



**Let my people go!**  
**Ministry of Cpt. Gordon Nelson**  
**The Old Ship of Zion**  
**Only believers "shall take up**  
**serpents" (of the sea). (Mk. 16:18)**

**MESSAGE 15 - 2006**

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**SAVED BY WATER**

*By Cpt. Gordon F. Nelson*

*"God waited in the days of Noah (120 years)<sup>1</sup>, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were SAVED BY WATER. The like figure whereunto even BAPTISM DOTHS ALSO NOW SAVE US<sup>2</sup> (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,)<sup>3</sup> by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." (1 Pet. 3:20-21)*

William Branham, a man sent from God, prophesied the latter rain that is visiting all the earth, except in America. This prophet once said, "The shepherds on the hillsides overlooking Judea understood more about the first advent of Christ than did the scribes and Pharisees who studied the scriptures continually in the temple." Based on the sales of the Left Behind series of books, written by Tim LaHaye, we see how destitute of the truth are these theologians of our day relative to the second advent of our Lord. The man became a millionaire on a lie. No one will be "left behind."

Jesus said, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." (Jn. 7:16-17) "If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word." (Jn. 8:42-43) "If (conditional) ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." (Jn. 8:31)

**Search and dig for gold**

We are commanded, (You) "search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." (Jn. 5:39) Searching is another way of digging for "gold tried in the fire." (Rev. 3:18) They (the scriptures), speak of Christ, but do "they" say Christ was married to Mary Magdalene? Dan Brown, in his book "The DaVinci Code," says the scriptures do.

Just how do you know that what you found wasn't fool's gold? For proof that what you found in the scriptures is indeed gold, one must first take it to the assayer's office. The assayer will determine whether you have "gold tried in the fire," or just fool's gold.

**Assayer's office**

The assayer's office will flat out tell you, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." (2 Pet. 1:20) One cannot declare a doctrine to be gold based on any one scripture, regardless of what you believe it is saying. "For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch

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<sup>1</sup> "My spirit shall not always strive with man...yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." (Gen. 6:3)

<sup>2</sup> "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk. 16:16)

<sup>3</sup> "Saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost." (Titus 3:5)

*himself on it: and THE COVERING narrower than that he can wrap himself in it.*” (Isa. 28:20) The covering represents a patchwork quilt of different scriptures so one can lie down comfortably, without his feet sticking out. The doctrine of the scarlet thread runs through all 66 books of the Bible. We know it is gold!

## **Big bang theory**

God does not work on the “big bang” theory. “I read a book by E.W. Kenyon,” you say, “and I’m convinced that I am God. I listened intently to Oral Robert’s speech on seed faith giving; I’ll be a millionaire!” One gives to get, just like the slot machines in Vegas. “Lo, here is Christ,” the Kenneth Copeland positive confession. “I received the “stammering lips and another tongue” experience, who needs anything more than that?”

While you’re spiling out your vile, you’re not even conscious of the fact that you’re in the assayer’s office. The assayer is asking the question, “*Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine?*” (Isa. 28:9) The assayer plainly tells the plaintiff to get out of my office unless you have some corroborating witnesses. “*In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.*” (2 Cor. 13:1) “*For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.*” (Isa. 28:10)

## **“Little by little” is God’s way to possess the land**

God told Abraham while he was yet a young man, “*As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.*” (Gen. 17:4) Abraham would be an old man, 99 years old, before what God had told him would mature in Isaac. God spoke to me as just a lad, “I give unto you a ship, and you are the captain. You’re to call it the Old Ship of Zion, and it shall have the same government that is aboard a ship.” I’ve “*staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief.*” (Rom. 4:20) Only God can bring it to pass. It is always “little by little” that the children of Israel possess the land from the enemies of God that lived in the land of Canaan.

