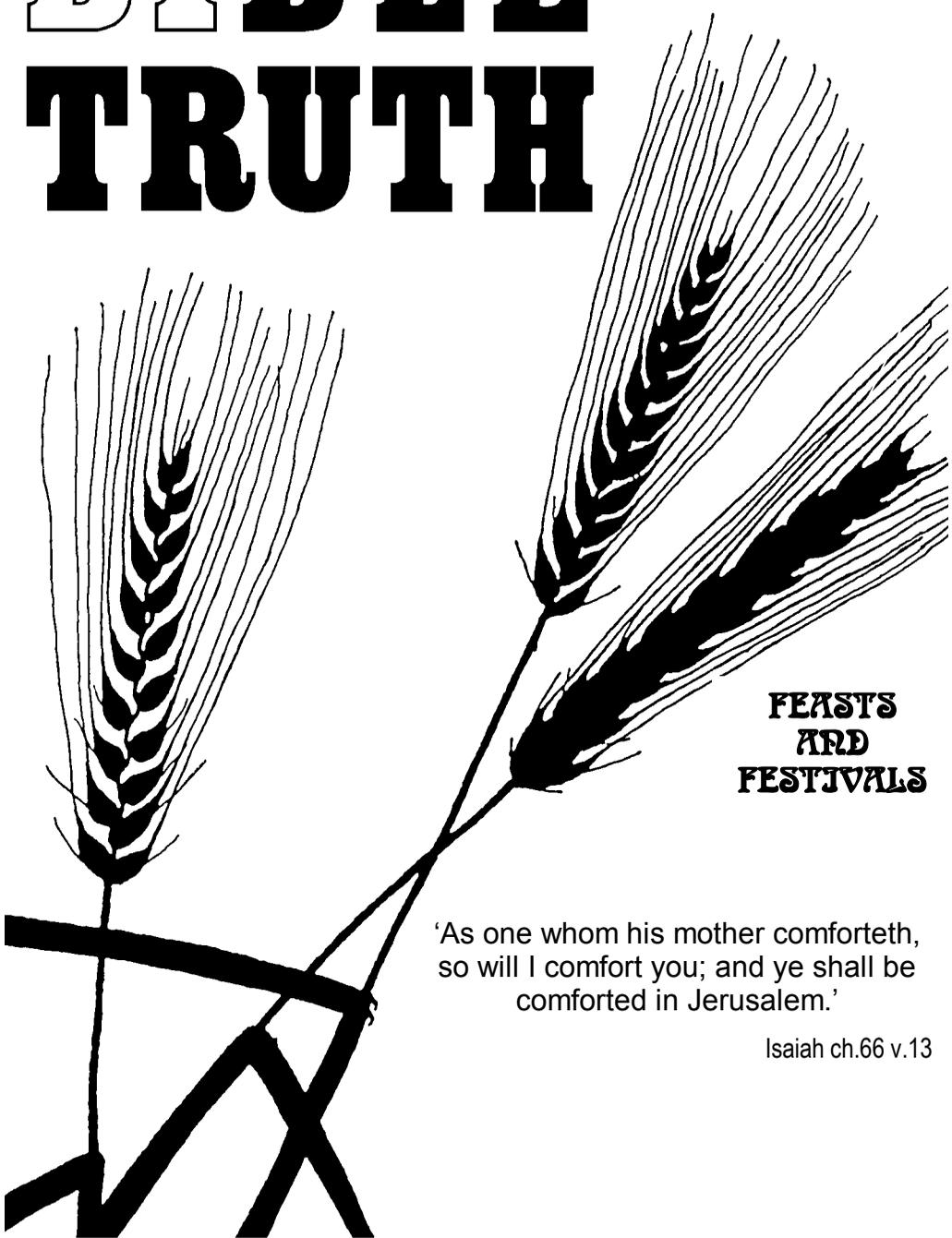


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**FEASTS
AND
FESTIVALS**

'As one whom his mother comforteth,
so will I comfort you; and ye shall be
comforted in Jerusalem.'

