

GLENNA SALSBUURY

More
Heavenly
Treasures

Signs of the Savior



*Experiencing the
Transformational
Truth of God's
Sovereign Grace
and Eternal
Purpose*

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GLENN A SALS BURY



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To the faithfulness of God's Spirit in anointing His Word to my heart and life.

To the unfailing love of Jesus Christ, Who continually draws me to Himself.

To the sovereign purpose of the Father, Who sent the Son into the world to seek those whom He loved; I am grateful to be one of those recipients of unconditional, electing grace.

And to my family, all of whom have been called into His family, and whose unconditional love remains the joy of my earthly experience.

Preface



So, then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

—Romans 10:17

HOW OFTEN WE long to have greater faith! Yet I find it easy to forget that the only Source of power is the living Word of God. Christ Himself is alive to us in His Word. We cannot hear Truth unless the Spirit anoints our ears to hear. And the only Truth in the universe is the Word of God.

As the world scene continues to grow darker, I believe our greatest comfort rests in hiding God's Word in our hearts and lives. But the *earth dwellers*, those who do not know Christ (though they may be religious), struggle desperately and in vain to find human, earthly solutions to their dire situations (Revelation 13:12–14). The Lord Himself described the days of worldwide turmoil and *distress* that will precede His return to earth: "For there shall be great *distress* in the land...and upon the earth *distress* of nations, with perplexity...Men's hearts failing

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them for fear...” (Luke 21:23, 25, 26, emphasis mine). King David, in the midst of his circumstances wrote, “In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried unto my God: He heard my voice out of His temple...” (Psalm 18:6). Believers know the One Solution to dire situations!

The Word of God reveals the character of the Lord to us. We discover His unconditional love, the riches of His grace, His sovereign power, and His continual faithfulness. The Lord draws us to Himself through His Word. We learn to trust Him; we begin to *hear* His voice.

Yet there are very few believers who are discovering or hearing the foundational, doctrinal truths that produce transformational living in Christ. The Word of God is often overshadowed by programs and worldly enticements to gain a crowd. *Nothing* has the power to produce faith and a joy-filled life except the Word of God. Christ Alone, the living Word of God, is “the Author and Finisher” of faith (Hebrews 12:2).

The greatest gift the Lord can give us is the revelation of Who He is. Therein lies salvation. Yet He is infinite; He is God. He has revealed Himself in His fullness in the written Word. And it is this Truth that sustains us.

I have written this second book of “treasures” because God has given me a passion to share the riches of His Book. I continue to be lifted above my own distresses, earthly preoccupations, and personal challenges by the transforming truths that are hidden in that Book.

May your own heart and life be enriched beyond measure as you meditate on the pages that follow.

Resting in His Grace,
Glenna

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Section Four

Signs of the Savior

*And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament...
and let them be for signs...*

—Genesis 1:14



Chapter 92

*The Bride Hidden
in the Son*



And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam,
and he slept: and He took one of his ribs.

—Genesis 2:21

THE SCRIPTURES ARE profound in so many ways,
always pointing towards Christ. Here in Genesis we
see blood shed for the very first time. God Himself cut open
Adam's side and lifted out his coming bride, Eve. The son of
God, Adam (Luke 3:38), bled so that he could receive his bride.

After this incredible event, we read that from the rib of
Adam, the Lord God made a woman, “and brought her unto
the man” (Genesis 2:22). Eve, the bride, was God's gift to His
son, Adam. And Adam received God's gift with joy, knowing
she was fully his. He said, “This is now bone of my bones, and
flesh of my flesh...” (Genesis 2:23).

The Holy Spirit is showing us some astounding truths
through this opening event in Genesis: There will be a second

Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45, 47), the coming Son of God. He, too, will receive a cut in His side while He is in the deep sleep of death (John 19:33, 34). His blood will be shed in order that His bride might appear (Ephesians 5:25, 27). In fact, this bride, the church, actually will be “members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones” (Ephesians 5:30, 32).

We also discover that these “members of His body,” His bride, are gifts to this Son of God from God the Father (John 6:37; John 17:9). And amazingly, this bride has been hidden in this Son of God “before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4).

There are additional truths being presented to us in this Genesis event: Adam was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Christ is the *visible* image of God (John 1:18). Eve was also made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). The bride of Christ is being conformed to the image of God the Son (1 Corinthians 15:49).

It is interesting to note that because of Eve’s sin, Adam, too, entered into sin (Genesis 3:6). And in order to rescue His bride (us), Christ, Who knew no sin, became sin (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Adam and his bride, Eve, were counted as one flesh. The two became one, never to be separated from one another. And together they bore fruit, their children. Christ and His bride also are counted as one, never to be separated from one another (Ephesians 5:31, 32; Romans 8:38, 39). And thus, children of God are born into the world through the work of the Spirit in the bride (1 Timothy 1:2; Romans 10:15).

Further, Adam and his bride were given a *joint* assignment by the Creator. They were to reign over God’s entire creation.

The Bride Hidden in the Son

The promise to the bride of Christ is that she will reign *jointly* with the Bridegroom over all creation as a joint-heir with Christ (2 Timothy 2:12). It is no wonder that the apostle Paul referred to this arrangement of bride and Bridegroom as a *mystery*. He said, “This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church” (Ephesians 5:32).

The most exciting event in all of human history will occur when the bride of Christ is fully manifested to the entire world. Revelation 21:2 says, “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” And an angel appeared to John saying, “Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife...and shewed me that great city...descending out of heaven from God” (Revelation 21:9, 10).

As the saints who belong to Jesus Christ, we are the bride. The apostle John is describing our future experience! We will be presented to the Son, “a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle...holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:27). And this display of love and grace will occur amidst “exceeding joy” (Jude 24).

From Genesis to Revelation, the Lord is sending His message of love to His saints. What an incomprehensible yet glorious plan!

Oh, Lord God, expand our capacity to grasp the wonder of Your eternal arrangements for us as those whom You have called before the world began.

