



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

“To testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24

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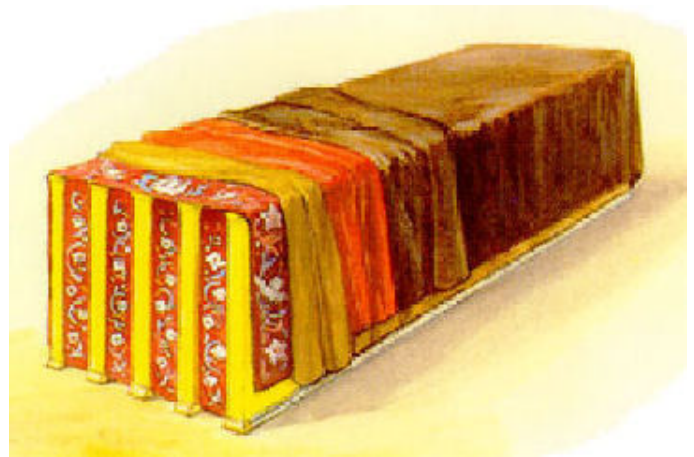
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THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF BIBLICAL PATTERNS

By Wayne Camp
Part II

INTRODUCTION

By way of introduction to this second part of this study I want to point out two things. First, in the first part I referred to the tabernacle coverings. I said that there were three of those coverings but ended up actually discussing four coverings. I also pointed out that many said that there were four coverings. I let some things that I was taught in my first year in Seminary influence what I said even though as I studied and wrote the article I became persuaded there were indeed four coverings but did not go back and rewrite the sentence where I said there were three coverings. I did say in the previous article, “There is some difference of opinion on



whether there were three coverings or four coverings on the tabernacle. The two innermost (SEE PATTERNS Cont. P. 4, Left Col.)

THAILAND MISSIONS REPORT

By Bill Lee

“The churches of Asia salute you...” I Corinthians 16:19

David wrote in **Psalms 86:5**, “**For thou, Lord, art good**”. As we seek to do the Lord’s will and remain faithful to Him in His service, we are constantly reminded of the goodness of our God. And as the Lord continues to bless His work in Thailand, we often find ourselves stopping to simply acknowledge the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. We, along with the Psalmist, recognize the fact that without faith to see the goodness of the Lord, we would surely have fainted long ago, Psalms 27:13.

On our recent trip to Thailand, June 13-28,



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CO-EDITORS' ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Editor, Eld. Wayne Camp, may be reached at the address given above, or at his home address. His home address at present is: 3809 Strider Rd, Scobey, MS 38953.

Home: (662) 229-9578

E-mail address: rwcamp@gpp-5grace.com

Visit our Home Page on the Internet

<http://www.gpp-5grace.com/>

Editor, Eld. Bill Lee may be reached at PO Box 876, Grenada, MS 38901-0876.

Editor Lee's phone number is 662-226-2715.

E-Mail Address: billandjan@cableone.net

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we experienced this goodness of the Lord on countless occasions. While we were not able to do all we had planned to do and we were not able to go to all of the places we had planned to visit, we are convinced the Lord directed our steps and we were able to do all He had planned for us to do. As we make plans for each trip to Thailand, we schedule before we leave the U.S. what we plan to do each day and where we would like to go each day. We try to have a sense of order to each trip and we do all we can to stick to our schedule while we are

there. But invariably, on each trip circumstances prevent us from doing some of the things we had planned and from going to some of the places we had scheduled to visit. I learned many years ago ***“Man proposes, but God disposes”***. I feel very secure in the knowledge that ***“A man’s heart deviseth his ways, but the Lord directed his steps”***, **Proverbs 16:9**. Therefore rather than being disappointed in the fact we were not able to do all we had planned, we are content in the knowledge that our God knows best.

As I mentioned in my previous report, we had two with us for their first trip to Thailand, Rachel Fulton and Rebekah Minter. Both of these were a great help in the medical work. The first trip is always the most difficult for anyone because there are so many unknowns and variables. But these two adjusted well and did outstanding jobs, sometimes under very trying circumstances. The families and churches of Rachel and Rebekah have every reason to be proud of them for their sacrifices and hard work on this trip.

