

# Midnight Cry Messenger

FREELY SHARED WITH THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY FOR TRUTH — NOT TO BE SOLD

Volume LXI: Number 4

A Quarterly Publication Of Midnight Cry Ministries, Southern Pines, NC

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016

## A Time to Prepare

by Phil Enlow

*Adapted from a message preached at the Bible Tabernacle on January 3, 2016 and scheduled for the TV broadcast February 5 and 12 of 2017.*

Matt mentioned this morning that it is the New Year. And I know a lot of you, if you've paid attention to the news at all, know that the year we just came from has been kind of an unsettling one in many ways. We see — particularly God's people — beyond just the superficial, the news headlines and all those things. We see the hand of Satan at work, manipulating events, using people, pulling the strings behind movements, behind governments, simply moving us in the direction of his vision. And his vision has always been to rule over this planet

and to drive the influence of God out of it.

We see those kinds of things happening and, of course, a lot of people are reacting as Jesus said. "Men's hearts..." he said on one occasion, "...failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." (KJV). And from the things the Lord has shown us in the Word, but has also confirmed in many other ways over the years, we are heading down toward the climax of history.

We have a sense of what it's going to look like because God has been striving with man for 2,000 years. The Gospel has gone out and there has been a reaching out of God to hearts, but there's also something else that's going on. And that's when people come in contact with truth, they come in contact with God and with His effort to reach their hearts, and they put their hands up and say, "No!"

And what is the result when that happens long enough? When people say, "No," there comes a

point when God says, "All right, you can have what you want." And I believe we are seeing that more and more. And the vision of the end is going to be a time of darkness greater than this world has ever seen.

It's easy for us here in America to suppose that the way of life that we have inherited here with its freedoms, its relative prosperity, its relative peace is normal. Yes, there have been shakings here and there, but basically we have had a stable society. We suppose that this is normal and that if there's a place in the earth where Christians are being persecuted, that's the exception. That's something that's terrible. It's awful if it's happening.

The truth is, it's the other way around. What's on my mind and my heart is looking ahead. I have this sense that God wants us to be aware and ready because Christians in America are not ready for what's coming. Even for those of us who mentally know what's coming, I'll guarantee there's not a person here if we were to go around to poll people's lives and hearts, we're not ready for what's coming.

And I believe that's what's on God's heart is getting His people ready to stand for Him in an hour of darkness. So much of what's been sung has been

*Continued on Page 2*

## A Glimpse of our Destiny

by Phil Enlow

*The following is Chapter 11 from the book "Light in This Present Darkness" published in 1999.*

And His elect are not being saved and delivered from this present darkness to sit around heaven on clouds plucking harps! His purposes are much greater than that — far beyond our power to imagine!

Hebrews, chapter 2, gives us a wonderful glimpse into the purposes of God. Verses 3 and 4 refer to the greatness of our salvation and the fact that God had confirmed it through signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost. Notice that added to this is the phrase, "according to his own will." Always we see God's sovereignty lifted up!

Verse 5 begins to hint at the ultimate goal of our salvation: "For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak." Here we see that there is a world that is yet to come

and that God intends for someone to rule over it. Ruling over the world to come is not the destiny of angels. God has someone else in mind.

We know from Heb. 1:2 & 10-11 that the earth and the heavens were created by God's Son and that this creation will perish. There is a day and an hour already set on God's calendar when He will utterly destroy this sin-corrupted creation by fire. He intends to replace it with "... new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness." II Pet. 3:13. That new earth will not be empty and uninhabited: someone will be there to enjoy it!

In Heb. 2:6-8 the writer quotes from Psalm 8 where God gave David a glimpse of His purpose in creating man. Verse 7 and the first part of verse 8 get to the heart of the matter: "Thou madest him a

*Continued on Page 5*

PERIODICAL  
Postage Paid

Midnight Cry Messenger  
P.O. Box 685  
Southern Pines, NC 28388-0685

*Midnight Cry Messenger* (USPS 347-880) is published by Bible Tabernacle of US Hwy 22, North of Southern Pines, NC 28387. Periodicals Postage paid at Southern Pines NC. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Midnight Cry Messenger*, PO Box 685, Southern Pines NC 28388-0685.

**Editor: Phil Enlow**

This paper is published quarterly. USPS-347880. It is sent out free to all that request it. Its purpose is to present truth and to alert God's people to the lateness of the hour.

## Editor's Letter

Dear Saints,

Greetings once again in the wonderful name of Jesus! As usual we are a little behind. Blame it on the editor!

I was amazed recently as I was preparing the transcript of an upcoming TV broadcast for the website. Although the original message was preached at the beginning of 2016 it seemed totally appropriate for 2017 as well, particularly in light of the recent election and the inauguration of a new president.

It is always right for God's people to pray for those in authority as Paul reminds us in 1 Timothy 2:1-4. God is in charge however it may seem and His purposes will prevail.

We know from the Word where things are headed and what the end will be (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Luke 17:26-30, for example) but there are seasons along the road to that appointed end. What is God's purpose in this present season?

One thing, perhaps, needs a little clarification. The article, "A Time to Prepare," was adapted from the transcript of the broadcast. However, the broadcast did not include every last word that was uttered in the original message.

There are several references made to God working in the Middle East. Earlier in the message I had mentioned my having read Tom Doyle's book, "Killing Christians," over the Christmas holidays and what a challenge and blessing it was.

God is truly at work in places that would surprise us. We need never to forget Jesus' words in John 6:37, "All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away." No matter what the devil is allowed to do he can never prevent our Heavenly Father's plan from being fulfilled!

