



# *The Eagle*

Jan-Feb-Mar 2016

Number I

A PUBLICATION OF TOLBERT MOORE MINISTRIES, INC.

Called to Preach the Gospel—Baptist by Conviction

**What will he face  
in 2016?**





Number I—2016

## THE EAGLE

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Dear Eagle Readers, Friends, and Supporters,

A new year, new opportunities, new challenges, new experiences: proving victory in Jesus!

As we face the new year, we hope to win more souls to Christ to increase the spiritual Kingdom of Christ. You may wish to be a part of an assembly as a servant of Christ. You may be called to work in a field that has no assembly to serve Christ. God is the same. Christ is still the Saviour. The Holy Spirit is still the Guide and Enabler for the ministry of Christ. Christ is the Head of the assembly, no matter what you call it.

Churches are both good and bad. Some are drifting away from the cardinal truths of Scripture. Some have *church* religion: as the Catholic believes the church should be believed and followed more than the Bible. Many are staying true to Christ and His Word. The Baptists have always had divisions about almost everything: which translation, which music, the order of service, culture.

All claim Jesus as Saviour, thank the Lord! "...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." Hebrews 12:1-2.

Let us strive to be true to our Lord and each other.

God bless all.

In His Grip,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tolbert Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Tolbert Moore, Editor

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# Are You Spiritually Healthy?

by Dr. Tolbert Moore

**I** am finding out that I don't think like other people.

I had a question come to my mind. I thought, When Adam and Eve sinned and death was pronounced, why didn't God just kill them then? Why didn't He just do away with them and start over? He didn't, but he gave them a covering.

Then later on, wickedness had become so widespread that God said in Genesis 6:5-8, *And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*

So, here again, He did not destroy all of them. He did, sort of, start over. I don't know that Noah was a whole lot better than the rest of them

because as soon as he got out of the ark he got drunk.

Then He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, but He delivered just Lot. Peter said in 2 Peter 2:6-7, *And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked. . . .*

So why does God keep on keeping on? I want to deal with that a little bit this morning.

First I want to call your attention to a Scripture in Exodus 34:5-6, *And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.*

In this Scripture, they are exiting, leaving the slavery they had endured for nearly 400 years, so God is **longsuffering**.

A verse in Psalm 86:15 says, *But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and*

*gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*

In the apostle Peter's writings, let's read 2 Peter 3:15, *And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you.*

God is longsuffering. That is why God has not destroyed mankind. That is why you and I are alive. The wages of sin is death. I know I have sinned more than once, but God has not killed me, even though the wages of sin is death. I am 86 years old now, so it's too late for me to die young.

Peter said the **longsuffering** of God is salvation. What does he mean "salvation"? Well, one of the meanings of salvation is health, and I am sure it has reference to spiritual health. Three things keep you from having good, spiritual health, and I am glad there is a remedy for each of them.

## **GUILT—**

One of the things that keeps you from having good, spiritual health is guilt. Guilt is powerful. People commit suicide

Three things keep you from having good, spiritual health, and I am glad there is a remedy for each of them.

One of the things that keeps you from having good, spiritual health is guilt.

**We need to get rid of our guilt by confessing our sins.**

because of guilt, because of failure. Our government wants to make you feel guilty if you have a nice home and do well financially while your neighbor is poor. All of my neighbors are probably more wealthy than I am, so I don't have that problem. If my neighbor was poor, I wouldn't feel any guilt about it because I have worked for what I have. My father-in-law and my wife's family worked for what she inherited, and I worked for what I have. My dad made a lot of money, but he gave it all away. I am trying not to do that.

How do we get rid of guilt? Let us look at Romans 6:23, *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* How do we get rid of guilt? Well, first, admit your sin, confess it, quit denying it, and quit trying to cover it up. You may not be like me, but I will deny it until the last pea in the dish and finally admit it when you bring enough evidence.

Sometimes I feel guilty for not doing something. Brother Jim Buechler (a 92-year-old, faithful member of Galilean Baptist Church) is not here this morning. He is in Oklahoma, but when he is not here I feel guilty because I did not go see him in the last week. That kind of guilt is good because it motivates me to do better.

Suffering with guilt keeps you from having a healthy attitude and spirit. We need to get rid of our guilt by confessing our sins.

#### **DOUBT—**

Another thing that keeps you from having good, spiritual health is doubt. You doubt the reality of God or the Word of God. You might think, "I am above that."

Well, Thomas was one of the twelve, and he had doubts. Turn to John 20:24-25, *But Thomas, one of the twelve, called*


*Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.* Thomas wanted to see for himself. I am a little bit like that, aren't you? I want to find out for myself if it is real or not.

When I was under conviction to be saved, I didn't know if it was all real. My mom and dad would talk about it. My dad had been called to preach, and I was about 11 years old when he started. When I was 12, I was under strong conviction. I was a bad boy. I doubted the reality until it became real to me that morning when I called on Jesus to save me.

Some of you in the congregation this morning may doubt it. Why would you doubt it? You doubt because you haven't experienced it. If you ever have that experience, you won't doubt. If Christ Jesus ever illuminates your mind, comes into your heart, changes you from nature to grace, I will guarantee you, you will know it is real. If you don't know it is real, it hasn't happened. Don't doubt it. You will be miserable like Thomas was. It is real.

They are attacking Christianity now because they doubt the reality. They don't like it when you disagree with the current liberalism and socialism. They don't like it when you won't back away from calling sin what it is—sin. I believe the Bible. I believe homosexuality is a sin, and I believe it


**I doubted the reality until it became real to me that morning when I called on Jesus to save me.**



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can be forgiven and corrected. I believe the love of God reaches out to them for that reason. What bothers me is that neither crowd is trying to help them. One crowd is yelling all the time, "They are going to Hell."