## **J. Vernon Magee’s interpretation: a view from the “dung gate” (Neh. 3:13)**

Before we close this 28<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah, I wish to include J. Vernon Magee’s view of the walls from his book, Through the Bible, Vol. III, p. 261. They too, believe in “line upon line.”

Sections like this have caused some expositors of the past to call Isaiah “the prophet of the commonplace.” Teaching is a slow, patient, and continuous work. This is the way that even spiritual truth is imparted. God does not impart it in a flash to a lazy and lethargic soul. As the people lapse into apostasy in any age, it becomes increasingly difficult to impart spiritual truth.

There are many Christians today who are not satisfied with their Christian lives. To be brutally frank, they are ignorant of the Word of God. Then they hear about a wonderful two-week course that will give them the answers to all their problems. They will learn how to handle their marital problems, how to get along with their mother-in-law, how to guide their children aright, and how to become model employees. My friend, let me say this to you very candidly. Neither a little course nor some great emotional

experience will solve your problems. There is no shortcut to success in the Christian life. There is only one way to grow as a Christian, and it is so commonplace and ordinary that I hesitate to say it. The Word of the Lord was given unto Israel precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, and there a little. It was the daily grind of getting into God's Word. What happened? Israel did not follow through. They fell backward; that is, they were in a backslidden state. There are many Christians in the same condition today. It is not that they are weaker than anybody else; it is simply that they do not spend enough time in the Word of God. I realize that this method is not very exciting, but line upon line and precept upon precept is the only way you are going to grow in the Christian life.

## **God prepares a David to slay Goliath**

In my last newsletter, "Be Ye Separate," I told how God miraculously delivered me from the Armed Forces, simply by my obeying a dream. Anyone could fight the Japanese in a World War, but just anyone couldn't slay Goliath, Dr. C. Thomas Patten, alias Jack Groves, the husband of Dr. Bebe H. Patten, founder of Patten University in Oakland, Calif.

God prepares a David to arise out of nowhere to challenge Goliath, who defied Almighty God by publicly blaring out while taking up the offering, "What I do with this money is nobody's business but mine. If I decide to throw this money in Lake Merritt, that is my business. If you don't like it, the doors swing both ways, and you can swing on out of here!" When you have a battery of smart lawyers and own one of these family-owned, IRS-approved, non-profit religious incorporations, you can do anything and get by! Tom Patten, the Kingfish, was over six feet tall, an ex-football player, and when strutting in his cowboy boots with a Tennessee drawl, was a sight I'll never forget. Just as he finished his tirade, God spoke to me as a student in the Patten Bible College, "And you're going to stop him!" Wow! I'm just the elevator boy, working to help pay my tuition through Bible school. How am I going to stop the Kingfish? I had no money, no smart lawyers, but I learned to never argue with the Commander-in-Chief of the spiritual armies on earth, the Holy Ghost.

## **The Captain, classified 1A, had a dream to enlist in the Navy**

In obeying my dream to join the Navy, the original doctors and psychiatrists wrote out their report. You can imagine what they wrote down about me! "He doesn't have a girlfriend, we don't know if he believes in marriage. It is doubtful. He doesn't drink, swear, or chew, or run with girls that do!" Then the doctors sent me to a hospital to be observed for thirty days before coming to their final conclusion as to whether I'd remain in the Navy or be sent home.

The point I'm trying to make is that I never saw the same doctors twice during my observation period. I would see different doctors every other day during my 28-day stay in the Navy at Great Lakes Naval Station in Great Lakes, Ill.

Before I was interviewed by doctor #2, he had already read the report given by the initial doctors who sent me for observation. Do you know five people can give a report on an accident they all personally witnessed, and all five reports will read quite differently. After this second interview, I already knew I'd be sent home. These doctor's reports remind me of all "the traditions of the elders," John Calvin, Martin Luther, John Wesley, that ministers must read before his belief system can be established. God had given me the dream, and I had obeyed. By the third day of observation, I was writing letters home telling them that God was delivering me from the Armed Forces by confusing the minds of the psychiatrists and doctors. Oh, what a mighty God we serve!

