

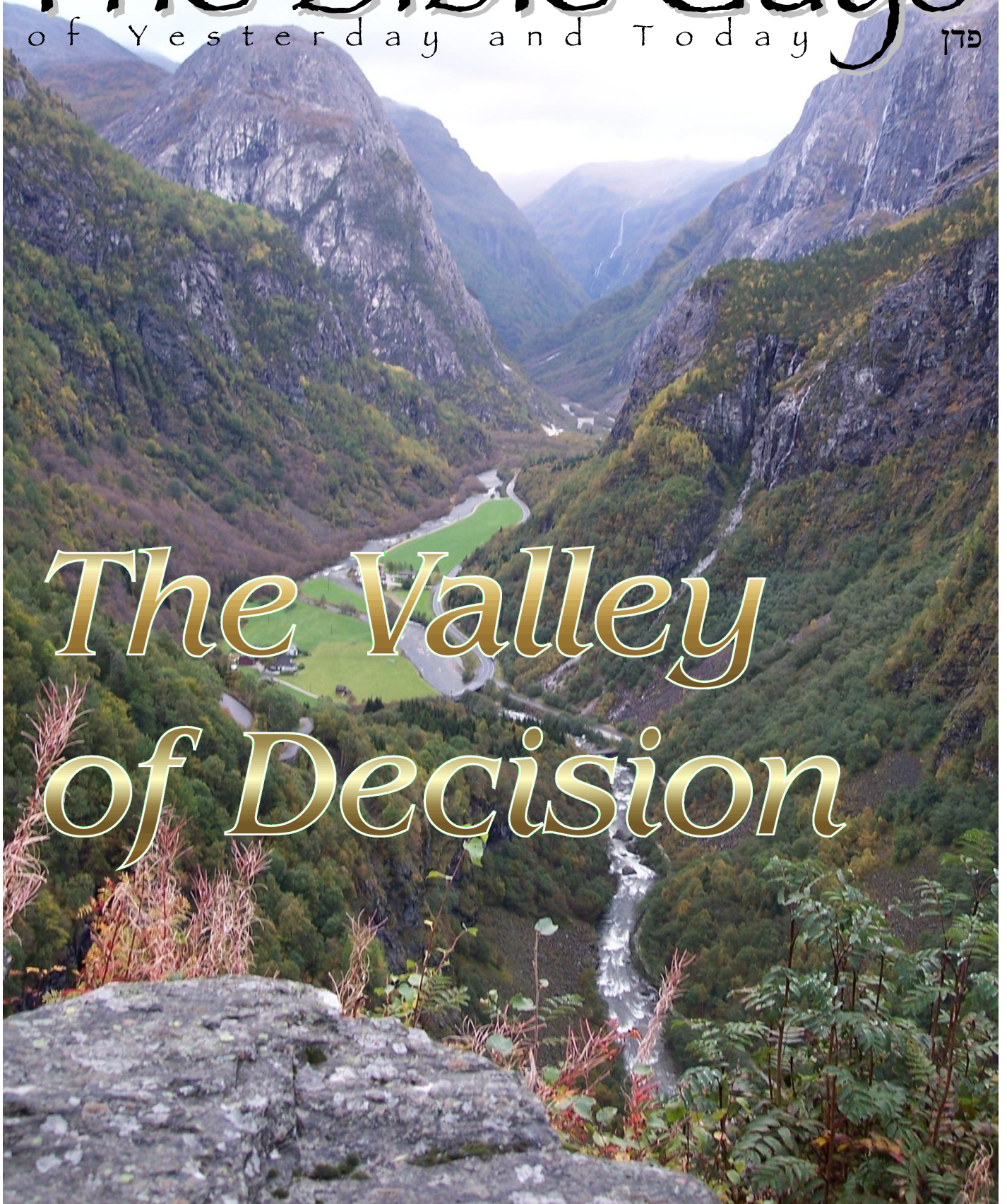
The Bible Guys

of Yesterday and Today

April 2009

175

The Valley of Decision



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The Bible Guys is a complimentary, monthly publication of



The People of Truth
A Holy Nation

From the Editor

By David M. McNabb


As of about a year ago, several of us had already moved to Paden, Oklahoma at the word of the Lord. Here, God had provided us a house of worship, as well as houses and employment opportunities as we needed them. We quickly settled in and became accustomed to the slower pace, compared to the hustle and bustle of city life. The blessings of the Lord greatly multiplied to us, and we praised Him every step of the way for His presence, guidance, and comfort.

