

Be Sure To Note The "BOX" On Page Four, Column Four

PREMILLENNIAL . . . BAPTISTIC . . . CALVINISTIC . . . BIBLICAL

Devoted to Evangelism, Missions, and Bible Doctrines.

The Baptist Examiner

The Paper With a National Circulation

"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel."

"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20).

WHOLE NO. 224

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VOL. 11, NO. 15

A BRICKBAT AND SOME ROSES

A. N. T. Church, God's Only Organization With His Authority

We have multiplied extra—scriptural, not to say unscriptural, organizations, until we have almost obscured, or forgotten, the sanctity and authority of the church itself. We cannot bring ourself to believe that it would have been quite so wise, or safe, for Jesus to have said to a Pope, or a Priest, or a YMCA, or a YWCA or a YPSCE, or a WMU, or a BYPU, or a S. S., or a College or Seminary, or a Lodge, or a President, or a King, or anything else or anybody else beneath the stars except a New Testament church; "whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven," and "who-soever sins ye forgive, shall be forgiven, etc." Mark you, we say a N. T. church; not a hierarchy episcopacy, not an apostate church with an admixture of heathenism Christianity, not a church taking only a part of the New Testament as its guide, not one that has more respect for the deliverances of so-called servants in worldly learning, or science so-called, than for the Bible, not a segment or coterie of individuals lined up by sex lines, not a Convention or a Commission, or a Board, or a Council but a New Testament church; we say the actions and deliverances of such a body will be final, for one reason anyway—that is, it will claim finality only as it acts under the perfect guidance of its Lord and Head. One source and evidence of its infallibility will be its perfect consciousness of its fallibility and its absolute dependence upon the Word and the Spirit. Such a church, however, is invested with authority—the only authority in religious matters—and should be so thought of by all Christian men and women. It is this body

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Questions Answered

1. Ought a Baptist church to have a pie supper at a school house to raise money for the church?

No. That is fleecing the devil's goats to take care of the Lord's sheep. God's Word clearly teaches that God wants and accepts nothing but the free-will gifts of willing-hearted people and that they are to bring the

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GOD'S PLAN

"Not until each loom is silent,
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Will God unroll the pattern
And explain the reason why

The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver's skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver,
For the pattern He has planned.

—Anonymously

"THE CLOUDS ARE HIS CHARIOTS"

"The race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong." (Eccl. 9:11)

What God did in the war in 1917 is the wonder chapter of history and proves that He does "move in a mysterious way His wonders to perform." And also that He makes the wrath of man to praise Him. In the darkest hour of the war someone said to the late King George, "How will it ever end?" King George prayerfully replied, "God will have to work a miracle." He did. Because God is the God that doest wonders among nations is why Germany had the war won seven times and then lost it.

The world recognized that Germany in 1917 was superior in the air, and yet the world knows, and Germany conceded, that she was worsted in the air in the last few months of the war. The head of the German Service explained this by saying: "The Allies did not have superior airships nor fighters, but it was the accursed clouds that defeated us.

Nearly every time when we had a bevy of the enemy's ships in a trap, ready to take them, one of those accursed clouds would be hanking by, and would envelop them as thick as a blanket, and the devil himself couldn't find them, and they would escape at their leisure. It was the accursed clouds that did it."

He spoke by the records. "My clouds shall curse them in that day, saith the Lord."

When the children of Israel were caught with the sea on the left side, the high mountains on the right, and the army of Pharaoh behind them—every way closed up—they cried mightily to God, and God dropped a thick cloud between them, which to the Egyptians was a black wall, but to the Israelites was like an "aurora borealis." All the night the Israelites, by the light of that

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If I Had But One Sermon To Preach

"BUT FOR HIS GRACE."

(R. E. White, San Antonio, Texas)

"And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping things, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."—Genesis 6:7, 8

I want to bring you a message this morning concerning a question that I have thought a lot about recently. It is this, why did God save you and me, or for that matter, anyone? The theme of the message is, "But for His grace." I want to direct your thoughts now to the events that came to pass

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Just A Few Of The Many Reactions To The Baptist Examiner

Poor Old Bro. Gilpin:

"You are certainly having a hard time trying to hold on to the long haired, wooly days of cave-man philosophy about woman's position of subordination to man. The Lord knows that she has had to suffer much from domineering "superior he-man" rule. You make me laugh by your silliness."