Anybody can sit on the back bench of some church and listen to some exposition on biblical surmising, pay their tithes, and hope it is sufficient to get them into heaven. Jesus broke up every funeral march! He is a God of the living! (Lk. 20:38)

### **Theologians like the examining doctors**

These "*are they which testify of me.*" (Jn. 5:39) The theologians are exactly like those various doctors, about ten different ones, during my 28-day stay at Great Lakes Naval Station. You can imagine what was in the tenth doctor's report after having read the other nine. "Patient believes in speaking in tongues, is busy witnessing to other recruits on the floor. He is not a good mixer." That was the final conclusion, and a body of five doctors gave me an honorable discharge from the Navy, believing I'd be better off in my church work than serving in the Armed Forces. I was not a conscientious objector.

### **Never heard of John Darby until Bible College**

When you sit at the feet of "they which testify of me" in some Bible College, they all read from the same doctor's report on theology. I never heard the name John Darby until I became a student in a Pentecostal Bible college. John Darby was not Pentecostal. Why do we need to read his report? Those that "testify of me," demand that students in every Bible college are introduced to the founding father of Fundamentalism, John Darby of England. It is this one man that gave us "dispensational error," the pre-trib rapture, and unconditional eternal security on the day of being born again, when according to the Bible, you can only "see" the kingdom of God exists. They teach that salvation is all God's responsibility, and you can live like the devil and still make heaven your home. How is that much different from Catholicism's "last rites," or the Mormon's baptizing the dead?

Are we on the verge of reliving the days of Christ on earth? As sons and daughters of God, will Herodias, a type of the false church (Rev. 17), request our heads on a platter?

## **“Saved by water” means submission to the “every Word doctrine”**

“Saved by water.” What are you thinking, Captain? This kind of subject could prove to be a stumbling block to both Jew and Gentile.

*“God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure (eight) whereunto even baptism doth also now save us.”* (1 Pet. 3:20-21) In all likelihood, you haven’t a clue as to what Apostle Peter is even talking about. Why not? It is because, *“they are they (the theologians) which testify of me.”* (Jn. 5:39) When the Bereans heard Apostle Paul preach, they *“searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”* (Acts 17:11) Do you check out your preacher when he is preparing the church to be raptured this next week? Have you obtained unconditional salvation simply by repenting of your sins? Read Acts 2:37, answering the question, *“What shall we do (to be saved)”*?

### **(You) “strive to enter in”**

Jesus said, (You) *“strive to enter in at the strait (narrow [from obstacles standing close about] – Strong’s 4728) gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.”* The above was Christ’s answer to the question, *“Lord, are there few that be saved?”* (Lk. 13:23-24)

In our text, *“God waited in the days of Noah (120 years), while the ark was a preparing.”* What was Noah doing during that timeframe while he and his sons built the ark? *“And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.”* (2 Pet. 2:5) Noah preached for 120 years and never received one convert! Oh, the crowds came out every night to hear Noah preach and to mock him. Building an ark: this is hilarious! This crowd had never seen it rain. The only rain they knew about was, *“there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.”* (Gen. 2:6)

### **Not in the Father’s hand until “born of water”**

The word is likened unto “the washing of regeneration.” *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”* (Titus 3:5)

One can be born again, and never know what being “born of the Spirit” entails. One has not entered the ark until they’ve been “born of water.” This may shock some of you Fundamentalists. You’re not even in the Father’s hand until you’ve been “born of water.” *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”* (Mk. 16:16) One is being baptized into *“the washing (of the waters) of regeneration,”* or submerged into the absolute authority of the Word, alias, “THE

WATER.” The Bible says, *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”* (Matt. 4:4)

*“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.”* (1 Cor. 12:13) *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”* (Rom. 6:3) Literally, one is being submerged into the every Word of God doctrine.