Another crowd is saying, "No, you are a bigot. They are all right. They are normal."

They are not normal, but God will forgive them. I know two who have been changed.

Should I love an atheist? Of course, I should. If he dies an unbeliever, he is going to Hell. I am not mad at him. I am sorry for him. The Bible says in 2 Thessalonians 2:12, *That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.* If you doubt the reality and truth of God, it is because you have not experienced it.

#### FEAR—

One other thing that keeps you from having good, spiritual health is fear. You know the truth, but you are afraid to stand for it. Ah, you don't think you would be afraid to stand up for the truth? Consider Peter. He was always the leading apostle, but on the night of Jesus' trial, just before they would take Him to the cross of Calvary, Peter denied that he knew Him. Why? He was afraid. He was scared to stand for what he knew was the truth. He had already confessed Jesus Christ as the Son of God. He knew Jesus was the Messiah, but because of fear, he denied he knew Him.

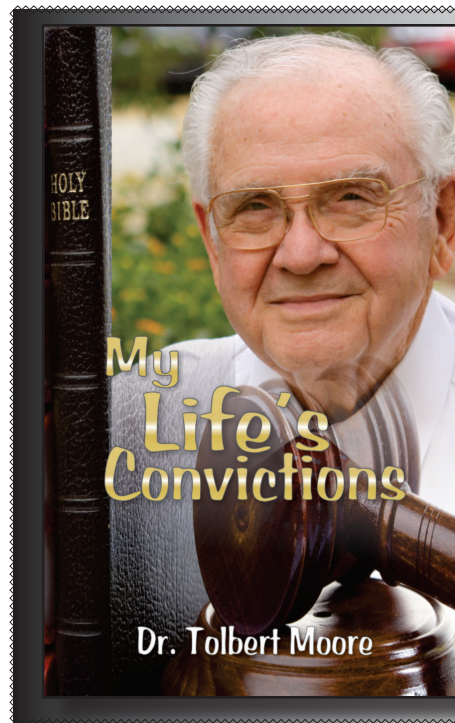
Some people today, who know the truth, won't confess it because of political correctness. Read the Bible. Prove it to yourself. Believe it, and stand on it.

My grandma used to say, "Stand for what is right if it takes the hair and the hide." Don't be afraid to tell the truth because the truth will make you free. People who have fear about life, about taking a stand, about their

Some people today, who know the truth, won't confess it because of political correctness.

When you get sick, you become more protective of yourself. You are more selfish.

My point is that if you are not healthy, spiritually, it's not good for you, your family, or your friends.



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positions, are never healthy.

Let's review. If you have guilt over unconfessed sin, you are not healthy. If you have doubts, you are not healthy. You can't really be happy. If you have fear, you will not be happy or healthy.

Think about this now.

**What is the result of not being healthy?** Survival, self-preservation, is the first law of nature. Is that right? When you get sick, you become more protective of yourself. You are more selfish.

I am that way. When I get really sick, without any energy, maybe I'm nauseated,

I don't want my sister Dovie, who lives with me, bothering me about anything. "Stay in your room and watch your television," is what I want to say to her. I am selfish.

My point is that if you are not healthy, spiritually, it's not good for you, your family, or your friends. If you are spiritually unhealthy, you will be selfish.

However, if you are feeling good and healthy, it's totally different. When I wake up in the morning, my eyes pop open, and I feel like jumping out of the

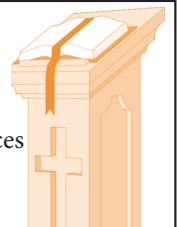


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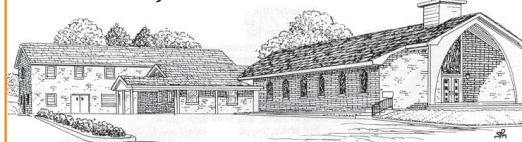
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I am going to get in my Bible and get rid of that doubt because the answer is in there somewhere.

bed, getting me a cup of coffee, and watching the sun rise. Oh, how good I feel! Dovie can ask me anything! Are you with me?

If you are spiritually unhealthy, you are not good company, just like when you have the flu. If you are lying in bed with a fever of 102 degrees and can't stand to eat anything, you don't want anybody asking you what to do about this, that, or the other. "Just do it," you moan. Amen.

I want to be spiritually healthy. If I am guilty, I am going to repent and ask the Lord to forgive me. If I have sinned against somebody or have hurt them, I am going to ask them to forgive me, sit down with them, and get it right. I want to be happy, and I can't be happy if I feel guilty.

If I doubt anything that concerns the Kingdom of God, I am going to get in my Bible and get rid of that doubt because the answer is in there somewhere. Of course, I don't know where it is. If I did, I wouldn't be in doubt, so I am going to dig until I get rid of my doubt. When I get it right with God, I am not afraid or scared. I don't worry.

My brother Preston told this on himself. I can repeat what he said. He stole a jack knife when he was a young boy. When he got home with it, he did not know what to do with it. He was afraid Mom or Dad would find out he had it. If they did, they would know he had stolen it. So he put it in the back of the dresser drawer and covered it up with clothes. He went out in the barn to do something and then thought, "Mama goes through those drawers every once in a while," so he went back in and got it. Then he went in the kitchen and hid it in the wood box. When he got out in the yard, he thought, "Daddy goes through that wood box every morning when he starts the fire."

If you are guilty, you are going to be scared. If you have stolen something, you are going to be scared.