J. T. McKee
Northport, Ala.

"I appreciate your paper and congratulate you on your bold stand for the Faith. Cole's article on the Divine Order of the Sexes should be in tract and scattered by the thousands over the whole nation. It is absolutely unanswerable. Let some feminist try it."

D. F. Sebastian
Plant City, Florida

"We think your paper is the finest we ever read. We pass them on to our friends and neighbors—they are too good to be idle."

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Staley
Prichard, West Virginia

"I read and pass your papers on to others. We'd surely miss your fine paper if it didn't come to our home."

Mrs. J. P. Williams
Grayson, Kentucky

"The Baptist Examiner came to my husband, who departed this life sometime ago. My daughter and I are living alone. We appreciate your paper very much."

Mrs. Inez Swann
Salt Rock, West Va.

"I began taking The Baptist Examiner when T. P. Simmons was ed—

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Priest Made Free

A Catholic priest who got saved rolled his gown, crucifix, and prayer book in a bundle, sent them to his bishop with this word, "Do not look for me. I am not dead, I am free."

Thank God, the Lord Jesus makes one FREE! Religion is utterly powerless to do this. Have you been made free?

Faith And Works.

The Baptist Examiner

JOHN R. GILPIN EDITOR

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"THE CLOUDS ARE HIS CHARIOTS"

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cloud, beheld Jehovah with His spade divinely made, digging, throwing up the waters till He had uncovered the pavement of the sea, and the children of Israel passed through dryshod, while all the time the Egyptians battered their heads against the wall of that cloud. "A cloud came between them." "He commandeth the clouds." "The Lord rideth upon the clouds." "The clouds are His." "The clouds are the dust of His feet." "He maketh the clouds His chariot." One hundred and sixty-two times the Bible speaks of God's doings and dealings with the clouds. Germany was beaten on the sea, in the air, because, "Behold the sea, the earth, and the sky, they are mine, saith the Lord."

The Germans made excuses for their failure to prevent the successful evacuation of the British Expeditionary forces from Dunkirk. "Conditions unfavorable for the employment of great numbers of aircraft were assisting the fugitives," stated the official German News Agency. "Dense fog over the Channel is giving cover to the British in their headlong flight."

Here is a portion of the thrilling escape as told by C. B. Mortlock in London Daily Telegraph: "The story of the strange armada which took the men from the beaches of Dunkirk is already familiar in outline. It is undoubted that there was such a calmness over the whole of the waters of the English channel for that vital period of days as has rarely been experienced. Those who are accustomed to the Channel testify to the strangeness of this calm. They are deeply impressed by the phenomenon of nature by which it became possible for tiny craft to go back and forth in safety.

"In the darkness of a storm and the violence of the rain, formations which were eight to 12 miles from Dunkirk were able to move up on foot to the coast with scarcely any interruption from aircraft, for aircraft were unable to operate in such turbulent conditions.

"One thing can be certain — all must recognize the intervention of God. From none will thanksgiving ascend with greater sincerity or deep-

er fervour than from the officers and men who have seen the hand of God, powerful to save, delivering them from the hands of a mighty foe who, humanly speaking, had them utterly at his mercy."

Wrote the Daily Telegraph editor: "We stood above the pier at Kent coast town watching the many boats that had brought out wounded and exhausted men across the Channel. Presently an old sailor said: 'That's a miracle!' pointing to the peaceful waters. Then he added: 'Them little boats could not have gone back and forth in ordinary weather. It's a miracle for the channel to be smooth and calm.'"

"We also observed the varied changes in the weather. Our prayers had gone up, day by day, that He who created the clouds should manifest His power in and through them.

"When the news reached us we recognized the mighty Hand of our loving Father at work in all directions; we rejoiced with joy and gladness and magnified His Name. The pathetic sights that met our wondering eyes as we saw the cheerful soldiers being driven away in scores of vehicles to various hospitals will ever remain in our memories."

W. E. Shewell-Cooper, writing in The Christian, says:

"I have received a wonderful letter from a private in one of the London regiments which gives the secret of the successful evacuation from Dunkirk. This evacuation was a very definite answer to prayer, and my soldier friend, after stating that his escape from various tight corners in which he became involved was nothing short of miraculous, writes: '... and then the greatest miracle of all — the calm sea at Dunkirk, the thick fog, and the wind which blew the dense pall of smoke where we were waiting in our thousands to embark, protecting us from the bombs which were constantly being rained on the town itself.'"

