

PROPHECY COUNTDOWN



P.O. Box 941612 Maitland, FL 32794

(407) 834-1106

FALL 1994

EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD

As it was in the beginning, as it is today, the man that pleases God is the man who hears God's Word, believes God's Word and puts faith in his promises.

Abraham was such a man; he heard the Word of God, "BELIEVED IT" and consequently it was counted unto him as righteousness. Genesis records God's "special blessing" to Abraham. Listen carefully to the rich and wonderful WORD given to this humble man on a night long ago: "AFTER THESE THINGS THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME UNTO ABRAM IN A VISION, SAYING FEAR NOT, ABRAM: I AM THY SHIELD, AND THY EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD."

WOW! What a blessing! Any man would be joyful to receive a "reward" from God; or to be told that you were to receive a "great reward." But to be told, "I AM THY SHIELD, AND THY EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD" is truly an overwhelming blessing and honor!

How Abraham must have marveled within himself that night as he looked up into the sky. How his heart must have rejoiced when the Creator urged him to count the stars (if he could) that studded the heavens and to know this rich and vast promise from God belonged to him and his offspring.

Though thousands of years have passed since that stary night long ago - God's WORD remains true. There is an "EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD" promised to those who take "HIS WORD" personally into their hearts and lives. This "WORD" is JESUS: "And the WORD was made flesh, and dwelt among us." (John 1:14a). Faith in HIM is the key that unlocks the door to heaven. By trusting in him, we too can partake of the blessed inheritance that God

promised to Abraham.

The scriptures emphasize that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the WORD of GOD. Abraham heard God speaking to him and he believed! He put faith into his word. He demonstrated his devotion to God's Word and his promise in his daily life. He was more than just a "hearer" - he was a "doer".



**THIS IS WHAT THE LORD
ASKS OF YOU;
ONLY THIS,
TO ACT JUSTLY,
TO LOVE TENDERLY,
AND TO WALK HUMBLY
WITH YOUR GOD.**

MICAH 6:8

We are warned "without faith it is impossible to please God." All true descendants of Father Abraham walk the life of FAITH, trusting in God's Holy Word. The righteous seed know it is the only TRUE and PERFECT path rich with God's promises.

The Old Testament foreshadows the New Testament. God's covenant with his chosen people Israel portrays his redemptive plan: the remission of sin through blood sacrifice Christ, the sinless lamb of God is the fulfillment of that holy sacrifice. The door to eternal life is found in HIM. Rejected by Israel as the "PROMISED MESSIAH", the door of

salvation was opened to the Gentiles. God's New Covenant children were no longer under "law" but "grace". This grace-given gift could not be understood by his "chosen race". Without FAITH in HIS WORD they could not comprehend "Kingdom Mysteries":

"Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded. (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day." (Romans 11:7&8)

God's chosen people have been rejected (for a season) because they rejected HIS plan of salvation. They became so wise in their own eyes, they could not see his plan or hear his word. They became a people void of real FAITH! Their hardened hearts kept them from receiving the Heavenly Father's means of redemption.

The New Testament Church is under a very precious period of grace. Though under grace, through Christ's atonement, today's Christians are NOT released from their duty to study "The WORD" and understanding God's Kingdom mysteries. If Israel, God's chosen nation, could fall away from his plan of redemptive grace, how cautious half-hearted Christians should be! God has not changed! He is still a Holy God. A God looking for repentive people; followers humble and sensitive to His Word and Holy Spirit. So many merely use his precious Son's blood as their spiritual loophole - "saving grace" without true repentance.

With man's free will God has given him the responsibility and power of choosing, or rejecting the things of God. Consequently, as with the Old Testament church the New Testament church is held accountable for their comprehension and obedience to the WORD. Christ is the Father's "PERFECT" solution for sin and separation from His presence. Through Christ, a true believer, can come boldly to his throne of grace and receive help: help to overcome; help to understand; help to be ALL he has purposed for those who truly love him. The capacity to "find & know" the Father's perfect will for his children is hid in Christ. Jesus said only those who do the will of the Father will come into the Kingdom (Mat.7:21).

Blessed Hope

God gave Abraham a vision. He gave him the ability to foresee the promise of His Word. There is life abundant overflowing from God's Word; an "EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD" promised to those who live by faith and not by sight. It is a heritage with a blessed hope.

"We live by faith, not by sight."

II Corinthians 5:7 NIV



We are told in Proverbs 29:18, "where there is no vision, the people perish." How true this is! A dead church has no true vision of the things of God. A people without ears to hear and eyes to see God's promises, are deaf and blind. These lives, empty of true faith in God's Word will suffer the consequences of their hardened hearts. The "BLESSED HOPE" is beyond their grasp spiritually. They are a people bound-up with unbelief. Sadly, when Christ comes for his Church, many will be left behind.

