

Running out of time to change

# What we hate



Saul struck down on the road to Damascus

by  
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## Author's Preface

Is it OK to hate? Look in your mirror first thing in the morning. What do you see? Success? Failure? Some troubling sin? Someone growing in Christ? We can and should hate evil and sin. Those who are born again have the power to change what they don't like. We all should see things that need changing. Ask God for help in this effort. Bad spirits are aligned against us like fear, discouragement, depression, anxiety, anger, frustration and unbelief to name a few. Satan has his army working to hold us back from becoming all God designed us to be. Saul of Tarsus pursued the goal of becoming a man of God. His zeal and reputation proved it. But he served God in some wrong ways. God shook up his life and theology setting him on a new path. A time of shaking is here. Judgment begins in the House of God. It also is now troubling our nation and the world. In Rahab's day her country shook with fear as Israel crossed the Jordan into the land promised by God. Very soon Christ will come back to overcome this evil world. Time is running out to make changes only we can make. Saul's epiphany came on the road to Damacus. That city is now being rocked by much evil. Soon it will be a ruinous heap. (Isaiah 17) Shaking purifies some while killing others. The going will get really tough in 2016. Decision time is now. Decide to start overcoming before it is too late.

Semper Fidelis,  
Dave Winecoff

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# 1

## on changing direction

Lao Tzu, a famous Chinese philosopher, lived 500 years before the first coming of Jesus Christ. He was considered very wise, and had some worthwhile observations about life. I found this quote interesting in light of the heading.

*“If you do not change direction you may end up where you are heading.”*

***Lao Tzu***

At some point in one's adult years it is very important to take some time off from the business of life's activities to consider the point of such a quote. I for one might have benefited from hearing this saying earlier in my life. Maybe it was the times I grew up in. But I came out of high school (1958) and then college (1962) not really questioning much of what was going on. The cold war was in progress, but other than that life seemed pretty secure for me. Yes I heard some Lao Tzu quotes as a Marine Lieutenant in Basic School at Quantico, VA after college. I was on a set course back then. I never really took a real pause to reflect where I was heading. Vietnam was an early destination that could have got me killed. Was I too trusting back then? In light of this next verse I certainly was too trusting.

*“Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man in whom there is no help.”*

***Psalm 146:3***

My father was a wise man and well respected. For that I am grateful. One of the comments he did make to me in my youth was that it is less painful to learn vicariously from the folly observed around you in others than to learn

first hand as a consequence of your own foolish mistakes and rash judgments. I think I was more cautious than many. We all know personal emotions can propel us forward to our detriment. My emotions at times got the best of me too. I am not a particular fan of Joyce Meyer, but she is a great teacher of women. I like this quote.

*“Your emotions are very unstable and should never be the foundation for direction in your life.”*

*Joyce Meyer*

Thank God my emotions were never at the core of my foundation. I am shocked at how many in this generation seem to be ruled by emotions no matter their station or success in life. Group emotions seem to be carrying our nation down a sink hole toward oblivion especially in the area of race relations and things like rock concerts.

It doesn't seem that our Congress because of political correctness and deception will put the plug back in the sink drain. The drain needs to be plugged up. The legal garbage that is being made law through executive actions is terrible. Laws can't change us. Only a moral people can ensure proper enforcement and fairness. I am not hopeful the 2016 election cycle will turn things around. But I believe it is our last chance as a nation.

## **the battle for change**

The results from the Iowa caucus process in the morning news as I worked on this chapter was interesting. Senator Ted Cruz pulled out a squeaker beating out Trump and Rubio by a hair. Hucklebee wisely announced he was dropping out.

Next comes the New Hampshire primary. Donald Trump has a sizeable lead there and just got an endorsement from Scott Brown. Two more: Santorum and Rand Paul dropped out after New Hampshire's results came in. Following N. H. is the South Carolina primary. After that the battle really heats up in March. It could be over by May. Will the elections really change

anything? There is a battle going on for the soul of America and I am sure the elite are fearful they might lose control of the election process so some crazy things will happen to ensure they won't I fear. So we need to be praying. Many in the nation sleep on having no interest in politics. At this point only Jesus Christ can save our nation.

Why are so many oblivious to the awful changes ahead for our nation that need to be stopped? And quickly turned around! My short answer is that so few are really born again that most are in deception. Only after I was born again did I begin to understand what was really going on.

If things don't get a lot better in Washington D.C., the center for our nation's leadership it is over for us. Spiritual backbone is essential this year. Otherwise its curtains for America. We are on the track now of a godless nation whose end is destruction. This was not the direction the Pilgrims set in motion in 1620. 400 years ago in Plymouth, New Hampshire a straight course was set. This key state has now decided for Trump. He could turn things around but will he be nominated. We will know the answer by this summer.

What or who rules the American culture? Are you sitting on the sidelines during these crucial times? Most people are. Or are you on the narrow path discussed in scripture where your prayers can make a real difference? There are course corrections and complete reversals that must be made in this nation. Such a change only comes with individual decisions for Christ. If enough people make the right changes it can and will change a nation's course. Will we be a sheep or a goat nation at the second coming?

Real change only starts at the personal level with heart changes. There needs to be a reversal from a natural man to a spiritual man! Also reversals from religious believers to born again believers. Believers in Christ can still be unbelieving with respect to important biblical understanding. Healing and deliverance are understandings where many believers are still in darkness not really understanding what God wants to do. A radical change must come about to receive many of the promised biblical blessings one can receive in

this life. We need to grow up in Christ. The immature Christian needs to become a wise Christian. But the culture is increasingly pagan and godless.

Natural reasoning is better than no reasoning at all, but we all need to add to this supernatural understanding. Otherwise one's faith can't mature. An important question is: Where am I ultimately heading now? To know for sure we all must be in the daily habit of consulting the Bible in league with our daily submission to the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, in effect, we are deaf and blind. Getting back to the Joyce Meyer quote. Are any unhealthy emotions ruling our lives or those with influence over us?

