HEBREWS 12:

18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

**22** But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

29 For our God is a consuming fire

*Charles Spurgeon.*

*“* ***Death brings us to the immediate presence of Jesus*** *To depart this life is, for the believer, to be "at home with the Lord." (2 Corinthians 5:8) "I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far!" (Philippians 1:23) What makes Heaven, Heaven, is not the streets of gold--but the presence of our Redeemer. To see Him face to face, to be forever with the Lord Jesus--that is the Christian's greatest desire and hope.”*

*I am not picking on Spurgeon, but his statement is the same as most others, but not all religions believing we instantly go to heaven or an eternal hell. He Continues.*

**5. Death unites the believer with the redeemed**
All the saints who have gone before us are gathered into the presence of Jesus, rejoicing in His glory. Death for the Christian is not isolation, but a glorious reunion. The believer enters "the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem" where the saints and angels dwell. (Hebrews 12:22-23) There we shall sit with the redeemed of all ages, and together sing the song of the Lamb.

*My point here is when any minister takes on a doctrine that there is no way to prove any happening in the future, before it happens and makes it at best a guess or a hope so.*

*Jerusalem today is the topic of a lot of sermons, and I believe that in God’s eyes it is desolate and what God now point to is the New Jerusalem.*

MATTHEW 23:

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

*The only place you can give physical Jerusalem is the place Paul gave.*

GALATIANS 4

24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is **Agar**.

25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

**Gree**k: 28 Hagar {ag'-ar} Hagar meaning "flight", Abraham's concubine. An Egyptian woman,

**Hebrew** 1904 Hagar {haw-gawr'} Sarah's Egyptian slave girl, Abraham's concubine, Ishmael's mother

*Hagar could not bring the promised son to Abraham.*

*Notice Christ prophesy.*

LUKE 13:

33 Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem.

REVELATION 11:

3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

4 **These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks** standing before the God of the earth.

5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

*The two olive trees where in the Old Testament.*

ZECHARIAH 4:

11 Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?

12 And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?

13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

14 Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

*I know Moses could by the authority given turn water into blood*

*And Elijah could by the same authority stop rain and bring a drought*.

*I will not speculate when this takes place or has already happened at least not right now.*

*Israel has in reality two separate fulfilling of prophecy. One Spiritual one physical.*

*The New Jerusalem is a Spiritual fulfilment and doing the 1000-year reign with Christ will be the physical fulfilment.*

JEREMIAH 30:

3 For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

*Israel is a nation by name, but they do not possess all the land God has given but they must to fulfil prophecy, and they will in the reign with Christ for a thousand years I believe.*

AMOS 9:

10 All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us.

11 In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this.

JEREMIAH 3

16 And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more.

17 At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.

JEREMIAH 31:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

*That is fulfilled spiritually now.*

ACTS 15:

14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

HEBREWS 8:

13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

*The only covenant or promise to Israel is the same one all have now*.

*Let’s look at the heavenly Jerusalem.*

REVELATION 21:

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

REVELATION 21

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

*I won’t go into detail on the symbol that represent the work of Christ and the things that represent the people of this city, and the city is only represented by the people that live there.*

JOHN 14:

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my **Father's house** are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

 3438 mone {mon-ay'} a staying, abiding, dwelling, abode; to make an (one's) abode

I TIMOTHY 3:

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself **in the house of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

*He prepared a place for us by His suffering, death and resurrection.*

ROMANS 5:

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

JOHN 14:

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

*I believe according to scripture every born-again person is now in the presence of Jesus Christ.*

MATTHEW 18

20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

JOHN 14:

4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

*Less go back to that heavenly city.*

REVELATION 21

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

I CORINTHIANS 3:

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you??

II CORINTHIANS 6:

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

REVELATION 21

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

*There will be other people, nations there beside the bride which is the New Jerusalem.*

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

**27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

*In the new heavens and earth there will be righteousness.*

II PETER 3:

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

REVELATION 21:

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

*The entrance to New Jerusalem is not in the future but now.*

REVELATION 22:

14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

HEBREWS 12:

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

[*Young's Literal Translation*](https://biblehub.com/ylt/hebrews/12.htm) *But, ye came to Mount Zion, and to a city of the living God, to the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of messengers,*



*We enter in and become a part of Heavenly Jerusalem when we become Christians’.*

II CORINTHIANS 4:

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

HEBREWS 12:

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

*By these scriptures we know where the spirit of just men goes not only to God, but they are a part of New Jerusalem.*

REVELATION 6:

9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

*Under the altar to me would mean a sacrifice was put on the altar for sin and these people are protected and preserved until resurrection and they are told to rest.*

*I believe their wait ends at the sixth seal which by scripture will be the coming of Jesus Christ.*

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

*I believe the altar we partake of is through the death of Jesus Christ.*

HEBREWS 13:

10 We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.

*This group of souls were a special group that had given their lives for Christ it does not mean that is all that is there, but these were the ones that died for Christ.*

REVELATION 20:

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

*Every overcomer will have a part in judgement this puts the souls in the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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Lord, empty me of pride, of self-reliance, and of any thought that I can stand before You in my own merit. Make me ever more poor in spirit, that I may be rich in Christ. Thank You that the kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who realize that they are undeserving, ill-deserving, and Hell-deserving sinners. Keep me humble before You, and let my heart always rest in the sufficiency of Your grace.