Only those Christians who are humbled under the Word can realize or understand the "WAYS" of the Lord; for his path is holy and his way is pure. The righteous find this path only through yielding to the Holy Ghost, receiving the Blessed Hope as a reward for their own obedience. Those who are disobedient will not have this Hope and miss God's best.

Old Testament Examples

The Pharisees & Scribes strictly observed and interpreted the Jewish law. Their life of traditions and customs gave an outward appearance of holiness. However devout and earnestly religious these people appeared to themselves and others, THEY WERE NOT PLEASING TO GOD. They were hypocrites. Their hearts were far away from him. When Jesus exposed them for what they truly were His disciples came to him saying, "Knowest thou that the

Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? But he answered and said, every plant, which my Heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: They be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Matthew 15:12-14). Further on he also rebuked their very diligent tithing practices. "Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, Hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgement, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." (Matt. 23:23). He continues on, "even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity" (Matthew 23:28).

How truly sad it is that so many born-again Christians do not KNOW or UNDERSTAND these truths. When Jesus spoke of the parable of the sower (Mark 4) he said unto them, "know ye not this parable?" If this parable is misunderstood then it is fair to say ALL OTHER PARABLES that Christ spoke about will never be properly comprehended. Only a sincere follower will understand God's truth.

Jesus tells his disciples, "Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the Kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all of these things are done in parables: that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them." (Mark 4:11 & 12)

"But thou, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory, and the lifter of my head."

PSALM 3:3



Good seed is the "GOOD NEWS", the WORD of GOD - JESUS. Just because good seed (the message of Christ and the salvation found only in him) lands "into" or "on top of" or "around" listening hearts, without real and genuine faith IN HIM and constant trust and commitment to his word, the good seed will NEVER germinate or perfectly grow and thrive.

Every plant that God TRULY PLANTS grows! His seed is good seed that thrives in good soil. The good heart, the repentive heart receives the WORD with gladness. That little seed, so precious, is nourished & developed through constant prayer and meditation on His Word. With blessed FAITH in Christ hidden away, deep in the humble heart, a divine transformation begins to occur. A dying process (germination - breaking) transpires and soon little roots reach out deeper into the rich soil (God's Word). When the time is right a little blade forms and begins to shoot forth and become clearly visible to the eye: "So is the Kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; and should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how" (Mark 4:26).

So many false Christians have unfavorable heart conditions that will not and do not truly know Christ as their PERSONAL Lord and Savior. They are tares among the wheat, too blind and spiritually unaware to even recognize their own wretched state. But even more alarming is the condition of many true Christians. Jesus admonishes them:

"Not every one that saith to me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

Such is the Kingdom of God, be ye Jew or Gentile. If it is within you, the good seed WILL NOT remain dormant. Though hidden away for a time - it will manifest itself. In a truly good and humble heart new birth becomes evident. The Christian who sincerely loves and knows Jesus as Lord will display the fruits of His sweet spirit - it will be very obvious to all.

Satan has duped insincere hearts into thinking a confession of faith in Christ, without repentance assures them of receiving God's rich blessings and heritage.

If one has indeed been saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Holy Kingdom which is founded on truth and righteousness will manifest itself in the life of the faithful believer. Every good tree bears good fruit; that's the long and short of it! There is no in-between. He is the vine, we are the branches. Every branch that doesn't bear holy fruit will be cut off and many real Christians will end up missing the Kingdom.

Even Christs' disciples anxious for outwardly visible, divine manifestations of faith, were focusing in the wrong direction. When they asked the Lord to increase or give them MORE faith, they were in essence, looking for a short cut. Jesus responded to their request through the parable of the mustard seed. This tiny seed, insignificant among others would in time, become the largest of trees with a spectacular future. This striking advancement will come, for there is a process involved. Though it may appear as if it is slow in coming or that performing ones duty (obedience to the word) is unprofitable - IT WILL BE rewarded. To those who REMAIN IN THE WORD, a mature and holy faith will develop; yielding an outward manifestation of God's divine presence - SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

At the proper time, the appointed time, every good and pure servant shall eat from God's bountiful table. Each vessel of God will be honored with His rich & anointed goodness. To the responsible and faithful steward HIS promotion will come and when it does, it will be a perfect and holy work.

Half-hearted, faithless followers will never know or taste of the EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD promised to those faithful to the Word. Without faithfulness, the fruits of the Spirit-filled life will never be realized. The OIL of GLADNESS will never "runneth over" in an unclean or empty cup.