## **surrender**

To be born again (John 3:3,6) is to take a great leap forward concerning who rules our lives. Until that particular point we can not see certain things God wants us to see. Some who tell me they are born again make me wonder as I listen to them. Do they really know what they are talking about.

To be born again is to change one's direction from hell to heaven. It is the first step in equipping one's self to become an overcomer of life problems. And just as important, to help impact the lives of others for God. That experience is not just about one's personal eternity. It all boils down to if, you will but believe. As my wife is fond of saying: "*What one chooses to believe determines how much truth they can receive.*"

The process of changing directions in my view begins with what or who we are surrendered too. If you have the I.Q. of a Bill Gates, but are only reasoning in the natural realm; and that is where the object of your faith lies then you are still a poor lost soul. No matter how much the world might love you you are still lost. It does not matter how much you might have blessed others. You still need to change direction.

# 2

## destinations & destiny

As I have grown in spiritual maturity, one destination I now see as vitally important is one that keeps me able to “ *dwell under the shadow of his wings.*” (**Psalm 91**). I want that kind of protection in Christ. It only comes from staying close to our Father in Heaven through a daily relationship with Christ and His Holy Spirit. This is a very real destination for me.

I study the Old Testament as well as the new. Many don't. Some think they just need a New Testament understanding. I greatly value the New Testament. I am so glad I am under this covenant. But to fully understand this great gift one must study the complete Bible. There are important revelations to be unlocked from the Old Testament.

As I look at how God worked through Moses, I marvel at the God of Abraham, Iaaac and Jacob. He is the same God we worship in the New Testament. He doesn't change. Praise God!

He has a destiny for the people of God. Each of us at birth are set on a life course toward a destination. When Jacob (Israel) was just a ignorant baby God cared for him (them) in mighty ways. Later with manna from heaven and water out of rock in the dry desert. For 40 years the soles of their sandels did not wear out. He guided them and took care of their every need in a miraculous fashion. Take note; if you worry about the future! What God did in the past needs to be remembered. I like to remember it frequently.

An important destination in my view is a location people can't get to easily. It takes a special journey to get there. Some just dream and hope but never make plans or save for such a trip. Such people might buy a lottery ticket and

hope, but visiting the place they would like to visit remains just a dream. When you ask most people, even Christians, what is their destination of choice they are likely to say something like Disneyland, or Hawaii or maybe if they are a serious Christian, Jerusalem. Should such a physical place be your number one choice in this life? How about a trip through a dream or vision? The Father has put a wonderful destiny and destination into the heart of those who are fully his. Some while alive have visited places like Heaven and New Jerusalem! The god of this world wants to cover over such thinking. How does he do it. For sure he uses our minds to trip us up.

## the right way

It is work everyday to keep a heavenly focus. We all have lots of things needing doing and family members who almost daily impacting some of our our “to do” lists. A friend has a mother turning 100 this weekend.

It is OK to live fully in this life. We all have natural desires. We need to accomplish some of them to maintain physical, emotional and intellectual stability. We all need over the course of this life to maintain a certain equilibrium and balance. Otherwise we can lose a healthy focus, become depressed and lose Godly influence in our circle of family and acquaintances.

*“But who so looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”*

**James 1:25**

So are there any obstacles and boobytraps on the way to our chosen destinations? Yes! One of the great classics of all time, written by a man while he was in jail was the book: **Pilgrim's Progress**. It does a marvelous job displaying the many obstacles along the way to one's destination. This famous journey has been made into a movie. You can buy the DVD. My wife and I have watched it a number of times. We find it instructive.

## **Christ's half brother**

James, the half brother of Jesus didn't believe his brother was who he clearly said he was until after his death, burial and resurrection. How do we know? The Bible gives us strong evidence in **Mathew 12:46** and elsewhere. Mary and his brethren came to get him. Although not named directly I am sure James, Mary's son was there in unbelief. Now as one who was raised Roman Catholic this was hard for me at first to believe. I didn't want to journey into the Bible to search such things out. I just wanted to stay in the comfort of religious belief.

He was fully aware, I am sure, of the journey his brother had undertaken prior to his death. His mind probably didn't want to go there with his brother I suspect. He knew full well the hazards along the way for Jesus. The many obstacles in his path. It was obvious that in spite of the miracles, Jesus was making many powerful enemies. But after his death James believed. Then he took up his cross and started down the path toward his own destiny as a true believer. He ended up martyred for his faith.

## **pursuing one's destiny**

Even though James wasn't on the path to his destiny before the resurrection of his brother, Jesus; the Father knew his heart. So with this startling discovery after the radical cross everything changed for James and he made up for his lost time. His destination changed and his destiny.

So it is with us. When we talk with people about where they would like to visit and learn how they see things eternally, there are always interesting challenges for us. Thinking about one's destiny is an important thing to do. Does your present destination of choice have anything to do with your destiny? In light of the direction our society is going, the movers and shakers in control obviously have a different understanding of where they are headed than one who believes.

## **obstacles to progress**

When you get someone talking about where they want to go, it is always interesting to ask what would hamper the accomplishment of their dream. What obstacles are they facing? What is slowing them down? Those close to me know I am looking forward to being raptured into an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ. Nothing in this world is more important to me than my blessed hope. But I have no control over the timing of that event, no matter how much I desire it to happen. The timing is our Father's in Heaven.

My wife and I were doing our morning Bible study a little while ago and we were in the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 31. As we were reading it my mind was traveling back and forth to events that day and how they related to the death of Moses who was 120 years old and giving his last instructions from God before they would cross the Jordon. Israel was located at what the military calls the Line of Departure. The jumping off point into the attack.

I was thinking about how unchanging human nature is. In that chapter God knows the stubbornness of his people and where it will lead them: for many destruction. He tells them ahead of time. And just like back then God's message in our day falls mostly on deaf ears. How predictable we are in God's eyes. How little we know in terms of spiritual realities.