Chapter 93

*The Seed: A Corn of
Wheat*



Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

—John 12:24

THE BIBLE HAS much to say about *seeds*. In the opening chapter of Genesis we discover the foundational truth about seeds. Seeds were designed by God to die in the earth and bring forth fruit, each seed after its own kind (Genesis 1:11, 12). Here we discover the scientific reality of DNA. Apple trees produce apples, not walnuts. Olive trees produce olives, not pears. Seeds produce fruit “after their own kind.”

This principle is visible in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the garden of Eden, the Lord clearly stated that the Seed of the woman would inflict a mortal wound on the seed of Satan (Genesis 3:15). In other words, this prophecy in Genesis 3:15 tells us that there will be two seeds in the world. The serpent will have seed in the world, and a woman will have

The Seed: A Corn of Wheat

seed. These two seeds will be locked in a war, a combat. The seed of Satan will bruise the Seed of the woman. And finally, the Seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent's seed.

In Genesis 17:7, the Lord speaks of the *seed* of Abraham. He tells Abraham that He, God, will make an *everlasting* covenant with Abraham's *seed*, a descendant or offspring of Abraham. The apostle Paul tells us the true meaning of these words. Galatians 3:16 states, "Now to Abraham and his *seed* were the promises made. He saith not, 'And to *seeds*' as of many; but as of one, 'And to thy *Seed*' Which is *Christ*."

From these scriptural passages we learn that Christ is *the Seed* that will produce fruit after His own kind. He will fall into the ground and die. And in His resurrection, fruit will be born. Paul explained to believers that we "have been planted together in the likeness" of Christ's death and therefore "we shall also be raised in the likeness of His resurrection" (Romans 6:5). The apostle John reiterated this reality when he quoted Jesus, Who stated that He *is* the wheat seed that will fall in the ground and die so that additional wheat can become visible. This is part of the mystical truth Paul gave to the saints. He stated that we were "in Christ before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4).

The reality of two seeds existing in the world is confirmed in several additional places in the New Testament. When seeing into the hearts of the proud religious leaders of His day, Jesus proclaimed, "Ye are of your father the devil...He was a murderer from the beginning...he is a liar, and the father of it...He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because *ye are not of God*" (John 8:44, 47, emphasis mine). The Lord recognized these men as the offspring, the seed, of Satan, who was a murderer and a liar in the garden of Eden. The serpent

lied to Eve about God's word, and *death* came to both Adam and Eve as a result of this deception.

The Lord also taught this truth of the two seeds in a parable found in Matthew 13. He described a man who sowed good seed in his field. Then during the night, his enemy came and "sowed tares among the wheat" seed (Matthew 13:24, 25). Jesus then explained this parable to the disciples, saying, "He That soweth the good seed is the Son of Man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one. The enemy that sowed them is the devil" (Matthew 13:37–39). So we see two seeds, the offspring of Christ (the wheat seed that produces wheat) and the offspring of Satan, the tares.

The Scripture even uses the DNA principle in the story where Jesus discussed the sheep and the goats. He said that He had come to seek and to save His own, the sheep (Luke 19:10; John 10:11, 14). Sprinkled among the sheep are goats. When the end comes, the Lord will separate the sheep from the goats. The goats, like the tares, are assigned to *everlasting punishment* because they are not His offspring, His seed (Matthew 25:32–46; Matthew 13:30).

There are several life-changing truths hidden for us in the reality of the two seeds. If we know who Christ is, we are His seed, His offspring (1 Corinthians 12:3; John 6:65). As wheat seeds, as His sheep, we are assured of eternal life, never to be lost. Further, we have belonged to Christ eternally, hidden in Him since the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). We have nothing to do with Satan or his kingdom. We can rest in the reality of who we are in Christ. We are His very own, bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh.

The Seed: A Corn of Wheat

Lord, we are both fascinated and encouraged by these incredible truths from Your Word. Thank You for the rest that is ours as Your Spirit provides understanding to our hearts and minds about who we are in You.

Chapter 94

*Jesus on the Mount of
Olives*



Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives.

—Luke 22:39 NLT

*A*FTER CELEBRATING PASSOVER, often called the Last Supper, Jesus and the disciples went to the garden of Gethsemane. This place was situated on the side of the Mount of Olives. This mountain is extremely significant in Scripture.

Geographically, the Mount of Olives is on a small ridge of hills east of Jerusalem, and it overlooks the site of the temple in Jerusalem. It was from the Mount of Olives that the Lord descended in His triumphal entry into the city on what we call Palm Sunday. He was being hailed as King of Israel at that time. It also was from here that He wept over Jerusalem because He knew what was coming just a few days later and that in less than forty years the temple and all of Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Romans (Luke 19:35–44).

Jesus on the Mount of Olives

It is significant that the first time this mountain is mentioned in Scripture is in 2 Samuel 15:30–32. Here we read that King David, king of Israel, had gone to the Mount of Olives to weep because he was being betrayed by one of his own counselors, Ahithophel, and by his own son Absalom. David was sent away, stoned, cursed, and called “a bloody man.” And his betrayer, Ahithophel, afterward went out and hung himself (2 Samuel 17:23). Sound familiar? Scripture is always pointing us to Christ. David’s life pointed towards Jesus in many ways.

When our Shepherd’s birth was announced, it was to shepherds who were keeping watch over their sheep in the same fields where David had kept his sheep, near Bethlehem, the City of David. The Lord received the announcement of His betrayal in the very place King David had received the news of his own betrayal by a faithful friend. Christ wept in the Garden on the Mount of Olives, perhaps among the same olive trees where David had wept one thousand years before.

It was on this mount that the Lord prayed three times to be delivered from the cup of suffering and death that He knew was coming. Finally, He seemed to receive strength to rise and embrace the will of the Father. He turned to the disciples and said, “Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer” (Matthew 26:45 NIV). He was ready to face His coming death in order to bring life to His sheep.