LITTLE FAITH = BIG FAITH

When Jesus replied, "O, ye of little faith" to his disciples request for more faith; his answer was not so much a rebuke as it was a term of endearment. It is good to want "more faith", and if one truly desires "more" they will cling more truly & sweetly to their blessed Lord and His Word. This is how the blessings of God are realized in a true followers heart and life.

With a "little faith" in Christ a beautiful life & testimony will bloom from within the believer. That blessed growth and development is from that good seed IN HIM. This true and blessed growth is the lasting and perfect abundant life that is promised to believers. Those who truly know Christ as their PERSONAL Lord and Savior are made wealthy indeed by His loving kindness. All the riches of this world CANNOT compare to his tender mercies.

God has put a hidden treasure into every believer in Christ. God has planted a good and perfect will (A VISION OF HOPE) to be discovered by every child of his. This "EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD" is found by abiding in his Son. Out of our little seed in Him, a good and perfect life can come forth.

Prodigal = Bride of Christ

In the story of the Prodigal Son, the good son was angry with his father for richly blessing his brother. Though he came back broken, humbled and repentitive, there was no compassion or mercy within his bitter heart. Through the merit of his good works he exulted himself. Hence, through the error in his proud & unmerciful heart he was unable to share in the joy of his father (THE FATHER HE CLAIMED TO LOVE SO MUCH?). Two brothers, two hearts, two seeds planted by the father. One humbly acknowledged the error of his ways the other highly esteemed himself as right and good.

The Prodigal Son is a picture of the Bride of Christ with his brother representing the remaining members of the Church. The Prodigal was broken, his brother was not. The Prodigal saw and acknowledged his wretched state and knew of his deep need for his father's mercy. His brother felt it was his right so he never truly submitted to his father. The Bride of Christ humbly cries: "Count me worthy to escape the Tribulation that is coming." While the rest of the Church says it's their right.

JOYFUL ANTICIPATION

As believers, children of our Father, we are responsible for our faith and talents. Mercy, love and truth have been given to us through Christ and we are called to "invest" by the guidance of his Holy Spirit. With His help our investments will multiply. The "wise" steward joyfully awaits his masters return; desiring to honor him with the increase of his "GOOD FAITH" efforts. To such a servant the return of his master is an exciting and blessed event. There is NO FEAR of his return, merely joyful anticipation.

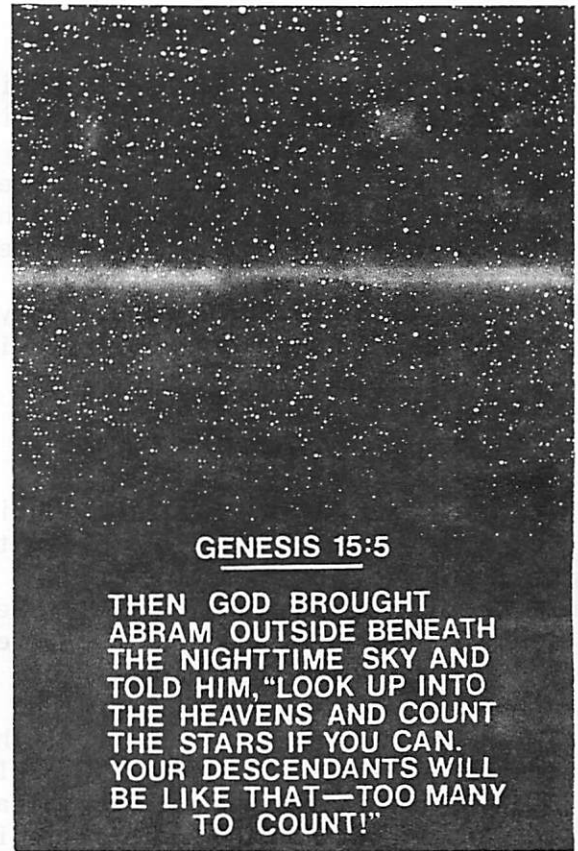
Like the 5 wise virgins, the true-hearted Christians possess that extra jar of oil, that "SOMETHING EXTRA" to carry them through the long, dark hours as they await the return of the bridegroom. Within their hearts they possess that EXTRA MEASURE of fuel that keeps their faith alive and shining brightly. HE WILL return they know; and by the grace and goodness of their heavenly father (HEAVENLY PROVISION THROUGH CHRIST) they'll be prepared.



IF YOU DON'T HAVE A BURNING
DESIRE IN YOUR HEART TO SEE
JESUS - YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE
ENOUGH OIL IN YOUR LAMP.