"I am told by those in the know, that the calmness of the sea was unbelievable, for, had there been any sort of swell, the fellows would have been drowned whilst wading out to the boats.

"God does answer prayer, so pray on!"

(The above is from Life and Liberty, Croydon, England.)

A. N. T. CHURCH, GOD'S ONLY ORGANIZATION WITH HIS AUTHORITY

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to which is committed the preaching of the gospel, the teaching of the "all things" commanded by the Saviour, the administration and observance of the ordinances, the discipline of the church and the evangelization of the world.

It may be said that the wisdom of the Saviour is evidenced by this investment of a body of his people with all the authority in matters pertaining to his cause on earth. In the first place it was to commit a perpetual task to a permanent organization. In the second place it placed as a safeguard about the tasks

to be performed, the combined wisdom of a company of his disciples. In the third place, it combined the gifts and efforts of many upon institutions and tasks, which could not have been built and performed by the disciples working singly. So it may be said that this investment of a church, instead of an individual or a class, with the only and the absolute authority in his earthly kingdom was not a mere arbitrary provision, but one justified by the very nature of the case — the only wise, and therefore, effective plan for the preservation and proclamation of his pure gospel among all nations, to the end of the age.—Word and Way.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

(Continued from Page One)

Lord's tithes and offerings into His store house, which is the church treasury. The pastor and deacons, who endorse such a course, ought to resign and let the church elect some men, who are scriptural church officials and will look after the Lord's work, instead of turning it over to the women to see about. Probably the women are raising money for the church by pie-suppers, because of the covetousness of the deacons. They ought to be disciplined by the church and put out of their office and if they do not repent they ought to be turned out of the church. If the women have the pie supper over the protest of the pastor and deacons, they ought to be disciplined for contempt of the church.

—News and Truths.

JUST A FEW OF THE MANY REACTIONS TO THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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itor. It now seems like a part of the family. I am surely glad we have one paper that will expose some of the rotten modernism in Baptist ranks."

W. R. Powell
Huntsville, Texas

"I have been wanting to say 'Amen and God be with you' ever since my name was transferred to your list. I delight to read The Baptist Examiner and pray for it to live and grow, grow, grow, and go, go, go into every corner of the world. I wish everyone in Tampa were receiving The Examiner this very minute."

C. H. Calvin
Tampa, Fla.

"For First Orthodox Baptists, I am writing to express our church's appreciation for your services while with us. You were helpful indeed, and we praise the Lord for your labors here and elsewhere.

Among our people, we constantly hear words of praise and appreciation for your messages. You were a means of quickening renewed interest in your field of studies and of deepening interest in the Word. Our people sincerely appreciate what you did, and we write to say so.

Be assured of our prayers for you personally and for your church, and for your church's witness through you."

W. Lee Rector
Ardmore, Okla.

BUT FOR HIS GRACE

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after the words in these verses were spoken and after the time treated in these verses we have just read. I want you to see if you can, the earth as it was at that time having never had a day of rain. A mist went up from the face of the earth and watered it, but there never had been a moment's rain. The seas covered as much of the earth as now, but it was not separated, as by the seven seas. The people on the earth multiplied and great and mighty children were born, and men became men of reputation.

In the 4th verse we read that there were giants on the earth in those days, when the sons of God came unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, and they were men of renown. Now, some Bible scholars think the sons of God spoken of here were angels who came to earth and took on flesh and married human beings that did not have angelic incarnation, and that the result of the union of the supernatural and natural was children that were giants. The only reason I don't believe that is because it isn't so. Every human being on the earth is a direct descendant, from both sides of Adam for we are told that in Adam all men die, and children take their personality from the male side of the house. Science has long ago proven that the flesh comes from the ovum of a woman, but the personality comes from the man's side, and if it were true that angelic beings could take on flesh and impart to beings of flesh their personality, then my friends, we would have a group of monstrosities on the earth today. Some mighty keen Bible scholars believe that is so. Dr. Halde- man, late pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in New York City, one of the greatest Bible students, believed as do many others that in the last days angels shall take on flesh again, but I cannot for the life of me reconcile that theory with the facts of God's Word, in Adam all men died. Adam, the first man; Christ, the last man. Adam, the head of the old race; Christ the head of the new race. Why would God inject into the Adamic race something that has no part in the Adamic race and then speak of all flesh as descendant of Adam and condemn the Adamic race for the sin inherited from the flesh of Adam. It just doesn't jibe with the Bible. Before we are saved, our genealogical history runs back to Adam the first man; and after we are saved, our genealogical history runs back to the last man, Jesus Christ. We are fleshly on the one hand by natural birth, spiritual on the other by supernatural birth, and so we believe that the sons of God then were the ones who believed the Word of God and were saved, just as the sons of God now are the ones who believe the Word of God and are saved. But these giants who were sons of men,

