

Volume 20

Issue 12

Mumbai

Total Pages 28

December 2023

₹ 20/-

HARVEST TIMES

FOR YOUR FAMILY

THE GLORY OF CHRIST IN INCARNATION

Page No. 6



GLS

That All May Know the Truth of the Gospel

HARVEST TIMES FOR YOUR FAMILY

Vol 20 Issue 12 December 2023
RNI No. MAHENG/2004/14223

A Journal To Spiritually *Edify* the Entire
Family to *Enrich* the Church and Society.

Printed at **India Printing Works**
42, G D Ambedkar Road, Wadala,
Mumbai 400 031

Published by **Dr. Koshy Mathew, Ph.D.**
On behalf of Gospel Literature Service
Udyog Bhavan, 250 D, Worli Colony
Mumbai 400 030, India.

Editor
Koshy Mathew

Trustees
A. T. Kurian
V. E. Chandrashekar
Koshy Mathew
E. J. Stephen
Sam Samuel

Important Information

Change of Address: To notify of a change in address, mail us your subscription number and new address at least six weeks in advance

Harvest Times for your family: Founded as Active Service, this is a monthly journal aimed at the spiritual growth of Christian families.

Submission of Articles for HT Journal: Please send us your article by email to koshimathew@yahoo.com.

Submission of other manuscripts for publication: Please send us your manuscripts of Books, Booklets, tracts etc by email to info@glsindia.com.

The publisher reserves the right to edit, use or reject submitted articles. The decision of the Editorial Board is final and binding.

Copyright Information :

All articles in this journal belong to GLS, unless otherwise mentioned. To reprint or quote elsewhere, please contact us at info@glsindia.com

The views stated in the articles belong to the writer and may or may not reflect those of the Publishers.

Subscription Rates

	India	Overseas	
	₹	\$	£
1 Year	200	30	25
3 Years	500	70	55
5 Years	700	110	80

For ordering and bank details refer back cover page.

Gospel Literature Service

Udyog Bhavan, 250 D, Worli Colony,
Mumbai, 400 030, India.

+91 75067 12150

info@glsindia.com

Online Book Store:
www.glsindia.com

Follow Us On:  

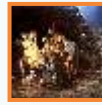
CONTENTS



EDITORIAL 03

Transformation By Beholding Christ's Glories

Dr. Koshy Mathew, Editor



FEATURE 06

The Glory Of Christ In Incarnation

Nitish Patel



BIBLE STUDY 08

He Purged Our Sins And Sat Down

Biju Samuel



EULOGY 10

Eulogy For Dr. Glory Valthaty



DOCTRINAL 12

The Glories Of The Lord Jesus Christ In Revelation 1

Nilesh Goundar



CHALLENGERS 15

David And Jonathan: The Features Of Their Relationship

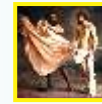
E J Stephen



OBITUARY 25

Bro. George P. Jacob - A Tribute

Special Features



DEVOTIONAL 04

They Stripped Off His Garment – He Set Aside His Garment

Thomas John



HER CORNER 17

The Importance Of Physical Rest*

Late Dr. Glory Roberts Valthaty



EXPLORER 20

Who Directs Your Steps?

Lydia Saju



PRACTICAL 22

"In All Things He Might Have The Pre-eminence"

Keshab Korkore



KIDS CORNER 24

Save Me Savior - Part 10 : The Chain

Susan Sam Joy



BIBLE QUIZ 26

Bible Quiz For Youth

F M



LIFE LINE 27

What Sort Of A King Could He Be!?

Tom Jacob



Koshy Mathew

Editor

E mail: koshimathew@yahoo.com

WhatsApp no. 9969881777

TRANSFORMATION BY BEHOLDING CHRIST'S GLORIES

The process of spiritual metamorphosis of a believer

God's ultimate objective of saving us is to transform each one of us into the likeness of His beloved Son. God expects us to grow spiritually so that one day we will look like our Saviour. As I get older, I look more like my father. God has created us in His own image and likeness. However, sin marred our image, and we all have come short of God's glory. Nevertheless, at the time of our new birth, God reinstated that image and likeness in us. *"Make you into a new person. You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy."* (Eph. 4:24, CEV- Contemporary English Version). We should 'put off' the fallen Adamic nature and 'put on' the new man created in God's likeness. (2 Peter 1:4).

Metamorphosis: In biological sciences, the term metamorphosis is used for the transformation of a larva into an adult during its life cycle. Larva has no similarity with the adult. For example, a butterfly larva changes into a pupa and finally transforms into a beautiful adult butterfly. Similarly, believers should undergo a spiritual transformation to conform to the image of Jesus Christ.

In the New Testament, there are four references of the Greek word, *metamorphoo* (Matt. 17:2; Mk. 9:2-3; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18). In Matthew and Mark, it refers to the glorious transformation of the Lord Jesus Christ before His disciples. Jesus Christ unveiled His original glory to the disciples. He will display the same glory during the millennial kingdom (Matt. 16:27-28). *"He transfigured (metamorphoo) before them and his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them."* Like Christ, we too should display God's glory in our lives.

Transformation in our day-to-day lives: In two other references, Paul exhorts believers to get transformed into the likeness of Christ. The transformation is possible only when we keep renewing our minds and understand God's will. It is a continuous process in our day-to-day life. *"Do not be conformed to this world, but continuously be transformed (metamorphoo) by the renewing of your minds so that you may be able to determine what God's will is—what is proper, pleasing, and perfect"*. (Romans 12:2 ISV).

Jesus Christ is the radiance of God's glory (Heb. 1:3). His disciples beheld His glory (Jn.1:14). Moses who spent forty days in the presence of God radiated the glory of God on his face. Like Moses, we too can radiate

God's glory through our lives by meditating on the glories of Christ as written in the scriptures. *"We all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."* (2 Cor. 3:18, NIV). May the Holy Spirit help us to be transformed day by day into the image of Christ with ever increasing glory.

In the Old Testament, Moses alone could enter into the presence of God. When he came out, his face radiated with God's glory. Moses did not realize that he was radiating God's glory, but those who saw him perceived it (Exo. 34:29-35). The glory on his face was a fading glory. Moses veiled his face so that others should not see his fading glory (2 Cor. 3:13).

In the Old Testament, Moses alone could go into the presence of God to see His glory, whereas in the New Testament "we all" can contemplate on the Lord's glory at all times. By contemplating on Christ's glories revealed in the scriptures we also will radiate His glories.

The final glorification of saints: Our transformation or 'metamorphosis' will not be completed here on this earth. Though we have been glorified at the time of salvation, yet it is not fully visible because "we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us" (2 Cor. 4:7). When the Lord comes, our earthen vessels will be broken and the glory will be revealed. As in the story of Gideon when the trumpets were blown, Gideon and his companions broke the earthen vessels that had lamps within; the light within the earthen pitchers was manifested (Judg. 7:19-20). Similarly, we will be glorified at the time of Christ's coming. "The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory". Even creation is also subjected to vanity and is awaiting the glorious manifestation of children of God. (Romans 8:17-21; 2 Cor. 4:7).

The prayer of our Savior will be accomplished when we reach the heavenly shore. "And the **glory** which you gave me **I have given them;** ... Father, I will that they also, whom you have given me, be with me where I am; that **they may behold my glory,** which you have given me: for you loved me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:22, 24).

THEY STRIPPED OFF HIS GARMENT – HE SET ASIDE HIS GARMENT

– Thomas John, Dubai

Jesus' garment was no ordinary and therefore there is a mention of it in many passages in the Bible. Bro. Thomas John takes us through the thoughts of the condescension, suffering, and exaltation of our Lord purely highlighting the significance of Jesus' garment.



Let us look at two passages of the scriptures about our Lord Jesus Christ in relation to His garment (Mat. 27:27-31; John 13:4, 12). It is not my intention to look into all the significances of the garments of our Lord in this article from the quoted passages; instead, I will limit to thoughts of the condescension, suffering, and exaltation of our Lord.

In Matthew 27:27-31 we have a brief description of the cruelty that the Roman soldiers meted out to our Lord.

“27. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. 28. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. 29. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! 30. And they spit upon

him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. 31. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.”

In this passage is the mention of the stripping of our Lord off the garment that He wore. And they replaced it with a scarlet robe. Then, after meting out all cruelty, they removed the scarlet robe and clothed Him with His own garment.

He set aside His garment: Yet there is another occasion when the Lord's garment was removed and replaced with another and then clothed with the original garment. This we read in John 13:4 and 12, “4. He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. 12. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was seated again ...” Out of the two passages mentioned above, one passage begins with His rising up from His seat and ends with His returning to His seat. The other begins with Him being led into the hall and ends with Him being led out of the hall.

He riseth: He gets up from His seat to accomplish a task – Does it not speak of the One who, “when he cometh into the world” (Hebrews

10:5), “when the fullness of time came” (Galatians 4:4) said, “Lo I come to do thy will O God” (Hebrews 10:7)?

from supper: from the place of constant and unbreakable fellowship. Does this not speak of the One who was 'with God' (John 1:1)?

garments: speak of the outward manifestation of inner character or constitution.

and laid aside His garments: Does this not speak of the One who 'was God' (John 1:1), left that abode, setting aside the garments of His glory and beauty? 'The Lord is clothed with majesty and strength' (Ps. 93:1). 'The Lord is clothed with honor and majesty and robed in light' (Ps. 104:1,2). Don't we see a glimpse of that glory at the mount of transfiguration when He 'was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light' (Matthew 17:2). He set aside or veiled the glory of His deity when He came into this world.

and took a towel: It was the towel of the servant that was used to wipe the feet after washing with

water. Does it not speak of the Lord who took the form of a servant when He came into this world to save sinners like us? He came to minister – to serve (Matthew 20:28). The laying aside of the garment and girding with the towel is so beautifully explained in Philippians 2:6-8.

“6. Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

towel – it was a linen towel: The Greek word is “len'-tee-on” that is, a linen towel. The J N Darby translation says “He took a linen towel...” ‘Linen’ symbolizes ‘righteousness’. And that is what our Lord was clothed with when He came into this world. He was the righteous One the holy One of God – He did no sin (1 Pet. 2:22), He knew no sin (2 Cor. 5:21), in Him was no sin (1 John 3:5). There was none that could convict Him of sin (John 8:46).

All through His life, His works were righteous and holy. The Father had no hesitation to declare time and again, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”. The High Priest who wore those robes of glory and beauty (Ex. 28:2) would however on the Day of Atonement, set aside the garments of glory and beauty and wear only the pure linen garment. So also our Lord, when He came into this world to become our High Priest and even the atonement for our sins. He wore the linen garments of righteousness and holiness.

They stripped off His garment:

Now for a moment let us look at the passage in Mt. 27 and later return to John 13.

The soldiers took Jesus into the common hall: Here the ‘Prince of Life’ is in the hands of the servants of the ‘prince of this world’.

took Jesus into: Does this not remind us that, “He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter” and “He was taken from prison and from judgment” (Isaiah 53:7,8)?