## Billy Sampson, Missionary Evangelist with *The Gospel Preacher Association*



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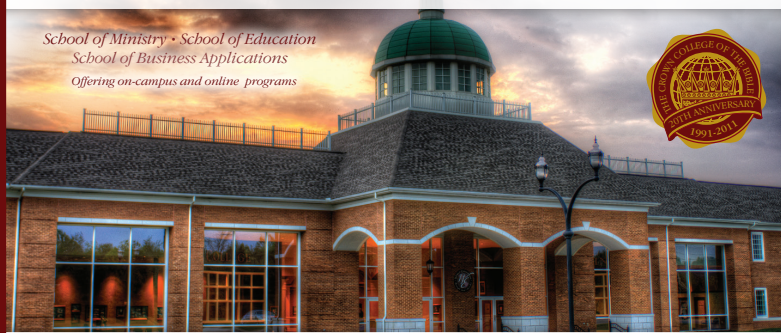
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He went back in and got it out of the wood box. Finally, he just took it back where he got it.

If you are guilty, you are going to be scared. If you have stolen something, you are going to be scared. But the longsuffering of God, the grace of God, the love of God lets us keep living by applying His formula and lets us be happy.

I am very happy this morning. I got up and forgave everybody for everything.

I asked forgiveness for everything I have ever done. I think I confessed some things I did not do. I want to be clear. I don't want to come to the pulpit with anything in my heart that will cause me to be biased or one-sided.

Praise God for the grace of God, for the **longsuffering** of God. We are here because of the **longsuffering** of God. Praise His Holy Name. How is your spiritual health today? ✠



# João & Maria Accept Christ

by **Sheri Edwards**  
**GPA Missionary in Brazil**



I believe yesterday registers as one of my most favorite days in the ministry. The storms and flooding in Lages were, in a word, crazy. All day the rain and hail fell. As Mark and I prepared to leave the farm, I began praying that God would protect us on the dangerous highway we had to travel, through nasty weather, to get into the city. I put on my boots so I could open the gates in the mud as we left, and I wondered if people would actually show up.

We began getting messages from people who were cancelling because of the rain. Streets were impassable in some areas, and they literally could not leave their houses. Others were just scared of not being able to make it home.

In the end, we picked up one lady, Tere, from work and headed up the hill to João and Maria's house. As we pulled up,

João came out the side door with a huge grin on his face. They were so happy because he and his wife thought no one would come because of the storm. They ushered us into their spotless house where a pot of water heated on the little stove for coffee. We chatted and sang for a bit around the dining room table before Mark prayed. We explained to them that the series of studies would be over the next few months and what they could expect.

Then I don't quite know how to explain the shift that occurred in the room. Mark and I are saved, so I knew God had come inside with us, but all of a sudden, it was as if His presence was heavy in the room. Normally we see people make a decision for Christ after about six weeks of studying the Bible and answering questions. It just takes time for them to realize

that everything they have been taught since childhood about the saints and Mary is not able to save them. But João and Maria have been coming to every service of our church for months, and they have been putting two and two together. Maria doesn't read, so she hung on to every word that Mark read from the Bible. It was precious.

After talking about what salvation truly is about, Mark posed the question to this dear couple if they were certain of their personal salvation. Each responded that they were preparing themselves for Heaven. Maria said that she always thought everyone else was a sinner, but since coming to church and listening to the sermons, she realized she was a sinner, and she was trying to get better.

Mark explained that God loved us each singularly so much that He paid the price for those sins and freely offered us a way to spend eternity with Him. Questions arose and Mark took them through the Scripture showing what Christ had done and what He could do for them. I sat on my little, wooden chair and watched intently as these two people leaned in and figured out that God loves them. I couldn't control the tears that were welling up in my eyes, and I rapidly blinked them away.

Mark paused and looked them each in the face for a moment before telling them

*It just takes time for them to realize that everything they have been taught since childhood about the saints and Mary is not able to save them.*

*I sat on my little, wooden chair and watched intently as these two people leaned in and figured out that God loves them.*

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**Dr. Gary Moore, Pastor**

that they could actually call on God for salvation right then if they so desired. A hush settled across the room, and I saw a battle going on in João's mind. He said, "Pastor, I am not ready."

Maria, however, was bobbing her head up and down and said, "I want to. I want Jesus." We bowed our heads and Maria took my hand. I listened as she told God she knew she was a sinner and had no other means of salvation but Him! She gently asked Him if He would save her. I could no longer hold my tears back. Her whole body was shaking as she said, "Amen." Sister Tere was on the other side, and we stood and embraced as sisters for the first time.

João sat there and waited, and then he said, "Pastor, Jesus has touched my heart. I want Him too!" So we all bowed again and listened as he called on Christ to save him. I don't think I have ever witnessed a sweeter salvation moment. When he finished, he asked if he could hug his wife. I grabbed my phone and snapped a picture.

They wanted to mark the moment and take pictures with us as well. So, here are two of your newest siblings in Christ. You may not ever meet them here, but you will recognize them in glory one day. This is

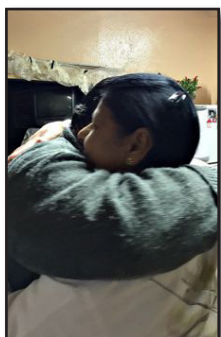
what missions is all about—people—souls—the Gospel!

Mark and I are thankful for each of you who pray for us. After the study something wonderful happened. We broke out singing "To God Be the Glory" in Portuguese. João and Maria sang along with us since they have learned it well at church. João said that there is something about hymns that he likes. He said, "I have tried other churches, but it seems the music is rock music and is so loud that I never could enjoy it." He asked us if we had any hymns for him to play at his house because he wanted good music. I pulled out my phone and began playing "Because He Lives," and we began singing it as well. Then



he got his Bible and asked Mark where to read. It is an old, small-print Bible. He said he needed to get glasses so he could see the words, but he wants to read. He was hungry for more of God from the moment he got saved.

