

finding **TRUTH** & *Hope*

Summer 2016

Wait

by *Russell Kelfer

Desperately, helplessly, longingly, I cried;
Quietly, patiently, lovingly, God replied.
I pled and I wept for a clue to my fate . . .
And the Master so gently said, "Wait."

"Wait? you say wait?" my indignant reply.
"Lord, I need answers, I need to know why!
Is your hand shortened? Or have you not heard?
By faith I have asked, and I'm claiming your Word.

"My future and all to which I relate
Hangs in the balance, and you tell me to wait?
I'm needing a 'yes', a go-ahead sign,
Or even a 'no' to which I can resign.

"You promised, dear Lord, that if we believe,
We need but to ask, and we shall receive.
And Lord I've been asking, and this is my cry:
I'm weary of asking! I need a reply."

Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate,
As my Master replied again, "Wait."
So I slumped in my chair, defeated and taut,
And grumbled to God, "So, I'm waiting for what?"

He seemed then to kneel, and His eyes met with mine . . .
and He tenderly said, "I could give you a sign.
I could shake the heavens and darken the sun.
I could raise the dead and cause mountains to run.

"I could give all you seek and pleased you would be.
You'd have what you want, but you wouldn't know Me.
You'd not know the depth of my love for each saint.
You'd not know the power that I give to the faint.

"You'd not learn to see through clouds of despair;
You'd not learn to trust just by knowing I'm there.
You'd not know the joy of resting in Me
When darkness and silence are all you can see.

"You'd never experience the fullness of love
When the peace of My spirit descends like a dove.
You would know that I give, and I save, for a start,
But you'd not know the depth of the beat of My heart.

"The glow of my comfort late into the night,
The faith that I give when you walk without sight.
The depth that's beyond getting just what you ask
From an infinite God who makes what you have last.

"You'd never know, should your pain quickly flee,
What it means that My grace is sufficient for thee.
Yes, your dearest dreams overnight would come true,
But, oh, the loss, if you missed what I'm doing in you.

"So, be silent, my child, and in time you will see
That the greatest of gifts is to truly know me.
And though oft My answers seem terribly late,
My most precious answer of all is still . . . Wait."

The Hem of His Garment

How did the woman at the well know that Jesus was a Jew? Was it His accent? Was it His facial features? Was it a particular haircut and beard? Was it the style of His clothing? Perhaps it was all of the above. I do wonder if a devout Jew's garments especially defined him as Jewish. (Maybe the priest and Levite passed by the poor, beaten, naked Jew on the Jericho Road because they weren't quite sure whether he was one of their kind.) I appreciate the connectedness of the scriptures from beginning to end. O, that I might understand them better! We serve a God Who created an entire universe and yet cares about the details. In the Old Testament, He prescribed various details for His chosen people to observe. As in the book of Numbers 15:38-41,

"And the LORD spake unto Moses saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband (ribbon, thread) of blue:

continued on page 4

A Letter From the Enemy

By Sis. Anita Adams

The Lord opened up to me a passage of scripture in a devotional that I would like to share.

In II Kings 19:9-36 Sennacherib sent Hezekiah a letter telling him to "...Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee...Behold, thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, by destroying them utterly: and shalt thou be delivered? Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed?...". In verse 14 we find how Hezekiah responded to the letter. "And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest *between* the cherubims, thou art the God, *even* thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth. LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib,...Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands, And have cast their gods into the fire: for they *were* no gods,...". "And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they *were* all dead corpses. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed....".

After reading this I thought about how the devil still sends his letters today. It might come telling you that your finances are gone and how on earth are you going to be able to make your house payment? You know there are several people that have been foreclosed on and you are next. Or it might be telling you that everybody who has had your sickness has died—remember Bro. or Sis. So and So? Maybe it will tell you that there is not hope for the broken marriage or broken relationship with your children, etc. Perhaps it is just a letter telling you how **hopeless** you are and what a failure you have been.

At any rate the way to get help is to follow Hezekiah's steps—when he read the letter he went to the house of the Lord. In mentioning this to my sons one of them said, "But we don't have to go to church. The scripture in I Corinthians 3:16 states 'Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?'" Our song in ELS #99 states "Not in the temples made with hands, Tho' beautiful by art; But God in mercy condescends To dwell within my Heart. Oh, glory to Jesus...." How wonderful to know that we can go to the House of the Lord wherever and whenever we receive our letter from satan.