They stripped Him (off His raiment): He wore the raiment of holiness and righteousness and that's what they stripped him off. They brought (false) accusations against Him – to tarnish Him, to tarnish the glory of the linen. They did that even all through His ministry. They accused Him of everything they could accuse Him of. However, none of the accusations against Him could stand.

and put on him a scarlet robe: scarlet: reminds of blood – The color scarlet indicates the depth of the color red. Isaiah says “Though your sins be as scarlet” (Isaiah 1:18), that is, however deep the sins. The scarlet robe – does this not speak of the depth of His suffering – the indescribable depths of His suffering? Scriptures give us only a glimpse of the sufferings that He endured for sin. The Spirit in Mark's Gospel puts it as a purple robe – the ‘richness’ of His suffering or the ‘plentitude’ of His sufferings – the unspeakable riches of His sufferings. All the furniture of the Tabernacle was to be covered in ‘blue’ except the brazen altar, which was covered with ‘purple’. The brazen altar, which speaks of the sacrifice of our Lord for sin, was covered with the richness and the plentitude of the sufferings of our Lord.

There is an interesting phrase the Spirit uses when He refers to the resurrection of our Lord in Acts 2:24. “Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.” When our Lord was raised, the Spirit, instead of saying ‘He was loosed from death’ (which is what happened), said ‘He was loosed from the pains of death’ or pangs of death or sufferings of death. It was as though the sufferings of Christ lasted even after His death. Oh! Who can fathom the depths of His sufferings?

Yet after all that they meted out to Him they took the (scarlet) robe off Him, and put His own raiment on Him: Is this not their acknowledgment of the unblemished character of our Lord? They could not but put back on Him, His own raiment! Remember the words of the centurion, their leader, at the cross, “Certainly this was a righteous man” (Luke 23:47). They clothed Him back with His own raiment! So did all the leaders who examined the Lord. Caiaphas, their religious leader said, “It is expedient that one man should die for the people” (John 18:14) – An acknowledgment that He was without blemish, fit to be sacrificed. Pilate the Roman governor, after thrice declaring, “I find no fault in this man” then washed his hand saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man” (Matthew 27:24). Herod the King after he examined Him robed Him with a gorgeous robe – a bright white robe. They all clothed Him back with His own robe!

Even after His death at His burial, He was covered with a linen cloth. All four Gospels testify to this. Does this not speak of His perfect



Nitish Patel is a Bible teacher and an evangelist. He resides in London.



THE GLORY OF CHRIST IN INCARNATION

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.” (Luke 2:14)

*Who would have imagined that the answer to this world's greatest problems would be a little baby born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago? Yet He was no ordinary baby as we shall see in the words of **Bro. Nitish Patel**.*



The term 'incarnation' is from the Latin word *incarnatio* meaning 'being or taking flesh'. Incarnation refers to the moment the Son of God was conceived in the womb of Mary as the Son of Man, while at the same time never ceasing to be God yet becoming in one Person fully God and fully man.

When the Son of God came into this world, He veiled the outward manifestation of the glory of His deity and made Himself of no reputation (Philippians 2:7). Though man, He never ceased to be God but did all things as a servant in obedience to His Father and by the power of the Spirit of God (Matthew 12:28). He did not independently use His divine attributes. Though the glory of His deity was hidden before the eyes of men, the angel Gabriel declared the glories of this very special child to Mary.

The Glory Of His Name: “And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.” (Luke 1:31).

“Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.” (Isaiah 49:1).

“And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.” (Psalm 72:19).

For us, our names merely identify us and distinguish us from others, but God's names reveal His glory, nature, and character. God's name is Jehovah, and all the titles combined with this name reveal His glories further. In the Old Testament, He is called by several Jehovah-titles, such as Jehovah Roi, the LORD is my shepherd; Jehovah Jireh, the LORD will provide; Jehovah Shalom, the LORD our peace, Jehovah Tsidkenu, the LORD our righteousness, and many others; however, the greatest manifestation of Jehovah was Jesus whose name means “Jehovah the Saviour”. He declared the person and nature of God like none other; “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person ...” (Hebrews 1:3). “Jesus saith unto him ... he that hath seen me hath seen the Father...” (John 14:9).

*Join all the glorious names
of wisdom, love, and pow'r;
that ever mortals knew,
that angels ever bore;
all are too mean to speak His worth,
too mean to set my Saviour forth.*

(Isaac Watts)

The Glory Of His Throne: “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.” (Luke 1:32)

He is both the Son of the Highest and the Son of David to whom God promised an everlasting throne (2 Samuel 7:16). The covenant that God made with David was an unconditional covenant, for despite the wickedness of many of his descendants God would not remove the throne as He did with King Saul (2 Samuel 7:15).

The title “the Highest” or “Most High” is used of God in the Old Testament for the first time referring to the God of Melchizedek and Abram. “And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:” (Genesis 14:19). This is a millennial title of God. “But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.” (Daniel 7:18). He is sovereign over all nations; He possesses heaven and earth (Daniel 4:34; 5:21). He alone can establish a kingdom for His Son. “Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.” (Psalm 89:27).

The Glory Of His Kingdom: “And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom, there shall be no end.” (Luke 1:33). Every kingdom that has ever existed, ultimately came to an end

no matter how much power, wealth, or armies it had or territory it had conquered; however, Christ's kingdom shall never end (Daniel 2:44). This is because His throne will be established in righteousness. It will be one of compassion and mercy (Proverbs 16:12; 29:14; Isaiah 16:5). His kingdom will be established by omnipotent power when all His enemies will be crushed (Psalm 110:1). "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6).

The Glory Of His Conception:

"Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:34-35).

Though Mary did not understand, yet she did not express unbelief or ask for a sign rather she accepted whatever she was told. Here was a mystery that none can fathom, but like Mary, we must accept it by faith. This is not for anyone to examine and explain like a doctor or speculate like a philosopher. We bow in worship before God at the great miracle and wonder.

The Holy Spirit came upon many of God's servants to prophesy through them (Numbers 11:25) or give them physical power to fight wars (Judges 3:10; 14:6). However, the unique mission of the Holy Spirit in human history was to create a baby like no other! "... a body hast thou prepared me" (Hebrews 10:5). The Greek word for overshadow is the same used when God came down in a cloud on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:5)

and upon the Tabernacle and Temple. This shows that Jesus was the antitype of the Tabernacle, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us [literally, 'tabernacled among us'] ..." (John 1:14). When the tabernacle was reared up, we read, "Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle." (Exodus 40:34). He was the true Tabernacle of God upon earth in whom dwelt all the fulness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9). The Holy Spirit and the power of the Highest ensured that the baby born would be holy, without the sinful nature of Adam that Mary had. Jesus would have no sin in Him (1 John 3:5); therefore, He knew no sin (2 Corinthians 5:21) and did no sin (1 Peter 2:22). He is the impeccable Christ!

Though man, He (Jesus) never ceased to be God but did all things as a servant in obedience to His Father. This was the unique mission of the Holy Spirit in human history, to create a baby like no other! "... a body hast thou prepared me"

The baby that would be born would be perfectly human yet the very Son of the living God. While Mary His mother upheld Him in her arms and fed Him, He was at the same time upholding all things by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3) and opening His hand to satisfy the desire of every living thing (Psalm 145:16). Though a child, He was conscious of who He was and declared His trust in His Father. "But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts. I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my

mother's belly." (Psalms 22:9-10).

The Glory Of His Birth: "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7).

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:14).

His birth brought glory to God like no other birth ever has; and it brought forth the greatest news for sinful mankind. The Lord was Mary's firstborn son. Later, she and Joseph would have their children. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes herself for she had no midwife to help. We do not read of the Lord being washed, salted, and swaddled as was normally done (Ezekiel 16), for He needed no washing away of defilement or salt to preserve. He was holy, harmless, and undefiled.

When God spoke to Job about His power in Creation, He declared, "When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddling band for it," (Job 38:9). The Creator who wrapped clouds around the sea like swaddling bands was Himself found as a babe wrapped in swaddling bands!

He was laid in a manger, also called a stall in Luke's gospel, where the ox and ass were fed (Luke 13:15). In such smell and in poverty, He was born and laid. The inn was His and the world that His hands had made yet there was no room found for Him.

*Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity:
Oh, come to my heart, Lord Jesus!
There is room in my heart for Thee*

(E. S. Elliot, 1864)



HE PURGED OUR SINS AND SAT DOWN

The priests of yore, of the progeny of Aaron, the Levitical priesthood, always stood in the presence of God, ... the Lord Jesus offered up Himself as the perfect sacrifice and then sat down in the presence of God ...



The priests of yore, of the progeny of Aaron, the Levitical priesthood, always stood in the presence of God, while offering the sacrifice and even later. In fact, there was no provision for sitting in the presence of God. The people stood in the temple in Jerusalem and prayed to God. Yet, the writer of Hebrews says that our High Priest, the Lord Jesus, offered up Himself as the perfect sacrifice and then sat down in the presence of God, *'when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high'* (Heb. 1:3).

The statement must be understood within the context and audience of the book of Hebrews. As is evident from the title itself, it was a letter written to the Hebrews. There are neither any references to Gentiles in the book nor any references to the problems between Gentiles and Jews in the church. Therefore, it is almost certain that the congregation being addressed was strictly Jewish. Within this community, there were Hebrew

believers, Hebrews who understood the truth, but were not yet committed, and finally Hebrew unbelievers.

The writer of the epistle makes a concerted effort to reveal the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ and the New Covenant and contrast it with the Old Covenant, under which the Hebrews had lived and worshipped since the establishment of the Mosaic Law. The book unveils the superiority of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the superiority of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the superiority of the Christian's walk of faith.

The second and third verses of Hebrews present the seven unique excellencies of Jesus Christ. These excellencies underline His preeminence, His superiority, and that He is clearly much more than a man. To the writer's original Jewish readers, the number seven connoted a completed work of God, as in the Creation.

First, He is the *'heir of all things,'* which suggests both dignity and dominion. Second, His creatorship, *'through whom also He made the worlds;'* Christ is the agent through whom God created the world (John 1:3). Third, He is the radiance of God's glory, *'the brightness of His glory;'* represents Jesus as the manifestation of God. Fourth, He is the exact representation of God's nature, *'the express image of His*

person;' Christ not only was God manifest, He was God in substance. Fifth, He upholds *'all things by the word of His power;'* Jesus Christ not only made all things, but He also holds them all together. Sixth, He made purification of sins as no one else could, *'by Himself purged our sins;'* by His own sacrifice on the Cross and by His work as the ultimate priest.

The culmination of the unique excellencies is the seventh, He *'sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;'* when He returned to heaven after His ascension. As we are aware, the Majesty on high is God, and the right hand is the side of power. Jesus took His place at the right hand of God. The wonderful thing about this statement is that Jesus, the perfect High Priest, sat down.

Jesus Christ sat down as a ruler. In His incarnation, Jesus Christ humbled Himself to be laid in a manger after His birth, but when He left the world, He went on to take His rightful place as 'Lord of lords and King of kings'

This is in stark contrast to the priestly routines under the Mosaic Law, the Old Covenant. There were

no seats in the Tabernacle, nor in the Temple sanctuaries. The priest had no place to sit because it would never be appropriate for him to sit in the presence of Jehovah. The Levitical priesthood meant an endless routine of sacrifice after sacrifice, over and over again. Therefore the priests offered sacrifices daily basis and never sat down.