While finding the area to be a wonderful place to live, we also fell in love with the people of Paden and the surrounding areas. Many here have gone out of their way to make us feel welcome, and to include us in this tight-knit community. Paden, in particular, is much like a big family. In fact, many of the residents here are related to each other in one way or another. But even though we were transplanted into the town, we still were made to feel like an integral part of it.

This month, our community – our Paden family – was faced with the tragic death of 20-year-old A.J. Lee due to an automobile accident. While we newcomers did not know him, we shared the feeling of loss as the town grieved. Our hearts and prayers go out to A.J.'s family and friends, and to the community of which we are a part, and which has become a part of us.

One man's sin brought death upon all of us. From that day until now, mankind is engaged in a war against the enemy called death. It is the way of all men, and while we struggle to delay it, nothing can prevent it. Yet while this month brought us the grief that comes with the passing of a loved one (and no doubt to many others who suffered loss this month as well), this month was also a time of remembrance and celebration.

Whereas by one man's disobedience, sin passed on all men, and death by sin, so also, through the obedience of one man – our Lord Jesus Christ – has righteousness passed on all those who believe. No longer does sin reign over us unto death, but (if we will believe in our hearts in the great sacrifice of the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world, and repent of our sins) grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord! Praise be to His holy name!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:3-5). Hallelujah! 

THE BACK PEW - Jeff LARSON

I feel like God is so distant, and why are you standing clear across the room when I'm telling you this?!



James 4:8 Come near to God, and he will come near to you.

**You are welcome to come
and fellowship with us!**

Prayer Daily at 9:00 a.m.
Sun. Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Thurs. Worship 7:00 p.m.
Sat. Night Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

The People of Truth
705 S. Cedar St., Paden OK

The Valley of Decision

By C. Elden McNabb

Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, *wake up the mighty men*, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: *beat your plowshares into swords*, and *your pruning hooks into spears*: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD.

Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: *then shall Jerusalem be holy*, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more (Joel 3:9-17).

This is a very comprehensive prophecy, and daunting to try to explain. Yet it is one of the most important prophecies for those of us who have managed to live unto these final days of the Grace Age.

It begins with a call to the champions of Christianity to wake up to what God is doing, and begin to prepare for the impending, fierce attack which will be brought against us as we approach the momentous advent of the coming of our Lord. It is the “midnight cry” of Matthew 25:1-13. The disciples of Jesus asked Him, “When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, *and of the end of the world*” (Matt. 24:1-3. As in the days of Noah, 2 Peter 3:6).

In Matthew 25, Jesus told them that, at the end of the world, all of Christianity would fall into a deep sleep, and that a cry would be made “at midnight” to arouse the “Mighty men of

Christianity,” and begin to prepare them for the coming battle which will be engaged before “The Bridegroom” shall come. We must get hold of God with our Bibles open, and find out what He is doing, and what we can do to prepare to meet the Bridegroom.

A series of traumatic events is in store for an unsuspecting Christian community. Gentile Christianity must hear “the midnight cry” of Matthew 25, and awake, and be gathered together, and be judged (although not yet punished). He called it the Valley of Jehoshaphat, the “valley of judgment.” We will also go through another, inescapable challenge in another valley, “The Valley of Decision” (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43). We will all be given the opportunity to trust in Jesus for every aspect of our lives, or to put our trust in the government of the world. The prophecy is very clear; we will experience that valley when “The day of the LORD is near.”

When the prophet said that “*The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining*,” he meant that the gospel message of redemption will cease to be preached before the glory of the coming of our King shall be seen. Iniquity abounds and the love of many has already waxed cold. Many ministers shall withdraw out of fear of persecution, others will withdraw because their source of money has dried up. Then there are those men and women of God who wisely see the change of the time, and are beginning to seek God for understanding of the message of this time, and of the “Day of the Lord.”

It will be an event reminiscent of the event spoken of in Acts 4:31-33. From the beginning of the ministry of John the Baptist, until that glorious manifestation of the presence of God, the primary message of the ministers of God was, “Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand.” But that day, the emphasis changed, because those noble saints had entered into a new era in which they needed to be prepared for the inevitable death of the saints, even death by martyrdom. The light of the “gospel of regeneration” did not become dim, or go out, but the entrance of a new element in the development of the Christian era required a change of emphasis in the overall message.