We were able to go the northern city of Mai Sai and meet with around fifty church members from Burma. These are among those who have suffered the loss of family members, and fellow church members, as well as the loss of their homes and church buildings. It was really an amazing experience to meet with them and to hear of their experiences during the devastating earthquake in Burma. Two of the pastors from Burma and their families met with us. From these, as well as from others present, we learned that twenty three church members had lost their lives in the earthquake. Ninety three church members had lost their homes. Three church buildings were completely destroyed. One of the churches was having a service when the quake hit. They related how the building first shook and literally moved, and then began to collapse. As the walls began to give way, the roof collapsed. Several were killed immediately and one died while being taken to a hospital. The pastor suffered a broken back as the rubble fell upon him. His wife suffered severe back injuries as a wall fell on her. Needless to say, there were many more injuries to those present. Some of these injuries were relatively minor

while others were severe. Those who survived the initial quake found their homes either completely destroyed or damaged, in many cases beyond repair. Many of these also found that some of their relatives did not survive the quake.

As we met with these I was struck by the look in the eyes of these people. There was something in their eyes, just the way they looked, which caused you to know these had been through a terrible ordeal. But there was something else I noticed in these saints. Although they had been through so much and had suffered such tremendous losses, their faith in the Lord was still strong. I heard from more than one of their knowledge that God was still in control and that they trusted Him with more than their physical lives. While it was sad to hear of their accounts of personal loss, it was very uplifting to hear them praise God and express their faith in Him.

I am so thankful for the generosity of churches and individuals here in the U. S. which allowed us to carry funds to help these saints who have suffered so much. I left money with individuals as well as churches. This money was to help with medical expenses and begin to rebuild homes, as well as to purchase needed personal items. As the homes are being rebuilt, we also want to help them in the rebuilding of their church buildings. While a sizeable amount was given to help these saints recover, more will be needed as we continue to help them. And let me point out here, these are not sitting and waiting for help from us or anyone else. They are doing all they can with what little they have left. But the devastation is far greater than their supply and they remain in need of help from other saints and churches. As I talked with them, I assured them Christians in the U. S. and other places were praying for them and that the aid I had brought to them was from many individuals and churches in the U. S. who cared for them. They seemed as inadequate to express their gratitude as I was to comprehend what they had been through and the enormous tasks which were before them.

I am able also to report to you the churches in Thailand are doing well, as they grow more and more in the knowledge of God's Word. As

always, there are difficulties, problems and a lack of understanding of many things, but their advancement in learning and their desire to learn more and more is a great encouragement. Opposition is still present in many of the villages as other religious groups oppose the Lord's churches. We remind the churches there on each of our visits to expect opposition to continue. For in the world we shall have tribulation and all those who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. We know these words, but experience very little persecution. But the saints in Thailand and Burma both know and understand what is meant by persecution and tribulation.

I want to once again thank each of you for your generous support and loving care for the Lord's work in Thailand as well as in Burma. My prayer is that the Lord will bless each of you as you continue to serve Him.



↑ Rachel & Rebekah

↓ Medical Team



(PATTERNS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1) coverings are sometimes treated as one. Under the covering of rams' skins there was a covering of white goats' hair [some say it was black, others that it was dark]. It consisted of 11 pieces that were put together. More than one commentator says that this was the very finest "down" hair of the goats that had long hair. Of course, this solid white covering represented the impeccable, sinlessly perfect humanity of Jesus Christ.

Then there were 11 curtains that were fastened together. They were made of blue, purple and scarlet.

When one was on the inside of the tabernacle this was the covering that he could see. It had cunning work of blue, purple, and scarlet. The doctrine of Jesus Christ was set forth very beautifully and wonderfully in this covering." If I confused any of the readers I apologize.

If I remember correctly I was taught in seminary that the innermost coverings were actually one with the white goats' hair covering having blue, purple, and scarlet actually sewed into the goats' hair covering. After reading and rereading the Scriptures I realize now that I was correct when I affirmed there were four coverings and should have corrected the statement that there were three.

Second, I want to reiterate and expand upon the biblical teaching from the Old Testament that definitely shows that it is profitable for our use today, including doctrinal teaching. Note again Paul's statement to the church at Rome. **Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.** In the June issue I emphasized the first part of this verse showing that these things in the Old Testament were written for our learning. Notice the latter part of verse. It mentions the comfort of the Scriptures. What Scriptures? Those that were written aforetime for our learning which definitely were the Old Testament Scriptures. The person who rejects the use of the Old Testament for today deprives himself of the comfort that can be found in those Scriptures. How many of us, in a time of trial brought on by

evildoers, have found comfort in those words found in the following Old Testament verse? **Genesis 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.**

Notice also that Paul refers to hope that is found in those same Scriptures. The person who rejects the Old Testament as profitable for us today and usable for us today also deprives himself of the hope they can be gained by study of those Scriptures. As we study those Old Testament prophecies and see their fulfillment we can be assured that those provinces that are for the future will also be fulfilled. What folly not to profit from Old Testament Scriptures both for doctrine and for hope!