Is it possible that He received strength not only from a ministering angel but also because of a future scene upon the Mount of Olives that had been brought to His mind by the Spirit? Surely our Lord was drawing strength from the written Word of God, which He knew perfectly. The words of the prophet Zechariah, written five hundred years earlier, may have

come to His mind: “And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives... and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west...” (Zechariah 14:4). “And the Lord shall be King over all the earth” (Zechariah 14:9). Perhaps the Lord was looking forward to the day of glory that was yet to come.

And is it possible that His mother’s words had come to Him in the midst of His suffering in the garden? Mary must have shared with Him the message she received from the angel before He was born: “He shall be great...and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David” (Luke 1:32). Perhaps He was remembering that David was restored as king of Israel after his betrayal, and this was a promise of what the Savior would experience in the future.

The Lord Himself underscored the significance of the Mount of Olives by choosing to ascend bodily into heaven from this place after His resurrection. The angels announced that this would be the place of His triumphant return. They said, “Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. And, someday, just as you saw him go, he will return! The apostles were at the Mount of Olives when this happened...” (Acts 1:11, 12 NLT).

The prophet Zechariah wrote that when the Lord returns to the Mount of Olives, all of Israel “**shall look upon Me Whom they have pierced** and they shall mourn for Him as one mourneth for his only son...” (Zechariah 12:10). He will return as their King.

Interestingly, there exists today an earthquake fault that runs down the center of the Mount of Olives. A group of Jewish archaeologists have warned that a thirty-five foot wide bulge is growing in the southeastern wall of the Temple Mount,

Jesus on the Mount of Olives

which has been aggravated by various calamities, including earthquakes.¹ Perhaps we live in the generation that will see the victory celebration that is coming on the Mount of Olives!

Father, Your plan has been in place from before the foundation of the world. And You have given us many hints of the intricacy of this plan in Scripture. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear what You are saying to us. May we rejoice to see the day of Your glorious bodily return as King of Kings to the Mount of Olives.

Chapter 95

Crucified with Christ



I am crucified with Christ.

—Galatians 2:20

WHAT DOES THE apostle Paul mean in this verse? We understand that Christ was crucified, died upon the cross, for our sins. But Paul says that he himself was crucified with Christ.

Charles Spurgeon gave some amazing commentary on this verse. He said that Christ's dying on the cross "was the virtual dying of all His people...The apostle to the Gentiles [Paul] delighted to think that as one of Christ's chosen people, he died upon the cross in Christ. He did more than believe this doctrinally, he accepted it confidently, resting his hope upon it."¹ Paul truly recognized that he, Paul, had been put to death for his sins. There was no more penalty for him to pay!

How can we understand this strange theological puzzle? And how might understanding it help us in a practical way?

Crucified with Christ

Let's look at the Old Testament incident with Abraham and his beloved son, Isaac.

In Genesis 22:1–3, the Lord Himself told Abraham to sacrifice his son as a burnt offering on a high mountain. When father and son arrived at the place where God had told Abraham to go, Abraham “built an altar and placed the wood on it. Then he tied Isaac up and laid him on the altar over the wood. And Abraham took the knife and lifted it up to kill his son as a sacrifice to the Lord” (Genesis 22:9, 10 NLT).

Let's stop right there. Think about Abraham's emotions. The death sentence was on his beloved son, Isaac. Emotionally, Abraham saw Isaac as dead. And most scholars believe Isaac was an adult, perhaps thirty-three years old. Certainly he, too, saw himself as dead—tied to the altar, a vision of the approaching knife in his father's hand. Isaac, emotionally, saw himself as dead. Both father and son understood the death sentence being delivered at that moment in time.

But suddenly a miraculous event occurred: “At that moment the angel of the Lord shouted to him from heaven, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’”

“Yes,” he answered, “I'm listening.”

“Lay down the knife,” the angel said. “. . .I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld even your beloved son. . .”

“Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering on the altar in place of his son. Abraham named the place [Jehovah-jireh] ‘The Lord will provide’” (Genesis 22:11–14 NLT).

Again, try to imagine the emotions of Abraham and Isaac as this relieve came. Think of the joy, the relief, the celebration,

and the victory over death they must have felt! It was like being resurrected! In fact, in Hebrews we read, “Abraham assumed that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead” (Hebrews 11:19 NLT).

We, as individuals, as human beings, have been given a death sentence ourselves. Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death...” God gave the Ten Commandments as a measuring stick for perfection. Any person who breaks one of the Ten Commandments *once* is as guilty as a person who breaks all of the commandments repeatedly (James 2:10). And Jesus Himself explained that anger is as serious as murder and lust is as much a sin as the actual act of adultery. The price tag (the wages) of sin (breaking a commandment) is death, physical death and eternal death. You and I are under a death sentence.

Now comes the good news, the gospel! God has spoken from heaven. He has provided a lamb, the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ (John 1:29). If you are a child of God by faith in Christ, this Lamb died in your place. He was laid on the wood; He died. You are set free to live forever. You never will die. You have a future, a heavenly future, a purpose eternally. And to demonstrate the miracle of it all, the Lamb came back from the dead. He conquered death; the victory has been won for you forever!

Paul explains this good news again and again. He says, “For we died and were buried with Christ...And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives” (Romans 6:4 NLT).

To grasp the miracle of these truths is to be “born again.” We understand in our hearts that we have escaped eternal death. The Holy Spirit has brought us the good news. A Lamb has

Crucified with Christ

been provided. *We are set free!* No wonder it is a privilege to proclaim the truth that we are indeed “born again,” resurrected from among the spiritually dead.

So I died to the law that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ. I myself [the old me] no longer lives, but Christ lives in me. (Galatians 2:19, 20 NLT)

Oh, Lord, may we celebrate this reality every single day of our lives!

Chapter 96

Born From Above



...the heavenly Jerusalem...she is our mother.

—Galatians 4:26 NLT

THE APOSTLE PETER said that the apostle Paul often wrote about things “hard to be understood” (2 Peter 3:16). This passage from Galatians is one of those “hard to be understood” truths that Paul wrote about. Yet this is a truth that is so worthy of being grasped!