But Jesus it was different. He offered one sacrifice, and said, *'It is finished'* (John 19:30). As soon as His mission in the world was complete, He went and sat down with the Father. It was done once and for all. What could not be accomplished under the Old Covenant, even after an endless routine of sacrifices over several centuries, was accomplished once by Jesus Christ for all time. He took the choice place of honor and authority in relation to God the Father (cf. Eph. 4:10; Phil. 2:9; Luke 22:69). Jesus Christ sitting down at the right hand of His Father has great significance. Let us look at four points:

First, when Jesus Christ sat down, it was a sign of honor. *'... that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father'* (Phil. 2:10, 11). To be seated at the right hand of God the Father is an honor indeed. The entire intelligent universe is called to worship Jesus Christ as Lord (cf. Psalm 2). This decree includes the angels in heaven (Rev. 4:2-9); the spirits of the redeemed (Heb. 12:23; Rev. 4:10-11); obedient believers on earth (Rom. 10:9); the disobedient rebels on earth (2 Thess. 1:7-9); demons and lost humanity in hell

(1 Pet. 3:18-22). Everyone will eventually bow and confess Him as Lord either willingly and blessedly, or unwillingly and painfully. In the final reckoning, all will honor and acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord.

Second, Jesus Christ sat down as a sign of authority. *'[He] has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him'* (1 Pet. 3:22). Jesus Christ sat down as a ruler. In His incarnation, Jesus Christ humbled Himself to be laid in a manger after His birth, but when He left the world, He went on to take His rightful place as *'Lord of lords and King of kings'* (Rev. 17:14). In the world, the creator God lived even as a pauper, *'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.'* (Matt. 8:20). But He will come a second time as King and reign as the Seed of David (Jer. 23:5).

Unlike the priests of old, and their unending sacrifices, Jesus' once-for-all offering of Himself as the perfect sacrifice was unique and complete in itself.

Third, Jesus Christ sat down to rest. His mission in the world was completed. *'But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God'* (Heb. 10:12). This is akin to God who rested on the seventh day after the completed work of creation, the Lord Jesus Christ is today resting after the completed work of salvation. Unlike the priests of old, and their unending sacrifices, Jesus' once-for-all offering of Himself as the perfect sacrifice was unique and complete in itself.

Hence, Jesus rests. Thus, the rest that was offered to the children of Israel, which they forfeited due to their willful sin, is today available to all who put their trust in Jesus Christ and His perfect sacrifice on the Cross of Calvary.

Fourth, Jesus Christ sat down to intercede for you and me. *'Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us'* (Rom. 8:34). He is seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for all of us who belong to Him. This is our great comfort. Though believers, we continue to live in a body of flesh in a corrupt world where our consolation is that our Lord Jesus is at the right hand of God the Father making intercession for us.

Each one of the seven unique excellencies of Jesus Christ points to His deity. The original Hebrew audience, which was faced with the temptation to abandon the discipleship of Jesus to return to Judaism, received a strong reminder of His deity in these verses.

This is God's portrait of Jesus Christ. He is our blessed High priest, atoning and interceding for us. We see Him as King, controlling, sustaining, and seated on a throne. This is our Lord Jesus Christ. What must be our response to this Lord? We can only submit to Him as the Lord and Master of our lives. To reject Him is to be shut out from His presence into eternal hellfire, but to receive Jesus Christ as Saviour is to enter into all that He is and has. He is the only choice for the salvation of fallen mankind.

EULOGY FOR DR. GLORY VALTHATY

A brief life sketch of Dr. Glory Robert Valthaty, MBBS, M. D.

Dr. Glory Robert Valthaty was born on 19th May 1981 as the third child to Bro. V. E. Chandrashekar Valthaty and Dr. V F M Chandravathy, Bro. V. E. Chandrashekar is one of the trustees of GLS Publishing. Like her elder sisters, Dr. Rebecca Samson and Dr. Ruth Sunil, she also joined the medical profession and specialized as an Anaesthesiologist. Her younger brother Paul Valthaty was an IPL cricketer. From childhood, they attended Borivali Assembly's Sunday School. She got married to Noel Robert on 19th May 2010, and they moved to Aberdeen, Scotland as a family. God blessed them with two children, an elder daughter Faith, and a younger son Joshua. She and her son Joshua (8) were called Home on 23rd October this year. They came to Mumbai to visit their ailing mother. But while they were in Mumbai a fire broke out in their residential building. They tried to escape from the building but were engulfed in fire and smoke.

Bro. V. Sambob from Kadapa conducted the funeral service, which was held on 24th October, and Bro. Nelson Thomas shared comforting words from the scriptures to the bereaved family members.

Though she lived only for a short period, she left behind a great spiritual legacy. What the Lord spoke about John the Baptist in John 5:35 is truly applicable even to Dr. Glory Valthaty. She was a burning and shining light, and we were allowed for a season to rejoice in that light.

The following are a few tributes shared by brethren from the assemblies at Aberdeen, Scotland, and Borivali during the memorial

service held on 28th October at Borivali under the auspices of the Borivali Assembly.

There were many tears and prayers: Our sister Glory used her gifts for the Lord. She used to teach children all about the Lord Jesus Christ in their Sunday School and at the Children's Club. Joshua was very much part of our church family, a precious little boy, a gift from God, and we will miss him dearly. Brother Noel and Sister Glory's testimonies are such that when this sad news was known, many of the friends came to our prayer meetings on Monday and Tuesday nights.



There were many tears and prayers. A sudden parting like this brings tremendous sorrow, and we all need to lean on the Lord at this time. And in Him, we will find peace, strength, and comfort. The Bible tells us that God is the Prince of peace. He is a refuge and our strength; He has been sent to heal the broken-hearted and give comfort to all who mourn. We will pray for Noel and

Faith and the rest of the family.

- Bro. Andrew from the Holborn Gospel Hall in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Sis. Glory's knowledge of the Scripture: When I think of sister Glory, her knowledge of the Scripture is the first thing that comes to my mind. She had a comprehensive knowledge of the Bible, and the Word of God, and she used to live by it. Her love for her family is another feature that comes to my thought; her love for Noel, Faith, and Joshua. Her love for the assembly that she was engaged with and actively involved in and her love for other believers is also worth noting. Her love was practical in every sense. I am sure that Glory would want me to now speak more about her Lord than her or Joshua. She had a love for the Lord Jesus Christ, her Lord and Master. She put her faith and trust in Him.

She and Joshua are now with Christ, which is far better for them. We grieve and we have to bear the pain we suffer at the loss, but the testimony she leaves is great. We think of Joshua's short life, full of energy and joy. We will miss Glory's smile, her wisdom, and her Christian love, and we will also miss Joshua's energy. We pray for God's blessing and comfort for all those who miss Sis. Glory and Joshua the most. We all mourn, but not as others because... we will meet again.

- Bro George Cheetham from the Holborn Gospel Hall in Aberdeen, Scotland.

She was always smiling: Glory's influence on the assembly here was significant. She was always smiling and ready to stop and talk with a deep interest in everybody's

welfare. She had a strong understanding of the Scriptures and used that in her various avenues of service. The connections and influence of friends that surrounded her from India were tremendous, and by her and Noel's efforts, we are privileged to have a number of good people around us at Holborn. The Lord also brought to us in time, Sunil, Ruth, and Noah, whom we are honored to share assembly fellowship with.

- Bro. Ian Grant, from the Holborn Gospel Hall in Aberdeen, Scotland.

The following are a few tributes from Dr. Glory's Sunday School children and others from the Borivali Assembly, Borivali:

Longest-serving Sunday school teacher: "Glory Chechi", as fondly called by the children of the Borivali Assembly, has been one of the longest-serving Sunday School teachers to have taught children of multiple age groups. All Sunday School classes during her time as a teacher have been under her tutelage and guidance at some point in time. Therefore, the impact she has had on the next generation cannot be fully expressed in words. Her service to the Lord in the form of teaching Sunday Schools has been marked by her utmost diligence in not only teaching the lessons but also ensuring that the children learn and memorize the Bible verses. The memory verse sheets she prepared, did not merely mention the verses, but also a short explanation in a way the children can apply these verses in their own lives. This has had a long-lasting spiritual impact on the lives of many of her students. She served humbly, diligently taking up her responsibilities. She strived with the children in preparing them for Sunday School anniversaries year after year. Children could easily befriend her, despite the age gap. All the while, she was always a loving and approachable teacher, with a

graceful demeanor, sowing seeds of eternal blessings in the life of the little ones.

Her legacy is in the many young people whose lives she touched and impacted for the better. They are now adults who are serving the Lord in their own churches and communities, thanks to the foundation that Glory Chechi laid in their lives.

- Abby Koshy

A small tribute to Glory Chechi and little Joshua:

*In His divine purpose
He thought it very precious
To call home Glory and Joshua
To be with Almighty Jehovah
And though the grief is so deep
This thought our minds will keep
That they are now and forever
With that Fourth Man in the fire*
- Rebeeca Rajan Godly

The kindest, gentlest, and most loving soul: Sister Glory was one of the kindest, gentlest, and most loving souls that have ever graced the halls of the Borivali Assembly. She was like an older sister who would enrich my life with timely spiritual, academic, and yes, even medical advice that she would give free of charge! In all of these, she spoke with the authority and conviction of someone who has experienced things first-hand and carefully studied the subjects that she was talking about. She was an exceptional organizer, and we have greatly benefited from that attribute of hers. She handled the Sunday School responsibility with a mixture of efficiency and passion that only a few can display. I can't think of a single time when she was ever careless with her words, her demeanor, or the way she conducted herself both inside and outside the assembly.

- Joshua Rajan

Sis. Glory in Glory with little Joshua: The Home call of Glory and

Joshua is even now unbelievable and unbearable. Human words will fail to comfort the bereaved dear ones. I do not know how to comfort Bro. Noel and Faith, dear Bro. and Sis. Chandrashekar and the families of Rebecca, Ruth, and Paul. The consolation we now have is that they are in a better place, in heavenly bliss, and that we will meet them very soon! Glory to us was like our daughter. She was a dear Chechi to our sons, Anub and Abby. She was like a medical consultant to all of us in the Assembly. She loved God and God's children.

We cherish the sweet memories of our dear Glory always; her call, "Koshy uncle, Felicity Aunty," itself was very sweet. Besides Sunday School, she actively participated in the singing choir of the Festival of Hope and Festival of Faith. She was a good singer. She actively participated in picnic games; Felicity used to give her ideas and she used to present them as a game. Once she made a Bible Quiz based on the various sickness mentioned in the Bible. This was really innovative.

She was a big support for the aunties at the time of ABC for Teens' camp. She was an excellent wife to Bro. Noel and a joyful mom to Faith and Joshua.

Thank God for the blessed hope that we shall meet Glory and Joshua on that beautiful shore along with all dear departed ones.

- Koshy Mathew and Felicity Mathew

My silent inspiration: Words cannot express the extreme sadness and heartache with which I am writing this note. My memories with Glory date back more than 20 years, when we grew up together in the Sunday School at the Borivali Assembly. Although a few years senior than me, she was my silent inspiration to strive to grow into a God-fearing woman.



Nilesh Goundar is a Bible teacher and an elder of a fellowship based in Suva, Fiji Islands



THE GLORIES OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IN REVELATION 1

*'Glory' - the meaning differs in the reference it is used. We use this word many times in our daily life mainly relating it to heaven. However, **Bro. Nilesh Goundar** brings to us the significant use of glory that refers to God through the first chapter of the book of Revelation.*



Glory is a multi-faceted word for Christians. It is used in reference to natural objects, human beings, and God, with a variety of meanings. It implies worth and value, which leads to praise, and serves as a synonym for heaven.