The very last book of the New Testament clearly indicates that the prophecies of the Old Testament are profitable for our edification and learning. **Revelation 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.** The same Holy Spirit who inspired the prophets in the writings of the Old Testament books of prophecy is the same Spirit who inspired John to record the words of Jesus and the Angels who uttered the words found in verse 10 above. They are on the same footing and have the same import whether they are found in the Old Testament or in the New Testament.

When Philip found the Ethiopian eunuch reading from the book of Isaiah, what did he do. He began at the very same Scripture and preached unto him Jesus Christ. **Acts 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.** Philip did not tell the Ethiopian eunuch, "You cannot get any doctrine that is profitable out of that book because it is the Old Testament." Philip did not know that we are not to get our doctrine from the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. Rather, Philip began at the very same Old Testament Scripture from which the eunuch was reading and preached under him Jesus.

Jesus said to some of the Jewish leaders that

they were searching the Scriptures because in the Scriptures they thought they had eternal life. Their problem was that in their spiritual darkness they were totally ignorant of the fact that the Old Testament Scriptures bore testimony of none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. **John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.** The New Testament was not yet written. Not one book of it had been written at the time that Jesus said this. They could only have been searching the Old Testament Scriptures.

Perhaps it would be good to remind us all of another declaration of Jesus Christ made to two of his disciples after his resurrection. **Luke 24:25-27 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: (26) Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? (27) And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.** A little later Jesus said to the same two disciples, **Luke 24:44 These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.** Jesus makes three divisions of the Old Testament in the statement—the Law, the prophets, and the Psalms. He emphasizes that in all three divisions he was set forth. He also reminds them that while he was yet with them he taught them these things. Yet they were walking down the Emmaus Road with their heart downcast because they had failed to believe those wonderful teachings concerning the coming of Jesus Christ and the work that he would accomplish. What spiritual poverty one is in if he does not take advantage of the teachings and doctrines, the hope and comfort set forth in the Old Testament!

I think of those words of Philip to Nathaniel. **John 1:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.**

The apostle Paul did not deprive himself or

his hearers of the wonderful teaching of the Old Testament. **Acts 28:23 And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.** By this time in the life of Paul he had written several books of the New Testament. Probably the first four books of the New Testament had also been written. But, does he appeal to any New Testament Scriptures in his message on this particular occasion? Absolutely not! Everything he needed to teach them concerning Jesus was found in the Old Testament.

One of the problems that I ran into when I first started going to Thailand to teach Bible school was the fact that the brethren had no background of Old Testament knowledge. When I began to teach the Old Testament in various courses they were amazed at the doctrines, especially the doctrine of Christ, that was set forth in that neglected portion of the word of God. When I began to teach Typology in the classes they were amazed at how Jesus Christ was revealed in the patterns and types of the Old Testament. As an example, at the closing of the school year the first year that I taught Typology one of the older brethren stood up at school closing and said something to this effect, "I am so glad that you taught Typology this year. Before that I did not know that there was such a thing in the Bible as typology or types."

The holy Scriptures of the Old Testament are able to make one wise unto the salvation that is in Jesus Christ. **2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.** The only Scriptures available to Timothy when he was a child were those found in the Old Testament. But, they were able to make him wise to the way of salvation.

If you are one who believes that we should not teach doctrine from the Old Testament perhaps you need to read the following words from Jesus Christ. **Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word**

that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Must I remind anyone that the Old Testament is as much God's word as is the New Testament?

When I first started pastoring I would carry a New Testament with Psalms in my visitation. Many times I would have to ask the person whom I was visiting to let me borrow his Bible because I would catch myself needing to go to the Old Testament to reinforce something that I was teaching from the New Testament. In the hospitals I often had to get one of the Gideon Bibles in the room to show something from the Old Testament. I finally bought a small pocket Bible to carry with me.