As you may recall, the patriarch Abraham was ninety-nine years old when the Lord appeared to him and again promised that his wife, barren Sarah, at age ninety, would have a child (Genesis 17:1, 17). This was such an unbelievable promise from the Lord that Sarah laughed to herself at the very thought of it (Genesis 18:12)! And the Lord’s response to this disbelief? He said, “Is any thing too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return...and Sarah shall have a son” (Genesis 18:14). Then we read, “And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said...Sarah

Born From Above

conceived, and bare Abraham a son...at the set time of which God had spoken..." (Genesis 21:1, 2). Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born.

Now the apostle Paul, as a scholarly, anointed believer, saw the miraculous truth the Holy Spirit was teaching through this significant Old Testament event. And this truth is designed for our understanding to this very day!

Paul explains in his letter to the Galatians that to be born of God, becoming children of God, is a work that only He, Jehovah, the Lord God of Israel, can perform in us. All of our self-efforts and our desires to shape up will not make us children of God. Rather, we must be "born from above." The Holy Spirit Himself must come to us and plant the Seed of Christ in us. This is a sovereign, miraculous birth process that only He can produce. "Is any thing too hard for the Lord?"

The other disciples also were stunned by the miracle of Christ being born in us. The apostle James wrote, "Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth..." (James 1:18). In other words, we were begotten, birthed, as children of God by His planting of His Seed, the Word of Truth, in us.

The apostle Peter wrote, "Blessed be the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy, has caused us to be born again...to obtain an inheritance...reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:3, 4 NASB).

The apostle Paul, in writing to the Galatians, was explaining to them what it means to be "born from above." He pointed out that the birth of Isaac was totally the work of God's Spirit in the body of Sarah, a "heavenly" birth. The first birth, in Paul's analogy, was signified by Abraham's attempting, in his own fleshly efforts, to produce a son. That son was Ishmael, born

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of Hagar, Sarah's handmaiden. Paul explained that the second birth, Isaac, was miraculous.

Christ Himself explained this same truth to Nicodemus, a law-abiding, works-oriented Jewish leader. Jesus said, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (John 3:6, 7).

Perhaps we need to stand in awe over the miracle of the birth of Christ in us. The Seed (the "sperma" in the Greek) has been planted in us if we believe Christ to be God in the flesh. We are "born from above." We are citizens of the "heavenly Jerusalem," born into that kingdom that is above. Christ is being fully formed in us. His very life is growing in us. We are being prepared to live, physically, in the heavenly realm that is already our true home! "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14).

Father, give us a heart of praise in celebration of Your having birthed us by Your Spirit.

Chapter 97

The Glorious Appearing



And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, “Unto Thy seed will I give this land:” and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, Who appeared unto him.

—Genesis 12:7

IT CAN BE shocking to realize that the Lord actually appeared to many of the Old Testament saints. The Hebrew word for “appeared” is *raah*, which means to be seen with the physical eye. And more than just appearing to them, the Lord actually ate meals and had long conversations with some of these Old Testament believers. Read Genesis 18:1–22, for example.

Remember, also, that Abraham was not a Jew. He was not circumcised at that time (that happened in chapter 19), and he knew nothing of the Jewish law, which was not given until 430 years later. So, why did the Creator, the Lord of the Universe,

actually appear to a pagan Gentile and make an incredible promise to him?

Before we consider the answer to that question, it is helpful to recognize two essential biblical truths. First, “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son Which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him” (John 1:18). God the Father is Spirit and cannot be seen except as He reveals Himself in bodily form as the Son. Therefore, every appearance of God in the Old Testament is in the Person of Jesus Christ in His pre-incarnate body (i.e., before He was born in a human body). Thus, Abraham, Jacob, Gideon, and others who saw the Lord actually saw Jesus Christ.

The second essential biblical truth is that the Lord is “the same yesterday, and today and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8). This tells us that the Lord’s purpose from the beginning of creation never has changed. His Old Testament purpose, the intent of His heart, was the same as His New Testament purpose...as is His heart’s purpose this very day.

What is that purpose? Christ Himself told us what His purpose has been since the beginning of time. “Jesus said...the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:9, 10). He was sent by the Father for the purpose of giving life to as many as the Father has given Him. (John 17:2) “For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search My sheep, and seek them out...I will seek that which was lost... (Ezekiel 34:11, 16). “I am being found by people who were not looking for me (Isaiah 65:1 NLT).

In other words, the Lord Jesus Christ sought out Abram and appeared to him to bring salvation to Abram, to save him. The Lord sought out Adam in the garden, walked with Adam

The Glorious Appearing

(Genesis 3:8), and provided for the covering of Adam's sin through shedding the blood of animals (Genesis 3:21). The Lord Himself sought out the twelve disciples, whom He called to follow Him. The Lord appeared to Saul of Tarsus, who was enroute to kill the Christians (Acts 26:16). Saul became Paul, the apostle, as he recognized Jesus Christ to be the Lord God of Israel, Creator of the Universe.

Today we have the testimony of millions of people to whom the Lord has spoken by the power of the Holy Spirit. In addition, we have the biblical account, before our very eyes, of Who Jesus Christ is. Adam, Noah, Abraham, and the earliest patriarchs had no biblical writings from which to hear God's Word!

Are we living like those who realize they have been sought out by the God of the universe? Do we stand in awe over the fact that Christ eats with us when we break bread if we are born again by His Spirit? Do we expect Him to appear physically at any moment? The New Testament saints were constantly looking for "the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). We too will experience the miracle of seeing God in the Person of Jesus Christ!

God of heaven and earth, we praise You for having searched us out and brought us Life in You.

Chapter 98

Our Place of Refuge



And David spoke the words of this song to the Lord in the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said, The Lord is my rock... my deliverer...my...refuge...my savior.

—2 Samuel 22:1–3 NASB

*A*REN'T THERE TIMES in our lives when we long to take refuge from a situation in which we find ourselves? We want to escape, be protected, and be safe from harm's way. David was praising the Lord for rescuing him from dangerous circumstances!