Continue to remember our broadcasts. The Lord has given us an outreach far out of proportion to our numbers and we humbly praise Him and desire his mercy and grace to be faithful in the task to which He has called us. Just a note: we are now on TV in the Dallas/Forth Worth, Texas area. Check

## A Time to Prepare

*Continued from Page 1*

exactly in line with what I've been feeling. God has also said, He'd never leave us or forsake us, hasn't He? Praise God!

I started to say that people of the world are really uneasy. They're beginning to realize there's no place safe. We could wake up one morning and suddenly there'd be a terrorist attack right in our midst. But I believe with all my heart that God is going to bring His people to a place where we will be able to come through whatever comes upon this world.

I have no idea about the time frame. A lot of people thought something terrible was going to happen last September. They had all the dates calculated and all hell was going to break loose.

I was walking the other day and meditating on why in the world things are going on in this country. It was 50 years ago that people were quoting the saying "If God does not judge America, He's going to have to resurrect Sodom and Gomorrah and apologize." That was 50 years ago! Look at what's going on today. We've seen judgments happen in this country, but — is that true?

When it comes to judgment on America, considering what we have had as a heritage and what the movers and shakers of our society, the ones that are driving our culture, what they're doing, the utter shaking of their fists in God's face — judgment is not a matter of *if*; judgment is simply a matter of *when*.

And I was thinking about this, and sort of musing, sort of unconsciously asking, "Lord, why? Why hasn't judgment come?" And I had this sense in

---

page 8 for the details. Also, check the website for the most up-to-date broadcast listings. We appreciate the prayers of God's people.

No matter where you are don't ever forget that you are part of something much bigger than yourself, much bigger than whatever fellowship group you may be part of. God has a remnant throughout the earth and I desire a heart that is as open as it needs to be and also as discerning as it needs to be.

We are so thankful for the Lord's continued blessing and presence in our midst. I pray that we will always be a people defined, not by walls of tradition, but by the active headship and presence of Christ. He alone has the plan and knows the way.

As we continue into another calendar year may we find grace to seize the opportunities given us and grow in the grace and knowledge as our faithful Lord leads. His promise to be with us to the end of the age still stands no matter how events unfold.

Till next time may God's rich blessings be yours.

Your brother in Christ,  
Phil Enlow

my spirit: it's a time to prepare. God is merciful to His people and He, I believe with all my heart, is seeking to work in us to help us get ready. He's not going to, all of a sudden — wham — for people that have not had an opportunity to get ready.

Sadly, I think there are going to be a lot of people that aren't ready. But I want to be one that says, "Lord, my life is not about this world. My life is about serving You. Help me to get my priorities right. Help me to understand what's going on. Help me to understand where this world is going."

Folks, if you are just living your life and thinking the world is simply going to go on, one generation will follow another, and we'll have our lives, our families, our careers. we'll go to church and participate in that, and it's basically going to go on, I think you're going to have a rude awakening at some point. It simply isn't going to happen, because this world does have a climax.

It's just like it was in the days of Noah. The people who were not tuned in to God had reached a point where, as far as they were concerned, "We're just going to eat, drink and be merry, tomorrow is going to be like today, life is good, we're just going to go on." And suddenly disaster hit them.

But, I thank God that His people are not in that place. Praise the Lord! This is something that could cause fear in a lot of us and I do not believe that's what God wants. There's no cause to be afraid, but there is a cause to wake up and realize.

I had occasion recently to watch a movie that I had picked up. It was a Christian movie that was never in the theaters, but I was curious about it. And one little incident in the movie was worth the price of the movie. And it was an observation that one character made to another who was in a weak place spiritually. And then it was followed by a question. And the observation was that a lot of people become Christians by *addition* and others by *submission*.

Those who come to Christ, supposedly at least, by addition are basically adding Jesus to their lives. But for those who come by submission it's an entirely a different thing. It becomes not your life anymore; it becomes His life. And so the young man in the story looked at the other character and simply said, "Which one are you?" And in the story, the Lord used that to convict her and bring her to a place of real submission and repentance.

I might ask that question of everybody here and everybody who may hear this. Which are you? Have you simply, at some point, added Jesus to your life? You figure, "If I just go to church and acknowledge Him and believe in Him in some sense, everything is going to be all right."

I'll tell you what, we're going to come down to

*Continued on Page 3)*



## A Time to Prepare

*Continued from Page 2*

a place where someone may hold a sword to your neck and say, "Are you a Christian?" I want to be like that one who was able to say, "Jesus, I love You, I commit myself into Your hands." She felt perfect peace in that. [This was a reference to some testimonies coming out of the Islamic world.]

I know the reaction of almost everybody would be the same as mine. I'm not like that. I'm not that strong. I couldn't do something like that. And the answer is, you're right. But the answer is that whatever God calls us to endure, whatever He calls us to go through, His enabling power will be there when we need it.

Praise God! I think I've used this example before and it was from the life of Corrie ten Boom with all that they were facing in World War II. She was talking with her father and her reaction was, "I couldn't do that. What if we're persecuted? What if we're thrown in prison for this? What if we're...?" And of course, all that happened later. But, what if? And the idea was, "I couldn't do that. I'm not strong."

And, wise man that he was, he referred to times when they had traveled somewhere by bus or train when Corrie had been a little girl. And he said, "When we traveled like that, when did I give you the ticket?" And she said, "Well, when we're ready to step on the train." And he said, "That's exactly how God will be with His people."

When you and I must step into something, when we must face something, that's when help comes. That's when God gives the grace that He has promised. There's not a person here who is able even to begin to face things that God will allow in this world and in our lives.

How many of you have been in situations in your life already? You've already tasted what I'm talking about. There are things that there was no way you could have faced. There was no way going in you could feel, "Hey, I can handle this."