became men of renown; and my friends, you will always find that true among people when sons of God and daughters of God now marry sons or daughters of men. They produce intellectually big men; the greatest men on the face of the earth today are those of men and women of God who married with men and women who are not God's children. Whether you like preachers or not, or whether you think they are very smart or not, statisticians have found that the most intelligent men on the face of the earth are descendants of preachers, and when they marry with men and women who are not saved, they produce intellectually strong men and women who occupy important positions in the world. That's not only true of the children of saved preachers but is also true of the children of Christians.

And now see these giants as they spread on the face of the earth until all humanity and civilization is geared to oppose God, and every imagination of man's heart is evil, not one day, but every day, day without end, and God looks on them and says, "Man has grieved me and I will destroy him," and the word went out, "120 years, and I will destroy life on the earth." I sat yesterday afternoon lost in contemplation at the thought of what must have been the reaction of humanity as it saw it's first rain. It never had rained before, and suddenly great floods of water began to pour from the skies and the seas that had been held in check so long were loosed from their boundaries and poured over the land and people began to flee from the waters. Some of them climbed trees, got on top of houses, and went up to the tops of the hills, the fleetest of foot may even have reached the top of the mountains, where they pleaded in vain for someone to help, shrieked and screamed in terror and panic as the waters continued to raise until they were twenty-two and one-half feet above the highest mountain peak on the face of the earth, and the Scripture says all flesh died. My friends, as these people were crying out in terror and running in terror, seeking shelter, there were eight people riding safely in the ark which rode steadily the bosom of the flood.

I

The uprushing and downpouring waters held no terrors for these eight people in the ark, and yet though the waters rise twenty-two and one-half feet or twenty-two and one-half thousand feet above the highest peak, it meant nothing to them for their haven was borne upward too by the water. And now I am thinking that often Noah must have asked in his prayers, as he thought of his safety in the Lord, "I wonder why God saved me?"

Long after the last cry sounded, long after the last shriek and scream for help had rung out, long after the silence of earth was broken only by the sound of water rippling and moving here and there, the ark moved over the face of the waters. I am sure, my friends, that Noah asked that same question many times, maybe not out loud, maybe he didn't even

mention it to his wife or his sons and daughters, but over and over again he must have asked as he prayed, "God, why did you, out of all the people of the earth, save me and mine?"

You say, "Noah was better than anybody else." The Scripture doesn't say that. Listen: "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Now Noah lived in the years when that was written, inspired by the Holy Spirit. You say, "Oh, but he doesn't mean Noah." Well, let's see what it says about that, after the flood was over. Turn to the 23rd verse of the 7th chapter. "And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth; and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark."

Now look at the 8th chapter beginning with the 20th verse, "And Noah builded an ark unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a sweet savour: and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done." Now, when those words were spoken, Noah and his wife and his sons and his sons wives were all that lived on the face of the earth and God's Word says that the imagination of the hearts of all men was evil continually, from their youth. Why then, did God save Noah?

The answer is found in the 8th verse of the 6th chapter, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." What is grace? Well, there are several definitions of grace. One is the unlimited, unmerited goodness of God to the utterly undeserving, but that language isn't used very often, so let me put it so that you will understand it. Here's a man that deserves only the judgment and punishment of God, and God moves upon him and instead of punishing him He takes the man's punishment on Himself and pardons the man and gives him eternal life and counts him as though he had never done anything wrong at all and thus reasons so that although all men are evil and the thoughts of their hearts are evil continually, God in grace chooses him, moves upon him, calls him, saves him, and preserves him while destroying all other life on the face of the earth. And that's why I venture to say that many times Noah said to God, "I wonder, I wonder, why God saved me."