Since Marie can't read, we are hunting a set of CD's of the Bible for her and are going to purchase a large-print Bible for João. I believe it will register with them that their adult children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren are all in need of salvation, so they need to be equipped with the Sword. I will enjoy watching this couple grow in grace and share their testimony. What a wonderful God we serve. Rejoice with Heaven today for these two souls! ✠

Maria, however, was bobbing her head up and down and said, "I want to. I want Jesus."



He was hungry for more of God from the moment he got saved.

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# In Times Like These, We Need Our Saviour

Preamble by **Susan Lee Lutz**

**In these days** it seems like there is trouble, all kinds of sickness, and suffering on every hand. We are encouraged when we read in the Bible: “. . . with God all things are possible,” and we know and want His perfect will. We pray without doubting and watch while some of His most faithful servants struggle with staggering trials that break our hearts as we beg God for His touch and intervention in each case.

I recently read the following article which caused me to look a little harder as I pray and trust God for those I love. It challenged me to watch for His moving and intervention as He accomplishes His will His way in spite of the circumstances.

Excerpt from *Bible Cameos* by Dr. Ivor Powell

## Mary of Bethany . . . and the eclipse in her soul (John 11:20)

**T**his is one of the most human stories of the Bible, and its counterparts may be found in every city of the world. Tragedy has lain bare the noble soul of Mary of Bethany, for two crushing blows have fallen upon her. Her brother has died; and *Jesus of Nazareth has failed her*. “Now a certain man named Lazarus was sick. . . . Therefore his sisters sent unto Jesus, saying, Lord, behold he whom thou lovest is sick.” And with that statement went the hopes and prayers of two sincere hearts.

### *The Strange Delay*

“When Jesus had heard therefore that Lazarus was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.” The messenger was permitted to return alone, and the apparent indifference of the Saviour surely dealt a most painful blow to those who anxiously awaited His coming. When Lazarus

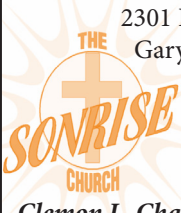
died, the grief of his sisters was greatly intensified—Jesus had failed them. To them, His action seemed both heartless and inexcusable. Each time Mary considered the problem, the tendency to grow bitter increased in her soul. Perhaps only the people who have similarly suffered will appreciate her anguish. The problems of sickness and suffering are ever before us; but when eager, anxious prayers remain unanswered, even the strongest faith can be shaken. The Lord Jesus deliberately stayed away, and in her acute disappointment Mary forgot to consider that His action might have been dictated by wisdom.

### *The Suggestive Delay*

“Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judæa again. . . . Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: *but Mary sat still in the house.*” Why did she linger at home? Her sister went to meet the Lord, and the entire world knows of the confession that soon fell from her lips. But when Jesus asked about Mary, Martha had to explain the cause of her sister’s absence. And is it not most significant how Jesus abruptly discontinued his walk toward the beloved home? When Mary eventually came to Him, “Jesus was not yet come into the town, *but was in that place where Martha met him*” (v. 30). He commissioned Martha to carry His message: “The Master is come, and calleth for thee.” Why did He not accompany Martha, and so save time? The Lord Jesus was very wise. The raising of Lazarus would not be as difficult as the healing

When Lazarus died, the grief of his sisters was greatly intensified—Jesus had failed them.

The problems of sickness and suffering are ever before us; but when eager, anxious prayers remain unanswered, even the strongest faith can be shaken.



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of a wounded soul. Was Mary a little bitter? Was she still hurt because Christ had failed to respond in the hour of her greatest need? The new delay, the delay in Christ's entry into the town, is most suggestive. When Mary heard that Jesus was calling for her, her great love swept aside all hindrances, and she arose and came quickly.

### *The Sublime Delay*

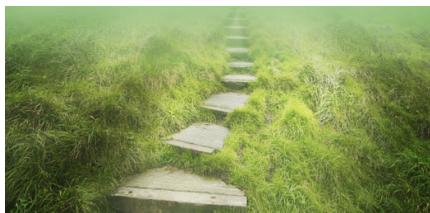
And when Jesus came to the tomb, "He lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me." The prayer of the Saviour was all-embracing. The vision of man might have been limited to the tomb, and the possibility of a miracle; He looked beyond, to the transformation taking place in the hearts of His followers. Until that day He had been to the Bethany family a friend, and a possible Messiah; but Martha had now exclaimed, "Yea, Lord, I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world." Some day, Lazarus will die again; but if Jesus be the Son of God, new meaning would be

found in His message, "Let not your heart be troubled . . . I go to prepare a place for you . . . that where I am there ye may be also." The victory won in their souls that day far exceeded the triumph obtained at the tomb. It was for this reason that Christ delayed His response to the sisters' prayer. Had He immediately responded, they would have lost their greatest blessing. The eclipse was but a shadow, it passed away, and Mary's path to the sunshine was clearly revealed. *She heard* (v. 29); *she came* (v. 32); *she saw* (v. 32); *she fell at His feet* (v. 32).

Her pathway has never become overgrown. It remains open for all weary travellers.