You know something? We are so deluded by thinking we can do stuff. I've said it before. We have this "delusion of adequacy" (let alone, delusions of grandeur!). I'm talking about delusions that we can actually handle life and handle stuff that comes along.

But salvation is not about God simply trying to encourage us and being a cheerleader so *we* can be strong. It's about replacing all that we are with all that Christ is! It's not about gearing up your strength and your will to face something. It's about saying, "Oh God, this is completely beyond my power. I'm in the 'deep end of the pool' here and there's no possible way I can face what You've allowed to happen in my life. But Lord, I just cast it

upon You."

And we can sing about that all we want, but do you know how we learn that? Would that it were some other way, in our thinking. But there's only one way that you and I will ever learn that His grace, His strength is enough. It's when the only thing standing between us and catastrophe is His strength, when we are brought to that place where all we can do is throw up our hands and say, "Oh God, I'm helpless here."

But do you know that every aspect of salvation, every aspect of our lives is about that? I mean, there are things that the Lord is dealing with me about. Anybody else here? Yes. Areas of struggle, areas of defeat, areas of weakness.

And I have come to realize more and more that the reason that I have a problem is that *I* keep trying to fix it! That's not how it works! That's not how salvation works! It's bringing my brokenness, my weakness, my nothingness to Him, laying it at His feet and simply taking that perfect provision of the cross and the resurrection! Praise God! Anybody here know what I'm talking about in any measure at all?

But I sense, going forward, there are a lot of fearful things coming on this world. But I believe with all my heart that God is going to have a people that will be brought through. Some of them will come through by laying down their lives and getting a quick one-way ride to heaven. Praise God!

In some ways you'd almost rather! You get into a situation that's so bad, you just say, "Okay Lord, I'm ready for You to take me home. I'm done with this world." But in other cases, God is going to miraculously bring people through, just like He did with that lady and her daughter, because He's not done and there's a testimony that's going to go forth.

There are others that are going to have "Jesus dreams." They're going to meet the Man in white and wonder about Him, and need to know, and need to find out that there's hope beyond what they've been brought up in. I'll tell you what, God is using the chaos in the Middle East right now in amazing ways! If we could see it from heaven's point of view, it would blow our minds to see the impossibility of situation, after situation, after situation, and yet God invades!

Jesus said, "...Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." You've got areas of the world where Satan has closed his gates and set guards by them and done everything possible to trap people inside systems that are going to take them to Hell and Jesus doesn't pay a bit of attention to that. He goes right in after the ones that He's going to reach.

We've got an awesome Savior! We've got an awesome God! There's nothing impossible with Him!

And these are the lessons that He's longing to teach us in our lives.

I referred to that verse where Jesus said, "... he that endureth to the end shall be saved." It's not about being strong! It's not about having willpower and a forceful personality and self-control in the human sense! The weakest child who has been born of God's Spirit will overcome the world!

If people can meet this Jesus in the Middle East, know Him for days and weeks, and have a faith that can stand up and be courageous and bold in the face of that, knowing that at any moment someone is going to attack them and they're going to die, it's not human strength! This is a supernatural salvation that God has given to us and what He gives us will be enough. The smallest child can look somebody in the eye, powered by Jesus, powered by the Christ within, and look the Devil in the eye and say, "Devil, I love Jesus, I'm His! Whether I live or die, I'm His!"

Praise God! It's not about how strong we are! It's about whether we've been born of His Spirit! That's what's going on in America. You've got so many that have filled churches that have never been born of His Spirit! But I'll tell you, there are those who have and God is going to use the darkness of the end of the age to make a difference.

And He's going to show forth, He is going to demonstrate to the powers of darkness what His salvation is about. Didn't He say that in Ephesians 3? But it's not of our strength. God's not going to say, "Oh, look at them. They were worthy, they were strong." He's going to say, "Look at them: they were nothing, but they put their trust in Me and look what I was able to do." Praise God!

It's not about being strong! It's not about being anything! It's not about being smart! When you think about it, faith breaks down to something so simple as, Jesus, I love You and I'm following You, and that conveys the idea that I am trusting, I am depending on You, I have given You my life. It really means that, doesn't it? Praise God!

Well, I was just thinking of a Scripture, just sitting with a cup of coffee the other morning, and just saying to myself, well, I wonder what a good Scripture would be to read. And it just came into my mind to open to the Psalms, so I did.

And this was one of those times where "Bible roulette" worked! You open your Bible and you find your guidance by opening your Bible and pointing. But anyway, Psalm 46 was where the Bible fell to. And what a tremendous Scripture that is in the face of what our world is going to become and what God is going to be to us, the preparation that He wants to do in our lives, for us to be able to come down to the kind of world we're heading into, and yet to be okay, and yet to be strong, and to be all that we need to be!

*Continued on Page 4*

## A Time to Prepare

*Continued from Page 3*

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” (NIV). Boy, that’s a rich Scripture, isn’t it? Wow! “Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.”

That sounds like pretty dramatic stuff, doesn’t it? I mean, that’s more than most of the Doomsday Preppers think might happen. But you know Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

But I know from my own heart, we can read these Scriptures, we can believe them, we can profess them, we can sing about them, but somehow until we experience God in times like He’s describing here — maybe not that dramatic, but you know what I’m talking about — until we truly experience what we sing about, the faithfulness of God in impossible situations, it’s just kind of theory.

And I sense that is what God is doing in many lives. He certainly is in mine in one way or another. God is bringing us into situations — and this is not new Truth at all — where we have been tossed into the deep end of the pool, and we’ve been brought into a circumstance where there is no answer except, “God, You’re going to have to fix it. God, You’re going to have to act. I can do nothing about this situation, about this need. I just give You the whole issue. I’m not strong enough.” I mean, it covers the whole gamut of what we experience that’s negative and difficult. How many of you know what I’m talking about?