The next step is to see God high and lifted up. If you notice Hezekiah pointed out that God was the only true God and all the other gods were made with men's hands. Many times the devil gets our eyes on the gods of this world and how they can help us. Instead we need to realize that our help comes from the One and Only God, the One Who made Heaven and Earth.

Then we need to humbly plead for His help and mercy. Hezekiah didn't say I am so powerful and now bless me as I smite this heathen. He just asked the Lord to hear and see what Sennacherib was saying and doing and to save thou us out of his hands. He didn't even ask for his people to look powerful but rather "...that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou *art* the LORD God, *even* thou only." Verse 19

The Lord heard and delivered with a mighty hand. In verses 32 and 33 He told Hezekiah that the king of Assyria "...He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD." Then in verse 35 the angel of the Lord was sent and destroyed 185,000 soldiers of the army.

Do you have a mighty army coming up against you and sending you letters of discouragement? Go to the house of the Lord; see God as the only answer; and then humbly entreat Him for His mercy and grace. The same God that heard Hezekiah's prayer will hear yours and deliver you from that hand of satan.

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**Flash Flood Relief
at Loranger, LA**

A host of workers came in the middle of May to hang paneling, build wood wall panels, pour concrete, hang doors, build cabinets, lay tile, paint, and do plumbing and electrical in our flood damaged chapel, school, and dining hall. Much labor was accomplished with good speed. The Lord had mercy and held the predicted rain until afterward. The contributions, sacrifices, labors, aid, and cooperation were so appreciated by our congregation.

AT PRESS TIME

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www.KNEO.org

From Our Readers

From Streams in the Desert #2 July 13: "The weary one had rest, the sad had joy that day, and wondered how. A plough man at his work had prayed, 'Lord, bless them now.' "

God showed me several years ago that His blessings, etc. in my life are in large part a result of people praying for me. Today, I felt the effect of those praying for me and want to say, "Thank you and thank God." Please keep the prayers coming. I need so much more from God, even though, He has already done so much. (A text)

I have a "from the past" to submit. This article has encouraged me many times, and I feel that the church is in an on going battle right now. I would not want to be guilty of not lifting a load when I have opportunity to do so. Sis. Charissa Bennings (See opposite page, "A Letter From the Enemy" by Sis. Anita Adams)

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And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye used to go a whoring:

That ye remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.

I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God."

After this commandment to wear garment fringes was given, it does not get much discussion in the scriptures. It's easy to miss. But, don't forget its significance, because it shows up again . . . hundreds of years later, on the shores of Galilee.

When the Word was made flesh and dwelt among men, He once attended a dinner in a house by the seashore. There must have been quite a crowd gathered there, too. Jairus, the ruler of the local synagogue, came to beg Jesus' help for his dying daughter. He rushed in and dropped imploringly at Jesus' feet.

Jairus' daughter was such a young girl—only twelve years old, just entering the blossom of her life . . . but that life was flickering out. Jesus compassionately arose and accompanied Jairus.

As they went, a certain frail woman drew near. Perhaps she had been lingering at the back of the crowd earlier, bashful to even be there. According to the law, she was ceremonially unclean. She had an issue of blood, and God's law gave specific instructions for her and those near her. (Leviticus 15:19-31) In her case, it was beyond normal. She was diseased. She had been sick and separated from others by this weakening condition for twelve years—just as long as Jairus' dear daughter had been alive. The lady had exhausted her means. She had already spent all that she had and endured the tortures of physicians, but to no avail.

At this moment, as the crowd migrated through town, the needy woman felt her chance. Perhaps she was already jostling amongst the unknowing crowd. Perhaps, Jesus had just passed by her as He went on His life-giving mission. She pressed her way closer and stooping behind Him on a child's level . . . she stretched . . . maybe stumble-stepped and stretched forth again.

"And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind *him*, and touched the hem of his garment: for she said, within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole." (Matt 9:20-21) According to Strong's Concordance, the Greek word translated "hem" in this passage, and "border" in Luke 8:44, means, specifically, a "fringe" or "tassel."

As the diseased woman stretched forth in faith to reach Jesus, there was the fringed border of His garment . . . swishing amongst the others—a reminder to look upon and remember all the commandments of the Lord. When she reached it . . . Hallelujah . . . she felt it . . . it was done!