When used concerning natural objects, *glory* may refer to the brightness of heavenly bodies (Acts 22:11; 1 Cor. 15:41), the fruitfulness of a forest (Isa 35:2; 60:13), the awesomeness of a horse's snorting (Job 39:20), or the ornateness of expensive clothing (Luke 7:25).

The glory of human beings is spoken of concerning several external manifestations and conditions, aspects of internal character, and the inherent condition of human nature. As applied to external manifestations and conditions of human beings, glory may refer to position, possessions, strength, or length of life.

The most significant use of the

ideas of glory and majesty is in their application to God. It describes God's obvious presence, His intrinsic infinite perfections, greatness, and worth. God is in a class by Himself. His perfection, greatness, and worth are of such a distinct and separate category that they can't be improved upon, imitated, or compared with, and it determines all that He is and is determined by nothing from outside Him. His glory is an outshining of His inward greatness, excellencies, and perfections. Thus, the glory of God is the infinite beauty and greatness of God's manifold perfections.

Glory is a characteristic of God seen in both the Old and New Testament descriptions of God and His presence. In the Old Testament, many different Hebrew words are used for the English word glory. The most common Hebrew word is '*khabod*', which means weightiness or worth, and it is used in the phrase *the glory of the Lord*. God's glory is God's weightiness in wonderful qualities, such as might, beauty, goodness, justice, and honour. God has these characteristics and so many others in superabundance. In the New Testament, the Greek word '*doxa*' means opinion (always good opinion in the New Testament context), praise, honour, and glory. The typical usage includes honour, renown, glory, especially divine quality, and the unspoken manifestation of God's splendour.

Thus, when we think of God's glory, we remember that God has all good things in greater quantity and quality than we can ever imagine. God's glory too, is solid and substantial. It isn't mere reputation. It isn't dependent on anyone or anything else. God's glory reflects His essential nature.

The focus of this study is the glory of God manifested in Christ in Revelation 1. The elegance of God's spirit is the source of His glory. The glory of God is the beauty of His spirit. It is not an aesthetic beauty or a material beauty, but the beauty that emanates from His character, from all that He is. The glory of man—human dignity and honour—fades (1 Peter 1:24), but the glory of God, which is manifested in all His attributes together, never passes away; it is eternal.

Let us examine His glories in the descriptions of His appearance, apparel, and authority.

God will not give His glory to another (Isaiah 42:8; cf. Exodus 34:14). The glory of God is revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the

Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). The Lord Jesus came as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of [God's] people Israel" (Luke 2:32). The miracles that the Lord Jesus did were "signs through which He revealed his glory" (John 2:11). In Christ, the glory of God is meekly veiled, approachable, and knowable. He promises to return someday "on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30).

Revelation 1:9-17 brings us face-to-face with the glory of God in the portrait of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us examine His glories in the descriptions of His appearance, apparel, and authority. John turned to see the same Son of Man that Daniel 7:13-14 describes, coming "with the clouds of heaven" (Rev. 1:7). The Son of Man was the title most used by the Lord Jesus for Himself. It is used 81 times in the gospels.

The Lord Jesus is described as being amid the lamp-stands. It is an important reminder that He is among the churches. Revelation 2:1 also describes Him as walking among the seven lamp-stands. This is one of the things that "are" in verse 19; it is a present reality. The Lord Jesus did not abandon the church when He ascended after the resurrection. He is still very much involved. Because He is among us, He knows our deeds intimately. In each letter to the churches, He tells them that He *knows* their works. It is a comforting fact to know that our Saviour is among us; He strengthens and sustains us; He watches over us; we are secure in His hands; every attack of the enemy is known to Him; the Lord is aware of all of the trials and sufferings we face. No one is weak or sick without Him knowing and sympathizing (Hebrews 4:15). He is clothed with a long robe and has a golden sash around His chest (Rev 1:13b). The clothing is similar to what the Old Testament high priest would wear. Moses had clothed Aaron with a tunic and sash

(Lev. 8:7). The priests of the Old Testament wore long flowing robes for glory and beauty (Ex. 28:2,4), a symbol of dignity, majesty, and divine authority. This is a reminder of Christ's glory, beauty, divine authority, and high priestly ministry. One of the chief roles of the high priest was to come as a mediator between God and man. He offered sacrifices to God, made atonement for sin, and brought God's messages to the people. Now the Lord Jesus is our mediator. He is our High Priest. He offered Himself as a sacrifice for sins. It is through His work that we can approach the Lord (Heb. 2:17). In the book of Hebrews we learn that Christ is a priest of the order of Melchizedek. It was a unique line different from the Levitical priesthood. Melchizedek was a king and a priest, whereas in Israel the roles of priests and kings were distinct. The Lord Jesus is both a priest and King.

Remember, the living Christ walks amid the church today weighing its worship and service.

The hairs of His head are white like wool (Rev 1:14a). The Lord's white hair reminds us of two things. It shows us His *age*; He is the Ancient One, existing from eternity past. God the Father, the Ancient of Days, appeared to Daniel with hair that "was white like wool" (Dan. 7:9). This symbolized God's perfect wisdom, purity in character, dignity of age, authority as a judge, and eternalness. Daniel's statement regarding the Ancient of Days can also be applied to Christ.

As a man, Christ was born as a baby and grew up to maturity. But He only lived on this earth for 33 years. In Revelation 1, we see Him with His white hair. It evokes a sense of maturity, experience, and wisdom stemming from His eternal existence (Prov. 20:29).

The Lord Jesus has eyes "like blazing fire", Rev 1:14b, indicating a penetrating gaze that flashes with

intelligence, righteousness, and the look of divine wrath upon the wicked. He sees everything. Philip told Nathanael about *Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph*. Nathaniel remarked, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Later, Jesus showed Nathaniel that though he had not been physically present, he had seen *everything* (John 1:46-50). The Lord Jesus sees all and knows all. He has supervision, and His gaze penetrates any facade people put up, piercing our innermost thoughts. Nothing is hidden from Him. Instead of thinking we can keep secrets from Him, we should bring "every thought into captivity" (2 Corinthians 10:5) to the obedience of Christ.

His feet are like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace (Rev. 1:15a). The altar outside the Tabernacle was covered in bronze. Here the bronze is described as "refined in a furnace." It is hot and glowing. It signifies the Lord Jesus' holiness and reminds us that He is moving among the churches to refine His church. Throughout the Scripture, we see that God uses the furnace of afflictions to purify us (Isa. 48:10). Suffering, trial, and discipline are all meant to refine us, burning out sin and strengthening our faith. The Lord wants to sanctify His church so that we will become like Him.

In the five-part statue that King Nebuchadnezzar saw in Daniel 2, the golden head represented Babylon. The silver chest and arms represented the Medo-Persian empire, and the bronze belly and thighs, Greece. The iron legs might have been Rome, or all the earthly empires to come thereafter. The feet were an iron and clay composite—for *all earthly kingdoms are poised upon a brittle foundation*. Though human empires dazzle and awe with their size and might, they are all fragile. Christ, by contrast, has feet "like bronze glowing in a furnace." There can be no admixture of clay in that furnace; His feet are perfectly solid

and sound. If earthly empires come and go, we are reminded in Daniel 7:14 that His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom shall not be destroyed.

His voice was like the roar of many waters (Rev 1:16a), symbolic of God's authority, power, and majesty. This is another trait ascribed to God (Ezek. 43:2). Those who have experienced the awesome sound and power of rushing water, rivers, oceans, or great waterfalls can relate to John's description.

Water generally invokes many ideas to us. Water can be an extremely powerful force. Floods and tsunamis take with them everything in their way. The rumbling force of giant waterfalls can be heard far away. Given enough time, water can destroy or erode anything obstructing its path, even solid rock. Yet, the sound of water can also be soothing. Bubbling brooks, rainfall, gentle waves: all of these make us feel peaceful. In the Bible, water is also a purifying force. Like fire, it cleanses. The Lord Jesus' voice is like all of the above sounds. It is simultaneously powerful, majestic, forceful, and at the same time peaceful, calming, and gentle. His voice purifies. His laws are unbreakable. His teaching is eternal. His Word made and shaped the universe. His promises are invincible.

In His right hand, He held the seven stars (Rev. 1:16a). "The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches" (v. 20), whereas the "seven lampstands... are the seven churches" (v. 20). This is called a *mystery* (v. 20), or a previously hidden truth in Scripture now divinely revealed. Nature displays God's glory. Psalm 19:1-4 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands". But stars are impossibly distant. Empires come and go, but the stars shine on, serene and untouchable. Yet the Lord Jesus is greater than the stars that He picks

them up like seashells on the beach. There's much more to the stars than that, which He reveals at the end of the chapter.

From his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword (Rev. 1:16b). This is a visual metaphor for the power of Christ's word. The sword represents the Word of God (Heb. 4:12). The Lord Jesus is the Word (John 1:1). His words are the very words of God. These words convict. They reveal. They shatter lies, confusion, doubt, and deceptions. If His words are compared to a sword, it means that He can judge and execute with a single word. This is an image of Christ as the Judge. His word is law.

Assemblies today need a fresh glimpse of the glorified Christ seated at the right hand of God in all of His splendour and majesty.

All opposition of the nations will be struck down with merely a word (Revelation 19:15). In the Rev 1 description, we see Jesus' awesome power and authority. Just as He can create the universe with a word, so He can end anyone at any point in time with a simple command. The sword is mentioned six times in Revelation (1:16; 2:12, 16; 6:8; 19:15, 21), referring to Christ's word of divine judgment.

Christ's face was brilliant: "His countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength" (v. 16b). The Lord Jesus' face shines brighter than the sun. He is brilliant; He is the source of the light of truth; He is impeccable and holy; and like the sun, His face sheds life-giving light and warmth. As Hebrews 1:3 says, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of His nature, sustaining all things by His powerful word."

The sight of the glorified Lord that John saw was blinding; a reminder of Christ's transfiguration when "his face did shine like the sun, and his

raiment was as white as the light" (Mt. 17:2). How vital it is for the persecuted and suffering church to know this, that the One who rules our circumstances rules with perfect wisdom and is incapable of making mistakes.

The glorified Christ identified Himself in five ways as the eternal Saviour:

1. "I am the first and the last" (v. 17). He is the Creator, Consummator, and absolute Lord of all history.
2. "I am he that liveth" (v. 18). He is the resurrected Lord who eternally exists.
3. "I ... was dead" (v. 18). He is the crucified Son of God who provides salvation for men.
4. "I am alive forevermore" (v. 18), expresses His eternal existence as God.

5. He controls the destiny of the departed dead, having "the keys of Hades and death" (v. 18). Christ has the right to possess the keys because He conquered death. The first vision in Revelation puts the focus where it should be: on Christ. In Christ, we see God's glory; His glory as our risen King and the encouragement we should find from knowing He rules and reigns and is present with His church.

Assemblies today need a fresh glimpse of the glorified Christ seated at the right hand of God in all of His splendour and majesty. Like John, as finite beings, we must fall at His feet with a sense of awe and fear as we gaze on the majesty of our infinite Lord. Those who do will come away with a renewed sense of the fleshly and self-serving nature of their worship and service to Christ. Remember, the living Christ walks amid the church today weighing its worship and service. This should cause each of us to walk circumspectly before our omniscient Lord. May our commitment, devotion, and service be found acceptable in His sight.

E J Stephen is a Chartered Accountant and an advisor to Bethany hospital at Thane. He resides in Thane, Maharashtra.