There are those who doggedly pursue their destinations both good and bad. Many of us are just dreamers. We talk about the desirable places we want to visit. But never actually plan how to get there and work toward the goal. Why do so few of us reach the objective we spend so much time dreaming about?

## **Deuteronomy 31**

The answer really jumped out at me as my wife and I studied this morning. In this chapter God is speaking for the final time through his spokesperson, Moses, who faithfully recorded God's instructions in the first five books of the Bible. This book is the last of the five, and has 34 chapters. Many things jumped out at me as we read this chapter.

- How thoroughly God knows his people and their future.
- How similar is the present situation in America as to Moses' day.
- How much we are controlled by our human natures.
- How greatly we need God's help to overcome human behaviors.

God used Moses to encourage Israel and Joshua. He told the people that Moses wouldn't be leading them over the Jordan into the Land of Promise. The people were told that God would go over the Jordan before them. The people were told that God would fight for them.

*“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”*

***Deut. 31:6***

God promises to be with us, to fight for us, and that we will possess the land promised to our forefathers if we will just believe and trust. Why is this so hard? He then gave them instructions in the form of commands. He then tells them that they will ignore his instructions and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers in the land, and will forsake Him. And that they will break the covenant he had established with them. And that will kindle God's anger against them. And great trouble will befall them. No one in their generation had seen the power of God as had Israel. Yet they turned their backs on the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

## **in our day**

As my wife and I were reading through this chapter, I was thinking about it in light of the morning news on DRUDGE, WND, FOXNEWS and a couple other websites. I was amazed at how concrete our human natures are; at how little things have changed since Moses' day. No country in history has been blessed as has America. In addition to knowing from the Old Testament about God we have the New Testament, the example of Jesus Christ, the power of his mighty name, and the Holy Spirit.

Yet what is happening in our day? We have turned our back on God. No nation has had such an openness to the gospel as has America. Yet we have rejected the truth and have largely elected unbelievers to represent and govern us. We were given a godly national destiny. A remnant in this country know the most important destination is heaven,. And the nation is now being overcome with lies, deception and apostacy. How is this possible given the light we have been given that so many are willingly being led to their slaughter?

# 3

## the promised land

Many children are promised land by their fathers. We call it a family inheritance. Such transfers are based on written wills that are covenants. It is an incredible blessing when children are fortunate to have such a father's blessing. Most are far less fortunate in what is handed down to them from their fathers. When their last parent dies too many get nothing of real value. There are many different stories that could be told about such blessings and curses based on what was handed down or stolen from their parents.

The inheritance I want to discuss in this chapter is land promised by God to the apple of his eye, Israel. His special people! My own eye has seen the land God promised to his people, Israel, come back into their hands in our generation. This is an historical fact. This nation was utterly destroyed in 70 AD by the most powerful nation on earth at that time, the Roman Empire. The Bible said it would be restored in one day. It came back into the Jews hands May 15th of 1947. Only God could accomplish such a miracle, and foretell it thousands of years before hand.

### **just because he promised**

Some children get an inheritance just because their father promised it. Even when they don't deserve it. That is love in action. The land came back to Israel while they were still in unbelief. They still reject God's Son. We find two words: "*promised*" and "*land*" used twelve times in the Bible:

Exodus 12:25

Numbers 14:34

Deuteronomy 6:3, 9:28, 19:8, 27:3

Nehemiah 9:15, 9:28

Hebrew 11:9

Joshua 22:4; 23: 5 & 15

There are many promises in the Bible, but none are having such a worldwide effect on the nations in our generation as does this one promise of God. One thing believers should lock into their minds is that what God promises he will deliver. God is not like a man that he should lie. We can trust him with our life.

Believers miss out on many promises because they don't really believe he will do it. Its not so much that Satan steals away what God has promised to do in our lives, as that we are defeated through our own fears and unbelief. Yes there are clever liars who attempt to trip us up. But usually the fault for a failed promise can be laid at our own doorstep.

God spoke to Israel in terms of blessings and curses. He made a covenant with them. He kept his end, but his people failed at their end. Let's look at some of these listed verses above to see what God intends not just for Israel but for us, gentile Christians, who will just trust in Him and the promises he has made. These promises are confirmed in the New Testament. Yes, they are for us too.

## **a short bible study**

*“And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised that ye shall keep this service.”*  
***Exodus 12:25***

This is the first time we find these two words used in the Bible but we see from this verse that God talked about this promise earlier in the Bible. But Israel had to keep up their end; this service. In the next verse we see God talking about his people's breach of the promise through their lack of service.

*“After the number of the days in which ye searched the land even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.”*      ***Numbers 14:34***

We see here that Israel's iniquities delayed the fulfillment of God's promise forty years because a majority of the spies came back from their scouting trip full of fear which they passed on to the people through their description of the giants living there. They gave a bad report and the people accepted it.

God requires obedience as should any father from his sons. There always should be consequences when a son disobeys his father. Unfortunately in our generation there has been a lot of poor fathering. For Israel the consequences because of their unbelief and rebellion were dire. God uses his dealings with Israel to tell other nations how to live. We learn from bad and good examples.

*“Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.”*

***Deut. 6:3***

Hear, observe and do that it may go well with thee. Good advice for us in our day. If God chastised his people in their day, will he not do so in our day? If we want it to go well with us, we too must hear, observe and do.

*“Lest the land whence thou broughtest us out say because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land which he promised them, and because he hated them, he hath brought them out to slay them in the wilderness.”*

***Deut. 9:28***

If we are bold about telling others about Christ they will watch to see how God treats us. We don't want God to get a bad name because of our own poor behavior and their consequences for us. If we are being treated poorly could it be we are not upholding our end. Being a bad witness has consequences.