Now let me get back to the main theme of these articles on ***The Importance Of Biblical Patterns And Types.***

THE TABERNACLE CONTINUED

In the previous article I dealt with the coverings of the tabernacle. We saw that they were very significant in setting forth Jesus Christ, the true tabernacle which God pitched. At this time I want us to study just a little bit more about the tabernacle.

The Boards That Composed the Walls

Exodus 26:15 And thou shalt make boards for the tabernacle of shittim wood standing up.

Exodus 26:29 And thou shalt overlay the boards with gold, and make their rings of gold for places for the bars: and thou shalt overlay the bars with gold.

The north side, the south side, and the west end of the tabernacle were composed of 48 boards that were approximately 18 inches wide. There were 20 of these boards on each side and eight on the west end. These boards were made of shittim (also known as acacia) wood overlaid with a sheet of gold. Both the humanity and the deity of Jesus Christ were represented in these boards. The wood represented the perfect humanity of Jesus Christ by the fact that it was considered an imperishable wood. It was overlaid with a sheet of gold. Let me point out that the boards were not dipped in melted gold because this would have allowed the gold to be

infused into the wood. In the incarnation of Christ there was no infusion of the divine nature into the human nature nor of the human nature into the divine nature. While Christ was one person he had two separate and distinct natures—a complete human nature and a complete divine nature.

In these boards of the tabernacle there is a beautiful picture of what is called the hypostatic union of the divine and human natures of Christ into the one person. He was as truly a man as though he were not God and he was as truly God as though we were not man. This hypostatic union is beautifully illustrated in the boards of the tabernacle as well as in other things in the tabernacle that were made of wood overlaid with gold. This is another reason why it was so important that the boards be made exactly according to the pattern shown to Moses in the mountain. Any departure from that pattern would destroy the typology of Jesus Christ that God intended in the tabernacle.

The Veil Separating The Holy Place From The Holy Of Holies

Exodus 26:31, 33 And thou shalt make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made. (33) And thou shalt hang up the veil under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.

Between the holy place and the holy of holies there was a very heavy veil or curtain. It was made of fine twined linen and had woven into it blue, purple, and scarlet. This was a magnificent piece of cunning work done by women to whom God had given amazing skill. When it was hung in its place the light of the Golden candlestick shining upon it would no doubt be breathtaking. The linen was pure white. It represented the pure character of the sinless son of man, our Lord Jesus Christ. As with the innermost covering of the tabernacle the blue, purple, and scarlet showed the same things about Jesus Christ as they did in that innermost covering.

The veil was a picture of the Lord Jesus

Christ. It hailed the promises that one day the holiest of all would be opened up by the rending of his body. I should point out that the tabernacle veil after hanging in the tabernacle 500 years plus was replaced by another one in the Temple. In the Temple the veil was rent from top to bottom. When the veil in the Temple was rent from top to bottom it represented the body of Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 10:20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.**

For over 500 years the veil had hidden the holy of holies with the ark of the covenant and its lid, the mercy seat from the eyes of all but the high priest and only once a year did he enter that veil. First the veil of the tabernacle and then the veil of the temple. But finally, through the veil of his body Christ opened up the way into the holiest of all, into heaven itself.

Of the veil A. W. Pink wrote, "It announced, in the language of symbolry, that the way of approach to God was not then made known. But inasmuch as it was a curtain and not a wall of stone or metal, there was more than a hint given of its temporary nature, and that ultimately a way of access would be revealed."

That ultimate way of access would be the Lord Jesus Christ. Note again the verse we noted earlier. **Hebrews 10:20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.** Jesus spoke of the fact that his flesh was given that man might be saved. **John 6:51-56 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. (52) The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? (53) Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. (54) Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. (55) For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. (56) He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.** Note

again what Paul says on this matter. **Hebrews 6:19-20 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; (20) Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.**

The Ark of the Covenant and Mercy Seat

On the grounds of his sacrifice in the offering of his body and blood on the cross Christ entered into the holy place. That brings us a brief discussion concerning the Ark of the Covenant and the mercy seat. Again, these represented the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of its preeminent importance the first piece of furniture discussed concerning the tabernacle was that which is under consideration.