The word refuge in Hebrew includes the concept of “a place of flight,” a habitation to which you can run for safety. When the Israelites settled in the land of Canaan, they established what were called “cities of refuge.” These were arranged in the land geographically so that any person accused of murder could run to one of these cities within less than half a day. As soon as

Our Place of Refuge

he reached even the suburbs of the city, he was given complete protection from his accuser. In fact, there were laws established that made sure there were sign posts that were clearly marked to the city of refuge. Once a year, the elders were required to be sure all the roads were clear and the bridges were intact so that there were no impediments to one's run to safety.

The Lord is teaching us a spiritual truth out of the literal, historical fact of the existence of the cities of refuge. There is a heavenly city whose King provides safety, a refuge, for all who run to the city. The way is prepared and provided. There are signposts to guide us: friends who know Christ, His Word, the Holy Spirit's light in our hearts. And the King has cleared the way for us to run, moment by moment, to Him.

This city is the only place of eternal protection from the "Accuser of the Brethren," Satan himself. We are under the penalty of death because of our sin. Satan does not want us to reach our heavenly city of refuge. He wants us to die before we reach the City. Yet, as believers, we are in Christ, safe from the enemy, within the walls of His heavenly protection.

We often forget that we are safe inside Christ. We are sometimes overtaken by Satan's attacks, and we experience guilt, fear, self-pity, hopelessness, and more. We forget that we are free from the penalty of sin.

King David was being chased by his enemies. They were seeking to kill him. David knew to run to the Lord for protection. He cried out to God, and he was delivered.

Christ is the Heavenly City for us. He has promised to save us, protect us, and keep us safe from the enemy. Do we run to Him with our every concern, believing that He is our Deliverer, our Rock, our Savior, our Refuge?

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Moses encouraged the people of Israel with these words: “The eternal God is thy refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms: And He shall thrust out the enemy from before thee” (Deuteronomy 33:27). Let us run to those arms!

Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28 NLT). David’s son, King Solomon, had learned the truth of this invitation from the Lord. He wrote, “...His children shall have a place of refuge” (Proverbs 14:26b).

Lord, help us to flee to You for safety, peace, and hope in the face of all of Satan’s roaring in our lives!

Chapter 99

Altogether Lovely



He is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend...

—Song of Solomon 5:16

*H*AVE YOU EVER given much thought to what the Lord's appearance is in His glorified body? Scripture tells us that no man has seen the Father except as He is revealed in Jesus Christ (John 1:18). Jesus explained to the woman at the well that God the Father is Spirit and therefore we worship Him through the Holy Spirit (John 4:23, 24). The visible bodily, physical manifestation of the exact image of God is only known to us through Christ. Thus, the Lord said, "...He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9).

The apostle John saw Christ in His glorified body after He had ascended into heaven. John wrote, "His head and his hairs were...white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire; And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace...His

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countenance was as the sun shineth..." (Revelation 1:14–16). He was dressed in a white garment that had a sash made of gold.

There is a sense in which we get to know our friends by their very appearance, their countenances, the way they dress, the way they carry themselves, etc. In the same way, our ability to know the Lord more personally is perhaps enhanced by knowing what the saints who have seen Him tell us!

The apostle John described a door opening into heaven and the Lord invited him, in the Spirit, to see into heaven. John wrote, "And immediately I was in the Spirit: and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He That sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine [sardis] stone" (Revelation 4:2, 3).

The jasper stone is described as "a stone most precious... clear as crystal." Perhaps we can picture the beauty of a perfectly cut diamond reflecting the light. The sardis stone was from the city of Sardis in Asia Minor. It was a gorgeous hue of red. The Hebrew word is *odem*, which can be translated as ruby.

John went on to tell us, "There was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald" (Revelation 4:3). Surely all the colors of the rainbow must be being reflected as through a prism, with emerald green being the predominant color. What incomprehensible beauty!

Yet in Song of Solomon we receive a more intimate description of the Lord. Most scholars recognize this Old Testament book to be not only a literal story but also a type or picture of Christ and His bride, all believers. It is the ultimate love story.

In describing her lover, the bride says, "My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand. His head is as the most fine gold...His eyes are as the eyes of doves...His cheeks

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are as a bed of spices...his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh. His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl: his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires. His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold; his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved...this is my friend” (Song of Solomon 5:10–16).

How we can feel the love and adoration this bride has for her lover, her friend! She admires every aspect of his being, his sweet smell, his kisses of love, the look of his hands, the beauty of his body. He is, to her, altogether—in every way—perfectly formed, ideally suited for her every need.

It is interesting that Isaiah tells us that while the Lord walked the earth, “He hath no form nor comeliness...” There was “no beauty that we should desire Him...He is despised and rejected...we esteemed Him not” (Isaiah 53:2, 3).

The Lord Jesus Christ often remains unattractive to those who do not know Him intimately. He is not seen in the wondrous glory that reveals Him to be God. He is not embraced by unbelievers as their dearest Friend or the Lover of their souls. But to those of us who have discovered the Mystery of the Godhead, He is the Altogether Lovely One, drawing us to Himself by His Beauty and His Love for us.

Lord, may we see You more clearly in all Your Glory that we might worship You more fully.

Chapter 100

Garments of Grace



He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness...

—Isaiah 61:10

*F*ROM THE VERY outset of biblical wisdom, in the book of Genesis, we discover what incredible importance the Lord gives to clothing! As soon as Adam and Eve sinned, they became aware of their nakedness (Genesis 3:7). And immediately they made a human effort to cover their flesh. “They sewed fig leaves together” (Genesis 3:7).

There are huge truths being taught in these opening verses of Genesis. First, we read that their “eyes...were opened and they knew that they were naked” (Genesis 3:7). Now, their eyes always had been open; they always had been aware of their bodies. But after eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:17), they began to die. Their flesh, their body, was now in a state of corruption, and their eyes were opened to

sin. The wages (the result) of sin is death. Guilt became their emotional experience. They may well have actually lost the glorious covering of God's light that perhaps was theirs before they rebelled against the Word of God.