*“And if the LORD thy God enlarge thy coast, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, and give thee all the land which he promised to give unto thy fathers;”*

***Deut. 19:8***

This above verse is part of further instruction as to how to proceed in the land of promise. I find it interesting that the passage talks about cities of refuge. In our day the liberals in effect have established what they call sanctuary cities where illegal refugees can come and avoid deportation. They are breaking our national laws. They are growing cities of lawlessness in our nation. Satan is a copycat for sure. He perverts everything. Come quickly LORD Jesus.

*“And thou shalt write upon them all the words of this law, when thou art passed over, that thou mayest go in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, a land that floweth with milk and honey; as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee.”*

**Deut. 27:3**

“Write on them all the words of this law.” What does this mean? In my view it means to memorize them so that you won't forget them so that you will faithfully execute them. Obviously Americans have fallen short in this area. We have forgotten God's laws and thus have allowed unbelievers to write new laws to replace them bringing a curse on the land. Long ago Israel did the same thing. Look how they suffered as a consequence.

*“And now the LORD your God hath given rest unto your brethren, as he promised them: therefore now return ye, and get you unto your tents, and unto the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side Jordan.”*

**Joshua 22:4**

The Lord was faithful to fulfill his promise in spite of Israel's action in not doing what they were told to do.

*“And the LORD your God, he shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land as the LORD your God hath promised unto you.*

**Joshua 23:5**

Faithful is our God. He is a trustworthy God. He can always be counted on to do what he said he would do. Such a God is worthy to be praised.

*“Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all good things are come upon you, which the LORD your God promised you; so shall the LORD bring upon you all evil things, until he have destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.”*

***Joshua 23:15***

I have made the point before that we don't want to get on God's bad side. He is to be feared. No one should take God for granted. Don't foolishly become his enemy. That is a sure way to lose out on the blessings he wants to give to the children he loves.

*“And gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and promised them that they should go in to possess the land which thou hadst sworn to give them.”*

***Nehemiah 9:15***

God is all powerful. He will do everything necessary to bring about that which he desires to do, if we will just trust and believe in him.

*“Their children also multipliedst thou as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land, concerning which thou hadst promised to their fathers, that they should go in to possess it.”*

***Nehemiah 9:23***

Are you sure you are one of God's children? The Bible talks about the seed of the women and the seed of the serpent. Whose blood line are you under? Your natural fathers (one certainly corrupted), or are you benefiting from what Jesus Christ did at the cross when he shed his own blood for us.

*“By faith he sojourned in the land of promise as in a strange country,*

*dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.”*

***Hebrews 11:9***

In our day based on what is happening it feels like I am in a strange country. How about you? Does it feel strange to you also? Do you feel like you have been disinherited? Maybe that is a good thing. Our land of promise if we are born again is not on this earth. It is in heaven. In New Jerusalem. This has to be an established thought for every Christian to endure what is going on in our generation. There is really no place left to run to that is safe in a natural way. Just as with Israel of Old we must look to our God to fulfill his promises to us. We can count on His faithfulness.

# 4

## by faith

In these last days I want to have a faith like Abraham's. I want to hear God. According to **Hebrews 11:9** shared in the last chapter; by faith he sojourned on this earth in the land of promise, as in a strange country. Not only did he have that kind of faith, but also his son Isaac and Isaac's son, Jacob developed such a faith. It seems to me this is the kind of faith the remnant of God has always needed to survive and prevail in the face of their enemies. Faith and trust in God is what brings a believer through hostile situations. We know if we are discerning that great changes are coming. Jesus himself demonstrated the God kind of faith that we would need. Like Abraham we must look for a city whose builder and maker is God. Astronomers are reporting strange things in outer space. Could New Jerusalem be on its way to earth? (**Rev. 3:12; 21:2**)

Where should our faith spend much of its time? By this I mean what should be our primary focus? What interests us the most? Is it things on this earth? Do we have a perspective worthy of a follower of Jesus Christ? Isaiah mentioned the type of focus we need in these last days.

*“For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint and I know that I shall not be ashamed.”*

***Isaiah 50:7***

There is a lot of information on the antichrist in the book of Daniel. We can learn a lot about how he operates and why faith is so necessary from Daniel. We can see his strategy in this verse.

*“And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most high, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of times.”*  
**Daniel 7:25**

Here in America even though the Antichrist has not yet been revealed we can see his spirit at work around us. Good men are being worn down by the increase of lawlessness across our land that goes unpunished. Christianity is definitely losing its influence in more and more regions across America. The salt is losing its flavor. The psalmist cries aloud:

*“Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.”*  
**Psalm 12:1**

Judge Scalia was found dead February 15, 2016. He was Mr Conservative on the Supreme Court. I am vexed by the increase in lawlessness this death can trigger. What explains it? All I can say is this: the only anecdote to the rising specter of evil is an increase in biblical faith. I have discussed the importance of faith before. Again with the theme of this book I must stress its importance. Most faith I see around me is not biblical faith. I am sad to say this. People today place their faith in the most arcane and reckless causes. It's insanity. Faith implies trust. Increasing numbers today trust in things making no rational sense. Scripture is quite clear. We are to trust no man. **(Psalm 146:3)** Only God is trustworthy. At the start of our nation there was a fear of God in enough of those representatives meeting in Philadelphia that our nation started off with a foundation of righteousness even though the slavery issue was not settled until the great Civil War changed the racial focus. But now we are running away from our Constitutional foundations at breakneck speed.

*“God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*  
**Romans 12:3**

## the end of self

The problem is that until one comes to the end of self and realizes he needs a savior; and at some point finds his salvation in Jesus Christ, his faith is too often misplaced. No one lives a moral life without real faith. That is why we see immorality in America picking up speed heading down hill.

*“The just shall live by his faith.”*

***Habakkuk 2:4***

There are different kinds of morality, but the only kind that makes an eternal difference is found in the Christian walk. True righteousness always leads back to Christ. It takes faith to please God. This is what the message in Hebrews chapter Eleven is all about.