Noah had small crowds too when he preached. Noah preached on grace, but nobody paid any attention to him, for 120 years nobody was converted under Noah's preaching. I'm glad I'm not going to live that long. Here's a man without any converts after 120 years of preaching, but when the storm came, the thing that

God promised Noah was wrought out, God preserved him, and his sons. Now, had it not been for the grace of God, Noah would have perished with the rest. For he was no better than they. Oh, he may not have gotten as drunk as they, or took part in all their vices, but so far as God is concerned, he was just as evil in his imaginations from his youth as the rest, but he found grace in the sight of the Lord.

II

Now here's another one. Lot, the nephew of Abraham. Lot went out of Egypt with Abraham, down to the land where the Lord led them, and the land that God had promised to give to Abraham and his posterity. And then Lot decided that he did not want to continue living and worshipping God with Abraham. Some say the reason for that was because his wife became ambitious. Well, I don't know. She might have wanted to go to the big town and wear evening dresses, and tiaras in her hair. But whatever the cause the family of Lot went to Sodom and lived there. And one day God came to see Abraham and said, "I am going to go down and destroy Sodom." You will remember how Abraham pled with God to spare the city of Sodom. One of the most charming stories in the Bible is the story of God's visit with Abraham in the 18th chapter of Genesis. And the Lord told Abraham of His purpose to destroy Sodom; and Abraham, with his great compassionate heart, pled for the city because of his kinsman, Lot. As he interceded, he said to the Lord, "Wilt thou also destroy the city and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein. That be far from thee to do after this manner to slay the righteous with the wicked, and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee. Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?" And the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city then I will spare all the place for their sakes." The story continues as Abraham interceded with God for Sodom as he finally asked the Lord to spare the city if He found five righteous people there instead of the fifty which he had mentioned to God at the first. I am convinced that Abraham, knowing that Lot's family consisted of two single daughters at home, Lot and his wife, and several other daughters which had already married, felt sure that out of Lot's family would be found at least five who in grace could be counted righteous; and when God agreed to spare the city if five righteous people were found, Abraham thought that Sodom was saved; but when the angel of the Lord went down to Sodom he could not find five righteous people in the city.

The men of the city of Sodom were so wicked that they demanded of Lot that he turn over to them his guests who were the angels of God so that they could use them to satisfy their perverted desires and make Sodomites of them. You will note as you read the 19th chapter that only four were found whom the angels could drag out of the city and one

of those went not willingly but looked back and was turned to a pillar of salt. Then God rained fire and brimstone upon Sodom and destroyed it.

The next morning Abraham arose and looked on the city, and saw the smoke of the city rising up to the heavens, and he knew that even God's penetrating gaze could not find five righteous people in the city of Sodom. We read on and see the last picture of Lot. He is hiding in a cave and is in such a drunken stupor that he does not even know that his daughters are seducing him; and I venture to say to you that even now in heaven Lot often wonders why God saved him out of wicked Sodom. He went down into the city of Sodom and we read that the wickedness of the city vexed his soul for he was a righteous man. Was he actually a righteous man according to the standards of the earth or even measured by the law of the Word of God? Certainly not. If he was not actually righteous, then why did God save him? Because he was chosen in grace, saved by grace, preserved by grace, and even now in heaven reckoned righteous by grace; and were it not for the grace of God, Lot would have perished in the city of Sodom.

III

All right, now let's look at another, a familiar name to all, Jacob whose very name means "Trickster." We see that when the two were born Isaac loved Esau more than he did Jacob, but Jacob was mama's boy, and mama had something that papa did not have, she had power over the kitchen, and she knew what papa liked to eat. She knew too that God had spoken to her heart before her children were born and that Jacob was the brother that had favor with God, and she bided her time. The day came, when encouraged by his mother, Jacob tricked his brother out of his own birth right, the right to be head of the family after Isaac's death, and the one through whom the promise given of God to Abraham would come, even the deliverer, the Saviour. Jacob was a liar and deceiver, and when the time came that Isaac was old and almost ready to die Jacob, aided by his mother, put sheep's hair on the back of his hands and on his neck while his mother cooked goat's meat the way papa liked it, and Jacob took it into Isaac who smelled the savor of the meat, tasted it and felt the back of Jacob's hands, and convinced that it was Esau, gave him the blessing which ought to have been Esau's because Jacob had said that he was Esau. Esau was so furious when he heard of his brother's deception that he swore to kill him and Jacob was forced to leave home and flee to the relatives of his mother.