### **God waited: “tarry one for another”**

A Roman Catholic can be born again so that he can “see” that a kingdom of God exists. Could be the very reason why he even indulges in his religiosity, or the rosary, the Hail Mary’s, the confessional booth, the holy water, the prayers to any number of saints, etc. As *“God waited in the days of Noah while the ark was a preparing,”* we ought to wait on the new convert to prepare his heart *“that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead (in a watery grave) is freed from sin.”* (Rom. 6:6-7)

Even in the partaking of the Lord’s table, we are instructed to not hurry, but to *“tarry one for another.”* (1 Cor. 11:33) *“Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.”* (1 Cor. 11:27-28)

### **Rebellion, the mark of Cain**

Don’t you really think the spirit of rebellion (the mark of Cain) ought to be dealt a blow so it dies in the water of baptism? When purchasing slaves to work the cotton farms of the deep South, the buyer would have the slave open his mouth and stick out his tongue. The buyer was looking for a solid black tongue. He would then know the slave would be submissive. They knew that rebellion was birthed by a mixture of the blood of a black man with that of a white man.

As a son and a daughter of Cain and the religion of Babylon, we need to deal with these spirits of rebellion and Babylon in the waters of baptism. *“MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”* (Rev. 17:5) When is the best time to deal with “MYSTERY BABYLON”?

*“Lay hands suddenly on no man.”* (1 Tim. 5:22) We should find out first if the prospective is willing to give up their Freemasonry, their cults, or MYSTERY BABYLON, before receiving water baptism for repentance. *“Neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.”* (1 Tim. 5:22) If they refuse water baptism, those spirits in your bosom buddy are very much alive and can be transmitted to you. Your home is your ship. *“Reject a divisive man after the first and second warning,”* knowing that such a

one has been perverted (heretick – KJV) and sins, *“being self-condemned.”* (Titus 3:10-11– Hebrew Scriptures) You witness to everybody, but don’t allow everybody aboard your ship. You love everybody, but they are *“lovers of their own selves.”* (2 Tim. 3:2)

### **What shall we do to be saved?**

Those hearing the Apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost were *“pricked in their heart”* by the Holy Ghost, and cried out, *“Men and brethren, what shall we do (to be saved)?”* (Acts 2:37) Peter answered,

#1 – *“Repent”* - be born again

#2 – *“be baptized every one of you...for the remission of sins.”* Which sins? The mark of Cain (rebellion), Freemasonry, MYSTERY BABYLON, and the cults.

#3 – *“and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost,”* with the evidence of *“tongues of fire.”*

*“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”* (Acts. 2:38-40)

You must repent, you must confess your ungodly affiliations with the worship of strange gods. You must ask God to lift the mark of Cain. *“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.”* (1 Sam. 15:23)

### **Elijah is the next visitor from heaven**

*“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.”* (Mal. 4:5) With this particular message, “Saved by Water,” this ministry has turned a corner spiritually to commemorate the coming of Elijah to earth. Elijah is Christ’s advance man to Christ coming for His bride, the Church.

The Jews at their Passover meal, leave a door slightly open and an empty seat at the table for Elijah. The Jews do not believe this John Darby’s pre-trib rapture theory, hence begin to give *“honour to whom honour”* is due. (Rom. 13:7)

I am happy to give honour to Elijah, thus following my Jewish brethren in Christ. Any doctrine that tends toward my having a common bond with my Jewish brethren, tends to break *“down the middle wall of partition between us (Jew and Gentile),”* that we *“twain”* might be *“one new man”* in Christ. (Eph. 2:14-15)

### **The Scriptures – A Messianic translation**

Before Nehemiah began to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem that had been torn down, he first views the walls for three days, *“And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and*

*to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem.” (Neh. 2:13)*

Before you draw any final conclusion as to what Isaiah 28 is saying, I wish to have you look at the walls of traditional theology from the Jew gate, called The Scriptures, published by the Institute for Scripture Research.