*It is my prayer that the pathway of our walk by faith will never become overgrown, and our lives can remain open for the weary travellers who come into our lives along the way.* ✠

—Sue Lutz



**The victory won in their souls that day far exceeded the triumph obtained at the tomb.**

**The eclipse was but a shadow, it passed away, and Mary's path to the sunshine was clearly revealed.**

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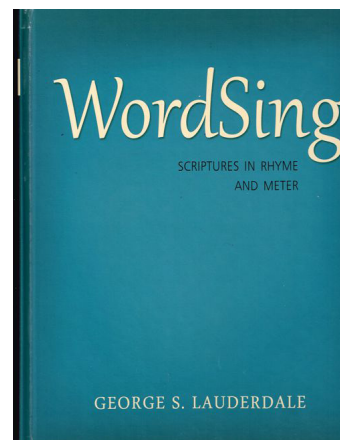


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The purpose of the section entitled The Eagle's Claw is to seek out different views and exposition of passages dealing with the subject at hand. Spiritual things are always mysterious to the carnal mind or natural man (I Corinthians 2:14-3:1, John 3:3-7).

The claw of the eagle picks up a live rabbit (or animal), slices it, and then absorbs it. We want to delve into God's Word, rightly divide it, and then absorb it to strengthen our faith.

To dig into the depth of the Word as Hebrews 5:11-14 says, we may find that some things are *above our pay grade*!

I think we all agree the Kingdom of Heaven is a spiritual kingdom. I hope to learn with all who are always seeking truth!

by Dr. Tolbert Moore



## Concerning the Kingdom

*"Another parable spake he unto them: The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened,"*  
*Matthew 13:33.*

## "Mustard Seed and Leaven"

(Taken from *Explore the Book* by J. Sidlow Baxter)

The third and fourth parables (mustard seed and leaven) both illustrate the present hiddenness but ultimate greatness of the kingdom. How gifted expositors can turn our Lord's lovely picture of the full-grown mustard tree into the "unsubstantial growth" of the kingdom in supposed "mystery-form" (see Scofield note) and then teach (as some do) that the

"birds of the air" which gratefully "lodge in its branches" are false teachers and hypocrites who exploit the kingdom in its "mystery-form," is a sad wonder to our own mind.

It is even sadder that although our Lord so clearly says, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven," they should insist that the kingdom is *not* the leaven but the meal, and the

leaven false doctrine. The Scofield note not only explains the leaven as "the principle of corruption" or "evil doctrine" but even identifies the woman in the parable as the "apostate church"!

Is it not pathetic how prepossession with theories can lead well-meaning expositors astray! Because Scripture elsewhere uses leaven unfavourably in a symbolic sense, is it unthinkable that our Lord should here use it in a *good* sense? Adam is used both as an evil type and as a type of Christ. In Revelation xvii. a woman symbolises a vast evil; yet in chapter xii. a woman represents the covenant people. In Matthew xiii. "fowls" illustrate Satanic activity, yet in chapter vi. 26 and many other places they are referred to in the happiest ways. Why, even the serpent, repeatedly used in an evil sense, and as a name for Satan, is also used as a type of our Lord (see John iii. 14). In Numbers vi. we find that when a man undertook

Is it not pathetic how prepossession with theories can lead well-meaning expositors astray!



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a Nazarite vow, anything “made from the vine tree, from the kernel even to the husk” was defilement to him; yet how often elsewhere is the vine used in a *good* sense! (John xv., etc.). Even so, leaven was used in every household; and our Lord, who loved to take the common things of home and nature for His illustrations, found in it just the illustration for His purpose.

Whatever may be said against leaven, there is no getting over our Lord’s own word: “The kingdom of heaven is *like unto* leaven.” In the mustard seed and the leaven—the one buried in the ground yet eventually a great tree, the other hidden in the meal yet eventually filling the whole, our Lord surely pictures the then-rejected kingdom as similarly being now hidden, or removed from view, but at last reappearing in greatness all-pervading. Instead of some supposed “mystery-form” of the kingdom now on earth, let it be realised that there is a present suspension, and that when our Lord returns all these parables will suddenly “come alive” with new activity again and be seen in their true fulfilment. ✠

**In the mustard seed and the leaven—the one buried in the ground yet eventually a great tree, the other hidden in the meal yet eventually filling the whole, our Lord surely pictures the then-rejected kingdom as similarly being now hidden, or removed from view, but at last reappearing in greatness all-pervading.**

***Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. Psalms 149:1***



## The Heavenly or Spiritual Realm

Written by Dele Oke

***“Praise be to the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight,” Ephesians 1:3-4 (NIV).***

**T**he spiritual realm is as real as the natural realm. In fact, the spiritual realm determines what takes place in the natural realm.

God has blessed us in the heavenly realm with every spiritual blessing in Christ. When Jesus died and rose again, He appeared to His disciples and then ascended up into Heaven (Acts 1:9-11).

Although the location of Heaven is up high above the earth, its operation is all over the earth and in our hearts.

Once you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, Jesus came to live in your heart. Heaven is in your heart. You have access to the heavenly realm through Christ Jesus (Colossians 1:27, Colossians 3:3-4, Colossians 1:12-14).

The heavenly realm is where God has His provision. To receive from the heavenly realm we need to reach out in faith and take it.

Reaching out in faith is not believing for something that does not exist, but rather

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receiving something that God has already made available in the spiritual realm and bringing it into our natural realm.

Our salvation is a beautiful example. We received the salvation of Jesus by faith and became children of God (John 1:12-13). Our faith reached out to take something that already existed in the spiritual realm. Jesus has already died for us. That is a truth.

But except a person reaches out by faith and receives Jesus into his or her heart the salvation of Jesus (which although invisible to the natural eye) already available will not benefit that person.

"The spiritual realm is a real world, invisible to the natural eye but visible to the eye of faith."

Several examples of people reaching out or seeing things in the spiritual realm exist in the Bible.

➤ **1. Elijah and the widow (I Kings 17:7-15)**

Read the whole of this story. Notice that God had

commanded (or made provision) for the widow to take care of Elijah. The widow was not even aware of this. Elijah had to tell her. The widow obeyed Elijah and the jar of flour was not used up or did the oil run out. Elijah's faith was reaching out to receive God's provision in the heavenly or spiritual realm and bringing it into the natural realm.

