

# America's Hope Monthly

October 1998

## You that Fear my Name

By C. O. Stadslev

What is God's plan and purpose for individual Christians in this great and dreadful day of the Lord? The fourth chapter in the prophecy of Malachi, the last chapter in the Old Scripture, answers the above question.

There were no chapter and verse divisions in the original Scripture so we will begin reading at the last verse in chapter 3 of Malachi where it states: "Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not."

During the church age while God was testing, trying, developing and purging the Christians, it was often the wicked that prospered and the righteous suffered. As we begin to enter the kingdom age that will be reversed and the righteous will soon begin to discern this change.

The next verse states: "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." All the proud, and all that do wickedly, means proud and do wickedly against the Christ. Therefore, we can expect a terrible burning in all nations.

Now consider carefully the next verse where we read: "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth and grow up as calves of the stall." As I suggest in my booklet, *THE CLEANSING OF THE EARTH BY FIRE*, God will apparently use various types of fires when He cleanses and prepares the earth for the reign of the Christ.

There seems to be several types of fires indicated in Malachi 4:1 through 3. The fire that shall leave the wicked "neither root nor branch" and will bring healing and strength to those who fear and reverence the Lord must be the fire of God's Presence. We have an example of this in Exodus 19:16 through 19.

"And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice."

Referring to this fire of God's presence, Moses wrote the following in Deuteronomy 5:23 through 25:

"And it came to pass, when ye heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, (for the mountain did burn with fire,) that ye came near unto me, even all the heads of your tribes, and your elders; And ye said, Behold, the Lord our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth. Now therefore why should we die? for this great fire will consume us: if we hear the voice of the Lord our God any more, then we shall die."

The fire that some people feared would consume them made the face of Moses to shine. A shining and bright face indicates physical health and well being. The fire of God's presence and glory that made wicked and negative people feel that they were being consumed will bring healing to people who reverence the Christ and are positive in their inner being.

The fire of God's shekinah glory, which will become increasingly manifest as we approach the kingdom, especially in this kingdom nation, will so energize and strengthen those that fear the Lord that they "shall tread down the wicked: for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day I shall do this" saith the Lord of hosts."

This as you recognize is the exact opposite of what the futurists teach. They teach that an antichrist will tread down the righteous and turn everything scriptural and Christian to ashes under the soles of the feet of the Antichrists. Is that supposed to be the gospel—the good news of the kingdom? The futurists teach that the Holy Spirit will leave the earth



in the last days. The Scriptures teach that the fire of the Holy Spirit will become increasingly evident in the last days, and especially in this kingdom nation.

"Futurists" are so called because they insist that everything in the book of The Revelation from chapter 4 to the end of the book will have a future fulfillment, some say in seven years and others say three and one-half years. All of the reformers and church fathers taught that the book of Revelation has had a progressive and historical fulfillment, which is so stated in both the first and last chapters of Revelation, "for the time is at hand." For further study see my booklet, *KEYS TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION*

As for the fire of the Holy Spirit becoming increasingly manifest as we move into "the great and dreadful day of the Lord," and not the day of some antichrist, we read the following in Isaiah 33:13 and 14: "Hear, ye that are far off (time and distance), what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might. The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?"

Isaiah directs this prophecy to a land and a people far off from where he lived and prophesied in Palestine. "The land that is far off" is repeated in verse 17. In verse 14 Isaiah called this land "very far off"—Zion. See my book, *THE UNITED STATES IS ZION OF BIBLE PROPHECY*.

In verse 13 Isaiah calls upon both "ye that are far off" (the new world) and "ye that are near" (the old world) to hear what God has done and to acknowledge God's might. In verse 14 he tells us what it is. It is a "devouring fire," and "everlasting burning." This "fire," and "burning" is the fire of God's shekinah glory as prophesied in Malachi 4. This spiritual fire makes the sinners in Zion "afraid" and "fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites." And they say: "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire?" It is apparent that the subversives and antichrists in this Zion nation are already becoming aware of this "devouring fire."

The answer to their question and fearfulness is given in verse 15. As you read verse 15 note that individuals who observe and honor God's kingdom laws and principles will not be harmed or have a sense of being consumed by God's holy fire. Verse 15 of Isaiah 33 states: "He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil."