*“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

***Hebrews 11:6***

In reading this precious chapter 11 we see that these men endured many trials and tribulations. Those men listed by name had to endure much affliction for the sake of the gospel. Some of the awful things they suffered are listed towards the end of the chapter. For some their eventual death was a blessing for sure. In the coming Great Tribulation following the rapture it will get as bad as is indicated in the latter part of Hebrews 11. In areas of the world where Satan has always been his strongest, the situation is awful right now, and getting much worse. I can't imagine how bad it will be in the Great Tribulation described in the book of Revelation.

So we need to study and develop such a faith now. In my view those without this kind of faith will not be part of the rapture, and likely will not survive the

coming Tribulation. That is an event all Christs should be striving to miss out on by appropriating God's promise to his bride. But few parish sermons are preached about this soon coming event. This is one explanation for why there

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is so little fear of God in our society.

*“many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.”*

***Daniel 12:10***

What is Daniel talking about here? Our generation needs to get to the bottom about what scripture says about the times we are in. Yet few seem interested. Do you know why? A very important word, “*surrender*,” is not found in the KJV Bible. Other synonyms of this word are found of course, such as words like submission and yield. But I don't see similar words like abandonment, capitulation, abdication, renunciation, lose or relinquish there either. I do see words that imply the opposite of surrender like fight on, win and victory. We are in a time where surrender is less appealing to the masses. They want blood. If you don't surrender to Christ, after the rapture you will be compelled to surrender to something far worse.

Until one is truly surrendered to Christ he will never know the peace and joy that comes from a true turning in his direction. Until one's faith has refocused in a brand new direction one can't possibly discover the benefits of the Christian walk. This discovery is so needed. This is the generation that will see the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. In Mark chapter eleven Jesus did something to a fig tree. I wonder if it has larger significance that I have ever heard preached. He cursed a fig tree because it had no fruit. When they passed by the next day one of his disciples pointed it out and he replied:

*“...have faith in God.”*

***Mark 11:22***

It was withered from the roots by his curse. Was this prophetic of what Israel would go through in the 2,000 years after the cross because of their rejection

of Him? Many preach we need the kind of faith he demonstrated to get the results we want in life. I think this curse will begin to be lifted from Israel with the departure of the church in the rapture. Until then we are still his witness on this earth. So we need to display our faith in Jesus Christ openly. We have all been given a measure of faith according to **Romans 12:3**. Faith is at the core of our belief system as Christians. But it needs to be confessed out loud leaving no doubt where we stand. I don't think many know the importance of such a confession. It is so important we come to Christ now and encourage others to do so.

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith.”*

***Ephesians 2:8***

Confession is equally important to our growing up in Christ. It seems that the enemy of our souls is able to stunt the growth of many. It takes faith to conquer many individual problems and challenges after turning to Christ. In these personal struggles confession is everything.

*“Without faith it is impossible to please Him.”*

***Hebrews 11:6***

We must fight to prevail. We must do so with the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. This is the way to victory. We have enemies on this earth, physical and spiritual. No one can deny this.

*“Fight the good fight of faith.”*

***1 Timothy 6:12***

God promises to go before us in these battles to test and strengthen us. But we must learn to hear his voice. That was Israel's problem. Unlike Moses most did not want to hear his voice. There are 222 verses in the Bible with the words “*hear*” and “*God*.” It is a wonderful study. These are the verses I jotted down that I wanted to meditate on after my study:

Deut. 1:17, 4:10, 5:24, 6:3, 12:28, 30:17

I Sam. 23:11, II Sam. 7:22 and 22:7

I Kings 10:24, II Kings 17:14

II Chron. 34:27

Job 35:13; Isaiah 64:6; Jere 19:15, Daniel 10:12

Amos 8:11, Zech 8:23, 10:6, 13:9

Matthew 2:22

Mark 12:29

I learned that Israel had a hearing problem. It still does. Many more of these 222 verses are in the Old Testament than in the New. I wondered why. It occurred to me that we have the Holy Spirit, our teacher, inside us who are born again. So the ability is within us to be less hard of hearing. I reflected: Why are so many who are born again so dense? Why do so few seek to walk on the path of righteous in our times? Then I thought how few walked with Jesus the first time he came. Many turned away from him and walked no more with him (**John 6:66**). But they were religious and we are spiritual.

I am so thankful that my Heavenly Father has drawn me into a saving knowledge. I am so thankful I am able to look forward to my eternal future with him no matter present circumstances. What a wonderful blessing it is to be able to be set onto the path of righteousness due to the doorway opened into Heaven by what Jesus Christ did for me on the cross. Do I have to work to hear his voice? Yes I do. Do I always hear clearly? No I don't. Do I fall down along this pathway to Heaven. Yes I do. But I trust He will be there to help me back up. I love that the Holy Spirit is my teacher. With such a mighty helper How can I not reach the destination I dream about. In telling us that we need to have a hearing ear most pastors preach from a New Testament point of view only. This below verse is not among the 222 I journeyed through but it says the same thing.

*“And when he putteth forth his own sheep he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.”*

**John 10:4**

The question for us all is are we really his, and do we listen for his voice?

# 5

## prepare for change

How does a Christian prepare for change? Those people who don't know Christ who see the value of preparation our generation calls "preppers." I typed this word into Goggle search and got 1,890,000 results. That's a lot of people weighing in on how to prepare and the importance of doing so. There are an incredible number of websites selling survival gear, dehydrated food and much more. And free information abounds about what is coming. A lot of what is said is common sense.

Few should look immediately to the government for help when disaster strikes. Bridges, power, police, fire and other essential infrastructure services could be knocked out. Many of those we look to when making 911 calls could be seriously distracted or in desperate shape themselves. At the very least some have gone to help their own families depending on the nature of the disaster. Jesus had some important things to say about preparation to his disciples he sent out among the wolves of his time. Do you count yourself one of his disciples? Look at the instructions he gave:

*“And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.”*

**Luke 9:3**

He said this again to others he sent out in the next chapter of the book of Luke. Notice how he equipped them; the power he gave them.