Yeah! So, if things are not happening in your life now, they will! But you know what? God is going to do whatever it takes to break that self-reliance that is so much a barrier to what God wants to do in us and what He wants to do through us. As long as we’re trusting in ourselves, we’re going to keep trying to “do.” And God is the only One that can do what needs to be done.

And oh, I’ll tell you what, we can come to a place like he describes here. This is the voice of experience writing this, isn’t it? This is not somebody who’s just learned this in Bible School. This is somebody who’s been through some stuff that has brought him to a place of confidence! It’s brought him to a place of hope, of rest, where he is actually able to say, “... therefore, we will not fear.”

And it’s interesting the way He puts that. He doesn’t say, “therefore we never feel fear,” because we all do, don’t we? The first reaction to facing something that is difficult, that’s beyond us, is to be afraid.

But what’s going on here, is someone who knows

enough about God, has experienced enough about God, to be able to say, “I will not fear!” Because, here’s what is happening: I’ve got this fearful thing, but I know that my God is real, that He’s proven Himself to me before! I know His word is real! So really, I’ve got a choice here, don’t I? I could listen to this, I could believe in it, or I could just say, “I don’t receive that, God is faithful!” And when we do that, something grows, something gets stronger.

But there are areas of my life, I know, where they bring fear to my heart. I’m just telling you the truth. And I know I’m just like you in that respect. There are things that I’m not strong enough to handle! But God is teaching us! God is doing things right now that are designed to teach us to rest in Him, to trust in Him!

And think about what He’s saying, “God is our refuge.” (NIV). A refuge is a place to hide! No matter what happens God is around us! If it’s happening to us, if we’re experiencing something that we might not want to experience, but it’s there, God allowed it! God absolutely is around us and there’s nothing that can happen through that thing that is beyond His control or beyond His purpose!

He is a refuge for our hearts! He is a refuge for our confidence! He’s a refuge in every possible sense of the word! We can rest in Him! We can come to Him and say, “Lord, whatever’s happening, I am in Your control, not theirs!”

You think about the scripture, was it Elisha? I believe it was Elisha. And, the heathen King came to realize that Elisha was getting revelation from God and tipping off the King of Israel about his military strategy. And he said, “Boy, if we’re going to win, we got to deal with Elisha.”

And you remember how they came by night. The armies surrounded the town where he was and the servant got up in the morning and said, “Alas, my master! how shall we do?” (KJV). He looked at them, just like you and I would look at circumstances, and his heart was just full of fear.

And Elisha stood up and said, “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” (NIV). And in that case, he said, “Lord, open his eyes.” And all of a sudden, beyond the armies that he could see, he saw the heavenly armies! And he suddenly realized, we’re not the ones in trouble, they are! There’s not a thing the Devil can engineer that can possibly stop what God is doing!

What a parallel this passage is to Romans 8, where nothing is, “...able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.” But, God is our refuge!

But, he also found something else. God is our strength! There is a secret that I believe God wants to teach us, and there are moments when I’ve glimpsed it! But I guarantee you, this is a need that I

feel! How many times do we say, “Lord, oh God, I’m weak, please strengthen me?” And we think that’s the way it’s supposed to be!

But that’s not what this scripture says! It didn’t say, “God strengthens me.” He says, “God is my strength.” Let me illustrate it this way. How many of you would say, “Oh, God, help me save myself?” No! If you’re being saved, it’s because you gave up, and you gave Him the job! And He becomes the Savior! It becomes His job to do the saving, to do all that’s needed in me!

I don’t have the strength to live the Christian life! I don’t have the strength to be strong in difficult circumstances! And it’s not a matter of saying, “Oh God, just buck up my strength here so I can handle this!” No! This is, “Oh God, I just surrender! I receive You as my strength, just the way I received You as my Savior!”

Just chew on that one awhile! That’s something I feel the need of asking the Lord to help me to get. Because, somehow, we have learned a religion, in America especially, where we take Jesus as Savior and He takes care of our sins, and then we struggle to live the Christian life instead of learning how to let Him live it in us!

Let me just throw that out there and say, pray with me, pray in your own life. Say, God, reveal this to me, show me! Show me the difference between facing my own needs, temptations, whatever it is, trying to do it in my own strength, trying to measure up, trying to be what You want me to be, and simply giving it to You and saying, “Lord, You are my strength in this, right now. I can’t handle this. You are my strength!”

Somehow, the writer of this Psalm had learned that God is not just a place to hide. He is my strength! God is going to teach us these things to where we’re going to be put, as I said, in the deep end of the pool!

But is not the Word of God a testament to that, from one end to the other? Think about a God who would lead His people out of Egypt to an indefensible position, backed up to a sea they could not cross, the mightiest army in the world closing in on them! This wasn’t a case of, God, help us to be strong, give us a military strategy out of this. This was impossible!

I’ll tell you, God is going to lead us down paths that are not just difficult, they are impossible! And in that impossibility, He is going to demonstrate to the powers of darkness, He’s going to demonstrate to His people that He’s God and there is nothing impossible! That’s what’s going on in our lives, folks.

But you think about people living in a heathen culture. You think about the three Hebrew children. That was a pretty impossible situation! All of a

*Continued on Page 5*



## A Time to Prepare

*Continued from Page 4*

sudden, they're marched up there, commanded to bow down to this idol! They say, "We're not going to do it. Our God's able to save us from those flames you're getting ready to throw us in! But even if He doesn't, we're not going to bow!"

Now, God could have gotten honor in one way by simply allowing their testimony to stand. But He decided to use this circumstance to spread the knowledge of His power throughout the empire of Babylon! And so, they threw them in there. The guys who threw them in died because the heat was so great. And they got in there and the only thing that burned was the ropes! And they were walking around, unhurt by the flames!