The great importance of the ark is clear from several considerations. Pink wrote, "When Jehovah gave instructions to Moses concerning the Tabernacle, He began with the ark. It was first in order because first in importance. Before any details were communicated concerning the sanctuary itself, before a word was told Moses about its court and chambers its priesthood and ritual, its furniture and garniture, minute directions were given regarding the ark; without the ark the whole service of the Tabernacle had been meaningless and valueless, for it was upon it, as His throne, that God dwelt. The ark was the object to which the brazen altar pointed, the sacrifice of which gave right of access to the worshipper, who came to the ark



representatively in the person of the high priest. It was the first of the holy vessels to be made and made by Moses himself (Deuteronomy 10:1-5). It was the place where the tables of the law were preserved. Its preeminence above all the other vessels was shown in the days of Solomon, for the ark alone was transferred from the tabernacle to the Temple."

There is no doubt that the ark of the covenant with the mercy seat as its lid is the preeminent representation of Jesus Christ in all that pertain to the tabernacle and its furnishings. The ark was made of only two materials—wood and gold. The imperishable wood represented the impeccable humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ. The gold set forth the deity of Lord Jesus.

The ark contained Aaron's rod that budded. This was a piece of lifeless almond wood which miraculously budded, brought forth blossoms, and produced almonds overnight. It speaks on the resurrection of Christ whom God raised up from the dead because it is not possible that death should be holden of him. **Acts 2:23-24** *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: (24) Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.*

The ark contained a golden pot of manna. There was one omer of manna in the pot. That was the measure that God had designated that was to be gathered for each man when he gave the manna. It pointed to the true bread from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ. It pointed to the man Christ Jesus.

The ark also contained the two tables of stone on which the 10 Commandments had been written. It was symbolic and pointed to the fact that Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the law and the perfect keeper of the law. Fallen man had broken God's law. And in his fallen state he cannot keep the law of God. **Romans 8:7-8** *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (8) So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

On the other hand the perfect man Christ Jesus would keep the law perfectly. Jesus

Christ would make the law honorable. **Isaiah 42:21** *The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.* Jesus said prophetically through the pen of David, **Psalms 40:8** *I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.*

As I have already pointed out the lid of the ark was the mercy seat. The mercy seat was a solid slab of gold. On it there were two cherubims. It was the throne of God in the midst of Israel. God's throne is a throne of grace and mercy. **Hebrews 4:16** *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

The mercy seat was the place of propitiation and expiation. When the publican cried out for mercy in the Temple he had in mind the mercy seat. In essence he said, "Lord be my mercy seat, be my place of expiation and propitiation." **Luke 18:13** *And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.* The Lord Jesus Christ is our mercy seat.

CONCLUSION

There is so much more that could be written on these subjects. I hope that I have answered any objection that any of the readers might have concerning gleaning doctrine of the Old Testament. I pray that you have seen that many precious truths are written there and are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness.

I also desire that those who have read these two articles have seen why God was so particular in the instructions that he gave to Moses for the building of the tabernacle and its furnishings. That which pictures the Lord Jesus Christ in type and symbol must do so in the best way possible. That is why the Lord was so careful to tell Moses to see to it that he built the ark and its furnishings exactly according to the pattern he had shown him in Mount Sinai.

Heb 8:5 *See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.*

“A BED, A TABLE, A STOOL, A CANDLESTICK

By Bill Lee

In II Kings 4:8-17 we read of the godly generosity of a Shunammite woman and her husband. The names of this couple are withheld from us, but their care and concern for a prophet of God is recorded for us in these verses. It is interesting to notice, it was the wife, not the husband, who made the suggestion that they “make a little chamber” for the traveling “holy man of God” to use as a place of rest. Often it is the case that women take more note and quicker notice of the needs of others than do men. This certainly is not true in every case, but I do know that Janice is more observant than I in these matters. In the case of the husband and wife of Shunem, it was the wife who made the suggestion to her husband. It is also evident he agreed with what she wanted to do for Elisha.

This woman not only suggested the building of this chamber, she also suggested the furnishings for the chamber. She said, “let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick”. These may seem like sparse furnishings to us who are blessed with so much. But remember, Elisha the prophet, like the Lord Jesus Christ, did not have a place to lay his head. That Elisha was very appreciative of such generosity is clear from his words in verse 13, “Behold, thou hast been careful with us with all this care”.