DAVID AND JONATHAN: THE FEATURES OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP - PART 1

Having godly friends is of great advantage in Christian life. It helps us to receive godly advice and encouragement. The intimate friendship between Jonathan and David provides an exemplary pattern of the benefits of friendship. Mr. E. J. Stephen explains the above very lucidly. King Solomon said, "Two are better than one."



David and Jonathan – the conversation between 2 intimate friends - (1 Sam 20)

One of the longest chapters in the Book of 1 Samuel is chapter 20 (42 verses). This is a very rare portion of scripture that captures the conversation between two intimate friends David and Jonathan amid struggles they both went through, especially David.

I believe there is a definite purpose why the Holy Spirit has recorded these conversations. It is for our benefit.

Background: The chapter begins with the remarks that David fled from Naioth in Ramah and found Jonathan (v1). Those were the days when David was fleeing from one place to another. David fled and escaped and came to Samuel in Ramah (19:18), David fled from Naioth in Ramah to Jonathan. David was not making any friendly trips

but he was fleeing to save his life. He was with Samuel in Ramah and he poured out to Samuel all that Saul had done to him (19:18). We have no details of the counsel which Samuel gave to David though we know that Samuel would have most assuredly provided very good counsel to him.

Now David is fleeing from Samuel to his intimate friend Jonathan, who loved David as his own soul. They can talk and share as a friend to friend. David can pour out his innermost feeling to him. David always **chose godly men** to seek counsel. David was with Samuel. Now he's with Jonathan. If our friendship is with godly men we will receive godly counsel in time of need. A Spanish proverb says *"Tell me who are your friends, and I will tell you who you are"*. How true it is. David began to experience the presence of God even as a shepherd boy. The man who reported to Saul about David said *"The Lord is with him"* (16:18). As a result David always sought godly men for his friendship/ companionship. The blessed man in Psalm 1 *"walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly"*. Unfortunately, David's 2 sons took the wicked counsel and ended their lives in a disgraceful manner.

David's son Amnon had a friend

whose name was Jonadab who was a very subtle man (crafty) and David took his counsel in satisfying his immoral desire in a wicked manner. Rather than admonishing Amnon to desist from his evil desire, Jonadab gave him a crafty counsel on how to achieve his goal by deception. The ultimate result was the immoral conduct in his house and the eventual horrible death of Amnon (2 Sam 13). From crafty man, you will get crafty counsel.

David's other son Absalom, after committing the heinous murder of his brother Amnon in a surreptitious manner (conspiracy), fled to his maternal grandfather Talmai, king of Geshur and he received wicked counsel to dethrone David cunningly. Instead of Absalom returning (after 3 years) with a repentant heart, he returned with arrogance and a strategy to displace his father from his throne. Eventually, he reaped the rewards of his wickedness and was slain in a very gruesome manner. (2 Samuel 18:14,15) Ungodly friendship will lead to ungodly counsel and it will lead to grave ungodly consequences. All the days of David's fugitive period, he did not indulge in nor take heed to the ungodly counsel of any of his commanders.

Beginning of a strong friendship/relationship:- the basis :

After defeating Goliath, David was given an opportunity by King Saul to narrate his past life and experience in detail. 1 Samuel 18:1 Jonathan also was a listener to David's narration. At the end of David's speech, the reactions by them were entirely different from each other.

Jonathan accepted the inevitable change – it was David who was going to be the next king of Israel and not Jonathan. So he stripped himself of the robe that was upon him and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword and to his bow and his girdle. (18:2) And Jonathan loved David as his own soul.

Whereas Saul perceived a **great threat** to his reign and Saul kept a jealous eye on David from that day and forward. Saul was filled with wrath and displeasure. Both heard the same testimony: Jonathan accepted the reality and loved David whereas Saul envied him and jealousy and hatred filled his heart. Any relationship can grow only if there's genuine love. Where love is the foundation the relationship will grow strong.

The moment jealousy or envy creeps in, only anger and bitterness can grow. Accepting reality will nurture a smooth friendship. Saul never accepted the reality and kept the jealousy against David till his death. Jonathan's friendship with David grew stronger and stronger. Someone prayed *"God, give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference"*.

Satan will bring jealousy into relationships, to spoil the relationship. Like, in the family

between husband and wife, among the leadership in the assembly, and between intimate friends. So we need to be watchful.

Dialogue between friends: In verses 1-24, there are 10 dialogues recorded between Jonathan and David; A few qualities can be observed in these dialogues between godly men.

i) The Lord is in the midst of their conversation: At least 9 times the name of the **Lord** is mentioned in their conversation. They communed in the presence of the Lord. They experienced the presence of the Lord. In the conversation with worldly men, there will be no mention of the Lord at all. How comforting it would have been to David when Jonathan said *"You may go in peace and the Lord be with you"* (v14).

Any relationship can grow only if there's genuine love. Where love is the foundation the relationship will grow strong.

ii) Conversation with godly men takes us to a higher level of spiritual experience: There is sharing, there is prayer, and there is comfort. That's the specialty of godly men sharing their sorrows, troubles, and trials. We can derive spiritual comfort only when we engage ourselves with spiritual men. If we reflect on our conversation which has enhanced our spiritual experience it will be only with spiritually minded men.

iii) Heart-to-heart dialogue: David begins his dialogue with three questions to Jonathan. What have I

done? 2. What is my iniquity? 3. What is my sin that your father seeketh my life?

David's heart is agitated being unable to find an answer. Before they could exchange any pleasantries like greetings David straight away opened his heart and expressed his feelings to Jonathan. Opening up the heart and expression of emotions and feelings is a true sign of a strong relationship and a deeper level of communication. It is only when the relationship is strong and deep-rooted, that one will open up the heart and speak.

iv) Compassionate and understanding heart: Jonathan sensed the innermost feelings in David that he was anxious about an imminent death. 3 times in this short dialogue David refers to his death (v1, 3, 8). So having understood David's anxiety Jonathan affirms to him *"You shall not die"*(v2). It's a statement of great comfort to David.

v) Jonathan never got angry with his friend. Love is patient and kind: When Jonathan offers a solution to David that if Saul plans to kill David, then he will come to know as his son and will inform him, David finds a problem in Jonathan's solution saying if Saul doesn't tell Jonathan then what happens. Jonathan as a true friend didn't get angry with David but he promised David *"Whatsoever your soul desires, I will even do it for you."* (v4). Demonstration of a true love that bears and forbears it's not irritable, it endures through every circumstance. (1 Cor. 13:4,7)

(To be continued)

Late Dr. Glory Roberts Valthaty was an Anaesthetist by profession, staying with her husband and 2 kids in Aberdeen, Scotland and in fellowship with the Holburn Gospel hall Aberdeen.



THE IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL REST*

We are republishing this article as a tribute to Sis. Dr. Glory Robert Valthaty and her eight-year-old son Joshua Robert, who were called into eternal rest on 23rd October 2023. Both Sis. Glory Valthaty and her husband Bro. Noel Robert used to write articles for Harvest Times. In this article, we can see her scriptural insight.



Coronavirus continues to have its hold on our society, we have a “new normal” and words like lockdown and work from home have become part of our lives. The boundaries between work and home have become blurred for many of us. We are having to rethink how we spend our days and re-evaluate our priorities in life. Living under the uncertainty of how long lockdowns and social distancing will go on, it's more important than ever that we build our resilience, and ability to manage stress and take time out to rest. However, in today's frenetic culture do people intentionally set aside time for rest? The majority will tell you they are too busy. Very few if any would say they regularly set aside time of 12-24 hours specifically for rest. There are too many responsibilities, too many deadlines, too many bills, and too many demands. Just because people are at home, doesn't mean

they have more time, people are finding that they are busier than ever.

Rest is not on people's minds. It is not prioritised. Nobody feels they can afford to waste time resting in today's results-oriented world. Benjamin Franklin once said, “He that can take rest is greater than he that can take cities.”

The biblical view of rest: As Christians, we desire to follow the scriptures, and it is within the scriptures that we find the importance of rest.

God's command: In the opening chapter of Genesis, we read that God created the world in 6 days and then He rested. Surely, God doesn't need rest (Isa 40:28). So why would He choose to rest? God was making a statement by resting on the seventh day. He wanted to set an example for us all to follow. (Ex 20:11)

Rest is a gift from God: Resting is a gift given by God to his creation, the psalmist reminds us while speaking about bodily rest- sleep, that “He gives His beloved sleep” Psalm 127:2. In the gospel of Mark 2:27 the Lord Jesus said, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” He said this when His disciples were accused of

breaking the law on the Sabbath when they walked by some fields and plucked heads of grain. The Lord clarified that the Sabbath was intended to help people, to provide a time to cease daily work and not to burden them.

Resting is an act of trust: When we rest, we can let our guard down, knowing that God can satisfy and provide for our needs. Relaxing or taking a break means that we don't have to control everything. God is in control and He will take care of us. (Mt. 6:26). We should not fret about what we will eat or wear. The Psalmist equates the act of sleep with trusting God, he says in Psalm 3:5 “I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.” Working without stopping to rest indicates our lack of trust & faith in God. Consider what the Psalmist tells us about working too much without respite: “It is vain for you to rise early and put off your rest at night, to eat bread earned by hard toil— all this God gives to his beloved in sleep” (Ps. 127:2), when we work too hard, we tend to view our accomplishments as our own, rather than as a gift from our all-sufficient God. The Israelites showed their lack of trust in God when they failed to rest the land every seven years as God had

commanded them (Lev. 25:2-4; 26:33-36).

Rest is important for self-care:

As God's creation, we are designed to rest. The Bible says that Jesus was fully God and fully man. He felt the same tensions that we feel as we endure expectations and demands. Along our Lord's journeys we read in the scriptures that he stopped to rest and sleep (Mark 4:38). He also ensured that the physical needs of those who followed him were taken care of on many occasions.

He encouraged the disciples to take time away and rest as we see in Mark 6:31, "And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat".

The Lord used the time away to pray and to be refreshed by communing with God. He didn't seek solitude and rest idly. He did it with the intention and purpose of praying specifically. Intentionally seeking solitude and time away from others is restorative when done to seek God in prayer.

While resting is important, work is good and necessary for us. Not only did God work by creating the world in six days, but God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden – the perfect world before sin and then God gave them work to do. He asked them to work and care for the Garden of Eden, and also to name and rule over the animals and birds (Gen. 2:15). Throughout the Scriptures we learn about the value of work – and what happens when we don't work (Prov. 12:24; 2 Thess. 3:10-12)

Deliberately opting out of work is equivalent to laziness. We cannot

expect to see the fruits of our labour either materially or spiritually if we do not toil according to our abilities and God-given gifts. He has indeed designed that we work.

However, our work neither creates, nor saves, nor sanctifies. All things are from Him and through Him and to Him. We should be ever mindful of this and refrain from taking our strength thoughts and work too seriously. Yet many of us have made work an idol in our lives and have forgotten God's command to rest. We've deluded ourselves into believing that, to be successful, we must be constantly busy, constantly doing. We, therefore, neglect the beauty of being still (ps 46:10) when we are always doing. We don't know how to be Marys, because we are so accustomed to being Marthas.

Rest restores, refreshes, and balances us. Slow down for a day, and watch what happens. Your body will be recharged, and your soul will be revived. Work has its place in our lives, but rest must never be sacrificed so that we get ahead. Our hearts, when rooted in prayer, are naturally drawn to periods of rest. It is during quiet times that we are most attentive and attuned to God's whispering and stirrings in our hearts. We unravel who we are and who we're meant to be. God chooses to have an encounter with us when we take time to rest because that time isn't filled with frivolities or busyness. God can fill our empty cup to overflow once again. When we rest in the presence of God He renews and refreshes us.

