for answered prayers for the blessings of the Convocation held at Berachah, Gangtok, from 30th September to 8th October. Bros. Eddy Williams and John Stewart were the main speakers, while Bro. Shammah of Darjeeling and Bro. Manikumar, an Elder of El-shaddai, Kalimpong, shared in the other aspects of the ministry along with Bro. Lingdong. About 2500 attended from all over Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Siliguri and parts of West Bengal. The theme "He that overcometh shall inherit all things" (Rev. 21:7) was challenging and inspiring, leading souls to salvation and many believers to fresh commitment. They covet our prayers for the follow up work.

We mention the following for our united praise and thanksgiving for the enabling grace and liberty granted to our fellow-labourers, in the ministry of the Word for the furtherance of the Lord's Testimony in our land, by way of special gatherings, Youth Camps etc.

Bro. John V. Rao and saints are thankful for the blessings of the Youth Camp held in the church at Bethany, Rourkela, from 1st to 4th October. More than 500 drawn from Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and other areas attended. About 30 made decision for the Lord and 13 testified in the waters of baptism. A group of 12 young people from a place called Kasera, need our prayers as they have been severely persecuted by the villagers. The Lord has been pleased to use our Bro. Sam Williams and Bro. Sanjay Tivade of Pune for sharing the word based on the theme 'Be fruitful' (Gens.1: 28). They value our continued prayers.

God's servant Bro. Tirkey together with the elders of the church at Siyon Prarthana Bhavan, Ranchi, would have us to thank the Lord for using Bros. S.D. Kuruvilla and Anand Prabhudas from Mangalore, for the special meetings held in their midst fro 4th to 8th October. Souls were led in salvation, and saints refreshed through the ministry of the Word among the 400 who attended the meetings.

Brothers Adam Tuladhar and Govind, elders and others of Canaan Prayer House, Khatmandu are thankful for the ministry of Bro. P. Samson of Proddatur from 30th September to 7th October in their midst, visiting sister assemblies around. About 250 who regularly assembled covet our prayers.

Please pray for the Gospel Campaign, God willing to be held in Jolaput near Araku Valley area, from 17th to 21st October, in which God's servant Bro. Stephen and others will participate.

Praying that the Lord may grant us grace and revelation to labour in His vineyard, earnestly looking for and loving His appearing, amidst the trials and turmoils which confront our pathway as we learn to walk by faith,

2Cor. 4: 16-18, 2 Pet 3: 3,9,12, Rec 1: 3,9

I remain,

Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP.

PREPARATION FOR KINGSHIP - 3 BAKHT SINGH

King Belshazzar was willing to reward the man who would read the writing on the wall and tell the meaning as well. Daniel came and read the writing and told the meaning: "God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it... Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting... Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians" (Dan. 5: 26-28). That very night the word of God came to pass and Belshazzar was slain. Thus the word of the living God, the true God, the God of justice was fulfilled.

O young people, do not look at your wealth; do not be intoxicated with your education or position. What are these before God? You cannot come into God's Kingdom because all these things are hindering you. You are weighed and found wanting. You are only worthy to be cast away. But the God of all grace loves you. He is giving you time to repent and come into His Kingdom.

Daniel was promoted to a high position. Though his enemies were against him yet God exalted him to a high position. O dear believer, do not let the enemy's activity discourage you. The Lord will use the same circumstances to promote you. The enemy will try to drag you down in the dust but God will lift you up as long as you honour Him and refuse to bow down to the gods of the world.

Now Daniel was given the highest place in the kingdom of the Medes and Persians, that of being above the presidents and princes over the 120 provinces of their kingdom. King Darius promptly decided to exalt Daniel over the others and the jealousy of his enemies became all the greater. I warn you beforehand, dear believers, that as you enjoy divine favour in your different places, as you live a life of honesty and sincerity, as you work hard and refuse to take bribes or eat the king's meat, your co-workers will join together against you. By many wicked devices, scandals and other means, even your own ungodly parents will persecute you. If they can drag you down by any means they will certainly do so. Daniel's enemies wanted to drag him down from his high position. They made a very clever scheme. They began to flatter

the king saying, "The laws of the Medes and Persians can never change. You are a great, wonderful and mighty king above all others. Now make a decree O king, that if any body refuses to worship you and if they present their petitions to any other God than to you, then they must be cast into the den of lions". Thus the enemies of Daniel laid their plans against him. They never knew that they themselves were going to be put into that den. They thought that it was a wonderful scheme when the king signed the decree. All the presidents of the 120 provinces might have made a great feast that day. They thought: "Let us see what happens to the prosperity of Daniel now". But Daniel went on praying three times a day (Dan. 6:10). Daniel knew all about their scheme but with windows open and his face towards Jerusalem, he continued to pray three times a day.

Sad to say, many of us are ashamed to kneel down. We say in our hearts, "What will he or she say if I kneel down? God knows my heart and I can pray sitting". Some young men when they start earning, feel ashamed to kneel down. So proud are they that they sit down in the presence of the Almighty God! Do you call that prayer? O foolish and blind people, refusing to bow down and kneel before your Creator and your God! When you are in trouble you call upon Him for mercy. When you want promotion you say, "Brother, please pray for me". When someone is sick you want prayer. But you refuse to bow down before your God and your Saviour. Even though Daniel knew that the penalty of being thrown into the den of lions awaited him, he went on praying three times a day. All the high officials brought him and threw him before the lions in the den. But in Dan. 6:20-24, we see that these lions, instead of falling upon him and tearing him into pieces, just gathered round him. God sent His angel to shut their mouths. They gathered round Daniel to bow down before him, for Daniel was a heavenly king. Yet the lions were so hungry that when the enemies of Daniel, the princes, their wives and their children were cast into the den, they simply jumped upon them as they were thrown. Even before they could touch the ground, all their bones were broken. But before Daniel, the same wild beasts had bowed and worshipped. What a privilege!

Our loving and living God is calling you to such a kingdom. Just as the lions bowed and worshipped Daniel so also when you go to heaven, all the powers will bow down before you. God will bring all His angels to fall down before you. In this world people will tease you, but a time is coming when even the evil powers will bow down before you provided you now refuse to bow down to the world.

Daniel bowed down to God, he worshipped Him and honoured Him. Though he was the highest official in the kingdom as the president over 120 provinces, yet he was very humble and went down on his knees three times a day. Oh come unto Him, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Bend your knees to Him and worship Him. Do not let worldly fame, wealth or education make you haughty. Just as all the glory of Belshazzar was suddenly brought to an end, so also all that you have acquired will one day come to an end. Come humbly now and bow down before Him and confess your sins, claim His mercy and grace and forgiveness. Receive Him as your Saviour and Lord. Then believe that no matter what the circumstances are, He will one day lift you to make you an everlasting king to reign with Him on His throne. Won't you come to Him now? He is saying to you, 'Fear not, little flock; it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). (Concluded)