*“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.”*

**Luke 9:12**

Let me ask a question: Do you believe when you do the will of God it is followed by similar power to confirm your service? Deliverance and healings are powerful motivators. Won't miracles trigger goodwill in the recipients of your acts of obedience. Born again, spirit filled believers clearly have such power given us to. What we have is spelled out in Mark 16:17 and Luke 10:19. Bottom line: God will take care of us. We are his sheep when we help others in his will.

I am not saying we shouldn't be prepared for power outages and other such surprises. We should have some extras set aside for unusual times. But we shouldn't make a fetish out of physical preparation. We will experience hardships and a tendency to worry is human. But God promises to take care of his own. The Bible is full of stories showing he does.

Where should be the primary preparation for those who are his? Learning and applying his word. We who are so blessed have a powerful witness that we are his. Paul wrote about this witness that we are in the family of God in chapter eight of Romans. The whole chapter is worth memorizing. Many do. One verse says it all.

*“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

***Romans 8:16***

Look how God took care of his own Son when he was a baby in his parent's arms. He prepared his mother for the miraculous birth before hand with the visit of an angel. He knew she would be troubled; a virgin giving birth.

He visited Joseph in a dream to show him the truth after he found out his wife-to-be was pregnant. He showed Joseph in a dream that he needed to get up and flee to Egypt that very night because the king's men were coming to kill the child. He equipped them with wealth for the journey, and to raise the child by the visit of the wise men with their gifts that were worth a lot.

Scripture shows us how our heavenly father takes care of our needs daily if

we will but study the Bible.

*“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits even the God of our salvation, Selah.”*

***Psalm 58:19***

Our Heavenly Father assures us through his word that he will provide our every need if we will trust him. What did Jesus tell his disciples after sending them out for food because they were all hungry, including him.

*“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*

***Matthew 4:4***

The secular world experts are also saying there are food shortages coming. As I write this the news today is that the Nation of Venezuela is in a food crisis. We are reading of weird weather patterns that are causing crop failures and animal die offs going on worldwide. Famine can't be averted. Yet we have verses in the Bible that promise they won't effect God's people. How can this be? Are we talking about the return of supernatural provision? God is all powerful. We can trust him to perform his written word. But we must know God and what he has written for us in this generation. Jesus in the above verse is telling his disciples he was sustained in that very way. He has appropriated sustenance from his knowledge of what God has already promised. (Nehemiah 9:21, Psalm 3:5, 55:22, Isaiah 59:16)

## **in other books**

I have discussed the preparation needed for personal change in other books I have written. They are on my website and listed at the end of this book so won't go into further detail. Except to say this: If we are truly a soldier of Jesus Christ and have surrendered fully to him, than he is responsible for us and will equip us for what lies ahead. That is what military commanders do. Help their troops to get ready for what is coming in the future.

# 6

## the objective

The word object is found only once in the Bible. In the book of Acts. Its meaning is to be against or to object to. The word objective is no where to be found in the scriptures. So why have I chosen to use it in the title? Well! It is a very common military term. One of the eleven listed Principles of War. The army uses the principles of war in their studies of why wars are won or lost. It is one of the five essential points when commanders issue their combat orders. Here is a common army definition of its meaning:

*“direct every military operation toward a clearly defined, decisive and obtainable objective.”*

In the spiritual realm there is a war going on, It has clear objectives. Maybe we can't see into the spirit world to see this war. But we see its effects in our realm. It is more real than the wars and rumors of wars we see here on earth. If we are going to accomplish what we want to accomplish we better realize this, have an understanding of what God wants and that Satan opposes us.  
*(John 10:10.)*

### **don't be caught in the middle**

Don't be caught in the middle of the battle unawares. We must choose sides in this cosmic struggle. I have chosen God's side. I assume you have too. I think the objective of God concerning his people, Israel, foreshadows what is about to happen to us. So believe God's promises. There are promises God has made that he has not fulfilled yet. God promised Abraham a land flowing

with milk and honey. He journeyed through that land believing God even though he certainly did not the milk and honey in his day. Isaac got a hold of this promise of God too. He lived a righteous life knowing that God was trustworthy. That he would one day see God deliver on his promise to Abraham. Jacob, Isaac's son, got a hold of this promise too. So did Moses and Joshua after them and so on. Certain truths are to be handed faithfully down from father to son.

Righteous Jews down through the generations have through stories, readings and rituals kept God's promises alive century after century. There has in each generation been a remnant of Jewish believers though most turned to apostasy. Many died not seeing the promise fulfilled. But they will soon live again to see the dream materialize with the coming resurrection of God's faithful.

## **crossing the Jordan**

A big chunk of the story that has been told generation after generation is the crossing of the Red Sea. Then forty years later the crossing of the Jordan River to go into the land of promise. But sin has hampered the accomplishment of the objective of God. God leads his people through dreams, visions, angel visitations, prophets, judges, righteous kings and the written word of God. A very important part of accomplishing any objective is to write it down and rehearse it. This word, write, is found 449 times in scripture. The first time is instructive.

*“And the LORD said unto Moses, write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.*

***Exodus 17:14***

We find God using this word in 25 books of the Old Testament. One verse I have heard used in preaching is this one.

*“And the LORD answered me and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables that he may run that readeth it.”*

***Habakkuk 2:2***

We find this word thirteen times in books of the New Testament. I don't know where I would be today if I couldn't read and write. I never heard the gospel verbalized by even one bold witness. Praise God for the written word of God. That is what brought me into the saving knowledge. But, thank God for his faithful witnesses generation after generation right up to this present day who set such a precious example in their generations.