Isaiah ch.66 v.13

Those that Wait for Their Lord

by Ray Prinzing,

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How often have we felt like the king of Israel — we had to recognize that our trial was ‘of the Lord’, but we didn’t like what was happening, and so we think, ‘... what should I wait for the LORD any longer?’ (See 2 Kings ch.6 v.33.) Yet if we set about to solve the situation ourselves, we have no answers. To go our own way is as futile as when Peter said, ‘... I go a fishing. ... And ... they caught nothing’ (see John ch.21 v.3). Passing through the dark night of our soul, no answer seems to be forthcoming, and we say, ‘Why should I wait for the Lord any longer?’ But to do our own thing does not work either. Ah, it is well to ‘Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;’ (see Luke ch.12 v.35), with our faith focused upon our Lord, for the answer is in Him.

The next morning Jesus appeared on the shore, and called Peter to ‘... Cast the net on the right side of the ship, ...’ and doing so ‘... they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes’ (see John ch.21 v.6). Yet Peter, and those with him, lost a good night’s sleep struggling to do it by themselves. Far better to have waited until the Lord came for He is the bountiful supplier!

Another powerful illustration, is Samuel appointing a set time when he would come to Saul to offer burnt offerings, etc. The waiting was difficult, so when Saul saw the enemy pressing in, and that the people were scattered from him he went ahead and offered the burnt offering himself. Immediately Samuel came, with a strong word against Saul, that because he had not kept the commandment of the Lord, the kingdom would be taken away from him, and be given to another (1 Samuel ch.13 vv.8-14). Not waiting God’s time, but going ahead with our own self-works, will cost us dearly, no matter how religious we appear to be with our sacrifices and offerings.

Psalm 40 v.1 gives a precious truth for our consideration.

‘I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.’

The word used here for ‘patiently’ is the same Hebrew word used for ‘waited’, and could literally be read, as the margin gives it, ‘in waiting I waited’. Obviously if you are truly waiting, it will also be patiently, for the very nature of true patience means that you have endured,

remained steady regardless of the passing of time. This is easily understood from our every day living. One is standing by the door waiting to go somewhere, while their partner is lagging behind to finish up some needed preparations. So the one by the door stands on one foot, then on the other, calling out repeatedly for the other one to hurry, and giving every indication that while they are waiting, they are not really waiting, for on the inside they are already on the go, restlessly striving to get on the way. Ah, in waiting I waited! This is a quality, that, while rare, is much to be desired, and for the Psalmist it brought victory.

‘... he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.’

Psalm 40 vv.1-3

It was God who wrought the victory, He did it all, and all He asks is that we are diligent as men that wait for their Lord! Yet in this day when Christendom places such heavy emphasis on being ‘up and doing’, quite literally plagued with a case of the ‘do-its’, it becomes even more of a challenge to wait on the Lord until He directs each step, that we might be one in His will.

Psalm 62 v.5 adds some vital instruction.

‘My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.’

It seems like it would almost not have to be mentioned, and yet it is imperative that we do, that our waiting would be only upon God, for our expectation is from Him. Many still wait upon other men. In the world they wait for that superman to appear with the answers. Always hoping that the next politician to come on the scene will be able to do something to make things better for them. Even in the religious realm, they wait for another to ‘pray through’ and get the answer for them. But the psalmist knew that his answer would have to come from God alone. There is an ‘only’ in this waiting, and it is upon God, total focus is on Him. We praise God for those men and women used to help encourage us, but we wait not upon men, we wait only upon God, for our answer is to come from Him.

It is also very significant that the Hebrew word used for ‘wait’ in this verse actually means ‘be silent’. Ah, how silent are we in our waiting upon the Lord? Or do we keep up a steady barrage of questions and demands? I realize that these truths can be twisted

and misunderstood, but the wise will understand, the rest may lay them on the shelf until their experience needs this confirmation. When the whole of our being is harmonized to that singleness of prayer, 'Thy will be done', then even this hardly needs to be uttered, for it is that out-breathing desire that pulsates through us, and we can become silent before the Lord, while we remain in harmony with His silence, fully assured that His victory will be revealed in due time. Not forever, however, will this silence continue, for when His first fruits have been fully dealt with, one in His silence, they also will become one in His utterance, and there shall be declared throughout the earth a message that will shatter the silence of the ages — The Gospel of His Kingdom.