Medical Implications of Not

Resting: It is recommended that healthy adults sleep 7 -9 hours per night. Infants, young children, and teenagers need even more sleep for

their growth and development. People over 65 should also get 6 to 8 hours of sleep per night.

Let us consider what happens to our bodies when we sleep. Before the 1950s, most scientists believed sleep was a passive activity during which the body and brain were dormant but we now know that the time we spend with our heads on our pillows is amazingly active and necessary for life.

1. Cellular Restoration: Sleep allows cells to repair and regrow. This is supported by many important processes that happen during sleep, including:

- Muscle repair
- Protein synthesis
- Tissue growth
- Hormone release

Studies show sleep loss causes cell damage and predisposes to replication errors and metabolic abnormalities.

2. Brain Repair: When you sleep, your brain's glymphatic (waste clearance) system clears out waste from the central nervous system. It removes toxic byproducts from your brain, which build up throughout the day. This allows your brain to work well when you wake up. Scientists have discovered that broken DNA builds up in brain cells in the daytime and the damage is repaired and reversed only during sleep.

Sleep contributes to memory function by converting short-term memories into long-term memories, as well as by erasing unnecessary information that clutters the nervous system. Sleep also affects many other aspects of brain function, including:

- Problem-solving skills

- Creativity
- Decision making
- Focus
- Concentration

3. Emotional Well-being: Lack of sleep negatively affects our relationships and our emotional health. It is known that during sleep, brain activity increases in areas of the brain that regulate emotion such as the amygdala. The association of sleep with the amygdala, the part of the brain related to emotions, suggests that sleep and emotions such as anger and aggression are associated with one another.

Sleep and mental health are intertwined. On the one hand, sleep disturbances can contribute to the onset and progression of mental health issues, but on the other hand, mental health issues also contribute to sleep disturbances. Both sleep and mental health are complex issues affected by a multitude of factors but, given their close association, there is strong reason to believe that improving sleep can have a beneficial impact on mental health and the treatment of many psychiatric disorders.

4. Weight Maintenance: Sleep affects your weight by controlling hunger hormones. These hormones include ghrelin, which increases appetite, and leptin, which increases the feeling of being full after eating. During sleep, ghrelin decreases because you're using less energy than when you're awake.

Lack of sleep, however, elevates ghrelin and suppresses leptin. This imbalance makes you hungrier, which may increase the risk of eating more calories and gaining weight. Recent research shows that chronic sleep deprivation,

even as few as five consecutive nights of short sleep, may be associated with an increased risk of:

- Obesity
- Metabolic syndrome
- Type 2 diabetes

Immunity: During sleep, your immune system releases proteins called cytokines, some of which help promote sleep. Certain cytokines need to increase when you have an infection or inflammation, or when you're under stress. Sleep deprivation may decrease the production of these protective cytokines. In addition, infection-fighting antibodies and cells are reduced acutely when you don't get enough sleep. Lack of sleep affects your immune system. Studies show that people who don't get quality sleep or enough sleep are more likely to get sick after being exposed to viruses. Lack of sleep can also affect how fast you recover if you do get sick

5. Hormones flood your body:

There are several different hormones released during sleep, all with different purposes. Melatonin, released by the pineal gland, controls your sleep patterns. Levels increase at nighttime, making you feel sleepy. While we're sleeping, our pituitary gland releases growth hormone, which helps your body to grow and repair itself and hence sleep is very important for growing children.

6. Sympathetic nervous system relaxes:

During sleep, our sympathetic nervous system – which controls our fight or flight response – gets a chance to relax. Studies have shown that when we're deprived of sleep, sympathetic nervous system activity increases, which is also

mirrored by an increase in blood pressure. Scientists studying coronary disease are investigating whether there's a relationship between decreased sleep duration and increased risk of heart disease.

Cortisol levels lower: Levels of cortisol, often called the stress hormone, decrease during the first few hours of sleep before rising to peak soon after you wake up. This helps make you feel perky (cheerful) when you wake up.

It is evident that sleep is paramount to our well-being. Science is increasingly discovering the damaging consequences of sleep deprivation. Yet millions are habitually choosing to reject this gift of God and depriving themselves of the sleep God has designed for their good. We've been able to superficially see the serious physical, intellectual, and emotional, consequences of lack of adequate rest and sleep. Most of us just don't know or understand the deep and wide impact of sleeplessness upon us and others. Some of us do know but still don't do anything with that knowledge. We see and feel the impact of sleeplessness upon us, yet refuse to change. We lack the willpower to make the necessary adjustments to our schedule and lifestyle.

Our sovereign God reigns and does well without the need for human involvement. Perhaps God has designed sleep to be a daily reminder of our dependence upon God. When we sleep, we allow our bodies to reenergize, heal, and prepare for the good works God has planned for us for the following day.

** Published in Harvest Times Vol. 18 Issue 5 May 2021*



WHO DIRECTS YOUR STEPS?



Finally, it's that time of the year; the time when we all sit down and reflect on how the year has gone by! We count on all the blessings the Lord has given us, or we try to look at our shortcomings and make resolutions for improvement in the next year. However, have you ever thought about the lesson that the Lord has been trying to teach you through the year? Every year passes by with its sorrows and joys, some milestones, and some downfalls. Some things may be very hard to accept, and some may be very overwhelming to believe, but when we carefully assess these moments in the light of God's Word, we will be able to see a message from the Lord to us. This may not be the same message for everyone, but we can reflect on what it has been for us; so, let me share with you what the Lord has taught me.

Biblical Background

The book of Proverbs can be considered a manual of life. It is filled with words of wisdom that address several themes, such as Man's relationship with God and his relationship to himself and others. It also has instructions that are helpful to navigate through every circumstance in life. Moreover, it is a book that has a word of advice for people in every season of life. When you read through chapter 3 of Proverbs, you will see that it is

particularly speaking to the young. Some of the verses may look very direct and easy to understand, but only when we apply them in our life, will we be able to understand the extent of their meaning. Let us consider the most famous portion in this chapter, verses 5-6.

1. TRUST: We are asked to **trust in the Lord**. As simple as it may sound, to trust someone truly we need to know the person. Will you ever put your trust in a stranger? The deeper we grow in our understanding of who our God is, the easier it becomes for us to trust in Him. Therefore, we must spend our time knowing Him because only then, we will be able to be STILL whenever life puts us through the most difficult circumstances. Remember, the call to trust is not simple. We are asked to do it **with all our hearts**. As Proverbs 4:23 reminds us, *"Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."* Our heart can be the storehouse of doubt, guilt, fear, and anxiety, which will drive us away from submitting to the Lord. It

is very important that our trust in the Lord rises above all our own emotions.

When we acknowledge Him in all our ways, we will be able to experience His hand of blessing.

2. LEAN NOT: We lean onto something or someone when we need more support and strength. When situations get tough or complex, we often forget to trust in the Lord and find it easier to lean on our own wisdom and understanding. We try to find the solutions in our wisdom. We fail to remember that our understanding is carnal. Our view of life is restricted by mortality, but the perspective of our Lord is through eternity. As Proverbs 9:10 says, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."* We can only rely on the wisdom of God because His

Home Call Thankam Silas



Mrs. Thankam Silas (1934 - 2023) went to be with the Lord on 22nd October at the age of 89. She was married to late Evangelist Silas C Nair, who was one of the trustees and Chairman of Gospel Literature Service, Mumbai. She was saved early in life. After a few years of working with Central Excise in Mumbai, she resigned and joined the work of the Lord with her husband. About the mid nineties they moved to Kerala and settled in Kochi and then at Trichur. Past few years she was weak and sick because of a stroke. Her mortal remains were interred in the Christian cemetery near Kochi (Thengodu) in the presence of many believers. She is survived by Reene and Renji, her children, and five grand children and four great grand children.

ways and thoughts are much higher than ours. As mentioned by Paul to the believers at Corinth, the foolishness of God is wiser than men. Therefore, we are asked to **not lean to our understanding.**

3. ACKNOWLEDGE: The word *acknowledge* means to accept or admit the existence or to recognize the importance of something. As children of God, we need to admit His existence and recognize the importance of making Him our priority. In all that we do and every decision that we make we need to ask ourselves what God says about it or what would God want us to do. When we **acknowledge Him in all our ways**, we will be able to experience His hand of blessing. So as Proverbs 16:3 says, *“Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established”*.

4. DIRECT: To all who trust in God with all their heart, who do not lean on their understanding, but rather acknowledge Him in all their ways, the Lord has promised to direct their paths. What a blessed assurance it is to know that the God of the universe is the One who is leading us through our journey of life! However, this does not mean that our life will be a bed of roses. The ways of the Lord are not known to man, and that is when our faith is put to the test. This is why we must make sure we practice the first 3 principles. It is only then that we will allow God to place our feet on solid ground and make us a fit vessel to execute His divine plan.

Dear Readers,
As we complete another year and wait for a new one, let us try to consciously live each day with the full assurance that God is in control of our lives. Let us remember what is written in Proverbs 20:24, *“A person's steps are directed by the Lord. How then can anyone understand their way?”* May we be found in the center of God's will and fulfill that which He has purposed for our lives in the coming year.

THEY STRIPPED OFF HIS GARMENT - HE SET ASIDE HIS GARMENT

Continued from Page No. 5

holiness on the cross even as the holy wrath of God was poured upon Him? He was wrapped in clean, fine linen at His burial! Indeed, the Holy One did not see corruption (Acts 2:27).

Let us now return to John 13.- *had taken his garment* v.12: He takes back His garment - The garments which He had set aside now He takes back. Remember, the Lord after He completed His ministry that He was given, He says, “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was” (John 17:4,5). After accomplishing the work, He takes back His robe - the robe that He had set aside when He came into this world - the robe of the glory of the Father - the robe of the glory that He had with the Father.

and was seated again: After He accomplished the work, He sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on High (Heb. 1:3) - once again as the brightness of His glory. Wherefore has God highly exalted Him (Phil. 2:9), far above all principalities and powers and might and dominion (Eph. 1:21).

It is Him whom we remember in worship - may the glory of His sufferings fill our souls as we gather to remember Him at His supper. And may the glory of the risen Christ fill our souls as we serve Him.

EULOGY FOR DR. GLORY VALTHATY

Continued from Page No.11

When I look back on her life, I reminisce the long hours of Sunday School anniversary preparations that she dedicated herself to, strumming the guitar to help us with singing, organizing the arrangements and the order of the presentations, and making notes.

Her involvement in the ministries of the church and the innovative games related to scripture that she planned for the church picnic taught many of us who were younger than her, that "seeking God's kingdom first" should always be our priority. She lived out that principle in her life.

Glory, your life and testimony have been a blessing to me personally. The precious smile you had we can never forget. Your memory we will cherish, dearly.

- Anita Shajies

You are safe in the arms of our Lord: Glory! What a glorious name our Glory had and a glorious life that she lived... a short one in the eyes of men but a fulfilled one in the eyes of God.

She was: One who inspired me in many ways;
One who always encouraged me in my weakest moments;
One who always cheered me in the most troublesome times;
I'll cherish our friendship for life: you were not only a friend but my sister and companion too.
This bond was hidden from many, Glory... I'll miss you sorely.