This is not the condition for receiving personal salvation. It is the condition and requirement for not being consumed by the devouring fire that will cleanse this kingdom nation. No one has ever been regenerated spiritually by observing and honoring God's kingdom laws and principles. "If righteousness (personal salvation) came by the law, then Christ died in vain." (Galatians 2:21) But there is a kingdom and national righteousness in observing and honoring God's kingdom laws and principles. See

Deuteronomy 6:24 and 25.

Verse 16 of Isaiah 33 is a beautiful and precious prophecy and promise for those who walk and speak in harmony with the gospel of the kingdom in the time when God's holy fire consumes kingdom sinners and hypocrites. It states: "He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks; bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure."

America is "the land that is very far off" from where Isaiah prophesied and lived. The marginal reference states: "A far stretching land" which America certainly is. And we already sing "America the Beautiful." America's beauty today, though the world's greatest, is no comparison with what it will be after God's holy fire "shall burn as an oven, and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly shall be stubble."

We are now confronted with a very serious question, namely, What about Christians who have been brainwashed by antichrist fables and consequently practically despise the gospel of the kingdom and insist this kingdom nation will be abandoned by God and given to the antichrists. I do not know how God will deal with such Christians. But several scriptures come to mind:

In Matthew 7:21 through 23 we have the words of the Christ. These words from the Christ indicate that even preachers will hear Christ say: "I never knew you: depart from me, ye workers of iniquity." The word iniquity is similar to the word obliquity which means deviation from a right line. Iniquity means deviation from the Word of God. These workers of iniquity preached, cast out devils, and did many wonderful works, but they were out of line with the Word of God.

Romans 14:12 states: "So then every one of us shall give account to himself to God." So it is not for us to sit in judgement on one another, but it is of the greatest importance that individually and collectively we stay in line with the Word of God. For what is not in line with the Word of God is iniquity. And apparently we have now come to the time when this great and mighty nation must and will be cleansed.

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## *Why Doubt God's Word*

It is strange we trust each other,  
And only doubt our Lord,  
We take the word of mortals,  
And yet distrust His word;  
But oh, what light and glory  
Would shine o'er all our days,  
If we always would remember  
God means just what He says.

— Selected —



# St. Luke on Money

By C. O. Stadsklev

The entire 16th chapter of Luke, excepting verses 16, 17 and 18, is devoted to the money question. In verse 15 we read, "And he (Jesus) said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."

In order to understand what the Lord had in mind when He said, "that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God" it is necessary to consider the preceding verses. In verse 13 Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Verse 14 makes the following comment: "And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things; and they derided him." Both of the verses clearly reveal the fact that it was the Pharisees' money system which was and is abomination in the sight of God, although highly esteemed among men. Surely Jesus did not mean that all things that are highly esteemed among men are an abomination in the sight of God.

The parable of the unjust steward is a prophetic money parable. The rich man or master was the Lord Jesus Christ. The steward was the Pharisees. They were in possession of God's law and had the responsibility of teaching and observing these laws. "Thou mayest be no longer steward" refers to the fact that the responsibility for administering God's laws would be taken away from the Pharisees. This is clearly stated in Matthew 21:43, 45 where we read, "Therefore say I (Jesus) unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them." "The kingdom of God" does not mean personal salvation for that was not taken away from the Pharisees. "The Kingdom of God" means the administration of God's national law which was given to the people now known as Anglo-Saxons. Note also that it was given to a nation and not to a church.

In verses 3 through 7 of Luke 16 Jesus prophesied that the Pharisees would devise a money system which would make it unnecessary for them to either "dig" or "beg". This they would do by writing down or reducing the laws of God pertaining to money, teaching that usury, deflation, inflation and mortgage foreclosures were not sin and that the Christian nations were under no obligation to observe these laws or debt as it is symbolized in the parable. Jesus also prophesied that the Pharisees would gain entrance and control of "their houses" by making mammon their friend. "Their houses" symbolize the institutions of the people to

whom the kingdom of God was given when, as we read in Matthew 21:43, it was taken away from the Pharisees.

The Lord commended the unjust steward not because he was just or righteous but because he was wise and knew the tremendous power of money and propaganda. Jesus also said the children of this world, that is, those of the money world who live for what they can get out of this earthly life, are wiser relative to the power of money than the children of light.