                                                                                    **Arthur Pink**

## **GOD'S PEOPLE ARE BLESSED ABOVE ALL PEOPLE**

*“Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance”* **(Psalm 89:15).**

This Psalm declares in such a plain and powerful way all the covenant promises made with the Lord Jesus Christ that are eternal and certain (Psa. 89:3, 28, 34, 37). Many commentators of scripture have called this Psalm, "The glorious covenant Psalm" and truly it is. We read about covenant mercies, covenant faithfulness of the Surety, the covenant God Who rules overall and the promise to the covenant seed being established forever in Christ Jesus (Psa. 89:4,29,36). He is a covenant God, therefore His covenant people must be blessed (Eph. 1:3). God gives us this glorious description of His people in verses 15, 16, 17 of this Psalm.

**1).** They know the joyful sound of the gospel. The sheep of Christ know the effectual voice of the Great Shepherd and they delight to follow Him (John 10:27-30). It is the sound of victory over sin through His blood. It is the sound of love, peace and pardon in and through Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:6).

**2)**. They shall walk in the light of His countenance. Their darkened heart has been illuminated through the preaching of the gospel and the quickening of the Holy Spirit to see the beauty, glory and necessity of their great Redeemer and King (2 Cor. 4:6). Christ is our Light (John 8:12; 9:5).

**3)**. They shall rejoice in His name all the day. Believers have every reason to rejoice in Christ alone and have no confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3:3). They have been redeemed, justified and exalted in His name (Eph. 2:4-6).

**4).**They shall be exalted in His righteousness. The perfect righteousness that Jesus Christ worked out for His elect has been freely, eternally and fully imputed to them that believe (Rom. 4:6). Christ Jesus is the Lord our Righteousness (Jer. 23:5; Phil. 3:7-9); He delivered us from sin and misery to all grace and glory. From the gutter-most sin to the uttermost salvation (Heb. 7:25).

**5).** The Lord Jesus Christ is our glory and strength. Without Him we can do nothing and know nothing (John 15:5). Any spiritual strength or spiritual knowledge that we enjoy and experience, must be because of His grace worked within us (Phil. 1:6; 2:13; 4:13).

**6).** The Lord is our defense. We are unable to defend ourselves against our spiritual enemies, there are too many of them and they are too powerful for us even to begin to fight. However, our Lord stood face to face with all our enemies and won the glorious victory for us (Psa. 98:1). He defeated sin by making atonement for it (Heb. 9:26). He honored the law for us (Gal. 3:13). He defeated Satan by crushing his dominion and power (Heb. 2:14). He defeated death by raising Himself from the dead (Rev. 1:18). Tom Harding

*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.”* **(2 Peter 3:18).**

As God's people grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ, our prayers change! There is more praise and less petition; more gratitude and less “give me;” more thanksgiving and fewer requests. I believe this is a sign of spiritual maturity.

Psalm 103 is an example of this. Most agree that David wrote the Psalm in his later years; for there is a clear sense of the FRAILTY OF THIS LIFE, there is a KEENER AWARE­NESS OF SIN, and there is a HIGH PRIORITY PLACED ON MERCY AND FORGIVENESS! As far as I can tell, NOT ONE PETITION NOR REQUEST occurs throughout the entire Psalm. The psalmist, David, kneels in adoration and praises the Lord Himself.

Let us learn from this. It is possible to be taken up with blessings, gifts, and benefits and fail to praise, thank, and rejoice in THE LORD HIMSELF! (1 Thes. 5:16-18).

**Henry T. Mahan**

**IT PASSES KNOWLEDGE**

*“And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”* (Ephesians 3:19).

When I consider the broadness of my sins, I see the broadness of the love of Christ which spreads out to cover them all. When I consider how long I have been sinning against God, I see the length of the love of Christ reaching beyond the length of them all. When I consider the depths of my sin, I see the depths of the love of Christ underneath my soul, holding me up. When I think that my sins have reach into heaven, I see the height of my Lord’s love that reaches above my sins. Oh, the breath, length, depth, and height of the love of Christ my Savior to my poor soul - it passes knowledge.

**Pastor Bruce Crabtree**

## **THE GOSPEL PROCLAIMED** (Galatians 1:3-5).

"*They are called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that HE MIGHT BE GLORIFIED"* (Isaiah 61:3).

1. TREES ARE PLANTED BY SOMEONE. These trees of righteousness are "*the planting of the Lord.*" Christ said, "*Every plant which my Father hath not planted shall be rooted up*" (Matt. 15:13).

2. TREES WHICH LIVE HAVE THEIR ROOTS IN WATER. These trees of righteousness have their roots in Christ, "the living water." "*I will give you living water*," our Lord said (John 4:10).

3. TREES WHICH GOD PLANTS BEAR FRUIT. "*He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit*" (John 15:5). That fruit is the fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, humility, and temperance.

4. TREES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS NEVER WITHER AND DIE. How could He be glorified if His vineyard died or brought forth no fruit? No! "*He bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper*" (Psalm 1:3).  **Henry T. Mahan (bulletin**