The Greek word for "flesh" is *sarx*. It means more than just body. The biblical use of the term "flesh" refers to man's natural state outside of Christ. Paul writes, "...they that are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:8). Again, Paul tells us, "...there shall no flesh be justified in His sight..." (Romans 3:20). Adam and Eve were in the flesh, the natural state of sinful human beings. And they were hiding from God because they knew they were guilty of breaking His law. He told them not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:17).

When Adam and Eve were hiding from God, the Lord did an amazing thing. He sought Adam and Eve in the garden; He called to them. Then they heard His voice, answered His call, and confessed their sin (Genesis 3:8–13). The Lord wanted to have a relationship with them, but He cannot have a relationship with sinful flesh! So the Lord Himself solved the problem. He spilled the blood of animals, and He made "coats of skin, and clothed them" (Genesis 3:21).

The Scriptures tell us that "without shedding of blood" there is no forgiveness of sin (Hebrews 9:22). The reason why blood represents the cleansing of sin is because "The life of every creature is in the blood" (Leviticus 17:14 NLT). And only life can conquer death, the result of sin. The Lord was teaching this scriptural principle in order that we may begin to learn why Christ's blood had to be shed to rescue us from death. Adam and Eve are in heaven today because the Lord Himself clothed them with garments dipped in blood. He created a way that He could have a relationship with them.

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Adam and Eve's first response to guilt was a "self-help" program designed to make themselves acceptable in the Lord's eyes, to hide their sin with fig leaves! This is a picture of our human efforts to "work our way" into heaven, into God's presence. But no amount of self-effort or good works or clean living will make up for our *natural* condition as sinners.

The prophet Isaiah brings life-changing, transformational truths to those who have faith in Christ. He said that the Savior has "clothed" believers with salvation! In addition, "He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness..." (Isaiah 61:10). The apostle Paul tells us that those of us who are in Christ have been clothed by His own righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). We are wearing the "breastplate of [Christ's] righteousness," and we have received "the helmet of [His] salvation" (Ephesians 6:14, 17).

We are saved from the wrath of God and counted as holy, fully righteous, before God, in Christ. And God Himself has sovereignly provided these incredible, eternal gifts. As with Adam and Eve, He has called us by name, and He has provided the way for us to have a relationship with Him.

Lord, help us to see the incredible garments with which You have clothed us. May we relinquish all of our focus on our performance and self-effort. Instead, by Your grace, open our eyes each and every day to see the eternal clothing we are wearing, the Gift of Your Righteousness. May we, consciously, stand in Your Covering.

Chapter 101

A Change of Clothing



See, I have taken away your sins, and now I am giving you these fine new clothes.

—Zechariah 3:4 NLT

EVERY INCIDENT REPORTED in the Old Testament is signaling a message to us about Jesus Christ and His plan for us. Christ Himself stated that all of the Old Testament scriptures speak of Him (Luke 24:27).

In the book of Zechariah, we meet a Jewish high priest named Joshua. He had an encounter with Satan, who was accusing him of sin in front of the Angel of the Lord (Zechariah 3:1). The Lord Himself rebuked Satan. The Lord's Angel then said, "Take off his filthy garments." And, turning to Joshua, he said, "I have taken away your sins, and I am giving you these fine new clothes" (Zechariah 3:4 NLT).

Notice that Satan is the accuser of God's chosen servants (Revelation 12:10). He has access to heaven and is regularly

pointing out our “filthiness” to the Lord (Job 1:6). And the Lord’s answer to Satan is always the same: “I have taken away their sins, and I have dressed them in new clothes.” The Lord points to what He Himself has provided for His chosen ones, a complete removal of “filth” and a new covering.

The apostle Peter states that we as believers “are God’s holy priests...you are a kingdom of priests” (1 Peter 2:5, 9 NLT). The apostle John makes this same statement in Revelation 1:5–6: “All praise to Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. He has made us...his priests who serve before God his Father” (NLT). Again, John writes, “...your blood has ransomed people for God...And you have caused them to become God’s Kingdom and his priests. And they will reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:9, 10 NLT).

Joshua, the high priest in Jerusalem, was chosen by the Lord to serve Him. Joshua’s role as high priest was to serve as the Lord’s representative before the people. In fact, the name Joshua means *God saves*. He was the visible manifestation of God to the people of Israel. And so that he could fulfill that role, the Lord Himself dressed him in “costly garments.”

In exactly the same way, the Lord has called us as saints to serve before Him as His representatives on earth. The apostle Paul said, “...those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore...God who brought us back to himself through what Christ did. And God has given us the task of reconciling people to him... We are Christ’s ambassadors...” (2 Corinthians 5:17, 18, 20 NLT).

In and of ourselves, in our natural human condition, we never can qualify to serve in the Lord’s presence. But we are “new creations,” given a new covering, the righteous, costly garment

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of Jesus Christ, purchased by His shed blood. We are hidden in Him, the High Priest (Colossians 3:3). And we stand in Him as we serve on earth.

Do we see ourselves as clothed in His heavenly garments? Are we, by faith, seeing ourselves as His priests on earth who have continual access to His throne? Do we believe, by faith, that He has ordained us to be His representatives on earth, day in and day out, in all of our circumstances?

Lord, help our unbelief. Open our eyes to see who we are, a kingdom of priests, reigning on earth, standing in Your amazing grace.

Chapter 102

Clothed in Linen



They must wear linen turbans and linen undergarments. They must not wear anything that would cause them to perspire.

—Ezekiel 44:18 NLT

*N*OW ISN'T THAT a strange verse? And don't we sometimes wonder why the Lord included in Scripture what, on the surface, seems like superfluous information? Yet every word is inspired of God and "able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith..." (2 Timothy 3:15).

So, what practical message was being delivered by Ezekiel as he carefully outlined the proper garments for a priest? We recognize that as believers in Jesus Christ, we are His royal priesthood, dressed in the garments of His righteousness, entering boldly into the throne of grace as intercessors (1 Peter 2:5; Hebrews 4:16). The Old Testament priests were required to wear linen garments—for underwear and for outward wear as well (Ezekiel 44:17, 18). The reason? They were never to sweat!