However, in this case, the prophet has told us that, just before the coming of “the day of the Lord’s wrath,” the light of “Redemption and Regeneration” will go out completely, and be replaced by the light of “Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him.” She that is “spiritually called Jerusalem:” the Bride the Lamb’s Wife must make herself ready before the Bridegroom comes (Rev. 19:7). “Then shall Jerusalem be holy,” as Joel the prophet declared (Joel 3:17; Rev. 21:1-11).

All of the ministers of our Lord and Savior must shake themselves out of the sleep which we have been in for so many years, and begin to preach the coming of our King. We have been working a spiritual work of “plowing and pruning,” but the time has come for God’s army to come together “in the unity of the faith,” and fulfill the prophecy of Joel 3:1-13.

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but the war must be engaged, and that without political power, or the power of any carnal weapons. We will not, however, be able to do it by any means unless we “all come in the unity of the faith,” as Paul said in Ephesians 4.

Even as I write, the enemies of God are preparing for the destruction of Christianity from off the face of the earth. It is lamp-trimming time. It is time to beat (our) plowshares into spiritual swords, and (our) pruning hooks into spiritual spears. We must be able to say ‘no’ to the enemy, and to know when to do it. Did not the Lord say, “Who is a chosen man that I may appoint over her? for who is like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who is that shepherd that will stand before me?” (Jer. 49:19 and Jer. 50:44)? Jeremiah made the same assertion twice, in those two chapters, to emphasize the fact that God would indeed reveal to His messenger the time of the coming of our King.

When Israel came out of Egypt “a nation, great, and mighty, and populous,” they eventually took the land of promise *with their swords and spears*. Later, when the Grace Age was ushered in by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the time changed and the battle became a spiritual one. When that happened, Christianity fulfilled Isaiah 2:4, and “beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Those

apostles and prophets became “husbandmen” for the Lord. Since then, Christianity has had great effect around the world without using coercion.

When the temple was destroyed in A.D. 70, all that was left of “Israel” was “Spiritual Israel:” those born again, born of the Spirit.

Almost 2,000 years have passed since that great day, and the time has changed once again. In the last three or four decades, there has been a great effort exerted, by the enemies of truth, to prevent anything deeper than “Jesus saves” from being preached. Also, in the background, the “Antichristian” religions of the world have been forcing their doctrine – their religions – upon the whole world by the threat of imprisonment, or even death.

The time has now come for Christians to learn enough of the Bible to be able to withstand the enemy’s assault, with truth and faith. I do not know what our “Den of lions” or our “Furnace of fire” will be, but I know that the “Powers that be” have set September/October of 2010 for the transition into the World Government.

We cannot – we will not – foolishly try to resist the world powers with our own wisdom, or our own carnal strength. We must find out from the Word of God what must be done to survive, and be “alive and remain” unto the coming of our King. Joel said, “Wake up the mighty men.” What do these men look like? Who are they? Once in a while I hear a faint voice on the radio, or the television, or the internet, but it is high time for men, like the apostle Apollos, who are mighty in the Scriptures, to rise up in fervency of spirit to begin to seek out men of like passions, and, together, humbly ask the question, “What shall we do that we might work the works of God?” (John 6:28).

God had anticipated all of these things, and is now preparing for the fulfillment of Ezekiel 20:33-38. God is allowing the enemy to prepare an assault upon Christianity which will shake us loose from our smug confidence in “our religion.”

Ezekiel prophesied saying, “As I live saith the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: and I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of

the countries wherein ye are scattered, and there will I plead with you face to face.”

God will soon allow something very frightening to occur in the land which will scare the children of God into making an effort toward finding the truth, and pleasing God. Fear of God, and of the prevailing events, will make us willing to “pass under the rod,” and be brought “into the bond of the covenant.”

With great expectation, we anticipate the day when the Lutherans, the Presbyterians, the Episcopalians, the Baptists, the Methodists, the Holiness, the Pentecostals, and all of the rest, will overcome their prejudices, and with unfeigned love of God, and love of the brethren, unite together in those things which pertain to the redemption of mankind, and forebear one another in those things which pertain to the conscience only.