In verses 11 and 12 Jesus spoke the following to the Pharisees: "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon (money), who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?" Here the Lord prophesied that the money changers would not be faithful or righteous in their use of money and the power their money system would place in their hand. As a result of their unrighteous manipulation of money they would some day find themselves destitute. Note also that Jesus intimated that the money they would manipulate was not theirs; it has always been the credit of the nation or the nations' money.

The 16 chapter of Luke closes with the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. This is also a money parable. The "rich man" typified the Pharisees. They fared sumptuously, clothed in purple and fine linen. "Purple and fine linen" symbolizes authority and God's word, which the Pharisees had although they neither observed nor taught God's laws relative to money. "Lazarus the beggar" typifies Ten-tribed Israel at that time outside of Palestine among the dogs or the heathen people. Both Lazarus and the rich man died. This symbolizes the fact that both the Ten-tribed nation and the nation of the Pharisees would be overthrown. Israel had been taken into Assyria 700 B. C. while the inhabitants of Jerusalem were overthrown, dispersed ("or buried" as symbolized in the parable) by the Romans in 70 A. D. In Ezekiel 37 a nation is spoken of as buried when it has refused to observe and honor God's national laws. Lazarus or Ten-tribed Israel was carried into "Abraham's bosom."

"Abraham's bosom" symbolizes the great unconditional and national blessing that God promised to Abraham which has come upon the Anglo-Saxons (modern Israel) during this age, while those who have followed the teachings and practices of the Pharisees have suffered endless persecution or torment. The "great gulf" between the rich man and Lazarus was established by Christ. Israel (Anglo-Saxondom) has officially recognized Christ as the Messiah while Phariseesism has not. When the rich man sought to keep his brethren or people from being subject to the torment he found himself in, he was told that the only way his brethren could escape was to heed Moses and the prophets. This was never more true than it is today. Before this generation can emerge out of its torments it must recognize Jesus as God and hear Moses and the prophets relative to money and all other matters.



# God's Greatest Gift to Man

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Imagine! God offers to give eternal life to each person who receives Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Who does not desire eternal life? Men will spend their last dollar to prolong their physical life for even a few days. And, that even though their physical life may be full of suffering and sorrow.

What is eternal life? It is the life or spirit which brought Jesus from the grave and transformed His body into a glorious body no longer subject to the limitations of the physical life such as death, weariness, or pain.

How is this life received? It must be received as a gift. It cannot be received as a reward or as a prize for good deeds done in the physical life. Physical life, which we receive from our parents, is selfish and proud in its very nature. Eternal life is another species altogether, and we must be born into the eternal just as truly as we had to be born physically in order to have the physical. You do not become a Christian by living good physically any more than a monkey becomes a human as a reward of being a good monkey.—Darwin and his "devilution" not withstanding.

This eternal life, which is God's greatest gift to man is in the inspired Word of God. Jesus said, "... the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." As corn life is in the kernel of corn, as wheat life, or germ, is in the grain of wheat, so eternal life is in the promises of God. Hence the importance of daily reading the Word of God.

The Scriptures speak of the experience of receiving the gift of eternal life as the New Birth. In First Peter 1:23 we read, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." Physical life is corruptible, that it is subject to sin

and death. Eternal life, which inspired into His Word, is incorruptible and is not subject to sin and death.

After a person has been born again or regenerated the Word of God he becomes a dual natured person. It is this which the Apostle Paul deals with in the 7th and 8th chapters of Romans.

In Galatians 5:17 the Apostle Paul wrote, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." "The flesh" means the physical life which we received at our physical birth. "The Spirit" means the eternal life which we received when we were born by the Spirit which is in the Word of God.

The victorious and fruitful Christian is one who submits his will to the will of the Eternal Spirit by which he was born again. On the other hand, the Christian who refuses to submit to the Spirit of God will be overcome by selfishness and pride, which Paul calls the flesh.

Many unregenerated people stumble over the fact the people who claim to be born again are not perfect. Christians can be perfect only to the extent they have perfect knowledge and are directed by the Spirit of God. Since no mortal has perfect knowledge there can be no perfect human. However, a Christian can and should be perfect in his submission to God.

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## And Can it be That I Should Gain?

And can it be that I should gain?  
An in-t'rest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be?  
That Thou, my Lord, shouldst die for me?

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