What is God's Crossing the Jordan plan for today? There are no more undeveloped physical areas where those being persecuted can flee to such as when the pilgrims fled Europe for America. Some scientists talk about colonizing mars. But we would find evil there too if we could travel there.

Certainly the salvation of our families and others the Lord has given us are a sub set of objectives God wants to accomplish. We all should have such goals in mind. For me the main objective is helping those I love prepare for what is coming. Time is so short. It is a time to press into the LORD. Are those I love under the *“shadow of his wings.”* (**Psalm 91**)

There is much left to do. Intercessory prayer is critical for us! What is the primary obstacle to accomplishing our objectives? (Crossing our Jordan) Lack of a solid relationship with the one who can answer all our prayers. We need Him to lead us into the promised land. (New Jerusalem) Don't let unbelief, fear, and the many other distractions hold you back.

Those who study scripture, are aware of history, and are observing current events should be able to see the battle going on to change the direction of America. People are working hard to make us a godless nation to come under the full control of a New World Order. This term (NWO) was first spoken of by President Herbert W. Bush. So this plan has both Republican and Democratic support at the highest levels. Many are working to accomplish

this take over. They have a plan and objectives that are being orchestrated by Satan from behind the scenes. Some know who they are working for. But many don't, and are just deceived. This includes folks who think they are Christians. They need to know the truth.

The question is this: Are we on the side lines in this battle for the soul of America or in the battle? Whose side are we really on? Anyone who is observant sees the cross purposes and confusion at work inside Christianity. There is little unity of action by those who call themselves Christian. Why is this so?

Biblical prophecy tells us things get worse and worse before Jesus returns. One of our friends, a pastor's wife, actually told us this: *“Jesus can't come back til there is love on the earth.”*

She is fully of mercy. She can't see that judgment is at the door. And she is busy reproducing herself. People who don't really know God are fearful and unbelieving. There are so many false prophets and false teachers among us. We see in Jeremiah's day that he was outnumbered for sure. Praise God he had the Living God on his side.

# 7

## brought them in

Our God is a faithful God! He fulfills all his promises for those with faith to believe. Most men's faith however is quite worldly and unbiblical. Many who profess Christ can't get a hold of the biblical promises God has made to do them good. An individual's faith must be pointed in the right direction.

*“That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”*

***1 Corinthians 2:5***

Jesus showed us the importance of faithfulness. He secured the salvation of all that the Father gave him. None were lost except the one destined to be lost.

*“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.”*

***John 17:12***

## **we too have been given souls to shepherd**

We have a responsibility for those the Father has given us. God helps us with this responsibility but we must look to him and hear his voice.

*“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”*

***Acts 16:31***

House in this verse means household, family or loved ones. As parents we want to see all our loved ones saved. While salvation is an individual decision there are mighty promises in scripture that we can look to for help to ensure they have every chance of being brought into the promised land.

In these latter days so few are looking for something like the rapture of the church, but are nervous about the growing evil. Those who don't go in the rapture will experience terrible times. Jesus disciples after his ascension back to heaven experienced rough times also. But he promises to be with us always.

That gives me great comfort in these increasingly dark days for those I love who are not watching. How many will go in the rapture? In my understanding going in the rapture requires biblical faith. Healing promises are even difficult for people to believe in so how hard the rapture promises? Few pray for healing or deliverance in an age of rampant drug use, alcohol use, pornography and other such addicts that keep enslaving more and more.

Will all who profess belief in Jesus Christ go in the rapture with such a weak faith? I hope so, but I see so few who are even willing to talk about this blessed hope so clearly laid out in Titus 2:13 and other verses.

God made a promise in the Old Testament to bring his people into the promised land. Our parent's generation saw this promise fulfilled 67 years ago this Spring. Just like in Joshua's day Israel is still fighting to control their land. That fight will get worse before Jesus returns to this earth.

Israel fights physical battles, but we are fighting spiritual battles. Yes we have seen wars and are hearing of rumors of war. Will this ever end? Yes! When Jesus returns to take control of this earth. He will bring a multitude with him to secure Israel's future. Then the lion will lie down with the lamb. Enoch foretold this. It is recorded in the book of Jude.

*“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, behold the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment*

*upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”*

***Jude 1:14-15***

I wonder! Does something Nehemiah spoke about under the inspiration of God tie in to this ancient prophecy above.

*“Their children also multipliedst thou as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land, concerning which thou hadst promised to their fathers, that they should go in to possess it.”*

***Nehemiah 9:23***

Certainly Nehemiah was thinking about Joshua's accomplishments. But I wonder if God also had something more distant in mind. Maybe the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to this earth. I think he did. I like that phrase from this verse: *“broughtest them in.”* God knew he would do this for his people way back in Enoch's day. We saw that he brought Israel out of Egypt to bring them into the promised land.

My wife and I are currently in a study of the book of Judges. There is a pattern through out this book where the people turn away from God. It gets so bad they cry out to him. He raises up a judge (a deliverer) who delivers them from bondage. They have years of rest. Upon the death of the judge they quickly fall away again. Then the pattern repeats itself. I history records fifteen different judges during this cycle of Israel. What can a believer under the New Covenant learn from this Old Testament example and experience? That we too have a battle on our hands. But it is won or lost through prayer.

He has promised his church a soon coming rapture then we will have eternal rest. As he has been faithful to Israel when they turned in his direction, a time is coming where Israel will dwell in peace in their promised land. They will go through difficult times before this comes because of their continued unbelief. But God will be faithful to deliver them. God has promised us a rapture. He will soon snatch us from this earth because he is

faithful in all his promises.

Have you noticed how for some believers, a promise is easy to believe God for. But for other promises many just can't seem to get a hold of that promise that they so desperately need. One person believes God wants him to prosper and his thoughts and actions line up with this promise. And he enjoys a prosperous life. But in another area of his life he can't get a hold of a promise. Maybe struggling with health issues. His faith supports one promise but not another. Yet both promises are in the Bible. Why is that so?