Only then will we be allowed to go in unto the marriage of the Lamb. 📖

King David’s 3-D Army

By David M. McNabb

Military might is the pride of a nation. Many nations often put their armed forces on display in the form of grand parades, as has been seen in film footage from China, the former Soviet Union, Korea, and many others. The United States’ military, too, has a proud tradition. America claims the status of “super-power” primarily because of its military strength.

The formation and maintenance of the armed forces was one of primary roles as laid out in the U.S. Constitution, as well as a primary purpose for American tax dollars. Article I Section 8 of the Constitution states, “The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States ... To raise and support Armies ... To provide and maintain a Navy; To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces; To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions; To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia,

and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress...”

At the time of the formation of the United States of America, two great super-powers ruled large portions of the world both on land and sea: Great Britain and Spain. Their military prowess, their tactics, and their dominance were indisputable. The founders knew that a strong army and a strong navy would be absolutely necessary for this new country’s preservation. Of course, no constitutional provision was made for an air force, because that technology could not even be imagined.

As the 20th century began, the Wright brothers made the first controlled, powered and sustained heavier-than-air human flight, and the militaries of the world at once set forth to add this new, third dimension to warfare.

By World War I, military use of aircraft was emerging as a viable and effective form of warfare, and the great potential was just beginning to be seen. Though still in its infancy, as it were, air warfare in World War I saw the use of Zeppelins and airplanes, and introduced the art of dog fighting, of which the legendary exploits of Manfred von Richthofen, the German flying ace better known as the Red Baron, are indelibly inked into the pages of history.

Over the past century, military air technology, while not replacing the need for a strong army and navy, has proven to be an equally essential dimension in modern warfare.

The Scriptures are full of mighty military leaders. Great men and women like Abraham, Joshua, Gideon, and Deborah led their forces to great military victories. One such hero was David, the son of Jesse.

As a young man, he tended the flocks of his father, and defended the sheep against threats, killing both a lion and a bear to protect the sheep in his charge. When he was sent by his father to visit his brothers who were serving in the army, he found the army of Israel cowering in fear before the champion of the Philistine army: Goliath of Gath. He volunteered to answer the enemy’s challenge, and confront him on the battlefield. “And David said unto Saul,

Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine" (1 Sam. 17:34-37).

When David stood before the giant, he told him, "This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands" (1 Sam. 17:46-47).

God gave David and the army of Israel the victory that day as a result of David's attitude. The women of Israel sang songs of his exploits, and he became a famous general. But his fame led to Saul's distrust of him, and made him a virtual enemy of the state. For the remainder of Saul's life, David was forced to hide from Saul, and defend himself against the constant attempts to take his life.

This rift between Saul, the king of Israel, and David, anointed to be king by Samuel after Saul was rejected by God, caused the people of Israel to choose sides. It was time for David to prepare himself to lay hold on his own prophetic destiny.

In 1 Samuel 22, David retreated to the cave Adullam, where his brothers, proven soldiers, joined him. That is good, because any general knows that he needs to surround himself with experience and strength. Saul, commanding the full force of the Israelite army, had made himself David's enemy. David needed to amass his own three-dimensional army. David, however, knew that the battle was not his, but the Lord's, and God's idea of a formida-

ble fighting force may defy conventional wisdom.

So, what was the 3-D army that David raised, and which he would lead to victory after victory, and, ultimately, to the throne of the kingdom of God? "David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him. And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men" (1 Sam. 22:1-2).


David was looking for a few good men. Who answered his call? Those that were in **distress**, in **debt**, and **discontented!** While it does not sound like what we might call "Israel's finest," it was what God provided to the man after his own heart. Why? Because David, alone, would care for these outcasts of Israel as he had for his father's flocks. David did not reject or refuse this rag-tag bunch, but embraced them and gave them a home, a job, and a hope. And why not? It is not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit that the enemies of God stumble before the Lord's host!

When Jesus, the son of David, came, who was drawn to His message? Was it the religious champions of His day, the Pharisees and the Sadducees? No. It was the distressed, discontented and indebted outcasts of the society. It was the blind, the lame, the deaf and the dumb. It was those possessed with unclean spirits. It was the poor and the sinner.

God never changes. James said, "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" (James 2:5).