I know you are safe in the arms of our Lord

- Janis Bejoy

Keshab Korkora is a retired General Manager, at RBI. He is presently in fellowship with Believers Assembly, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



“IN ALL THINGS HE MIGHT HAVE THE PRE-EMINENCE”

*Jesus Christ is above all things in heaven and earth by virtue of being the Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer. Having the paramount rank, dignity, and supremacy, He deserves the love, loyalty, glory, and honour of the whole universe and the universal church. **Bro. Keshab Korkare** shows us how we, the members of the church must not deviate from our primary focus on the deity and superiority of Christ, so as to bow down and worship Him, our Lord and God!*



In the beautiful passage of Colossians 1:16-20, we can see who Jesus Christ is and what He means to us. Jesus is not just a part of our life, but the very essence of it - He is our life! He is at the center of everything! Paul tells the believers of Colossae—and us today—that Jesus is pre-eminent; that is, Jesus is far above all. Jesus is preeminent – meaning, unsurpassed and highly exalted. He, being the Creator, is supreme over all things that is, both the original and new creation. He is preeminent over all things because of the fact that He sustains them all. He is also the first and foremost because He is their Redeemer. May we meditate on these three aspects concerning His supremacy and uniqueness and adore Him highly. Moreover, while considering this Scripture portion to affirm His highest position, even though we are surrounded by

different unscriptural philosophies and ideas denigrating the superiority of Christ, we need not be influenced by those thoughts.

1. Jesus is Preeminent in

Creation: The last part of verse 15 describes Christ as the firstborn over all creation. The word “firstborn” (Gk: Prototokos) here doesn't mean that Jesus was the first being, created (as wrongly claimed by certain sects). As the Son of God, He has always been in coexistence with God. “Firstborn” here refers to a place of honour rather than an order of birth. It means Jesus has the place of highest honour in all creation. It means that He is exalted over all creation, that He is supreme, that He holds the highest rank. John 1:3 says that all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. All of creation is His. He rules over creation by virtue of being the God who brought all creation into existence.

Paul continues to explain in verse 16 that everything that exists was made through God the Son and He is highest over all things. There is not a single visible item in the universe that came into being apart from the Lord. And that's not all, because creation isn't only those things that we can see with our naked eyes. He

created all things, visible and invisible. Spiritual beings like angels are also created through Jesus and are invisible unless the Lord makes them visible to us. Paul lists some of these spiritual beings or spiritual powers that are invisible. He calls them thrones, dominions, rulers, and authorities.

The point in all this is that Jesus is Lord over creation because everything that exists was made by Him. Legitimately, He has lordship or authority over what He has made. That's what we see even in Jesus' ministry. He manifested his lordship over the visible creation by commanding the wind and the waves to stop when He and His disciples were in a boat on a stormy sea. He revealed his lordship over the invisible creation when He commanded demons to leave people who were possessed. The way Jesus is Lord over creation because it was made through Him, so also Jesus is Lord over the church because it is also made through Him.

We find the ultimate reason for the creation of all things in verse 16 – ... all things were created through Him and for Him.” Everything that exists was created for Christ. This means that all things were created with the ultimate purpose that the

glory of Jesus Christ would be made known. All things meet their purpose and goal in Him Human beings created in His own image owe their existence to the Creator and ought to accept His lordship. The church is the new creation to trust upon, adore, and worship God in all circumstances.

2. Jesus is Preeminent in

Sustaining: Verse 17 says that in Him all things hold together. Jesus not only created all things, but He also maintained all things. Hebrews 1:3b says Jesus is sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Christ is holding the universe, the original creation, together. And He is holding everything together in a divine way. It is Jesus who sustains the creation impeccably, which makes it a cosmos instead of chaos. In other words, everything that exists in the universe continues to exist only because Jesus keeps it that way. God has equipped the earth with the appropriate gravitational pull so that we stay affixed to the ground and not randomly lose a grip on the surface and roll off! He has intelligently designed the human body to recover from common ailments and injuries and be quite adaptable to all climates and conditions.

Further, Colossians 1:18 says, "He is the head of the body, the church." The church is the spiritual body of Christ. He is the Head, the In-Charge. He sustains the church, the new creation. Jesus is the Source of the church. It is because of his power and authority that the church survives and thrives. In every decision within the body of Christ, His will must be sought. Since Christ is the Head of the true church, He brings about its growth in His own way. It's His church. Just as the physical head directs the human body, Jesus being the Head of the church, operates it. Christians are dependent upon Him for spiritual life and sustenance.

This means that we, God's people, are spiritually nourished by being connected to His body.

3. Jesus is Pre-eminent in

Redemption: Colossians 1:20 says that God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

Reconciliation is about ending the hostility between two people. Spiritually, it's about removing sin as a barrier to a relationship. God took the first step in reconciling us to Himself. God reconciles us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This reconciliation is available to every human being, though only some people accept it. And it was accomplished when Jesus hung on the cross, taking on your punishment and mine. In other words, through Jesus' blood came the forgiveness of sin and redemption to a body of believers, called the Church that is united to God Himself. Therefore, Jesus is pre-eminent, he is unsurpassed and exalted, over the church. And yet we read here that God the Father was pleased through Jesus to reconcile to Himself all things, and this would include other created things like the heaven and earth itself! Believers are presently reconciled to God. However, God is in the process of reconciling the whole creation.

In what way can we say that all things on earth or in heaven will be reconciled to God? In the garden of Eden, as God pronounced the curse on Adam and Eve, one of the aspects of the curse was this, cursed is the ground because of you; (Genesis 3:17-18). Creation is in bondage to corruption, that is, it is affected by the sin that has been introduced into it by man. Well, Paul wrote in Romans 8:21 about the last day that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption ...

And how does God reconcile all things to Himself? It's all because of

the cross. The curse of sin that ruined man and brought the creation into bondage is only undone by the One who bore the curse on Himself. John 3:16 tells us that God's love motivated Him to send Jesus to save us. Christ redeemed us to God by paying our sin debt and enduring the wrath of God on the Cross of Calvary.

Conclusion: In essence, Christ should be above all in our lives—first, foremost, and supreme in every aspect of life. He deserves the first place in all things: in our lives, in our families, in our time, in our mission and ministry, in our jobs and businesses, in our decisions, and in everything! We must not be trapped by false teachings and fail to recognize Jesus as our Head and our Lord. There are numerous Christians who claim that Jesus is the One and only God who created the universe, but they fail to let Jesus be their Lord by obeying Him in their lives.

Since Jesus is first in rank in the universe, the One who is the Agent, Goal, and Sustainer of creation, the One who is the Head of the church, and the One who is the first to rise from the dead with a resurrected body, He is preeminent in all things. He is the Lord of the believers. He created us and redeemed us with the price of His own blood. He guides us in the present. Moreover, He will resurrect us in the future.

And what does all this mean? It means that Jesus is God, and that He reigns as Supreme in all things. He is not just the One that we look up to, or just a name that we sing about on Sundays. He is our Creator, therefore let us rejoice and always rejoice in Him. He is our Sustainer, therefore let us completely depend upon Him by our regular prayers and petitions. He is our Redeemer, so let us give thanks to Him in all circumstances.

Susan Sam Joy is a home-maker cum freelancer. She ministers among children and resides in Doha, Qatar.



SAVE ME SAVIOUR – PART 10 THE CHAIN



Oby, Ruthie, Seby, and Bo followed Uncle Sam to the car. They had a lot to tell and discuss, waiting to explain the trip to Dad, Mom, and their friends.

As soon as they got into the car, Seby fell asleep. The other three wanted to wake him up, but it failed.

Uncle Sam told the children, "Don't worry, I will do something." He parked the car by the side, went backward to the dickey, took something out, and came back to his seat.

Oby, Ruthy, and Bo were amazed to see what Uncle Sam wanted to do with it. He gave them a chain and a pouch with loose links of the same chain.

"Uncle, What do you want from it?" Ruthie asked.

"You just wait and see, Ruthie, Uncle will get the good out of it," Oby told calmly.

But when Bo took the chain, Seby woke up with the clanking sound of the chain.

"Oh! That's good, children, you want to wake up Seby, and that's done. Now what else do you want!"

"Uncle, why this loosened chain, can we fit it," Bo asked

"OK, listen carefully and do what I tell you, but don't try to take my attention from driving."

We have three persons in our story, A Father, a son named "Sanky" and his close friend "Abi". Whenever you

think Sanky disobeying his father, each one of you can connect one piece to the chain.

Ok here we go Uncle Sam started telling the story.

Sanky's father had told him that it was best not to keep company with bad boys and had forbidden him to associate with Abi. One Sunday afternoon when Sanky started for a walk, his father reminded him that he was not to go to Abi's house. He told his father that he would not. But as soon as he was out of his father's sight, he turned towards Abi's house.



"Children, now tell, what sin Sanky had committed?"

Rutie replied, "He lied to his father"

Oby added, "He disobeyed"

You can connect two links into the chain to represent the two sins which he had committed.

As soon as Sanky reached Abi's house, Abi suggested that they will go to the Sunday bowling game. Sanky's Father had told him, he should remember the Lord's Day and keep it holy and so he did not want to go, but Abi persuaded him that he was out of his Father's sight and need not mind it.

"Uncle, can we connect one more link, because Sanky didn't want to keep the Lord's day Holy as he follow what his friend says." Bo asked

"Yes," uncle Sam replied

On the way to home from the game Abi persuaded Sanky to steal some chocolates from the shop. Sanky's father had taught him that it was wrong to steal, but he had disobeyed

in other things and it was easy to disobey in this too. Now children please connect two more links into the chain. He had stolen all because he started disobeying his father.

Children, see these separate links of sin and will weld themselves together into a chain that binds. As you connect the remainder of the links into the chain I want you to name certain sins which I have not mentioned in telling the story.

Each one of them added the names of certain sins which they usually do, knowingly or unknowingly.

Remember children that I told you separate links of sin will make a chain of sins. A strong chain comes out of it. It is just this way in life. A boy thinks he can smoke and it will end there but soon he is asked to have alcohol and since he has not refused to tobacco he takes the drink. Soon he finds that the separate sins have been welded into a chain that binds him and difficult for him to come out of it.

Dear children, if any of you are under the control of any sin, please ask the Lord to forgive you and pray to the Heavenly Father to give you the grace to say "no" to sin and take help to sin no more.

"Do you know what The Bible says in 1 John 2:1-2"

"Yes Uncle, we learn it in Sunday school." Then tell it with me, "My little children, and these things I write, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And he himself sees the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but for the whole world."

By that time, they reached home and ran inside to tell Mom and Dad the happenings of the day.

BRO. GEORGE P. JACOB - A TRIBUTE

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints" (Psalms 116:15)

Brother George P Jacob (21st Apr. 1960 to 5th Nov. 2023), who worked with GLS for many years in its printing department in various capacities, will be remembered for his contribution to GLS. He went to be with the Lord on Sunday, the 5th of November 23, early morning. He hailed from a gospel family. He was born to the late Evangelist P V Jacob and the late Mrs. Gracy Jacob, who labored for the Lord in the gospel, in Bhilai. Brother George P Jacob's siblings are all, either in full-time ministry or committed to the Lord's work with their secular engagements.