Isaiah 28 is speaking of the drunkards of Ephraim, who regardless of their religion, proved it was futile to help them from “falling backward.” *“You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Set-apart Spirit, as your fathers did, you also do.”* (Acts 7:51) Is this a prophecy of our own 21<sup>st</sup> Century “Christian media”?

### **The priest and the prophet gone astray through strong drink**

*“Woe to the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephrayim, and to the fading flower of its splendid comeliness that is on the head of the fertile valley, to those who are overcome with wine!*

*See, הוהי has one who is mighty and strong, like a downpour of hail and a destroying storm, like a flood of mighty waters overflowing, who casts down to the earth with the hand.*

*The proud crown of the drunkards of Ephrayim, is trampled under foot; and the fading flower of its splendid comeliness that is on the head of the fertile valley, like the first fruit before the summer, which, when one sees it, he eats it up while it is still in his hand.*

*In that day הוהי of hosts is for a crown of splendour and a head-dress of comeliness to the remnant of His people, and a spirit of right-ruling to him who sits in right-ruling, and strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.*

*And these too have gone astray through wine, and through strong drink wandered about. Priest and prophet have gone astray through strong drink, they are swallowed up by wine, they wander about through strong drink, they go astray in vision, they stumble in right-ruling.*

*For all tables shall be covered with vomit, no place without filth.” (Isa. 28:1-8)<sup>4</sup>*

### **The assayer’s office**

*“Whom would He teach knowledge? And whom would He make to understand the message? Those weaned from milk, those taken from the breasts!*

*For it is: command upon command, command upon command, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.*

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<sup>4</sup> The Scriptures – A Messianic Translation of the Bible

*For with a jabbering lip and a foreign tongue He speaks to this people, to whom He said, ‘This is the rest, give rest to the weary,’ and, ‘This is the refreshing.’ But they would not hear.” (Isa. 28:9-12)<sup>5</sup>*

### **The drunkards of Ephraim reject the Holy Ghost, but are still religious**

*“But the Word of יהוה was to them, ‘Command upon command, command upon command, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little,’ so that they go and shall stumble backward, and be broken and snared and taken captive.” (Isa. 28:13)<sup>6</sup>*

### **Hell is enlarged due to “the drunkards of Ephraim,” a type of Laodicea**

*“Woe to those who rise early in the morning pursuing strong drink, who stay up late at night – wine inflames them!*

*And the lyre and the harp, the tambourine and the flute, and wine are in their feasts; but they do not regard the deeds of יהוה, nor see the work of His hands.*

*Therefore my people have gone into exile (captivity – KJV), because they have no knowledge. And their esteemed men are starved, and their crowd dried up with thirst.*

*Therefore the grave has made itself wide (“hell hath enlarged herself” – KJV)<sup>7</sup> and opened its mouth beyond measure. Their splendour and their crowd and their uproar, and he who is exulting within her, shall go down into it.*

*And man is bowed down, and mortal man humbled, and the eyes of the proud are humbled.*

*But יהוה of hosts is exalted in judgment, and the set-apart Ėl is set-apart in righteousness.*

*And the lambs shall feed in their pasture, and strangers shall eat in the waste places of the fat ones.” (Isa. 5:11-17)<sup>8</sup>*

The moral to this story is this. No man is worthy to sit as “the head” of the church, which is the reason Christ sent the twelve out “two by two.” We are warned as ministers, *“Neither as lords over God’s heritage.”* (1 Pet. 5:3)

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<sup>5</sup> The Scriptures – A Messianic Translation of the Bible

<sup>6</sup> The Scriptures – A Messianic Translation of the Bible

<sup>7</sup> *“life and immortality to light through the gospel”* (2 Tim. 1:10) Old Testament prophets knew nothing about life after the grave. Jesus gave us this revelation knowledge through the story of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16:19-31)

<sup>8</sup> The Scriptures – A Messianic Translation of the Bible