



Oh, the Lord is returning. What joy should be experienced by others in us at this promise! But, we each need to be aware that the Lord may come for us - at any time, and we need to be prepared to for that moment.

Oh, when I read the Holy Bible, I find that I want to live my life serving the Lord, and tell the world of His great love for them. Oh, yes, many people suffer in the midst of serving the Lord Jesus Christ. It is easy for some to blame the Lord for their suffering, their bitterness; however, we, like the children of Israel leaving Egypt believe that from that point on, the Lord owes it to us to give us a perfect life, giving us everything we want of this world.

The children of Israel were not in love with the Lord, but in love with the world, choosing to live in sin, to live in rebellion, blaming the Lord God for their sinfulness - and all that comes out of living a life of rebellion unto the Lord God.

Are you blaming the Lord God for what has happened in your life, and the life of this nation?

Repent, and seek the Lord God, and what He wants of you this day (Ps 105.1-4).

O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.

Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works.

Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

The Lord loves you; He has not turned from you.

Seek the Lord today!

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.

Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Mighty in the Word

of the
Lord
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. XIX.07

Harden Not Your Hearts As in the Days of Provocation!

If you recall, the *Message*, Vol XV.01, "I Saw It Coming" was a preview to what lies before us, a reminder, as is this *Message*, that we need to seek the Lord, and repent of our sins, turning to Him to live a life of holiness unto Him – to which He calls us in these days that lie before us.

Yes, I taught the Book of Revelation in my very early adult life in a sizeable church. I would love to have my notes now to see at least my outline, and what it was I saw over 50 years ago, for all through my life, it seems, I have spoken loudly regarding what is going on in the churches, the leaders of this nation, only to be threatened, mocked, scoffed – people not wanting to be around me, but wanting to hear the sermons – incognito.

December, 2019, The *Message* written was entitled, "I Saw It Coming." This is more in depth of what was then written and what was brought before me many, many years earlier. The time is now, though most are scoffing and spending their lives being – uh – shall I say paid by the enemy to display rebellion against anyone telling them what to do, displaying rebellion for whatever cause may come to their minds, or given them by those paying them to display rebellion in public places, displaying their ego power to show their strength - by hardening their hearts – as in the days of provocation (Ps 95).

So, let us review what it is that has brought this nation down that was founded by a people who once loved the Lord Jesus Christ, but gave way to peoples of all beliefs, who sold this nation to them, and have bowed down to their gods displaying all that is not of the Lord Jesus Christ in their thoughts, their behavior, their way of life, their disdain for any that love the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of the Lord God Almighty of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel) by the Holy Ghost.

Oh! Today, if ye will, harden not your hearts

Psa 95:7 For he [is] our God; and we [are] the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,

Psa 95:8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, [and] as [in] the day of temptation in the wilderness:

Provocation: vexation, frustration, irritation, annoyance, aggravation, affront, intent

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

PROVOCATION, n. [L. *provocatio*. See *Provoke*.]

1. Any thing that excites anger; the cause of resentment.
1 Ki 21.
2. The act of exciting anger.
3. An appeal to a court or judge. [A Latinism, not now used.]
4. Incitement. [Not used.]

Deuteronomy 8 - MHCC

(Deu 8:1-9) Exhortations and cautions, enforced by the Lord's former dealings with Israel, and his promises.

(Deu 8:10-20) Exhortations and cautions further enforced.

Deut 8:1 All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers.

Deut 8:2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, [and] to prove thee, to know what [was] in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

Deut 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every [word] that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Awaken! Why is this nation being led down the same road of the children of Israel so long ago? The history is written; it is truth, and yet, this nation scorns the Holy Word of the Lord God in Christ Jesus. This nation has other gods it serves and blasphemes the Holy One of Israel, the Lord God – and oh, so blatantly.

I have heard it all in the hearing of someone(s) who is rebelling against anything that lies before them to prove they can do it in the name of teaching this nation what is right by their doing what is wrong. I could not believe this as I heard it: the person proving the power they had to do harm was lifted up, exalted as a good person, loving, kind.

I should not be shocked as I realize the new vocabulary over the years has changed allowing each person their own definition of each word. I experienced this over 30 years ago among those working on a more advanced degree that the Bachelor degree being allowed to use words as they wanted by those in positions of authority. What was once, in my understanding, a light fixture was now an airplane – if someone so said. Vacillate and Oscillate used interchangeably, and on it goes.

How convenient then it is to say the Bible says whatever a person wants to believe it says. I heard a "pastor" say that to be found faithful unto the Lord and believing in the Lord are the same. It is just a nuance in the language.

Husbands, are you satisfied to think your wife believes in you without being faithful unto you? And, wives, are you satisfied with your husband just believing in you – not caring if your husband is faithful to you?

Act 16:15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought [us], saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide [there]. And she constrained us. (KJV)

Act 16:15 Then after she and her family were baptized, she kept on begging us, "If you think I really do **have faith** in the Lord, come stay in my home." Finally, we accepted her invitation. (CEV)

Act 16:15 After she and the people of her house had been baptized, she invited us, "Come and stay in my house if you have decided that I am a **true believer** in the Lord." And she persuaded us to go. (GNB)

Act 16:15 When Lydia and her family were baptized, she invited us to stay at her home. She said, "If you're convinced that **I believe** in the Lord, then stay at my home." She insisted. So we did. (GW)

There is a difference in being faithful unto the Lord and believing in the Lord.

Oh, Numbers 16 shows that the children of Israel believed in the Lord, but were not faithful unto Him. They challenged Moses, the chosen vessel of the Lord God Almighty. They felt they were "holier than . . ." They felt the Lord owed them, and that He was to bow down to them. They worshipped idols, the gods of the nations around them. At the first inconvenience, after the Lord God led them out of Egypt, they murmured against Moses (Ex 15.24). Read on!

Exo 16:2 And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

Exo 16:3 And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, [and] when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

The children of Israel were never happy, never thankful, always complaining against Moses, but, in essence, against the Lord God. They felt they were owed something, that they deserved to be served on a "silver platter," if you will. Is that not where the "church-goers" and those standing on a pulpitum are today?

I have heard many over the years, to include today, say that the Lord Jesus Christ may come in the life time of their great, great, great, grandchildren – but not now. I have also heard from the "church-goers" that God will lift them out of any thing hurtful, so they are not concerned about the Lord's return – nor are they rejoicing in His prophesied return. I have also heard that they do not talk to people about the Lord, and salvation, as they say, "I have it; it is up to others to get it." I am going to be lifted out of it all, so I am just fine.

Oh! the hearts that are hardened in more ways than one. Hearts are hardened when there is no burden for the lost and dying who go out into eternity without knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Hearts are hardened when people live angrily believing they are owed – as did the children of Israel. In this hardness of heart, people often live lives of mockery unto the Lord, and His Holy Word, in their hardness of heart.

There are other ways in which people mock the Word of God and make light of the Lord's return. How many really believe "The Lord Is Returning"? How many are shouting this message, believing the Word of God? How many have loved ones and friends who know not the Lord Jesus Christ? And, how many of you are witnessing to these people, realizing that time is of the essence?