➤ **2. Elisha and his servant (II Kings 6:8-17)**

Read the whole story. Here again we see Elisha's servant's eyes of faith opened in answer to Elisha's prayer. He saw God's provision in the spiritual realm.

➤ **3. Jesus feeds 5,000 (Matthew 14:15-21, Luke 9:12-17)**

Jesus feeds over 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Any guesses about how these few items of food were enough to feed all the people.

➤ **4. Ten lepers healed (Luke 17:11-19)**

Jesus sent ten lepers to go and show themselves to the high priest, an act of faith. Can

you imagine what would have happened if the ten lepers had turned up in the high priest's office without being healed?

Jesus, as ever, was aware that the lepers' healing was already a done and concluded thing. As they went by faith to the high priest, they received their healing, which had already been made provision for in the spiritual realm, into their natural bodies.

The last example shows how our faith will work more effectively when we have a clear understanding of the spiritual realm.

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." This is what the ancients were commanded for in Hebrews 11:1-2.

We are able to be sure of what we hope for when we realise it already exists with God in the spiritual realm. The promises of God make us aware of what God has provided for us. We need to study the Bible in order to increase our faith and have a better understanding of what God has made available for us in the spiritual realm. ✠

Reaching out in faith is not believing for something that does not exist, but rather receiving something that God has already made available in the spiritual realm and bringing it into our natural realm.



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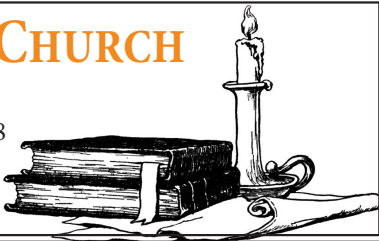
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# The Kingdom . . .

## Part 1

### The Kingdom and the Church

by Dr. Tolbert Moore



If you are not  
born again,  
you can still be  
in the church.  
If you are not  
born again,  
you can work  
in the church.

There are those who say the Kingdom is the church or the church is the Kingdom. I want to read some Scripture and get this thing right. In the Gospel of Matthew, there's a lot of talk about the Kingdom of God and some about the church.

The Bible says in Matthew 3:1-3, *"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."*

Then we hear the Lord as He gave the parables in Matthew 13:10-12, *"And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath."* Jesus was saying, I am speaking in parables because they don't understand the Kingdom of Heaven, and even though I give them the illustration, they still don't know the Kingdom of Heaven.

Is the church  
the Kingdom?  
No. Is the  
Kingdom the  
church? No.  
They are part  
of each other.

Again in Matthew 18:1-3, *"At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."*

Now, go to the Gospel of John, chapter 3, verse 3. Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus. *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

Now, we have just been reading in Matthew about being converted and becoming as a little child. Maybe that is the same as being born again, so that you can see or enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

In John 3:5, *"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*

Matthew uses the term Kingdom of Heaven. John says Kingdom of God.

Jesus said to them in John 18:36, *"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: . . ."*

Earlier in the Gospel of John, chapter 17, verse 14, Jesus said, *"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they*

*are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."*

So His Kingdom is not of this world. You may or may not see it. You may see it and not understand it or perceive it.

The same is not true with the church because you can see the church. Whether you are saved or not, you can see the church. **Do we say the church is in the Kingdom or the Kingdom is in the church?** Well, I think both. Of course, the church is the congregation (that is the correct word). No matter what you call it, whether you say the church, the bride, or the building, it is still a congregation.

So the congregation is part of the Kingdom of Heaven. If you are not born again, you can still be in the church. If you are not born again, you can work in the church. If you **are** born again, you are part of the Kingdom even though you may not be working in the church or with the church.

With the church, as it is in the world, you have the good seed and the bad seed, because the church is in the world. Is the church the Kingdom? No. Is the Kingdom the church? No. They are part of each other.

As I said, if you are born again, you can see the Kingdom. If you are born again, you can enter and serve in the Kingdom.



Now, there is no doubt that there are people who are saved, born again, who do not work or serve in the Kingdom. They may go to church and be served (the pastor may serve them or other members of the body of Christ may serve them).

The Kingdom is comprised of born again, converted people. The Kingdom can be part of the church or the church can be part of the Kingdom. I hope you understand what I am saying. I hope you have enlightenment about this.

What I want to say, to write, today is the Kingdom of Heaven is a mystery. That means you don't see or understand it. You certainly can't see it with your physical eyes. You don't enter it by physical means. Now, eventually the Kingdom will be seen by the physical eye when Christ comes back because He will establish the Kingdom as a kingdom.

It will not be just the Kingdom of Israel. Israel has had their kingdom with more than one king. Israel had

their glorious day. Jesus will come back, sit on the throne of David, and from Jerusalem rule the world. He will have His workers, His angels, as well as His servants, but there will be Gentiles there.

I will talk about the Gentiles in another article, but I want to say that the Gentiles are the majority of the Kingdom now. The majority of the people who make up the body of Christ today are Gentiles, but, of course, when they are born again the Bible says they are circumcised in heart and the middle wall of petition is broken down. The Gentile and the Jew are the same because they are neither Gentile nor Jew. They are people of God. They are part of the family of God. They are part of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, the Kingdom of God.

Now, as I said, it has good seed and bad seed. It has good fish and bad fish. It has sheep and goats. It has children of God and hypocrites in the church. The key to being invisible is that you cannot observe

(or know, or see) who is in the Kingdom unless you are born again. Wherever you are, if you are born again, and you are part of an assembly and it is called a church, you are part of the family of God. If you are born again and are not part of an assembly, you are still part of the family of God and can work in the Kingdom.