Let’s briefly consider the bed, the table, the stool, and the candlestick. It seems there is a lesson for us in these things. The first of these was a bed. This certainly speaks to us of rest. Contrary to what some seem to think, even men of God need rest. Jesus told His disciples, “Come ye yourself apart unto a desert place and rest awhile”, Mark 6:31. Of course our greatest rest is in the Person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Next in the chamber was a table. The table speaks both of nourishment and communion, or fellowship. As surely as we need rest for both body and soul, we also need the Bread of Life and close fellowship with Him. And this leads us to the stool of the chamber. I think we can learn

discipleship from the stool. A disciple is not only a follower, but is also a learner. Sometimes we, like Mary, need to just sit at the feet of Jesus and learn of Him. There is a time and a place for active service in doing the will of God. But sometimes we need to just use the stool and sit and learn. Lastly we have the candlestick. The purpose of a candlestick is to uphold the light. As witnesses of Jesus Christ we perform the role of candlesticks. Jesus is the True Light. We who are His people are as candlesticks, holding forth the Light in a dark world.

Bouquets and Brickbats

ALASKA: Just finished your article entitled “With God there are no unintended tragedies, no uncaused calamities, and no undisciplined disasters.” I also noted some of your posts on Facebook which tried to tell people that earthquakes, famines, pestilence are not the sign of Christ’s coming, but the beginning of sorrows. True – thank you! Thank you for publishing that article and all the articles in the *Grace P & P*.

FLORIDA: Your paper *The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator* is so much appreciated as I am 88 years old and rarely get church. I was baptized in Central Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. Now I’m a member of Central Baptist Church here in St. Petersburg, Florida. I just wanted to tell you I’ve had a favorite Bible verse for years. ***Nah 1:3 The LORD...the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.*** To me that says it all!

God bless you so much!

TENNESSEE: Greetings brother. My name is Lewis Kiger. I serve as pastor of the NT Baptist Church of Bristol, TN We have been there for about two years now, and we had a visitor come because of your website, so thank you for that.

ILLINOIS: I was looking on the internet for the address of one of our churches in Godfrey, Illinois and it took me to the list of Sovereign Grace Baptist churches that you have listed.

Thanks so much for this we are thinking of getting away for a few days to Missouri after VBS and were looking for a church to attend.

Hope you are staying cool!!

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Pastor Laurence Justice

816-761-7184

E-Mail justicela@juno.com

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All the disputes between us and the Arminians may be reduced to these two questions:

1. Is God dependent on man, or is man dependent on God?
2. Is man a debtor to God, or God a debtor to man? -Augustus Toplady

BLIND LEADERS AND BLIND FOLLOWERS!

(Adapted)

Luke 6:39 *And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?*

See the great danger of *listening to false religious teachers*. Our Lord compares such teachers and their hearers, to the blind leading the blind; and asks the reasonable question, "*Will they not both fall into the pit?*"

The subject which our Lord brings before us, deserves far more attention than it generally receives. The amount of evil which *unsound religious teaching* has brought on the Church in every age is incalculable! The man who hears such a false teacher runs a fearful risk himself of being lost eternally! "Will they not both fall into the pit?"

If we would escape the danger against which our Lord warns us, we must not neglect to prove the teaching that we hear, by the holy Scriptures. We must not believe things merely because *ministers* or other *leaders* say them. We must not suppose, as a matter of course, that *leaders* can make no mistakes! He is

We must remember the advice of Paul and John "Test all things." "Test the spirits, whether they are of God." With the Bible in our hands, and the promise of guidance from the Holy Spirit to all who seek it--we shall be without excuse if our souls are led astray.

The blindness of leaders is no excuse for the blindness is of those who follow! The man who from indolence, or superstition, or affected humility--refuses to *test* the teaching of the leader whom he finds set over him, however unsound it may be--will at length share his leader's portion!

If people will trust blind guides--then they must not be surprised if they are led to the pit!

WHAT KIND OF BODIES WILL THEY HAVE?

(Islay Burns, 1888)

"But someone may ask: How will the dead be raised? **What kind of bodies will they have?**"

Many other *questions*, of deepest interest to the thoughtful mind, we might *ask*--but cannot *answer*.

What precisely shall be the new *conditions*, *capacities*, *abilities* of our immortal body?

In what respect shall it be the *same*--and in what respect *unlike*, our present earthly state?

What new avenues of *knowledge* shall we possess? What new organs of *perception*? What new spheres of *activity*? What new springs of *enjoyment*?

Shall there be music, poetry, art, science, deepening research, and advancing knowledge of the works and ways of God in Heaven--even as here on earth?