Today, God is again preparing a people for His name. Again, God is raising up an army of laborers in His field. You can turn on the television or listen to the radio, and see and hear today's great champions of Christianity. But shall not this same Lord, who chose the 3-D army of David over the host of Saul, and who came to preach to the outcasts as recorded by the Gospel writers, do the same in our day?

I say unto you, "YES!" The words of Jesus ring true throughout the ages, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:25-28). "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

Let us not, then, look for God's champions through the eyes of man, but through the eyes of God, who regardeth not the rich more than the poor, for they are all the work of His hands. Amen. 

Where does God dwell?

By Joel McNabb

David had fought all his battles and was finally at peace. Now, this shepherd boy who became king of Israel had a great desire to build the God of Israel a house. After all, he lived in a house, and he thought that God should have one too. Is it possible for the God of creation to have a need for a place to dwell here on earth? Is not heaven where God dwells and even rests? God is in heaven on His throne, and has all the host of heaven around Him. They are His wife: Heavenly Jerusalem, the mother of us all (Gal.4:26).

If God dwells in heaven and has a need for a place here on earth, what is it, where is it, and are we able to see it? Most Christians today believe that the building where they assemble is the place where God's home is. That is true, if it is a place where His Spirit can come and abide with those saints that worship Him. As David said, "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel" (Psa. 22:3). Maybe all of us who are believers have heard the words of Jesus, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20). The Spirit of God was sent by Jesus after He ascended to the right hand of

God and gave gifts to men. Now, when we worship and God acknowledges our worship, He sends His Spirit. We feel His presence, and God dwells with us, as he inhabits our praises.

God called Abraham out from his father's house, and made a covenant with him that He would make him a great nation. When the famine came to the land in the days of Joseph, God told Jacob that he was the heir to that promise, saying, "I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation" (Gen. 46:3). Our Lord sent Moses into Egypt to bring a nation out from another nation (Deut.4:34). And Israel came out of Egypt "a nation, great, mighty, and populous" (Deut. 26:5).

God had a desire to have a people for His name, among whom He would dwell. After the I Am had destroyed Pharaoh and the nation of Egypt, He gave Moses His laws and the pattern of a place where He would come and dwell among men. "According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it" (Ex. 25:9). God showed Moses a pattern of the place where He dwelt in heaven: His throne.

The Apostle Paul said that the law was a shadow of good things to come. That means that all the things, the tabernacle and the things in the tabernacle, were not the real thing, but a shadow, an example, of how God does things and will always do things. I work in construction, and there is always a blue print for the building that we are going to construct. Many of these prints go into great details, and you can see that it is well thought out. It may be years in the planning process, before the building is actually built. Then you have to sign all the contracts, and the building has to be built according to the prints. God did the same thing with Moses: before the foundations of the world, God made His plans and blue prints. Now it had come time to set it up and build it.

If the tabernacle is a pattern or blue print of where God dwells, we should at least know how it is made and what is in it. After all, it is a diagram of what God has in heaven. A tabernacle is a tent – a temporary dwelling. The children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years, as nomads, having

doubted that God was able to give them the land of promise.

The tabernacle had two major parts: the holy place and the most holy place. The most holy place, or holy of holies, was in the holy place – a tent inside of a tent. This tent was ten feet by ten feet, in which the Ark of the Covenant was to be placed, and this is the place where God dwelt with His people.

The holy place is God's throne on earth. It is from here that God conducts His business when He comes to earth. The Ark of the Covenant is His throne, and it has a seat on it. It was basically a box in which the law of God, the Ten Commandments, was placed. Exodus 25:10-21 describes the Ark: it was a box built of shittim wood, 2 ½ cubits long (about three feet), 1 ½ cubits high and wide (about two feet), and covered with gold inside and out. It had four rings in each corner into which the priests put rods in order to carry the Ark. On top of the Ark was placed a lid of pure gold: the mercy seat. On the mercy seat were two cherubims, all of gold, beaten out of one piece of gold. With one on each end, they faced each other, and with their wings stretched on high, they covered the mercy seat.