And, He felt it, too. How do you stop a crowd? Maybe two or three others had already stepped between them as she straightened to stand. "Who touched my clothes?" A little mumbled conversation and shuffling of feet . . . and then, He was looking straight at her. "And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately." (Luke 8: 47) "She told him all the truth." (Mark 5:33)

What did others think? She was unclean. She had touched some of them, and they her. "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague." (Mark 5:34) Was it worth it? What a benediction!

by Carlos Doolittle

"The Bible is the chief moral cause of all that is 'good', and the best corrector of all that is 'evil', in human society; the 'best' book for regulating the temporal concerns of men, and the 'only book' that can serve as an infallible guide to future felicity."

God has so formed the moral system of this world, that a conformity to His will by men produces peace, prosperity and happiness; and disobedience to His will or laws inevitably produces misery.

"All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible."

"Men may devise and adopt new forms of government; they may amend old forms, repair breaches, and punish violators of the constitution; but there is, there can be, no effectual remedy, but obedience to the divine law."

Noah Webster

Upcoming Church of God Meetings

<http://churchofgodmeetings.com/>

Dates		Location		Details	Map
29 Jun 2016	- 03 Jul 2016	Fresno	CA	Revival	Fresno Chapel
15 Jul 2016	- 24 Jul 2016	Monark Springs	MO	Campmeeting	Monark Campground
19 Aug 2016	- 28 Aug 2016	Pacoima	CA	Campmeeting	Pacoima Campground
02 Sep 2016	- 05 Sep 2016	Myrtle	MO	Campmeeting	Myrtle Campground
23 Dec 2016	- 01 Jan 2017	Guthrie	OK	Assembly	Guthrie Campground
21 Jul 2017	- 30 Jul 2017	Monark Springs	MO	Campmeeting	Monark Campground
20 Jul 2018	- 29 Jul 2018	Monark Springs	MO	Campmeeting	Monark Campground

"The chief danger of the 20th century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and Heaven without Hell." William Booth 1829-1912

Millions of people in 118 countries are helped by the Salvation Army, founded by William Booth, who was born April 10, 1829.

At age 26, William married Catherine Mumford and together they founded the Christian Mission to minister to the poor, drunk, outcast and wretched on the dirty and dangerous streets of London's East End slums. They fought to end sex-trafficking and teenage prostitution in England.

Catherine Booth said: "I felt as though I must go and walk the streets and besiege the dens where these hellish iniquities are going on. To keep quiet seemed like being a traitor to humanity."

William Booth said: "We must wake ourselves up! Or somebody else will take our place, and bear our cross, and thereby rob us of our crown."

William Booth wrote: "What are you living for? What is the deep secret purpose that controls and fashions your existence? What do you eat and drink for? What is the end of your marrying and giving in marriage-your money-making and toilings and plannings? Is it the Salvation of souls, the overthrow of the kingdom of evil, and the setting up of the Kingdom of God? If not, you may be religious ... but I don't see how you can be a Christian."

The most amazing discovery Isaac Newton ever made

Regarding the Bible, Newton wrote: "The system of revealed truth which this Book contains is like that of the universe, concealed from common observation yet the labors of the centuries have established its Divine origin."

Newton (as cited in Tiner 1975): "Atheism is so senseless. When I look at the solar system, I see the earth at the right distance from the sun to receive the proper amounts of heat and light. This did not happen by chance."

Newton was cited by Sir David Brewster in "Memoirs of the Life, Writings, and Discoveries of Sir Isaac Newton" (Edinburgh, Thomas Constable and Co., 1855, Vol. II, p. 347-348): "Opposite to godliness is atheism in profession, and idolatry in practice. Atheism is so senseless and odious to mankind, that it never had many professors. Can it be by accident that all birds, beasts, and men have their right side and left side alike shaped, (except in their bowels); and just two eyes, and no more, on either side of the face; and just two ears on either side of the head; and a nose with two holes; and either two forelegs, or two wings, or two arms on the shoulders, and two legs on the hips, and no more? Whence arises this uniformity in all their outward shapes but from the counsel and contrivance of an Author?

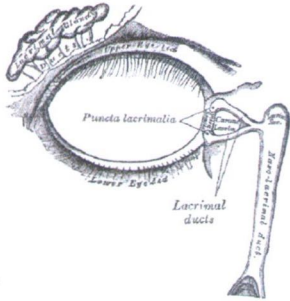
Sir Isaac Newton died March 20, 1727. Newton stated (as cited in "The Religion of Sir Isaac Newton," Frank E. Manuel, editor, London, Oxford University Press, 1974, p. 112): "And when you are convinced, be not ashamed to profess the truth. For otherwise you may become a stumbling block to others, and inherit the lot of those Rulers of the Jews who believed in Christ, but yet were afraid to confess him lest they should be put out of the Synagogue. Wherefore, when you are convinced, be not ashamed of the truth, but profess it openly and endeavor to convince your Brother also that you may inherit at the resurrection the promise made in Daniel 12:3, that 'they who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever.' And rejoice if you are counted worthy to suffer in your reputation or any other way for the sake of the Gospel, for then, 'great is thy reward'!"