That very night as he journeyed away from his home, God met him and said, "I am going with you while you run, and I will protect you and bring you back safe again, and I will give you the land that is Abraham's." And do you remember the great vow that Jacob made at that time? He said, "If that's the kind

of God you are, out of everything you give me, I will give you a tenth." And not, my friends, because he was afraid of God; but God had been good enough to promise him everything without condition and so Jacob in turn promised to set aside a tenth part of everything that he would get for God. That's the only reason we tithe, now. I used to believe that if you did not tithe, God would punish you, but that isn't true. People who support the Lord's work are people who appreciate the grace of God, and because of God's unmerited goodness to them who deserve nothing from him but worth, they tithe. That's the reason I do, and that's the reason our people do.

Then you will remember that Jacob went down to Haran and there he found his uncle Laban and was invited by Laban to live in his home and work for him, and you who are familiar with the story remember that Laban tricked Jacob after having promised to give him in marriage his daughter Rachel, and after agreeing to give him Rachel for seven years of labor he put a veil upon his older daughter, Leah, and Jacob married her and made him labor seven more years before he gave him Rachel; but Jacob was not named "Trickster" for nought, and the day came when Jacob had not only Laban's daughters but most of his cattle also as well as his sheep and goats until Jacob stood exceedingly enriched with his father-in-law's goods.

He wrought so stealthily that he himself knew that Laban's anger was kindled toward him; and when he set out to return home to Bethel he slipped away at night. When Jacob reached the Brook Jabbok, he sent messengers before him to find what reception he could expect to receive from his brother Esau, and he learned that Esau had heard of his return and was coming to meet him with four hundred men. He grew afraid for he knew that Esau ought to kill him for what he had done, and his fear drove him to prayer and as he prayed an angel of the Lord came to him and all the night they wrestled until at last the angel touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh and blessed him. Said the angel, "What is your name?"; and Jacob replied, "Jacob," which of course we know means "Trickster"; and the angel said, "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob but Israel, for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men and hast prevailed."

Jacob's life after that hour was long and difficult for he was still an unruly and often times actually an unrighteous man, and when Jacob was chosen of God, preserved of God, given power of God, and became the father of the twelve patriarchs for whom the twelve tribes of the chosen people of God are named, and I am just as sure as I am that I am standing here that Jacob recognizing his unruly nature and his oft revealed rebellion against the restraining hand of God asked many a time, "Why did God choose me?" That is a good question. Why did He? Because Jacob found grace in the sight of the Lord.

IV

Then think of another of whom we rarely hear anything short of perfection, Joseph; but you will remember that Joseph was peculiar in some of his ways to say the least. We read in the 37th chapter of Genesis that Joseph was a tattle tale, telling his father of all the complainings of his brethren. We note also that Joseph was a favorite of his father who loved him more than all his other children, and he made for him evidently with his own hands a coat of many colors; and Joseph's brethren saw this and hated him and spoke roughly to him always. But that seemed to concern Joseph not at all for in the very midst of the enmity of his brethren he arose one morning to tell a dream. He told how in the field all of the brethren together with Joseph were binding sheaves and the sheaf which Joseph bound arose and stood upright and the sheaves which his brethren bound bowed down to the sheaf of Joseph, and his brethren became exceedingly angry for they recognized the significance of the dream and realized that Joseph was telling them the dream in order that they might know that he believed that some day he would have dominion over them, and while they hated him for his first dream, he arose one morning and told them still another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars made obeisance to him, and even his father rebuked him for his presumption, for he recognized it for what it was.

How peculiar for us as we look backward to see that Joseph's dreams were prophetic of the position to which the God of all the universe would raise him, but it made his brethren hate him the more. Sometime later his brethren went out to Shechem to tend the sheep of Israel; and as the day passed Israel thinking of his sons took Joseph and loaded him down with appetizing fruits and sent him out to Shechem to find how the sons of Jacob did.

When he came to the place where they were supposed to be, he found that they had gone to Dothan, and he journeyed to Dothan to find them; but when they saw him afar off they conspired against him to slay him saying one to another, "Behold this dreamer cometh. Let us slay him and cast him into some pit and say to our father that some evil beast hath devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams." But Reuben, one of the brothers, delivered him out of their hands pleading for his life and pled so successfully that the brethren spared Joseph but stripped him of his many colored coat and cast him into a pit, a deep cave in the ground, and sat down to decide what they might do with him; and as they talked a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead journeying to Egypt, and at the suggestion of Judah they decided to sell Joseph into slavery, and did so; and as they journeyed back home they killed a kid of goats and dipped Joseph's beautiful coat into its blood and came to their father with the news that they had found the coat by the way, and his father wept for

him believing him dead.