Bro. Jacob was born in Kerala. He was known as Joy to many people. He grew up in Kerala and Bhilai. After his school/college studies, he took up printing as his profession. He studied printing technology. When late Bro. James Cherian, son of late Evangelist M E Cherian, wanted employees for the printing press he was managing in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, he selected Jacob as an employee there. During his days there he kept good testimony and fellowship with the assembly in Dammam. After this stint of work abroad, being invited by one of the trustees of GLS, late Evangelist Bro. Silas C Nair, joined the GLS, Mumbai. He worked in its printing department from 1986 to 2008 the last few years of which he worked as the press manager. He used his skills in printing, to train young men in the work. Unto many of them, he was a help and motivation in their times of need. He was accessible and

approachable to all, infants, children, young and old. Most Evangelists used to go to him for needed literature for their evangelistic work.

Apart from his work with GLS, while he was living in Mumbai he was very involved in the work of the Lord in other places also. He was there, whenever time permitted, for the outreach ministries in various areas. He used to support the work of the Lord by other means also. He used to visit assemblies, which needed his service, and encouraged them. These assemblies were mostly, Telugu, Marathi, and Hindi assemblies. He with his wife Glory, youngest daughter of late brother P P John of Mulund, Mumbai, who was one of the senior brothers among Mumbai assemblies, and an elder in the Ebenezer Assembly, Mulund, was in good fellowship in Ebenezer assembly, Mulund.

After his service in GLS, which extended to more than 22 years, he moved to Siliguri, in North East India. He labored for the Lord there for about 10 years. Their labors were a blessing to many. Physical ailments caught up with him, due to diabetic problems. His kidneys and eyes were affected badly. He underwent dialysis for about three years and ten months. For treatments, he had to be in Kerala and Bangalore for an extended period. During the early years of his illness, in his visits to Mumbai, the need to reach out to the unreached was expressed forcibly in his messages. He returned to Mumbai in the month of September '23, in

the newly reconstructed flat at Ghatkopar.

He loved others and showed it practically. He valued relationships very highly. The presence of a huge number of people including many of his relatives who came from various places, from India and abroad, attested this fact. At the burial ceremony, many remembered that Joy was joyful. And he made others joyful. His mortal remains were interred in Mulund Christian cemetery on 7th Nov '23 in the presence of many saints from Mumbai and elsewhere, with the living and blessed hope that one day we shall see Brother George P Jacob, on that beautiful shore. May the Lord of the harvest raise men to labour for him in the vineyard to fill the vacuum Brother George P Jacob's departure has left. He is survived by his wife Glory who lives in Mumbai. Please uphold her in prayers.



HT Bible Quiz FOR YOUTH

QUIZ NO. 24 (Deuteronomy 6 to 10)

Q A. Choose the right answer from the bracket and fill in the blanks. (Chapters 6, to 8)

- Hear, O ———: The Lord our God ,the Lord is one.!(People, Israel, Children).
- You shall bind the Word as a sign on your——— and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes (hand, neck, chest).
- You shall write the Word on the door post of your house and on your——— (windows, gates, parapet)
- You shall do what is——— and good in the sight of God (right, profitable, necessary)
- God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special———above all the peoples on the face of the earth. (Treasure, servants, children)

Q B. Match the items in column A with that of column B and rewrite. (Chapters 9&10)

A.	B
09. Lord your God is a	Stone
10. Provoked God	Jotbathah
11. A land of rivers of water	consuming fire.
12. Prostrated before God 40days / nights	at Horeb
13. Tablets made of.	Moses

Q C: Complete the following ones. (Chapter 10)

- "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God _____ who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe".
- "He is your praise and He is your God who has done for you these _____ things which your eyes have seen"

- FM

- If you are twenty (20) years old or less then you can definitely be a part of "HT Bible Quiz For Youth."
- Incase of postal delay, please visit our website: www.glsindia.com and look into our blog .
- Send us **your name, age and WhatsApp Number** with the answers.
- The answers for the quiz will have to reach us before 15th of each month.
- Send your answers to : harvesttimesquiz@gmail.com Or WhatsApp on - 9820954340, Title: HT QUIZ

CORRECT ANSWERS FOR HT QUIZ NO.23

- Q A:** 1. King of Bashan – Deu. 1: 4
 2. King of Amorites - Deu 1: 4
 3. Horeb to Kadesh - Deu 1: 2.
 4. Caleb – Deu 1: 36.
Q B: 5. Esau – Deu. 2: 4
 6. Lot – Deu. 2:9

7. Moses said to the Lord. – Deu. 3: 25
 8. Lord said to Moses – Deu. 3: 26
Q D: 9. Deu 4:7.
 10. Deu 4:20.
 11. Deu 4:24

- Q E:** 12. Me - Deu 5: 7.
 13. In vain - Deu. 5: 11.
 14. That your days may be long. -
 Deu. 5: 16.
 15. Adultery- Deu. 5: 17.

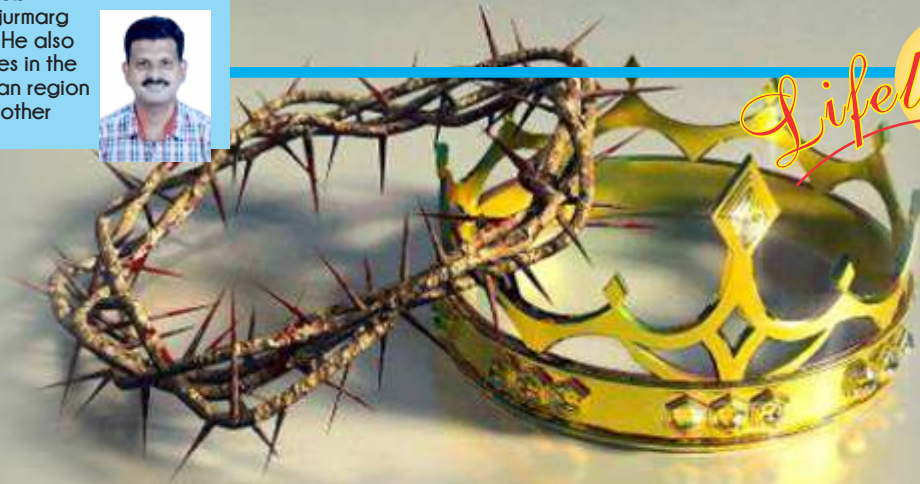
WINNERS OF HT QUIZ NO.23

Gia Beena Philip, Bengaluru
 Simon Rajwar, Jharkhand
 Kiruba R, Tamil Nadu
 Harshita Vijayan, Keralam.
 Hannah Lynn Bobby, Daman.
 Eve Amy Thomas, Navi Mumbai
 Joann Kurian Sankeshwar
 Joanna Elizabeth Binu, Bengaluru
 Jonathan Fiji Mathews, Bengaluru
 Jeslyn Gladys, Tamil Nadu
 Sarvangi Bandal, Goa

Pheba Anil Abraham, Mumbai
 Nitu Saw Sitaram, Mumbai
 Pravachana Yachavarapu, AP
 Evana Pradeep Samuel, Jharkhand
 Ian Pradeep Samuel, Jharkhand
 Kezia Anil Abraham, Mumbai
 Catherine Grace Shiju, Thane
 Annet V P, Chennai.
 Joanna Molly Jestus, Chatisgarh
 Lyndsy Sunlee, Dubai
 Soumya Suzanne James, Indore

Joanna Raju John, Thane
 Ruth Roji Philip, Bengaluru
 Johan Justin, Marutoor
 Lois Merie Ren, Keralam
 Jeshrun Jariwala, Roorkee
 Jeremiah Shaji Thomas, Thane
 Joan Jane Jones, Bengaluru
 Karen Sara Bob, Keralam
 Liya Susan Shoji , Keralam.
 Joash M Binu, Keralam.

Evangelist Tom Jacob is in fellowship with Kanjurmarg Assembly, Mumbai. He also helps in the ministries in the assemblies at Kalyan region along with various other ministries



WHAT SORT OF A KING COULD HE BE?

Think of December and a Christian, the first thing that would pop on anyone's mind is *Christmas*. Many consider the entire month to be one of festival. The markets would be flooded with all sorts of offers, and heavy discounts would be given on most of the items that are sold. In most cities, the town is "painted in red" (and white) to resonate with the season. Everyone who has some Christian connection and several others as well are all in a very happy mood throughout the month. However, the sad fact is that several of the merry-makers do not know the Reason for the Season. Yes, Christmas exists because of a historical Reason – a (long-forgotten) King who was born King of the Jews. His birth was unlike any natural birth. It was a supernatural one, because *the virgin was with Child, and she bore a Son, and they called His name IMMANUEL, which translated means, "GOD WITH US."* Here is an old song (I'm not sure who wrote it), but it sure does talk a little more about this King, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Long, long ago so the story is told,
Of a Man who was born to be a King.
He had no throne or a crown of gold
And His palace was only an inn.
He worked as a carpenter most of His life
A working class home you could say.
He wore no fine clothes, He didn't live in style.
What sort of a King could He be?**

**But He died on a cross and was sealed in a tomb
And He says that He did it for me.
But the stone rolled away and He rose from the dead,
What sort of a King could he be?
What sort of a King could he be?
Down thru the years as the story is told
A question that cannot be denied**

**How could a Man who was born to be King,
Be nailed to a cross, crucified?
How could His followers leave Him to die a death of such agony?
His only crown was a crown of thorns,
What sort of a King could He be?
What sort of a King could He be?**

**But He died on a cross and was sealed in a tomb
And He says that He did it for me.
But the stone rolled away and He rose from the dead,
What sort of a King could he be?
What sort of a King could he be?**

A unique King He is indeed! A King who was willing to be crowned with a crown made of thorns; mocked by the ones He came to rescue, to add them to His Kingdom; humiliated, spat upon, and finally crucified to a cross as the song says. But death or the grave could not hold Him, for He conquered death and the grave and defeated the Enemy (the Devil) using his own weapon – Death. The Holy Bible goes on to say, "Therefore, since the children [all humans] share in flesh and blood, He Himself [Jesus Christ] likewise also partook of the same, so that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives." Christ has done everything to free all humans from our inherent nature of doing what God hates – the Bible calls this *SIN*. His death on the cross was not one for Himself, but for the entire mankind. To be delivered from the penalty of sin, all you need to do now is to confess before the all-knowing God that you are a hell-deserving sinner. Accept by faith that Christ died for your own sins and God raised Him from the dead on the third day. Seek forgiveness from Him, and submit to Him as your own King and Lord of your life.

- Tom Jacob

Registered No. MCW/44/2021-2023
RNI No. MAHENG/2004/14223
WPP Licence No.:MR/Tech/WPP-357/West/2022-23

Date of Publication - First of Every Month
Posted at Mumbai Patrika Channel Sorting Office,
Mumbai-1 on 1st OR 2nd of every month

GLS Calendar



Available in
English, Hindi
and Marathi

Size : 15"x20"
6 Pages
MRP: ₹ 25/- each

ONLINE TRANSFER:

Account Name: Gospel Literature Service, **Bank:** Axis Bank Ltd.,

Branch: Worli, **SB. No.:** 922010020285621, **IFSC Code:** UTIB0000060

OTHER PAYMENT OPTIONS: Log On To: www.glsindia.com, Direct Payment: Scan QR Code.

UPI ID : mab.037322000600098@axisbank

CALL or WRITE TO US: Mob: +91 7506712150, 022-24930116, Email: info@glcindia.com

ADD.: GLS Publishing, Udyog Bhavan, 250 D, Worli Colony P.O., Mumbai - 400 030.