Now, as I said, I believe there are saved people, born-again people who are out of the will of God, so they may not be serving. They are still saved, and they will come before the Lord at the proper time and answer for that.

One more thing I want to say about the church. Jesus Christ in Matthew 16:13-18, *"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

Now the word that translates *church* in that passage has been translated from *ecclesia*. It translates *assembly* or *called out people*, *called of the Lord to meet*, *to gather*, *His congregation*. It may be called a church, but it is a congregation. He said He is building it. It is referred to in Hebrews as the general assembly of the called of God.

Please read this prayerfully and check the Scriptures to see if I am telling you the truth. ✚

The Kingdom is comprised of born again, converted people.

The majority of the people who make up the body of Christ today are Gentiles, but, of course, when they are born again the Bible says they are circumcised in heart and the middle wall of petition is broken down.



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# The Gospel Preacher Association Missionary Journal

*"As an eagle stirreth up her nest..." Deut. 32:11*

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## How Far— Is Too Far?

by **Dr. Gary S. Moore**

**I**t was a cold winter day, and I had made the trip to a nearby hospital to sit with a family while the husband/father was having a rather long surgery. I was very pleased to sit with this committed Christian family, and many had gathered to support and comfort the wife. One daughter and her family were missing from the gathering. She and her family were missionaries serving in Africa and found it impossible to return for her father's surgery. At one point in the day as I was sitting in the waiting room with the other daughter who was able to be there, I asked how her sister's family was adjusting to their African home. She responded that she couldn't believe how foolish they

were to take their two small children and carry them away to such a remote part of the earth. She then proceeded to explain to me how she had pleaded with them not to go and how her concerns were never even considered as they simply said that they were sure God was leading them to this work of bringing the Gospel to this part of the world.

This is not the only story I could tell of parents, brothers, sisters, friends, and even pastors who have stepped in to try and stop young, dedicated men and women from following God's call into missions. Some were successful. Many who were not are now bitter toward those who preach missions and fill their loved ones with

crazy notions of "reaching a lost world for Christ." As one pastor in London once said to me, "You don't really believe that Jesus wanted us to try and change the world, do you?"

Let's face it. Most Christians in the western world are of the opinion that if God wants to save the world then He will do it without our help.

It is true that we live in a dangerous world and that a sacrifice of great measure might be required to leave family and homeland to reach out to the world of ruined people, broken governments, and desperate poverty. Some think that if God allowed us to be born into families of comfort here in the United States, then we





India



Philippines

should be grateful and seek to further our own interest and the wellbeing of our families. Many would say, “God is a great God, and He doesn’t need us to move thousands of miles away to minister to people we don’t know in a culture we can’t fully understand.”

Well then, let’s consider for a moment what Jesus SAID concerning missions. He gave us the Great Commission, not once, but five different times. The rendering in Mark’s Gospel states, “...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” That sounds to me like Jesus expected His disciples to go quite a long way to get the Gospel out.

Now let’s consider what Jesus DID to bring the Gospel to our world. From an eternal point of view, Jesus left Heaven, came to earth to be born in a lowly stable, lived a life of simple means, and died an exceedingly painful, humiliating death. While He was living here on earth, **how far did He go** in human form to reach those in need of grace, forgiveness, and healing? In Mark chapter four, Jesus told the disciples to pass over to the other side of the

sea. They were overwhelmed in a storm only to have Christ come to their rescue. Then in chapter five, on the other side of the sea, they were confronted with a maniac, a man living among the tombs, cutting himself with stones, and crying out with awful moans and screams.

Jesus heals this man, and cast the demons into a herd of pigs that were nearby. They were then asked to leave. So let’s

see—Jesus sailed into a storm in order to reach an unclean people, the Gentiles. Christ then entered an unclean place, a graveyard, to deal with unclean spirits and cast them into unclean animals. **This was all done to deliver one man from the power of sin.**

Christ has set the example for us to follow. Distance and culture, danger and struggle, even fear and heartache are not to keep us from reaching out to a lost world with the truth of God’s love and offer His gift of mercy to all who will

believe on His name. That is why we are not ashamed or afraid to say to all who will listen, God is calling us to preach the Gospel in all the world. We believe in missions from anywhere to everywhere. If you will stop long enough, you will hear His voice speaking to you and guiding you to a place of service.

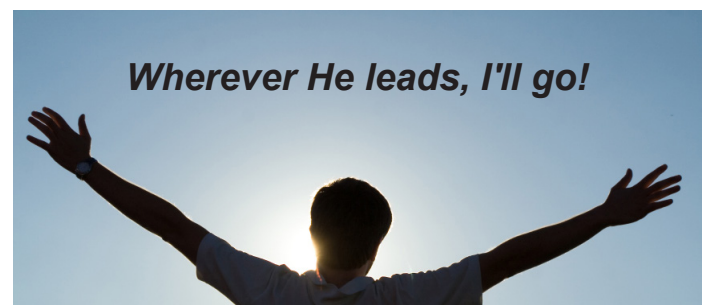
The reach of *The Gospel Preacher Association* is ever growing. We now have missionaries from the heartland of the United States to India. Some are serving in difficult and even dangerous circumstances giving their heart and life to the cause of Jesus Christ and His Gospel. We have reached farther than ever, both in distance and sacrifice, to further the message of salvation and lift up the one and only Saviour of the world. While we are seeking to reach out to a lost world, we are living in a society that cares little for commitment and sacrifice, but our calling is sure, and our mission is certain. Open your heart and let God speak to you, and I know you will find His direction in service. As we start a new year, why not let the Lord of the harvest give you a new life, a life of purpose, meaning, and power. I believe now, more than ever, it is in the service of Jesus Christ that we find peace. ☩



Panama

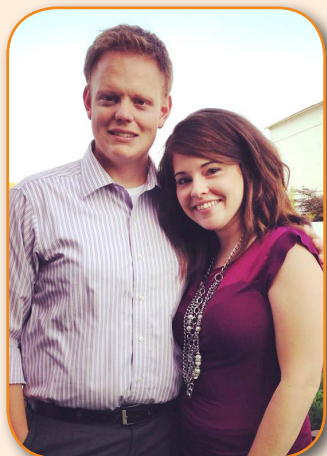


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# WHERE IS GOD CALLING YOU?