Clothed in Linen

Linen is absorbent. And both the inner and outer garments were white linen, a picture of Christ's purity ascribed to us.

Do you remember Jesus' familiar invitation to us? He said, "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). The Lord has been teaching us to rest in His finished work since the days of creation. Genesis 2:2 states, "And on the seventh day God ended His work...and He rested." And in John 19:30, Christ told us, from the cross, "It is finished."

The apostle Paul describes the significance of these "finished works" in another way. He explained to Titus that we have been saved by Christ Himself: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, He saved us..." (Titus 3:5). The hidden undergarments we wear are that of His holiness, His righteousness. We did not gain salvation by the sweat of our own effort.

Furthermore, the visible good works that we display as saints are thoroughly the fruit of the Holy Spirit in us. If we are working at trying to be "good Christians," we are sweating. The Lord has called us to give up the heavy burden of "law-keeping" and rest in the fact that He lived the perfect life in our place. And now it is "God Which worketh in you both to will and to do, of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). Any meaningful service we render is all of His doing. In Hebrews 4:9, 10 it says, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest has ceased from his own works, as God did from His."

Our greatest calling—and our greatest challenge—as believers is to "not sweat"! The "victorious Christian life" is the experience of walking by faith in the knowledge of what Christ

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has done—in spite of what we see as our own failures. And we cannot “drum up” faith! Faith itself is a gift!

We are to live “by the faith of the Son of God...” (Galatians 2:20). “...this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4).

Lord, lift up our eyes to see who we are in You. May we “quit sweating,” give up our busyness and self-effort, and rest in You.

Chapter 103

The Garment of Praise



To give unto them...the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

—Isaiah 61:3

*W*HEN WE ARE experiencing sadness, disappointment, discouragement, or frustration, praising the Lord does not seem to come easily. Yet the prophet Isaiah gave us the picture of how the spirit of heaviness is lifted. It is when the Lord dresses us in the “garment of praise.” In other words, when God begins to remind us of His grace, we become thankful and grateful. Those feelings move us toward praise. We experience a “change of clothes.” We move from heaviness to joy. Praise is a garment we can, by the power of His Spirit, elect to put on in order to return to joy.

At the practical level, we can begin to recount the amazing garments in which the Lord already has dressed us. Isaiah reminds us that the Lord has “clothed me with the garments of salvation”

More Heavenly Treasures

(Isaiah 61:10). The Hebrew word for “garment” is *begged*, and it means a covering, to be cloaked in. The apostle Paul tells us that we are hidden in Christ; He covers us (Colossians 3:3).

Isaiah repeats this truth with another phrase, “He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness” (Isaiah 61:10). And, again, Paul says we are saved by Christ’s righteousness. The Lord views us as in Christ, and His perfect life is what the Father sees when He views us. We are clothed in His perfection (Romans 5:10).

Paul reminds us of several praiseworthy truths in his letter to the Ephesians. He says, “So we praise God for the wonderful kindness he has poured out on us...he purchased our freedom through the blood of his Son” (Ephesians 1:6, 7 NLT). “Furthermore, because of Christ, we have received an inheritance from God” (Ephesians 1:11 NLT). “God is so rich in mercy...that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life” (Ephesians 2:4, 5 NLT).

The list of good gifts that are ours in Christ is infinite. He has given us His Holy Spirit to keep us preserved, safe until His return. He has given us unique talents; He has designed us for a specific purpose and put us on the planet for “the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:14).

David, the psalmist said, “Because Thy loving kindness is better than life, My lips shall praise Thee...And my mouth shall praise Thee with joyful lips When I remember Thee...And meditate on Thee” (Psalm 63:3, 5, 6).

The Lord has shown us how to exchange our spirit of heaviness for “the garment of praise.” It is through the conscious focus on the Lord Himself and His goodness to us. This act produces faith and joy. As Romans 10:17 says, “Faith cometh by hearing...the Word of God.”

The Garment of Praise

“Always be full of joy in the Lord...thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God’s peace...Fix your thoughts on what is true...Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” (Philippians 4:4–8 NLT)

Let us lift up our eyes to God, the Great Giver of Grace.

Lord, kindly open our ears and our hearts to Your incredible work on our behalf. Let us exchange our “spirit of heaviness” for the gorgeous “garment of praise,” for Your glory and by Your power.

Chapter 104

Hidden in the Rock



I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with
My hand...

—Exodus 33:22

ONE OF THE thrilling things about the Word of God is the Spirit-anointed consistency of the words and metaphors all the way from Genesis to Revelation. This verse from Exodus is a grand illustration of that.

The apostle Paul writes that the “rock” of the book of Deuteronomy is a type or metaphor for Jesus Christ: “For they drank of that spiritual Rock...and that Rock was Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:4). The reference in Exodus contains a similar message. The Lord told Moses that He would allow Moses to see His glory, but not directly because Moses could not have handled the full glory of God. So, the Lord placed Moses in a clift, a narrow slit in the side of the rock.

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Notice that the Lord Himself placed Moses in a place of safety, a place of grace, so he could experience God's glory. We see Christ, the Rock, hanging on the cross with a slit, a narrow cut, in His side so that we as believers can be hidden in Him. His blood poured out of that cut so that we may enter into Him, hidden in Christ (Colossians 3:3). The Father placed us there.

In addition, the Lord promised to protect Moses fully in that rock. He said, "I...will cover thee with My hand..." As saints, those who are hidden in Christ, we, too, are protected by the Father's hand. Speaking of His sheep, the Lord said, "They shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand...no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand" (John 10:28, 29).

It is also significant that the Lord told Moses, "Thou canst not see My face: for there shall no man see Me and live" (Exodus 33:20). Because all human beings in their natural state would be consumed by the fire of God's glory, God provided a way for those who have found grace in His sight to see His glory. To Moses the Lord said, "For thou hast found grace in My sight..." (Exodus 33:17). To us, He has extended His grace so that we may see the glory of God in the person of His Son (John 1:18).