'Rest in the LORD [be silent to the Lord], and wait patiently for him: ...'

Psalm 37 v.7

One of the beautiful results of experiencing the 'silence of God', is that we can enter into His rest, having finally exhausted all of our own striving, struggling, noise and babbling, or, as one says, we can 'quit our yammering'. No more 'storming heaven' trying to force an answer with our repetitious prayers, (prayer begging), knowing as we wait upon Him He will steadily bring us to the hour of appointed victory.

'O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, ... Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: ...'

Psalm 25 vv.2-3

How often have we felt ashamed, like we have to apologize for God; because He did not do what we asked Him to do, when we asked Him to do it? We had our own time schedule, and when God did not meet it, we felt ashamed and let down. That is not waiting on the Lord. True waiting on Him means we have submitted ourselves to His will, His time and His method of doing it, and then it can be said,

'... whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed'.

Romans ch.9 v.33

This quote is taken from the Book of Isaiah ch.28 v.16, where it reads, '... he that believeth shall not make haste'. Patience is not a virtue that we are born with, tribulation worketh patience, and it takes a lot of processing to develop patience, curing our hastiness.

'For from of old, men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen a God besides You, Who works and shows himself active on behalf of him who [earnestly] waits for him.'

Isaiah ch.64 v.4, *Amplified Version*

Never, never has the world seen or known a God like this. All other nations serve their gods, but their gods do nothing for them. And me thinks that much of Christendom serves 'a god' like unto these other nations. They are of the creed and doctrine that they have to do all the serving, and so they devise a system of works, and more works, ever trying to court the favour of their god. But we have a God who works for us, and we do well to learn to wait on Him, with our loins girded, and our lights shining brightly. All of our trust is in Him, we believe and shall not be ashamed, because we are believing for His will, not ours, for His purpose, not ours, for His Kingdom, not one that we would build. While we are actively worshipping Him, He is building, conforming, and moulding us, till we are one in and with Him.

Tucked in among the prophetic statements which Jacob gave to his sons is,

'Dan shall judge his people ...'.

He describes the effectiveness of that ministry, and then states,

'I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD'.

Genesis ch.49 vv.16 & 18

The sequence is correct! The judging, correctional processing of God prepares us for the fullness of His salvation. Thus, as we pass through the dark night of the soul, we learn to keep our loins girded, and our lights burning brightly, because there shall come a 'nevertheless' afterwards when we see the peaceable fruit of His righteousness. Yes, 'I have waited' — for what? 'For thy salvation, O Lord'. And he that is waiting, believing, shall not be brought to shame.

'And he will destroy [swallow up] in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.'

Isaiah ch.25 v.7

So often we try, in ourselves, to remove the veil of blindness that is upon people. We desperately desire to illumine, to remove the darkness of their understanding. We claw, we rend, and tear away at the veil, with hope that a ray of light will penetrate in, but it only frustrates, wounds and bruises, more than it heals. God has appointed a time when sovereignly He will destroy the coverings and veils cast over the people. Then,

'He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation'.

Isaiah ch.25 vv.8-9

Salvation is of the Lord! He gives the Kingdom! He brings the added grace! He works for them that wait upon Him. And what do we do? Ah, this is the word of the Lord unto His people, '... stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD ...' (2 Chronicles ch.20 v.17). With our whole being attuned to Him, focused in on seeking the kingdom of God, loins girded up, the confession of our faith holding steady regardless of how the stormy winds blow, we are 'as men that wait for the Lord',

'... waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:'.

1 Corinthians ch.1 v.7

It is true,

'The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own'.

Romans ch.8 v.19, *Phillips*

But these sons are looking (Greek - waiting) '... for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:' (Philippians ch.3 v.20). The world will never see what they are looking for in God's firstfruit sons, until the sons see their Saviour, and are brought into the fullness of their redemption. Thus with eager anticipation we wait for our Lord, every further revelation of Him will bring us that much nearer the time of the promise. And now the words of the chorus seem so very fitting,

*Only wait, again I hear Him whisper,
Only wait, 'twill not be very long,
Even now I hear His footsteps,
As He whispers to my spirit,
Only wait.*