There is so much more detail that was in the tabernacle. This is but a taste of what the tabernacle was like, and all of the things in the tabernacle are important, revealing something about God and His throne. I want you to see that it is where God sits and dwells, here on earth. "And when Moses was gone into the tabernacle of the congregation to speak with him, then he heard the voice of one speaking unto him from off the mercy seat that was upon the ark of testimony, from between the two cherubims: and he spake unto him" (Num. 7:89). Wherever the Ark of the Lord is – whether in the temporary tabernacle, or the more permanent house that King Solomon built – that is where He dwells. "And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of

Israel" (Ex. 25:22). (See also 1 Sam. 4:4 & 2 Sam. 6:2.)

And that brings me back where I started, with David's desire to build God a house that God said that he was not to build, but his son Solomon would build. Before David was king of Israel, in the days of Eli the priest of the Lord, the Ark was stolen from Israel by the Philistines. They took it to the city of Ashdod and placed it in the house of their god, Dagon. Every morning, when they went into the temple of Dagon, their god was found on the floor face down before the Ark. When God smote them with hemorrhoids, they finally got the point and sent the Ark of the Lord, with gifts, back to Israel.

Israel had problems also when it was brought back, because they had worshipped the gods of that land and had forgotten the Lord who had delivered them out of bondage. Samuel the prophet told them to put away the strange gods and prepare their hearts unto the Lord. For twenty years, the Ark of God was in the house of a man named Abinadab, and he sanctified his son Eleazar to keep the ark; and all the house of Israel was in mourning to the Lord.

The Ark of God is mentioned once more before David became King, when the first king of Israel, Saul, tried to use it in battle. After that, we do not hear anything of the Ark until King David had taken Jebus and built Jerusalem (Zion, the city of God). In 2 Sam. 6, we see him wanting to bring the Ark from Abinadab's house in Gibeah to Jerusalem.

Remember, it had been in his house for twenty years, and it looks as though they forgot God's law for carrying the Ark. Instead of being borne by priests, it was placed on a new cart pulled by oxen. When the cart shook a little, one of David's men put his hand on the Ark, trying to keep it from falling. God was angry and smote Uzzah, and he died. This upset King David, and he took the Ark to the house of Obbedom until he received an answer from God. While the Ark was there, God blessed Obbedom and all his household.

After three months, King David went and got the Ark. He took with him the priests that were supposed to bare the Ark with its staves, and there was great joy on the way to Jerusalem. With great joy David and those who were with him danced and sang before the Ark of the Lord; with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. David danced with all his might, so much that his wife thought he had made a fool of himself. He told her that he did not care how foolish he looked if he was giving glory in welcoming God's throne to Jerusalem, where the Lord could dwell among men again. In 2 Sam.6:17, they put the Ark of the Lord in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it, and King David offered burnt offerings before the Lord and had a great feast with the people. All was well now that God's throne, the mercy seat, was in Jerusalem.


Jesus said that all of the Old Testament was prophecy (Matt. 11:13). David and all that he did serves to prophesy of what is going to happen. Most Christians today could quote Isa.9:6-7, especially around Dec. 24th and 25th. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." This is, of course, spoken of Jesus, the fulfillment of the promise of God to David. As Peter preached on the day the Holy Ghost fell, "God had sworn with an oath to [David], that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne" (Acts 2:30).



It is commonly taught among Christians today that Jesus is coming to take us to Heaven. Heaven is where God's throne is and where he dwells. Jesus is there, sitting at His right hand, until the time of restitution of all things (Acts 3:19-21). God will send Jesus, Emmanuel, back to earth to sit on his throne, answering the prayer our Lord taught us, that His kingdom should come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus will have a throne like His Father's in Heaven. "And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness" (Isa 16:5). What did we discover was in the tabernacle that David pitched? That is right: the Ark of the Lord, with the mercy seat, and the two cherubims that overshadowed it. That is where Jesus will sit with His two witnesses on His right and left side.

As David had great joy as the trumpet sounded, and the Ark was placed in the tent he set, when the tabernacle of David that is fallen down is rebuilt, we too will be glad and rejoice that there is a place that Jesus can come to and dwell among men again, not as Lamb this time, but as King of kings and Lord of lords. Even those that pierced Him will be raised to see Him sit as King of the whole earth.