In Egypt Joseph became steward of Potiphar's house, was accused of Potiphar's wife of violation of the master's confidence, was tried, or at any rate was sent to jail and spent two full years there; but God was in the dreams of Joseph and at the hand of the Lord Pharaoh dreamed a dream. He dreamed of ill favored and lean fleshed cattle eating up well favored and fat cattle, and because he could not understand his dream and none could interpret it for him, Joseph was brought from jail and told him the meaning of his dream. In a moment the convict was lifted to the position of prime-minister to the king; and Joseph, hated of his brethren, ex-slave, and ex-convict, although wrongfully so was by the power and purpose of God lifted to the place of rulership in the kingdom of Egypt. Why? I am sure that when we reach the city which hath foundations whose builder and ruler is God and there talk with Joseph as we shall ask him why God gave him such marvelous gifts, he will confess as will all the others of God's people that have been saved through the ages, "Grace, grace, amazing grace. I found grace in the sight of the Lord."

V

And another personality in God's word that always presented a wonderful story to me was the mother of the flesh in which Jesus was incarnated. She was no more holy than you are. She was just an ordinary Jewish girl, who went to the temple to attend upon its services at the proper time and religious services which were held there. But she was no more holy by nature than any other little Jewish girl that ever lived, and yet hers was the flesh that was to conceive, enclose, and carry the Lord Jesus Christ. Mary was in the flesh which bears the very nature of sin, and yet an angel of God came to her and said, "Mary, thou hast been chosen to bear the Son of God," and gave as the reason for her choice, "Thou hast found grace in the sight of the Lord."

Do you remember how a little while after that when Herod saw that he was being mocked by the wise men and wishing to destroy the baby Jesus, he gave orders that every baby two years of age or under be killed, and how that soon thereafter mothers saw their babies smitten by the sword? And Rachel could not be comforted for her grief for her children was so great, but Mary's baby did not die. The angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph and said, "Arise and take the baby and its mother into Egypt for Herod will seek the young child to kill it." And the baby was saved. Why was that? Why did God bless her so? Why did He give her grace? From her side she had no more right to such blessing than you or I. Oh, I am not speaking of God's purpose to preserve His Son. I am speaking of what blessing Mary received at His hands.

VI

I have been studying a good deal recently about the Apostle Peter. Peter was a great man according to some of the Bible teachers I heard

during my childhood, and I am told they are teaching the same things now in many churches. Say they, he is great because he keeps the gate of heaven and when you die you go to the gates of heaven and knock and Saint Peter comes to the gate, peeps out, and you tell him how many times you have gone to Sunday School and how many times you have pitched a dime at the Salvation Army drum and how many of your old worn out clothes you have given to charity and how sweet you always felt at Christmas time; and he counts it all up and if it is enough to please him, according to them, he lets you in and you are in heaven.

The only thing wrong with that little fairy story about Peter is that it isn't so. Whoever goes to heaven will go there because of the same reason Peter went, because he was saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. While Peter was and is a great man being chosen for a great work by the Lord, he was great because of the position in which God placed him; but the facts of his career shows clearly that he was no Godlier actually than any other man as far as his acts were concerned.

On the night the soldiers took Jesus before the Sanhedrin, Peter denied three times that he ever knew such a person and in order to emphasize the denial he cursed and swore. After the resurrection from the dead Jesus restored Peter to fellowship with Himself, and it was Peter who was chosen to open the doors of salvation to the Gentiles. Years later Peter was so carried away with the preaching and arguments of the Judaizers that the Apostle Paul had to withstand him to the face and instruct him in the doctrine of salvation by grace more perfectly.

How wonderful Peter must think heaven is as with all of his trials and battles passed, he is in the presence of His Lord basking in the sunshine of His smile forever. Why? Well certainly not because he deserved such blessing, but because God's grace was sufficient for all his needs, and if it were not Peter would be sitting in hell at this moment.

We cannot deserve the goodness and safety and guiltlessness with which He counts us and endows us as His own. God forbid that we should boast, but God forbid too that we should become ungrateful, forgetful, that but for His grace we could not come as Spafford did in the midst of his sorrow, and write, "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, oh my soul."

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