Where shall the final dwelling-place of the redeemed be? Shall they be confined, as now, to one exclusive spot--to one single orb in the immensity of God's universe? Or shall they rather roam at large through all its wide domains --and tread freely and unrestrained, through all the streets of the fathomless city of God?

Shall we still, then as now--only *scan from afar*, the course of the distant *planetary orbs*? Or shall we be permitted to visit them, and know all about them, and be at home in them--as in so many chambers of the Father's one majestic house?

In what form or stage of their *development* shall the *bodies* of the blessed arise--as in youth, or in manhood, or in ripe old age?

Shall the *child* of this world--be still a child in Heaven; or shall the child expand all at once in that wondrous transfiguration moment, into the fullness of its stature and perfection of its powers? Shall the *old man* be still an old man forever; or shall he be brought back to the freshness and strength of his manly prime? Shall we, in short, appear *then*--just as we were when *death* took us--and not rather as we were or might have been, at our best?

Shall the great Architect of Heaven, *create*

the true and perfect ideal of the life of His saints --or the *restoration* only, though in a glorified state, of their actual form here below?

We cannot tell the answer to any of these inquiries. "Now we are children of God; and **what we will be, has not yet been made known!**" 1 John 3:2.

It is enough, that *God* knows--and that He plans and does all things well.

It is enough, that however high our conceptions of the unseen world, and however sublime our aspirations in regard to it--it will still be something far *higher* and *grand*er than we could ever dream! "No *eye* has seen, no *ear* has heard, and no *mind* has imagined-- what *God* has prepared for those who love Him!" 1 Corinthians 2:9

It is enough, that there shall be a new Heaven, and a new earth, and that we shall be made perfectly fit to possess and to enjoy it!

And above all, it is enough that *Christ Himself* shall be there, and that we shall be *with* Him, and "that we will be *like* Him--for we will see Him as He really is!"

"So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable--it is raised *imperishable*; it is sown in dishonor--it is raised in *glory*; it is sown in weakness--it is raised in *power*; it is sown a natural body--it is raised a *spiritual* body!" 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

Here, then, we must pause. With this *glimpse* of the glory to be revealed--grand, but incomplete--we must rest satisfied!

WE MUST CONTINUALLY COME TO HIM!

(James Smith, "*Abide with Me*" 1859)

One great part of the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart is to . . .

empty us,

strip us of self,

lead us to feel our own weakness, and

bring us as poor sinners to look to Jesus alone, as our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

And just in proportion as we feel our *need* of Christ, and realize our absolute nothingness

without Christ--shall we prize Him, enjoy Him, and exercise dependence upon Him.

O how little do many of us know our *need* of Christ, and therefore it is that we . . .

make so little *use* of Christ,
receive so little from Christ,
 and *do* so little for Christ!

We come to Him at *first*--as poor, lost, helpless sinners--that we may be saved by His merit and mercy. And as *believers*, **we must continually come to Him . . .**

with all our *burdens*--that He may bear them;
 with all our *cares*--that He may manage them;
 with all our *sorrows*--that He may sanctify them;
 with all our *foes*--that He may conquer them;
 with all our *sins*--that He may cleanse them;
 and

with all our *needs*--that He may supply them.
 All that we need is in Christ--and it is in Christ, *for us*. Our sense of our *need* of Christ, if it is deep and increasing--will lead us to daily come to Christ for all our *supplies*.

Our *deep necessity* fits us for Christ--and His *infinite fullness* fits Him for us!

Our trials, troubles, temptations, disappointments, and vexations are to teach us our need of Christ; and drive us continually to Him.

There is often *much prayer*--and yet *little communion* with Christ. We should realize that He is giving us His whole attention. He expects us to tell Him . . .

all that troubles us,
 all that grieves us,
 all that pleases us,
 all that we need,
 and all that we desire.

We should keep back nothing from Him--but speak to Him freely on every subject, and every circumstance. He is always with us, listening to us, and sympathetically entering into all our concerns!

We must be *intimate* with Christ.

We must *walk* with Him.

We must *carry* everything to Him.

We must seek all we *need* from Him.

We must be constantly . . .

going to Christ,
 conversing with Christ,
 and obtaining from Christ--
 if we would receive the consoling influences of His love!



Janice Lee, Bill Lee, Rebeka Menter, and Rachel Fulton with Pastor Ja Law in background at Na Hui Baptist Church

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