We see over and over again in God's word where he brings his people through. Why would he fail us in the area of the rapture of his church? Some I love are disappointed in me because of my very present hope of the rapture. They would probably label me an escapist. Thinking I have given up on life. Nothing could be further from the truth. I just chose to keep this hope alive and foremost in my mind, heart and conversations.

I want to be a part of that group that will be raptured. I can't think of anything more exciting than to find myself changed in the twinkling of any eye from mortal to immortal, and ascending into the clouds to be with the King of kings forever. That is my wish. Certainly Jesus knows that I will not be a do nothing while I am waiting here on earth for His Shout to Come Up.

# 8

## two who changed direction

Do you find it hard to pray for unlovable people? I do! I suppose it is not very Christlike. I do want the mind of Christ concerning salvation for others. God certainly wants me to pray for those he has given me. Of course I don't want to pray for a lost cause. Certainly there are many who will never come to Christ. We can assume this from certain passages in the written word of God.

I am thinking right now of two biblical figures who were in my view very unlikely to be used powerfully by God. If I had lived back then and encountered them I don't know that I could have prayed for either. Yet both became mighty in a certain sense for God, spiritual giants for sure. I rather doubt either had anyone really praying for their salvation. I expect if there were any righteous people who knew them that they were not liked by many. I will talk about these two later in the chapter.

### who do you despise?

We can all think of powerful people who in our view have greatly harmed our nation. I can think of politicians who have become wealthy in office, and after leaving, who are helping take our nation down. Very prominent figures in the news often. Heaven help us if there is not a real change after the 2016 election if we even have time left to put another president in office.

It seems that since the time of Ronald Regan our nation has been going down hill. It doesn't seem to matter who we elect. Do you feel that way? Should we not be praying for a man that God could use to turn this nation around through his administration? I think of Jeremiah's time. The nation of Israel

was on a slide towards destruction. No matter how great a man he was, and how mightily used by God it made no difference in the outcome,. Why? The hearts of the people were bad. God had decided. That was that.

The nation was destroyed. A remnant of the people were carried into Babylon. There they languished seventy years in captivity. But God had Jeremiah prophesy their captivity would be for 70 years. The first order of business in captivity was this instruction given to them by Jeremiah:

*“And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.”*

***Jeremiah 29:7***

## **concerning the illusive goal of peace**

More and more it feels to me like I am a stranger in a strange land. That being true God is telling me in this verse to pray for the peace of the city I am in or near. Do you agree with such an assessment? We can have an impact as we wait on our deliverance through such a prayer. I want to be a faithful prayer warrior.

If God puts on my heart to pray for a person in public office or running for office that I don't even like and I know it is God prompting me I will be quick to respond in prayer. I do think the rapture is imminent based things going to hell. But there is an outside change I could be wrong.

I expect to be raptured soon. I don't expect to die a natural death. But if I do die than still in the twinkling of an eye, for there is no sense of time in eternity, I will be part of the rapture since:

*“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise*

*first:”*

**1 Thessalonians 4:15**

Either way, dead or alive if being a part of this grand moment is my life dream, than I am covered by my hope. I think of many who preached this message of a soon coming rapture who are now dead. They thought they were going to be a live when it occurred. One is the great man of God, J.R. Church. There are men I learned from during their life time. Why should anyone want to rob me of this blessed hope through their displeasure in hearing this message of the soon coming King?

But I transgress. Back to the two people I am thinking of in this chapter. The first one had their circumstance radically changed from a hopeless condition. I am thinking of Rahab the Harlot. Three times she is named as a harlot. The story is in Joshua chapter six.

All her countrymen were quaking in fear due to the alarm being spread that spies from Israel were in their land. That Israel was massing east of the Jordan River to cross. That they were about to be invaded by the people who God forty years earlier had brought out of Egypt. The people he had parted the Red Sea for to escape the mighty Egyptian Army. It had been in hot pursuit of Israel. Their God had destroyed their enemies. The Egyptian army was no more.

Rahab risked her life to hid the two spies from Israel. She secured their promise that she and all her family would be spared when they crossed the Jordan to take their land. She did not feel secure inside her great and mighty city. We have all heard the story of how God brought down the walls of Jerico in a miraculous fashion.

The most incredible thing is that this woman was in the blood line of Jesus Christ. Through her actions she made a mighty change in direction that forever changed history. It was very unlikely she would make such an impact on history. If she could do so what does that mean for us and those we might be called to intercede for?

The other person I am thinking about who made an equally incredible change in direction was a New Testament figure, Saul. He later became the great Apostle Paul writing two thirds of the New Testament that have changed the course of history.

He in my view was equally unlikely to end up on God's side in this epic spiritual battle going on in the Heavens with results manifesting in our physical realm on earth. I doubt there were many believers who wanted to pray for Saul. He was there when Steven, a man of God, was martyred. He set out for Damacus to capture and bring back Christians to be killed. Who back then would pray for such a man? Who would ever think such a man could be used by God to make such a difference in this world?

Do you know of such people in our political system today God might use to turn this nation around who are just as unlikely to be used? I would be interested in knowing if you are feeling any unction to pray for any particular person in a position to radically impact America.

I suspect we are beyond help at this time. That we have gone too far because of our record on the killing of unborn children, because of our legal stance on same sex marriage, because of the way we are twisting the arm of the PM of Israel to divide God's land, and because of so many other ungodly actions going on across our once God fearing nation.

I am open to praying for one last chance for America but at this moment I don't feel the unction to do so. I think because of a lot of different reasons that we are well along on the time table leading to the rapture, Great Tribulation, and Second Coming of Jesus Christ to end Satan's rule over this earth and to set in motion the Thousand Year reign of Jesus Christ. What say you?

Is God calling any of you to be on your knees in prayer for someone to give the people of the world one last chance? I hope so for the sake of what comes next after the rapture here in America.

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