The apostle Paul reminds us that there is only one sure foundation upon which we can build a life, and that foundation is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11). The Lord tells us that "a wise man" builds his house "upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24). And He said to Moses, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock" (Exodus 33:21). Thus, the only place of safety in all the world is in and on the Rock!

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Lord, we rejoice over the incredible reality of being hidden in “the hollow of the Rock.” Thank You for Your eternal hand of protection.

Chapter 105

Our Rejoicing Savior



He that goeth forth...Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing His sheaves with Him.

—Psalm 126:6

*I*T IS QUITE amazing to see what joy Christ has in His relationship with us. We provide Him with matchless joy. He adores His sheep!

In the parable of the lost sheep we see the shepherd rejoicing over being reunited with his one stray sheep. Luke 15:5, 6 says, “And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing... Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.”

We also learn that we were on His mind when He hung upon the cross. And it was this divine romance, this insatiable love affair He has with us, that gave Him such joy that He could endure the crucifixion. Hebrews 12:2 says, “...Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross.” And Ephesians 5:25, 27 states,

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“Christ also loved the church...and gave Himself...That He might present it to Himself...”

In addition, Jude 24 reminds us that His source of joy revolves around the fact that He is going to keep us from falling and present us faultless and blameless before the throne of glory “with exceeding joy.” As the bridegroom of a gorgeous bride experiences joy at the wedding, so also we see the joy at the marriage feast of the Savior, with whom we have this divine romance. All of heaven shouts, “Alleluia...Let us be glad and rejoice...for the marriage of the Lamb is come...And to her [His wife] was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white...” (Revelation 19:6-8).

Perhaps it is quite significant that the first public miracle the Lord performed was at a marriage (John 2:1–11). There He turned water into the finest of wines, a picture of an exuberant celebration of love, affection, and joy. “...the best wine for my beloved” (Song of Solomon 7:9).

In Zephaniah 3:17, the Lord is again described as pouring out His love on His Beloved, this time through singing. It says, “He will rejoice over thee with joy...He will joy over thee with singing.”

Perhaps we need to ask the Lord to open our eyes that we may see and feel the passionate love He has for us. Do we really believe that He experiences the joy of romance with us, rejoicing as He brings us with Him on His return to set up His kingdom on earth?

Oh, Lord Jesus, our heavenly Lover, give us grace to believe the fact that You experience joy in loving us. May we be gifted not only with the capacity to receive Your love, but also with the ability to return it with intensity and joy.

Chapter 106

The Fountain within You



The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

—John 4:14

THE LORD JESUS Christ gave believers an amazing promise in this statement. He said that believers will receive a gift from Him—an inner spring of water that will supply us eternally. The Lord said that the *water* He will give us is a “*well* of water.” The Greek word for “well” here is *pege*, which actually means a *fountain*. It reflects the idea of *gushing abundantly*.

Scripture reveals that water is the metaphor for the Holy Spirit. John 7:38, 39 states, “He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, **out of His belly shall flow rivers of living water.**” (But this spake He of the Spirit, Which they that believe on Him should receive:...))

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Before the Lord returned to heaven after His resurrection He promised to *give* the believers the Spirit, the Comforter. He said, “I will send Him unto you” (John 16:7). The Spirit lives in us as the Lord’s *Gift* to us. He is our Supplier, our Living Water to keep us *alive* in Christ. The Spirit in us is also the Lord’s pledge or promise that we are His “purchased possession,” safely preserved for eternity (Ephesians 1:14).

What are the additional giftings that are ours as a result of this *inner fountain* that mysteriously springs up in us? The Lord tells us that the Spirit, the Living Water, is the Spirit of Truth. He is the One Who “will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13). He teaches us “of all things, and is truth, and is no lie...” (1 John 2:27).

The Spirit also cleanses us and conforms us into the image of Jesus Christ. This is a secret, hidden process that is occurring continuously in the inner life of a believer. The Lord sanctifies and cleanses us “with the washing of water by the word” (Ephesians 5:26). The end result is that we will be presented to Christ “not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing...holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:27). It is this Cleansing Fountain that continually preserves us as righteous, with bold access to the throne of grace. The Spirit mortifies the deeds of our flesh (Romans 8:13) and allows us to present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable unto God (Romans 12:1). This Teacher cleanses and renews our minds with Truth. His supply causes us to be transformed so that we are no longer conformed to the world’s lies.

Solomon described this well of Living Water as “a spring shut up, a fountain sealed” (Song of Solomon 4:12). Charles Spurgeon commented on this verse, noting the fact that “there

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is a mysterious life within [a believer] which no human can touch.” In addition, this Fountain bears a particular seal or *mark*, “a king’s royal seal...owned by a proprietor...separated by God in the day of redemption.”¹ This Fountain springs up and *waters* each of us individually and uniquely. Spiritual gifts begin to appear in us, ordained to be manifested by His power (Ephesians 2:10). These include teaching, evangelism, apostleship, miracles, etc. In addition, the Spirit produces *fruit* in us...love, joy, peace, faith, etc. (Galatians 5:22).

And this bubbling Fountain has *power and energy*. We are empowered as believers; we are filled with supernatural levels of life and energy! Jesus said, “Ye shall receive *power*, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you” (Acts 1:8). The Greek word for “power” is *dunamis*, the basic word for *dynamite*! There is power in the Flowing Water! We are “strengthened with *might* by His Spirit” in our inner man (Ephesians 3:16, emphasis mine).

Perhaps we should practice singing the song that the Israelites sang as they received water from the well that the Lord gave them in the desert. “Then Israel sang this song. ‘Spring up O well!’” (Numbers 21:17).

Lord, we praise You for this Well of Water You have poured into us. May the Spirit spring up in each of us in fresh power for Your glory.

Endnotes

Chapter 94

1. *Arizona Republic*, “Temple Mount faults an issue,” November 3, 2002, A26.

Chapter 95

1. Charles N. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening* (Hendrickson Publishers, 1991), 699.

Chapter 106

1. Charles N. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening* (Hendrickson Publishers, 1991), 646.

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