You know, we read these things but we don't relate it to our lives. We think, oh, that's great! God can do this. Look at what He's done over there or over there! God is going to do things here, in our lives! He's going to bring us into situations that are so impossible that He is going to be the only One, so that we can just throw up our hands and say, "Lord, I'm trusting You, I surrender!" Just like that woman who said, "Jesus, I love you, I commit my life into your Spirit!"

That's an extreme case. And yet, we see a God who could give dying grace! We see a God who can give grace to live and to serve Him. But not only is He the strength that I don't have that enables me to serve Him! And He's going to teach me how to just lean upon His strength and not try to be strong! He's an ever-present help!

But *when* is He an ever-present help? In trouble! Now, we would love to not have the trouble! But the way God makes Himself real, the way He works in our lives, requires that we have some kind of trouble! If all He does is let us have a smooth, easy ride, you and I would be sorry, we would not be changed one bit! We would just live in the strength of our human nature and that would be the end of it!

But God is absolutely, "...able to save completely those who come to God through Him." But the process is going to take us into situations that are beyond our power to fix! I don't have the grace, I don't have the strength, I don't have the courage, I don't have the grace to deal with a particular difficulty! I mean, you name it! Because, like I said, it covers the gamut of our experience!

But God is going to bring us into things, and it's "in" those things that He is going to demonstrate that He's there! He's not just standing off watching to see how good we do! He is right there in the middle of it, just saying, "Trust Me, look to Me, rest in Me! I have brought you this way."

I led you this way, Jesus said, in the wilderness...

to humble you, to show you that, "...man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." How many of you are just experts, you've been down every pathway, you know all about that?

See. This is what I sense, that starting now, going forward into this year, and going right on down — I don't know God's timescale — but I sense that God is patiently giving us an opportunity to grow, to become strong, to realize what life is about, to realize that we need Him!

And He's going to bring us through paths where we must learn that lesson. But when we do, we're going to become like the people that were described in Daniel, "People Who Know Their God." How do we know Him? Because we just hear sermons about Him? No, we come to a place where we have just committed our complete destiny into His hands!

But we begin to experience the greatness of the salvation! Instead of just trying to be a Christian, we're receiving the help that only comes from Heaven, the deliverance that only comes from Heaven!

Let me just go on and read this. "There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the most high dwells." And that river is the River of Life! That's the stream of God's life that comes from Heaven! It flows through the Body of Christ and it nourishes, it gives life, because we don't have it!

There's nothing about human nature, human life, that could stand up to the real battle that's going on! Like I said, this is not political. There's no political solution to the world! There are armies that are at work on both sides, in both the darkness and the light, that are behind the scenes. That's what this is all about! God is going to finish the job of rescuing His people, getting them ready for eternity! And the Devil is going to be consolidating his power over this planet!

But, it's in that context that God is going to bring forth a people that are able to stand, whether it means we lay down our lives literally, or whether we stand! God can do mighty things! Some of the most difficult places on the planet right now are where God is actually demonstrating His power the greatest! Think about His power to reach into some of the areas that are in such chaos right now!

And you know, people there look at America and they're praying for us, because they see the need! They see a sleeping, compromised church in America! But God is going to do what it takes to wake up His people.

But I'm thankful right now! I was thinking as I had that thought walking the other day, how merciful God is to us! To warn us, to give us a sense, "God, I want You to work, do whatever it takes!"

*Continued on Page 7*

## A Glimpse of Our Destiny

*Continued from Page 1*

little lower than the angels; thou crownest him with glory and honour and didst set him over the works of thy hands: thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet."

The expression, "a little lower than the angels," would be better translated, "for a little while lower than the angels." It is a question of time. God's intention for man was to subject him temporarily to a place below that of the angels but ultimately that man should rule not only over the physical creation but even over the angels! Paul makes reference to this in I Cor. 6:3 where he says, "Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" Don't ask me to explain that but it certainly is part of a pattern in the scriptures that points to the great destiny God had in mind in creating man.

Heb. 2:8 confirms this as the writer draws our attention to the word "all": "For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him." He continues with the observation, "But now we see not yet all things put under him."

Obviously, man has not fulfilled his destiny. Despite his scientific achievements which point to his creation in the image of God, he has fallen under the dominion of sin and death and lives as a pawn in Satan's hands awaiting destruction. Is that to be the end of it? Has God's plan been set aside, thwarted? Never!

It is true that as we look around, man has missed God's purpose and this creation is far from under his control. In fact, everything man touches, he corrupts. What, then, gave the writer hope? His hope came, not from what he saw in man, but from the fact that he saw Jesus! This kind of seeing is only possible by Divine revelation.

Verse 9 says, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

For the purpose of God to be fulfilled it was necessary for His Son to leave behind the glories of heaven and to come and live as a man, to take upon himself the sorrows and sufferings, and ultimately the sin, of this present world. He became, in a real sense, the embodiment of a corrupted creation. Yet within Him was the very life, the seed, of the new creation God had purposed to bring forth.

That is why, in John 12:23-24 Jesus compares his approaching death to planting a "corn of wheat." If you don't plant wheat all you have is that wheat. If you plant it, however, the outward part dies, but the life within springs up resulting in a multiplied harvest of that life. This is where the "wheat" from

*Continued on Page 6*

## A Glimpse of Our Destiny

*Continued from Page 5*

the Matt. 13 parable comes from — Christ!

That is the principle we see at work throughout God's kingdom in this world: life out of death. When God judged the sin of the world in the person of His Son He passed sentence upon this world — a sentence that will shortly be carried out. Christ, for His part, willingly gave up His life, in effect joining His Father's condemnation of this world. But He gave up His life in the knowledge of what it meant to have God's life within. That life could never die and its fruit would be eternal! Through His death we live! A way of escape from the fate of this world has been opened.