The Bible says that the tabernacle of David will be built again, and all the Gentiles on whom His name is called will seek after the Lord. Knowing that the tabernacle of David was also a shadow of good things to come, and having the promise that it will be built in the last days, we need to look around and see if we can find something like that being done, so that, when Jesus comes to it, we will be there and be a part of it. I want to do my part in ushering in that kingdom. I hope that you will join me in seeing that God's will be done on this earth.

The Lord bless you and give you understanding. Amen. 

Testimony Time

By David Allen

In 1976, life seemed great: I had a good paying job, a wife and two children, a house, a new car, and money in the bank, and I was in my last year of college on my way to earning an Associates' degree.

Then, in December of that year, it all fell apart. I was drinking too much, and my wife was seeing another man.

A Catholic at the time, I went to the midnight mass on Christmas Eve. I waited in the pew after the service to talk to a priest, for what seemed like forever. I don't remember very much of the conversation because of my condition, but I do recall him saying to go home, and that everything would be all right in the morning. I replied that my problem was at home.

Things deteriorated rapidly over the next few months. Even though I was working and going to school full time to help better myself and my family, it was all disappearing. I turned to "getting high" so I wouldn't have to face reality. I don't even remember my last semester of college, but I graduated with honors anyway in May of '77. I remember walking across campus and seeing one of my professors who thought I would have been on cloud nine. My answer to her was something to the affect that I felt sad, alone, and lost.

Life worsened over the next few months. I considered suicide. The only question in my mind then was "how?" How can I do this and not make it look like a suicide? The answer was to have an accident in my pickup truck, and I knew the best place for it: a huge oak tree on this one curve in the city. As I approached that tree, I had my hand on the wheel of the truck, ready to turn into the tree when a voice spoke to me. "Knowing your dumb luck, you'll be crippled instead of being killed!" In that instant I could see myself in a

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cast from head to toe, not being able to move, and knowing I would be spending the rest of my life just like that. Well, that's not what I wanted. I wanted to end it all, not wind up like that!

I hung on for a few more weeks. Then I made the most important phone call of my life. A friend of mine suggested I call this other acquaintance that could get me a more economical car to drive. (Child support was killing me too). As it turned out, Bob was a Christian. Of course, I didn't know what that meant, but I let him talk. He invited me to come to church with him. I told him, "Why not, it can't hurt." Nothing could hurt me at that point in my life.

I went to a service in a home with Bob that Sunday. The group was called "The Kingdom of God" (later renamed "The People of Truth"). Strange name, but so what, they can't hurt me. I don't remember what was preached, and I don't recall ever feeling so much love at any time in my life. I could not explain it, I just felt it. That feeling grew within me over the next several weeks. Bob moved on. I felt like an abandoned baby, but I felt loved!

I continued to worship with these saints, and there was something there that I had never experienced before. One Sunday, someone asked me how long I was saved. I couldn't answer

him because I didn't know what it meant yet. No one ever pressured me to do anything. I was accepted as I was, and allowed to worship together with them, no strings attached. I would come to learn what it meant: all I had to do was to ask God for forgiveness of my sins and believe that Jesus was the Son of God. If I did that, God would forgive me and lift the burden of sin off of me.


One evening at my parents' home where I had been staying, I did just that. Nothing seemed to happen right away, although I did feel better about myself. Sunday morning, sometime during the sermon, I realized that something was missing. I couldn't put my finger on it immediately, but something was definitely missing. Then it hit me: the burden was missing! The weight of sin that I

had been carrying was lifted. I had felt like Atlas holding the world on his shoulders, but God had lifted that world off of my shoulders. I was saved! Born again! I was made a new creature in Christ Jesus! He was now my Lord and Savior, and I knew it for a fact!

My problems did not disappear that day. My wife still divorced me, but the burden of it all was easier as I had help carrying it. I saw the hand of God on many occasions since that day, working things out in ways I could not have dreamed were possible. I was not made perfect that day, but I was given the means to head in that direction.

I have had ups and downs in my life, but through it all, God has always been there. All I had to do was repent and God was there to lift me up. He is a kind and loving father! I don't feel that I can ever give God enough praise for what He has done in my life, but I am going to try!

God gave me life twice. The first time was when I was born of my mother and breathed the breath of life. The second time was when I was born of God and He breathed into me His spirit and, as it is written in 1 Peter 1:23, I became born again "not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

God has given many this wonderful gift and a second chance to do it right. Because of this "we also should walk in newness of life." Praise His name!! 

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