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

Psalm 6:6

"I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears."

Every time you blink, you bathe the surface of your eye with a miraculous fluid called tears. Tears are not simply a salty water solution. They are made of water, but also have oils, electrolytes and sticky carbohydrates called mucins. In addition, they contain antibacterial and antiviral substances. One of these substances is called lysozyme. Any bacteria or virus that finds itself in tear fluid has a 95 percent chance of being dead within ten minutes. That blink of an eye keeps the surface of the eye properly moisturized so that our vision remains clear. Without this moisturization, your eyes would become red and painful, and, if untreated, you would probably go blind. Tear fluid also provides needed oxygen to the surface of your eyes.



But perhaps the most amazing property of tears is even more unexpected. Humans are the only creatures that cry emotional tears. Studies have shown that the ability to produce tears and cry actually helps us cope with emotional situations. There are some

inherited diseases which make people unable to cry tears. Studies have shown that people with this disease cannot deal well with stress.

Tears are a blessing in many ways. But we also remember that God has promised to wipe away all our tears when we reach heaven.

CAN THERE BE DESIGN WITHOUT A DESIGNER?

Romans 1:20a

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead..."

A new science called biomimetics is making news. In the past we have talked about how some of man's designs are often similar to God's which do the same job. However, in biomimetics, researchers actively seek to study the creation to learn of designs that will solve engineering problems.



We are all familiar with the story of how thistle seeds inspired Velcro. Engineers have used the design of the owl's wing to make the structures that carry electrical current to trains. The result is a much quieter ride. The moth's eyes' ability not to reflect light helps make it harder to be spotted by birds. The same design has now been used to make a nonreflective film. The result is a film that can be used to help prevent windows from reflecting light. This film will soon be available commercially. Many dyes are toxic, yet many creatures manage to show off bright colors without using toxic substances. Materials engineers studied how the jewel beetle produces its color. The result is a film that seems to change color depending on the angle from which you view it.

No scientist can offer a rational explanation for how so many thoughtful and efficient designs could be generated in a mindless universe. These designs are fingerprints God left all over the creation so that man might seek Him out.

DARWIN AND HIS FOLLOWERS DRAW THE WRONG CONCLUSIONS

2 Peter 3:6

"Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished..."

Charles Darwin once wrote of the fossil record, "No organism wholly soft can be preserved." That's because evolutionary orthodoxy says that fossils are buried and formed by slow, natural processes. In reality, there are many fossils of soft-bodied animals like jellyfish and squid. That is evidence, of course, of rapid, catastrophic burial at the time of the flood. Darwin rejected the flood and therefore got the science wrong.

One fossilized squid, dated 150 million years old by evolutionists, was so perfectly preserved it looked like it could still have ink. Researchers even reconstituted real ink from its fossilized ink sac. The ink, which looks the same as modern squid ink, was even used to draw a picture of the fossil. There should have been no ink after all that time, so it looks like the Darwinists were wrong on the age, too.

'THE HERO OF THE STORY IS JESUS CHRIST'

Persecuted, tortured Christians shares stories of courage and forgiveness

While the acts of courage and faith are gripping, Voice of the Martyrs Associate Vice President Jason Peters hopes readers focus on the most important takeaway.

"The hero of the story is Jesus Christ. He gives grace in these situations that we just can't explain from an earthly perspective," said Peters, who adds that believers are able to endure torture and heartache because their hope is not in this world.

"That's the heart of it. The key to all of this is eternal perspective. These brothers and sisters have got an eternal perspective in ways that we can't even begin to imagine," he added.

"They don't have a comfortable existence," Peters said. "Many have been minorities their entire lives. Many of them live in difficult circumstances. In one sense, they've just trained themselves to focus on their eternal reward. In the United States, we get a bit comfortable and it's easy for us not to have an eternal perspective because we're pretty comfortable here."

Some stories of Muslims converting to Christianity may seem unusual, particularly the frequent testimonies of vivid dreams in which Christ appears to them. An Afghan man named John was on his pilgrimage to Mecca when he says Jesus appeared to him in a dream.

Peters admitted that will strike some as odd, but he said the evidence is very strong for these accounts being true.