### Many Sons

Verse 10 is a key: "For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."

What a tremendous scripture! How full of meaning!

The "him" in the verse is the Father. The "captain of their salvation" is Christ. We see the Father putting His Son through a process that included "sufferings" to serve a larger purpose. That purpose is wonderfully captured in the phrase, "bringing many sons unto glory."

Let that phrase sink in! It is at the heart of God's purposes for the eternal future: to have, not just one Son, but many! Who are these "sons"? They are the redeemed of all ages, saved out of a world of sin and death, sovereignly prepared to rule over and enjoy a brand new creation!

Once we begin to grasp the significance of God's "bringing many sons unto glory" our perspective changes dramatically. For one thing it removes the focus from this world. We are able to see this present world order as something very temporary that serves a larger purpose. God's focus is not on reforming this world but on His sons who sojourn here. This world with all its darkness is necessary to the development and preparation of His sons for eternity.

### Perfect Through Sufferings

We can see this principle being applied to our Captain in this very verse. The verse begins with the phrase, "For it became him ...." What does that mean? It means, "It was appropriate for him ...." It means, "In view of who He is and what His purpose was, it was the right thing for Him to do."

What was that right and appropriate thing? — "... to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." Think about that! Listen to some of the definitions of the Greek word trans-

lated "to make perfect": "to perfect"; "to advance (a person to) final completeness (of character)"; "to be brought to the goal"; "to reach the end of one's course"; "to be fully developed."

Do you realize what this is saying?! We're talking about the very Son of God who was with the Father before the foundation of the world, the "appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." Heb. 1:2. Yet God's vision and purpose looked far beyond this present world. Even though His Son was the appointed heir, He was incomplete! Something was lacking, something that made it necessary for Him to live as a man in this evil world and suffer! His course was not finished, His race not run. He was not ready to fulfill His place in the Father's great plan.

This same truth is touched on in Heb. 5:8-9. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

At least one of the things our Savior learned through His sufferings was "obedience." Does that mean that He had been a disobedient and rebellious son? Of course not! But there is more to obedience than what He had known before coming to earth.

In coming to earth, He didn't take on "the nature of angels" but "the seed of Abraham." In all things He was "made like unto his brethren." Heb. 2:16-17. His very being, as ours does, cried out to live! The prospect of the cross brought forth three hours of agonizing prayer. If there had been any other way, he would have loved to have avoided the horror He faced. Yet he found grace to pray, "Not my will but thine be done." Luke 22:42.

Heb. 4:15 tells us that He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

Phil. 2:8 says, "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

That is the obedience the Father seeks, not only from His Son, but also from all of His sons. It is a part of the development of our character for what lies ahead. Notice in Rev. 12:11 that one of the things it says of those who overcame the devil is, "... and they loved not their lives unto the death."

That death is more than physical death, the end of our lives here. It is the lifelong process of choosing God's will over our own, as Paul said in I Cor. 15:31, "... I die daily." It is obeying God in the face of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Such obedience can only be learned in the arena of life.

Those who know the Lord long for the day of final deliverance from the warfare we experience in this world. We live with two natures in constant conflict with each other. The "flesh," or the "outward man," born of Adam and corrupted by the fall,

loves sin and hates God. He is a rebel and cannot be reformed and made righteous before God. The only solution is for him to be put to death. That is why the law is powerless to save. All it can do is to show us our desperate need. Forcing a rebel to behave and conform to some righteous standard does not alter his heart. He must die.

The great miracle of the new birth is that there is a way to die and yet live! Paul wrote in Gal. 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

That is what Christ Himself experienced. He died, yet lived! Having lived a life in which He denied self and chose the Father's will, He made the ultimate sacrifice, laying down His life in death. He received the full penalty of God's law, not for His own sins, for He had none, but for ours. Yet death had no power over the life He had on the inside. At the appointed time He burst the bonds of death — forever!

When a man truly comes to Christ in saving faith, he willingly bows to the demands of God's law, giving up his life. The result is that he receives the same life that brought Christ forth from the grave in triumph!

In the new birth Christ's death becomes our death — and His life becomes our life: That which is born within us is of the very life of God Himself! The "new man" is very much a "baby" and then a young child needing to develop and grow.

I John 3:1-2 says, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

The meaning of these verses is made clearer when we realize that the word translated "sons" actually means "children" and not grown-up sons. The life of a believer during this present age is actually his childhood, a time of growing and maturing in preparation for eternity. The inward man is being made like Christ. It is only when He returns that that likeness will be complete. Only then will we be full-grown sons of God, manifest for all to see.

That is not to say that there are not degrees of spiritual maturity in this life. Certainly there are and the Lord desires that we grow up and become established in Him. However, the highest degree of spirituality believers experience here pales beside the glory yet to come. Even John the Apostle had to say of that, "... it doth not yet appear what we shall be." □



## A Time to Prepare

*Continued from Page 5*

The expression has kind of become current. Do whatever it takes in me to make me what You want me to be!

Lord, show me my needs! Show me all the things where I've struggled because I've done things in my own strength! I've relied on me and I haven't really realized what I have in You! Lord, work in me! Break the hold of things in my life! Take away my fear. Give me a courage!

I'm amazed at how many testimonies I read just in that one book, and certainly I've seen them in others, of people who were even fearful of what was coming! But then they went through something where they actually suffered and they actually had to face the consequences of following Jesus, and instead of cowering in fear, they felt a surge of confidence and boldness!