**Mikey & Anna Payne**

**O**n Saturday, November 21, 2015, Nottingham Baptist Church (Nottingham, PA) hosted a joint service with New London Baptist Church (West Grove, PA) to license Mikey Payne to the Gospel ministry. It was also a sendoff for Mikey and his wife, Anna, as we gave up this fine couple so Mikey could assume the post of Associate Pastor at New London Baptist Church.

It has been my joy to see a great number of young men and women surrender to ministry as overseas and home missionaries, church planters, youth pastors, and pastors during my twenty-one years as pastor of Nottingham Baptist Church. Lately, I have been in much prayer that we will see many more surrender as we await the return of the Lord of the harvest. I know with all my heart that God is still calling young men, women, couples, and families to His great work.

Have you ever felt the hand of God upon your life as He searched your heart and laid a burden of ministry upon you? If that is not the case, then may I humbly ask, “Have you ever taken time to listen for His call?” Perhaps it is time to “be still and know that I am God” and seriously seek the will of God for your life. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 7:23-24, “Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.” If you have felt that God has a place of ministry for you, then please consider some of the needs we have right now in the worldwide outreach of *The Gospel Preacher Association*.



**Darren & Joanna Rogers**  
Missionaries in Wales

Here are just a few  
of the areas of need  
in the mission ministry  
of the GPA

## Overseas missionary to the country of Wales:

Our ministry of church recovery needs missionary pastors to assume failing churches and bring their focus back to an outreach with the Gospel.



**Travis Sharpe ministering to the homeless in the Philippines**

## Missionary to the homeless:

Travis Sharpe and Unsheltered International have a great need for someone to work in the States as well as with nationals in the Philippines. They need assistance in this vast work of reaching the homeless population with practical help and the hope of the Gospel.



**Moisés Melendez**  
Missionary in Panama

## Overseas missionary to the Guaymies Indian Village in Panama, Central America:

Moisés Melendez is overseeing two works in Panama right now. He needs a preacher/teacher to assist him in a growing, vibrant work.



**Marc Ball**  
Missionary in Montana

## Home missionary in Montana:

Marc Ball is working as a church planter and has a great need for someone who is talented in music, visitation, and Gospel outreach.





by **Dr. Edwin G. Moore**  
European Director for the GPA



## What's Going On?

Being older gives one a different perspective on many things that may be liberating or it may be a prison. The one constant in life is change. How we view these changes will make a world of difference in our attitudes.

We have experienced rapid change in the USA in the last few years. Politicians talk about family values when, in fact, the family unit is disappearing rapidly, and values have almost disappeared. Christianity is under attack as almost never before in our lifetime. We are experiencing the rise of a one world government. In fact, the European Union is a constitutional dictatorship. We have a president in the U.S.A. who sees himself as a dictator. Our churches have become vague about salvation and other basic doctrines. In short, in my lifetime I have seen so many changes in society, government, and religion that I find it difficult to cope with it in a sane, objective way. It would drive us to distraction and despair if we permitted it.

Then I come to the Scriptures and find that I have been warned these things would occur. Luke 17:26-29 inform us that the end time will be like

the days of Noah and Lot. Genesis 4 tells us that Lamech took two wives. Tubal Cain was an instructor in brass and iron. Lamech killed a young man. Enoch was a city builder (Genesis 4:17-23), so the days of Noah were days of prosperity, city building, music, polygamy, etc. The days of Lot were also prosperous and sexual perversion abounded. Luke 17:27-28 tells us that in Noah's day, "They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage," and in Lot's day, "they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded." In other words, they had no clue that judgment was coming. Life went on without any awareness of God's impending wrath.

There was a day when an announcement that you were preaching on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ would pack the church. Now that seems to be "old hat" and not very interesting. People want "feel good" sermons such as "Your Day Is Coming" or "God Has a Miracle." They want sermons that promise prosperity. Yet, in the background, there is impending doom on the freedoms and lifestyles to which we have been accustomed. We and other nations have forsaken Israel.

There seems to be no solution. Our President recently said, "People are too narrow to run their own affairs. They need a higher power." Well, look up! Christ is coming to get His church, then to rule and reign for a thousand years!

In Matthew 24 the disciples inquired about the Lord's return to earth, and He cited events that would be prevalent before His return. The signs of the end time will be false prophets, fighting, famine, fire, fears, and faithlessness. Read them for yourself, and then you decide if those events are occurring in our day. Adding the Laodicean condition of the church, we can be encouraged that our redemption draws nigh. We may not know the day or hour, but we do know prophecy is being fulfilled before our eyes. Let us not be like those Pharisees and Sadducees who were able to discern the sky but had no clue as to the signs of the time (Matthew 16:3).

I read somewhere that we should quit looking for signs and listen for the shout. I think we should look at the signs, listen for the shout, and say, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Hallelujah, we are about to see Jesus! Hallelujah, home is in view! ✠

Life went on without any awareness of God's impending wrath.

We may not know the day or hour, but we do know prophecy is being fulfilled before our eyes.

**“As an eagle stirreth  
up her nest . . .”**

Deut. 32:11



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