"It's incredibly frequent," Peters said. "We hear about dreams and visions all the time. I'll be honest with you, I've never had a dream or a vision personally, but I've met those who have. When you hear these stories, it's really hard to deny the fact that it happened."

Peters said Tom Doyle, a fellow Dallas Theological Seminary graduate, has chronicled some of these accounts in his book, "Dreams and Visions." He shared one in particular.

"I remember the story of one guy who said, 'I had a dream. I started to take notes when I would wake up. I make a note of what I heard from this man in white.' And he said, 'Interestingly, I found out later when I ran into a Christian and I shared my notes that it was literally the gospel of John, almost word for word,'" Peters shared.

He believes there's a good reason accounts of dreams and visions are much more common among the persecuted.

"In many of the 68 countries we work in, the Bible is in chains," Peters said. "The Bible is not accessible. We have Bibles everywhere. But when you don't have access to God's word, I believe He works in some miraculous ways."

Peters said God is working in the midst of heavy persecution and is even changing some hearts among the terrorists themselves.

"There was a guy who was coming through Lebanon recently," Peters said. "He was actually teaching jihad to ISIS. He came back transiting through Lebanon. He asked his taxi driver, 'Do you know where I can find a Bible?'"

"[The taxi driver] was obviously a little concerned. This fully bearded, rogue teacher of jihad is asking him for a bible. He said, 'I'm sick of the killing,'" shared Peters.

"In the midst of all this evil, everything horrific that ISIS has done, God is drawing people to himself and we're actually seeing many Muslims come to Christ after seeing some of these horrific activities and these brutal actions that ISIS is prosecuting right now," he said. Peters said persecuted believers want all other Christians to know they are prayed for, even in the midst of terrible suffering.

"They want us to pray for them," he said. "They'll often follow that up with, 'And by the way, we're praying for you because we know that you're facing challenges too in your culture.'"

But it's not all happening through dreams and visions. Joel Richardson

"The vast majority are coming to faith through other faithful Christians sharing the Gospel with boldness," Richardson said. "Rarely is this talked about. There are quiet revivals breaking out in various areas. We here in the West need to get behind what the Lord is doing. We need to support those who are doing their part to bring the Word of God to the Islamic world."

THE 1 SENTENCE THAT STOPPED ROMAN GLADIATOR BATTLES

President Ronald Reagan commented on the Roman Coliseum at the national prayer breakfast, Feb. 2, 1984: "This power of prayer can be illustrated by the story that goes back to the fourth century – the monk (Telemachus) living in a little remote village, spending most of his time in prayer. ... One day he thought he heard the voice of God telling him to go to Rome. ... Weeks and weeks later, he arrived ... at a time of a festival in Rome. ... He followed a crowd into the Coliseum, and then, there in the midst of this great crowd, he saw the gladiators come forth, stand before the Emperor, and say, 'We who are about to die salute you.' And he realized they were going to fight to the death for the entertainment of the crowds. He cried out, 'In the Name of Christ, stop!' And his voice was lost in the tumult there in the great Colosseum. ..."

Reagan continued: "And as the games began, he made his way down through the crowd and climbed over the wall and dropped to the floor of the arena. Suddenly the crowds saw this scrawny little figure making his way out to the gladiators and saying, over and over again, 'In the Name of Christ, stop!' And they thought it was part of the entertainment, and at first they were amused. But then, when they realized it wasn't, they grew belligerent and angry. ..."

Reagan added: "And as he was pleading with the gladiators, 'In the Name of Christ, stop!' one of them plunged his sword into his body. And as he fell to the sand of the arena in death, his last words were, 'In the Name of Christ, stop!' And suddenly, a strange thing happened. The gladiators stood looking at this tiny form lying in the sand. A silence fell over the Colosseum. And then, someplace up in the upper tiers, an individual made his way to an exit and left, and the others began to follow. And in the dead silence, everyone left the Colosseum. That was the last battle to the death between gladiators in the Roman Colosseum. Never again did anyone kill or did men kill each other for the entertainment of the crowd. ..."

Reagan ended: "One tiny voice that could hardly be heard above the tumult. 'In the Name of Christ, stop!' It is something we could be saying to each other throughout the world today."

AmericanMinute.

The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His apostles, which enjoins humility, piety, and benevolence;

"Almost all the civil liberty now enjoyed in the world owes its origin to the principles of the Christian religion ... Noah Webster



God bless each heart, home
+ family is our prayer! Some day
the Lord is going to come + may
we each + every one be ready!

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