And people who would walk into a mosque and hand out New Testaments! And you think about the courage that God can give His people that's supernatural! Salvation is supernatural from front to finish, folks!

We just don't experience nearly what God has for us! You talk about higher ground! Yeah! I believe God is going to take us — I'm going to say it positively — God is taking us to higher ground! But there is no other way to do that, than to leave the lower ground and to learn and learn to experience what the writer of this Psalm has to say!

But now he says, "God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts." Do you think anything that's happening on this globe is a sign that there's real danger for those who put their trust in Him?

All God has to do is snap His fingers! As the old hymn says, "One little word shall fell him," referring to the Devil! When God says, "It's time," it's enough. It must be frustrating to be Devil to know you have no real power! But I'm not a bit sorry for him.

"The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see the works of the Lord, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire." Just referring to some of the victories they had seen — they had witnessed God performing miracles!

What about that time when Jerusalem was surrounded by the greatest army of its day, 185,000 soldiers, trying to get them to surrender! And they spread the letter from the heathen commander before the Lord and said, "Oh God, see what they've

*Continued on Page 8*

## BOOK CORNER

### **Delivered From Demons**, by C. Parker Thomas

The story of a young girl's deliverance from demon possession and also a collection of a number of other articles relating to Satan's kingdom and activity, specially as it relates to the end of this present age. Suggested Price - \$6.50.

### **Does God Speak To You?** by C. Parker Thomas

This booklet is composed of a wonderful series of articles published in the Midnight Cry Messenger during 1979. In this time of great spiritual darkness and deception what are the various ways in which He speaks and how can we learn to recognize His voice and respond? Suggested Price - \$3.50.

### **Examine Yourselves**, By Phil Enlow

Paul said to "examine yourselves." There must be a way to do that. Can you say with Paul, "I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day." 2 Tim 1:12. Suggested Price - \$7.50

### **The Gospel**, By Phil Enlow

What is the gospel? Everyone thinks they know--but do they? In this day of watered-down "easy-believism" it is critical to know what real salvation is. What was the gospel that Paul preached? Suggested Price - \$3.00

### **How Do You Know You Are Right?** By Phil Enlow

A spiritual challenge. A study of spiritual knowledge and how it is acquired. This is an area of critical importance in this hour of spiritual darkness and deception. We cannot afford to blindly rest in tradition. Suggested Price - \$4.00

### **Immortality**, By Phil Enlow

What does the Bible teach about immortality, the future of unbelievers, the future of God's people? From the eight-part series in the MCM. Suggested Price - \$5.00.

### **The Keys of the Kingdom**, by C. Parker Thomas

A clear study of the keys as they apply to us in today's world. Suggested Price - \$3.00.

### **Light in This Present Darkness**, by Phil Enlow

From the series in MCM. Message for God's Remnant in the earth regarding the present hour of darkness. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

### **Lying Signs and Wonders**, by C. Parker Thomas

A collection of articles concerning the end of the age exposing much deception as well as giving forth important truth needed by those who would be prepared for Christ's soon return. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

### **The Midnight Cry**, by C. Parker Thomas

Contains two articles that set forth the truths concerning the midnight cry: what is it? who hears it? who makes it? what is its significance for us. A must for people who would understand this ministry. Suggested Price - \$1.00

### **Sex and Marriage in the Light of God's Word**, by C. Parker Thomas

From a series of articles covering a whole range of scriptural and practical truth designed to help God's people in this important area. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

### **Sudden Death Overtime**, by Phil Enlow

From the series published beginning in 2001. A look at our world and its prospects through biblical "glasses." What can we learn from history? What lies in our future? Why is the world like it is? Things every Christian should know. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

### **The Sure Foundation**, by C. Parker Thomas

A collection of four articles published in the early 1980's on the important subject of the foundation believers have in Christ. Suggested Price - \$4.00.

### **Tongues: My Testimony**, by C. Parker Thomas

Contains the article by the same name as well as an article entitled "Tongues Should be Tested" by Gerald McGraw in which he recounts lessons learned from testing to discover the spirit enabling someone to speak in tongues. Startling! Suggested price - \$3.00

### **What About Genesis?** by Phil Enlow

How should we understand the Genesis accounts of the creation and the flood? Can a simple historical understanding of these accounts be defended in this age of scientific skepticism? Does it matter? Suggested Price - \$4.00.

### **What Does Deception Look Like?** by Phil Enlow

Recognizing spiritual deception at the end of the age. What are its characteristics? Satan is waging all-out war and his chief weapon is the lie. As never before believers need to be grounded in bedrock truth. Suggested Price - \$9.95.

### **Your Adversary**, By C. Parker Thomas

Awhile back, while looking through some of our oldest issues of the MCM, we uncovered this timely gem, published in about 1960! There is a simple directness and clarity in this teaching that will help anyone who desires to walk with the Lord and overcome in this hour. Suggested Price - \$2.50.

*Note: The prices listed above are suggested with the thought in mind of simply covering the costs of printing and mailing these materials. It is not our intention to become "book-sellers," selling books for profit. Our desire is to get out truth that can help set God's people free in this critical hour. Please write to us at:*

**Midnight Cry Messenger**

P.O. Box 685

Southern Pines, NC 28388 USA

## A Time to Prepare

*Continued from Page 7*

done!” And the next morning they woke up and all 185,000 were dead because one angel went through the camp!

Do you think God can't take care of business when that's what His plan is? So that king just got up and went home! What else could he do? I'll tell you, we've got a great God! No matter what happens in this world, He's going to be with us!

You know, the day may come when there may just be a handful that will be meeting secretly in homes. We'll call a meeting at 2:00 a.m. in somebody's basement, and people will sort of sneak in. That's how it is right now in many places in the world! Do you think we're special? God's going to get us ready for whatever's coming!

