



The Most Blessed Life

Explanation of the Picture

This goes with the song, "*The Most Blessed Life*"
written in 1980 or 1981 - Edit 2019

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The Pillar of Fire

One night, as I contemplated the Exodus account and subsequent wanderings in the desert, I placed myself in the view shown in this drawing. What a spectacular sight

this must have been.

The Throng

The exodus from Egypt numbered “*six hundred thousand men ... aside from children*”(Ex12:37). Adding wives and children, this multitude may have been two million people. And to add all the animals - what a throng! God was leading the Israelites into the land promised to Abraham ... but it took forty years to arrive! That means they wandered around in circles, zig zags, and more circles - for forty years. If you read the accounts of their wanderings, you will find they brought that delay upon themselves. Their rebellions - and lack of faith - delayed entry into the promised land. He was not going to bring them in - until they had reached an acceptable level of obedience. And He was not in a big hurry. If you read the whole story, you will find the Israelites never were perfect, but they did have to reach a certain threshold before God was willing to move them forward - out of the desert.

In my life, I want to get through “deserts” as quickly as possible. I want to serve God in lands of victorious conquest (successful ministries) - and move toward the final promised land with as little delay as possible. But, my timetable - and God’s - are often out of sync. I had one experience that changed the way I look at people, or events, or seasons in my journey. I hope I never forget the lesson. Here’s what happened.

I was residential staff at The Fort Lauderdale Beach Christian Center - a street gospel mission. Four nights a week I played my guitar before the bible study/gospel presentation. At one point, there was a young man who started sitting right in front of me - and meticulously watched my fingers as I played. I do a lot of finger picking, so I did not think too much about it. Most of the time he was very quiet, but every once in a while something would set him off, and he would explode and storm out. Well, he started hanging around me, as I conversed with others, he would stick out his hand to shake mine. This occurred several times - with nothing unusual about it. Then one night, he put out his hand (as I was talking to someone else) and as I instinctively responded, this time ... he grabbed my fingers - not the meat of my hand. He began to squeeze and I suddenly realized his grip was designed to break my fingers. As he was increasing the pressure, I bore straight into his eyes and stated as firmly and as controlled as possible, “*Ron, let - go - of - my - fingers.*” His pressure steadied and I repeated the demand/warning. No one else existed in the entire universe at that moment for either of us. After a few seconds, he released my fingers and went storming out of the Mission.

By the time that night concluded, and after I was alone in my room, I had one overwhelming desire. I wanted to pulverize him. I hear some of you cry out, “*And you say you’re a Christian? You’re supposed to love your enemies, and forgive them and ... love them and cry over them ... and hug them and offer the other hand and*” Well, to say I wanted to pulverize him is actually an understatement. So, I am even worse than you think. All I can say is - I am who I am - and I’m at where I’m at. That is not an

excuse for anything, but I can only be who I am and I cannot grow myself - and do not even want to. I want to grow with a growth that is *from God*. Anyway, by the next day, I came to some very simple conclusions. This is what I prayed. “*Lord, I do not believe it is an accident that Ron and I have crossed paths. I believe You want to use this situation to teach me something - or some things. I ask You would not take him out of my life until I have learned what You want me to learn.*” I think it was at that moment that I had learned what He wanted me to learn. Why do I think that? Well, I never saw Ron again. I think God wanted me to trust in Him with all my heart, acknowledge Him in all my ways and not lean on my own understanding (Pro 3:5,6). People, or events, in my life are not just random circumstance. The Lord God Almighty has posted Himself in front of me - behind me - and around me (Isa 52:12). Satan cannot have at me - much less any man - without His approval (Job 1:10-12). He knows what needs to be **let in** to accomplish His primary agenda - which is to make me more like His Son. I have no idea what is necessary in order to accomplish that phenomenal feat. He does.

Well, since that time, when I have found myself in some particularly unpleasant circumstance (various sized deserts you might say) I have more readily come before Him with that same prayer request. Of course, I have always hoped that it would work ... like it did with Ron. But, as you might suspect, there haven't been any other instant deliverances. But that hasn't changed the request. I do not want deliverance from any desert before I have learned whatever it is He wants me to learn. I don't want to stay one second longer than necessary, but I don't want to leave one second too soon either. I do not want “to repeat” some desert situation - and thus wander around in a circle. I want to gain ground and move forward. Now, back to my drawing.

The Night Sky

As we have gained a greater ability to peer into the vast expanses of the universe, the immensity and content is mind boggling. Its beauty - and threats - are beyond comprehension. Some have suggested that if this is the only planet with life - what a waste of the rest of the universe. But, I *do believe* this is the only planet that contains sentient, morally accountable, life - and maybe the only one that has **any** life at all. In fact, I think this is the probability. There are some basic Bible teachings about sin and death that lead me to such a position (You can read about this in my free Ebook, “Death and the Bible”). I believe this great expanse is God's decorum for us - and speaks of the massive, and creative ability, of God. With no effort, and no waste, He can simply make all this, and then in another moment, roll it up like a worn out garment - and then create an entirely new heavens and earth “*where righteousness dwells*” (2Pet 3:13). You see, it is not *just the universe* that holds immeasurable beauties and intricacies. *Our own planet* is an exquisite physical marvel past finding out. All kinds of marvels are “wasted” here too. Even with billions of human eyes on the globe, how many natural wonders and phenomena are never seen? Of all that can be witnessed just on the surface of this

globe, what we actually collectively observe is not even a speck of dust on the weighing scale. But God's marvels do not stop there. *Our physical being*, just our own personal body, contains unfathomable intricacies and mysteries that escape our notice - and even overwhelm the greatest of investigative and contemplative minds.

So, in a total consistency, whether we are examining the universe, our planet, or our own body, everything God creates is infinitely beyond us. But, He "wastes" nothing. He creates *as a display* of His incalculable abilities. For the entire universe to exist as decorum for us would not surprise me at all. He said He made the stars "to separate the day from the night ... for signs and for seasons, and for days and for years ... and to give light on the earth" (Gen 1:14,15). That is their purpose! It may very well be that *we are* indeed the center of the universe. The universe lies around us as "a painting of God." His paint is of a different substance than our paint. He has allowed this generation to get a greater glimpse of His materials and canvas. But, it is still ... just a glimpse.

Whether the pillar of cloud - or the pillar of fire
Your guidance is sure - not so with the liar.
Whether mountaintops or valleys - with their joy or despair
Your Hand's in the midst - though unseen, always there.

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Major writings: ["No Tithe for the Christian."](#) ["Love and the Bible."](#) ["Death and the Bible."](#)
["Abortion:..."](#) and ["Capital Punishment and the Bible"](#)
and a bunch of smaller interesting articles!

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Here's the Song: <https://youtu.be/BM58A-sy6p0>

Here's the Commentary on the Song: https://youtu.be/AYK_vOI9naU

Here's the Video Explanation of the Drawing: <https://youtu.be/fekZ1CITjU>