Christ so encourages His followers to seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and his righteousness. By obeying HIS WORD, walking in faith and humbly resting in His truth, like Abraham we will receive the promised inheritance. Our "EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD" is hid in our obedience & faithfulness to our Great God:

"FEAR NOT LITTLE FLOCK; FOR IT IS YOUR FATHER'S GOOD PLEASURE TO GIVE YOU THE KINGDOM. SELL THAT YE HAVE AND GIVE ALMS; PROVIDE YOURSELVES BAGS WHICH WAX NOT OLD, A TREASURE IN THE HEAVENS THAT FAILETH NOT, WHERE NO THEIF APPROACHES, NEITHER MOTH CORRUPTETH. FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO."



GENESIS 15:5

THEN GOD BROUGHT
ABRAM OUTSIDE BENEATH
THE NIGHTTIME SKY AND
TOLD HIM, "LOOK UP INTO
THE HEAVENS AND COUNT
THE STARS IF YOU CAN.
YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL
BE LIKE THAT—TOO MANY
TO COUNT!"

Sadly, the vast majority of Christ's church is more concerned with their earthly treasure and the present kingdom on the earth. Even a review of the leading prophecy ministries will bare this out. Christians are concerned more about their finances and the coming economic earthquake, but care very little about the coming spiritual earthquake. Most fail to realize what God's Word says:

"You MUST teach what is in accord with sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1).

"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Rev.3:10).

Keeping God's Word & upholding sound doctrine go hand-in-hand. Sound doctrine MUST be taught, and God's Word MUST be kept. The wonderful promise of escaping the "hour of temptation" is given to those Christians who are keeping God's Word. This includes upholding and teaching "sound doctrine."

This is only right because Jesus is the Word. If we really love Jesus, we will want to keep His Word and teach what is in accordance with sound doctrine.

Lukewarm Laodiceans

BEHOLD NOW THE KINGDOM

The lukewarm teaching that all Christians will be taken when the Rapture occurs is not in accordance with sound doctrine and it is not keeping God's Word. Ministries, teachers and other Christian leaders who teach this popular view, will not be taken when the Rapture take place! By not teaching sound doctrine, nor keeping God's Word, they will enter the "hour of temptation" along with the Laodicean church.

Repent - Time is Short

II Peter 3:8, says God wants the Christians ("to us-ward") to repent. God doesn't want any Christian to perish or to die or to be separated when the Rapture occurs. He will hold the Christian leaders and teachers responsible for what they have taught. REPENT today before it is too late! Teach and uphold the TRUTH before the Rapture occurs. The true message presented in THE COMING SPIRITUAL EARTHQUAKE can help prepare Christians to participate in the Rapture. The time is very short. Jesus is coming very soon! If you really love Him, then prove it by upholding sound doctrine and keeping His Word.

There is an EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD coming to those faithful believers who will be found doing the Father's will when Christ returns. They will be found distributing the "solid meat" outlined in this newsletter when He comes back for His own:

"And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath" (Luke 12:42-44).

Because they are faithful and obedient to the Word, their EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD will be rulership over all the Lord has! When Christ returns He will find them giving others the strong meat outlined above. Because they are faithful and wise, they will be rewarded very richly in the very near future.

God has put that GOOD SEED in His children. The Kingdom of heaven is at hand. Tell other Christians the TRUTH in the short time that remains!

*The multitude followed a man;
A prophet, who spoke words of wisdom.
And they listened trying to understand;
The paradox of His great truth.
He said, "Blessed be those who are poor;
For you shall inherit the Kingdom.
And blessed be those who are weak;
For you shall inherit great strength.
Blessed be those who are children;
For you shall be counted as wise.
Blessed be the blind man;
For you shall see with new eyes."*

*Behold, now the Kingdom.
Behold, now the Kingdom.
Behold, now the Kingdom.
See with new eyes.*

*Blessed be those of compassion;
For you shall inherit compassion.
Blessed be those who forgive;
For you shall be forgiven.
You shall receive consolation;
Only in reaching to give.
Only in dying for others;
Can you be reborn to live.*

by J. Talbot

* * * * *
* FINAL PREPARATIONS *
* * * * *
* With simplicity, the Scriptures tell us that *
* Noah entered the ark on the 17th day of the *
* second month: *
* * * * *
* "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, *
* in the second month, the seventeenth day *
* of the month, the same day were all the *
* fountains of the great deep broken up, *
* and the windows of heaven were opened." *
* (Genesis 7:11) *
* * * * *
* It is very possible the Rapture of the First *
* Fruit believers might occur on the very day *
* of Noah's flood (10/22/94 or 11/7/94). *
* * * * *
* After God's final grace period for mankind *
* was up (120 years later) sudden destruction *
* came upon the scoffing & disobedient world. *
* Only one family escaped God's Judgement. *
* Only the family of God that was obedient to *
* God's Word escaped. *
* * * * *
* When the Rapture occurs only a remnant will *
* be prepared. Make sure you are ready. *
* * * * *