And here's a good verse to leave us with. “Be still...” You think about the fearfulness of the world and the uncertainties that we face: “Be still.” Are you afraid of something? “Be still, and know that I am God.” Be still, and know that I am God. There's a willingness, there's a choice right there. And I pray that God will burn that into all of our hearts! I feel my need of it, certainly!

“I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.” I don't know, I just trust the Lord, that He's been in this in some measure. I'm like Ron, I don't have any great feelings. But I know that God is doing things.

And many times He's going to do things the way we'd rather He not! We like our comfortable life. But this is not our home. We have another home. We're only traveling through this one. And God is using “this” to get us ready for “there”! And before it's over, God is going to demonstrate to us, He's going to demonstrate to the Devil, the power of His salvation and what He's really doing! And I want to be part of that, don't you?

I don't want to be one of those that tries to add Jesus to their life. I want to be one who submits and says, “Jesus, my life is Yours. Do what You want to do in my heart. I'm yours.” How many of those are there? But that's the only thing that's real. I'll tell you, God is going to prove Himself to His people. So, “Be still and know that I am God.” Praise God!

## COMING EVENTS

June Convention  
June 21-24, 2017

Southern Pines, North Carolina

Website: [www.midnightcry.org](http://www.midnightcry.org)

## The Comfort of God

*I have been through the valley of weeping,  
The valley of sorrow and pain;  
But the God of all comfort was with me,  
At hand to uphold and sustain.*

*As the earth needs the clouds and the sunshine  
Our souls need both sorrow and joy,  
So he places us oft in the furnace,  
The dross from the gold to destroy.*

*When He leads thru some valley of trouble  
His omnipotent hand we can trace;  
For the trials and sorrows He sends us  
Are part of His lessons of Grace.*

*Oft we shrink from the purging and pruning,  
Forgetting the husbandman knows  
That the deeper the cutting and paring  
The richer the cluster that grows.*

*Well He knows that affliction is needed,  
He has a wise purpose in view;  
And in the dark valley He whispers,  
“Hereafter thou shalt know what I do.”*

*As we travel through life's shadowed valley,  
Fresh springs of His love ever rise,  
And we learn that our sorrow and losses  
Are blessings just sent in disguise.*

*So we'll follow wherever He leads us,  
Let the path be dreary or bright,  
For we've proved that our God can give comfort,  
Our God can give songs in the night.*

Please pray “...for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel....” Ephesians 6:19.

### TV Network Broadcast

— (30 Minutes Weekly) —

#### The NRB Network (DirecTV 378)

Sunday - 6:30 AM Eastern  
Monday - 3:30 AM Eastern

#### SacFaith TV - Sacramento, CA

Monday - 8:00 AM Pacific Time  
Tuesday - 8:30 PM Pacific Time

Watch Online or on Cable Channels  
Comcast 20 / AT&T 14 / Consolidated 19

#### AllNationsTV.com Worldwide - Online

Monday - 9:30 PM Eastern Time  
Tuesday - 3:30 AM Eastern Time  
Wednesday - 9:30 AM Eastern Time  
Sunday - 3:30 PM Eastern Time

## Broadcasts

### RADIO STATIONS

*Monday - Friday*

Stat.	Freq.	Location	Time
KXEG	1280 AM	Phoenix, AZ	9:00 AM
KCNW	1380 AM	Kansas City, KS	12:15 PM 9:30 PM
KKIM	1000 AM	Albuquerque, NM	6:00 AM
WDZY	1290 AM	Richmond, VA	2:15 PM
WWVA	1170 AM	Wheeling, WV	9:30 PM

### Short Wave Radio

#### WHRI ANGEL 1

Australia/New Zealand  
Mon.-Fri.: 0900 UTC - 13.690 Mhz  
East/Central Africa  
Mon.-Fri.: 1600 UTC - 21.610 Mhz  
Caribbean/Central & South America  
Mon.-Fri.: 2315 UTC - 7.315 Mhz

#### WHRI ANGEL 2

East North America - Tues.-Sat.: 0015 UTC - 5.920 Mhz

#### KWHR ANGEL 3

China - Mon.-Fri.: 0915 UTC - 9.930 Mhz

#### Bonus Airings on Webstreaming

Angel 2 - Off Air-Streaming Only - 2000-2015  
Angel 3 - Off Air-Streaming Only - 1715-1730

For a current schedule of “Angel” stations go to [lesea.com/whr/program-schedules/](http://lesea.com/whr/program-schedules/), scroll down to “Detailed Schedule Search,” enter Midnight Cry for the program title and then click “Start Search.”

### Television Broadcast

— (30 Minutes Weekly) —

#### Local Broadcasts

Albuquerque, NM - KAZQ - TV 32  
Sun. 7:30 AM

Boston, MA/Manchester, NH  
WBIN-TV 18 - Sun. 6:30 AM

Chicago, IL - WJYS TV-62  
Sun. 7:00 AM

Dallas/Forth Worth - KTXD TV-47  
Sun. 8:00 AM

Greenville, SC - WGGS TV-16  
Sun. 7:00 PM

Harrisburg, PA - WGCB TV-49  
Sun. 9:30 AM

Jacksonville, FL - WTLV - Ch. 12 HD  
Sun. 6:00 AM

Los Angeles, CA - KDOC-TV 56  
Sunday, 6:30 A.M.

Minneapolis, MN - WUCW-TV CW23  
Sunday, 6:30 A.M.

Phoenix, AZ - KASW-TV CW6  
Sunday, 6:30 A.M.

San Francisco, Oakland, California  
KBCW TV-44 - Sunday, 6:00 A.M.

Seattle, Washington  
KVOS TV-12 - Sunday, 6:30 A.M.