



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No. 50, December 15 , 2015 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD***

THE RAGING WAR AGAINST MESSIAH and HIS FOLLOWERS!

IN COLLEGE, with a major in history you will read about, study, and be tested on what man views as the primary conflicts and battles that have shaped the course of history. I majored in history at a Christian college. Amazingly, their history courses omitted the greatest, longest, and most far reaching war of all time— the worldwide war against MESSIAH! They also left out the purpose of human history! HERE IS CRITICAL REALITY:

GENESIS 3:15 announces the BEGINNING of the conflict of the ages, the beginning of the greatest and longest war. **THE REVELATION OF JESUS sets forth the END** of the greatest of all wars and welcomes EVERLASTING peace and glory to those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb! (Revelation 21:4; 22:3)

The Revelation reveals God's grand and ultimate purpose for History: A numberless multitude of redeemed sinners who were GIVEN TO JESUS (John 17:1-3) who for all eternity will have no more tears, nor suffering; and will SEE the great triune God (FATHER/SON/HOLY SPIRIT) face to face; and they/we will serve Him, and reign with Him FOREVER! (Rev. 21-22)

Moreover, in the great war of the ages, those who reject the LAMB and persecute the followers of the LAMB, will experience the Holy Wrath of God IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LAMB (Rev. 14:9-11; 19:1-3; 20:12-15;

21:8)

With Genesis setting forth the beginning and the Revelation setting forth the end or climax of the great CONFLICT OF THE AGES, we should not be surprised that from Genesis through the Revelation there is, a story thread unveiling the conflict and the ultimate triumph of “the seed of the woman” over satan!

Throughout human history Satan did everything possible to keep Messiah from being born; and he still attacks those who follow the LAMB. THUS, we will SCAN the whole Bible so as to better understand the WAR ZONE in which we live and so as to better lay hold on our HOPE OF REDEMPTION!

BUT FIRST, remember this: There was a time in the universe when there was ONLY ONE WILL— GOD’S. There was no sin, no rebellion. BUT THERE CAME A DAY WHEN in the grand wisdom of God and in His grand sovereignty He allowed... He brought to pass something THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING— **satan and one-third of the angels rebelled.** (Isaiah 14:12-15; Revelation 12:4)

FROM THAT BACKGROUND, in Genesis we find satan tempting and deceiving Eve; and we find Adam following his wife’s deception in a spirit of rebellion. Next, Eve and Adam did what sinful fallen humans still do—they tried to hide from God; and they tried to work out their own solution to their sin; and they POINTED FINGERS OF BLAME, rather than taking responsibility for their CHOICES.

THUS, GOD SPOKE THIS JUDGMENT to satan: ***“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)***

[One translation says, *“There will be war!”.... war between the slaves of satan and the followers of JESUS CHRIST.* For the word ‘bruise’— other words are: crush, strike, attack!]

Thus begins the very first Biblical prophecy of the coming of the Messiah and the first announcement of satan’s intent to destroy the Woman and Her Seed! **A careful study of this “story thread” (which unfolds right through Scripture) should move us to WORSHIP and should strengthen our faith as we face daily life battles!**

1. Genesis 3:15— The Conflict was Announced: *It was and is a conflict that will span all the years of human history. THIS is the FIRST and the LONGEST WORLD WAR! The conflict still rages with satan ever seeking to DAMAGE CHRIST and His great work of redemption; and with CHRIST ever prevailing!*

2. Genesis 6:9, 12— From Seth to the Flood: The Messiah was prophesied to come through Seth's line. However, the whole human race was wallowing in sin and about to face just judgment— literally, extinction. **Nevertheless,** Noah found grace in the eyes of God! The sovereign God of the universe GAVE HIM GRACE.

John Gill rightly states, "the grace he found was not on account of his own merit, but on account of the mercy of God: and this shows that he was not without sin, or he would have stood in no need of the mercy and grace of God to save him..."

AS WITH ANY OTHER sinful human when God looked down from heaven to behold Noah, what did God see? ***"The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one."*** (Psalm 14:2-3, NKJV) [ALSO: Psalm 53:2-3]

EVEN SO, Dr. Michael Brown has claimed that, "GRACE DID NOT SAVE NOAH, OBEDIENCE DID!"

Biblical revelation demonstrates that the first chapter of Noah's biography was like that of any other fallen human! "And you *He made alive, who were dead* in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, **and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.** (Ephesians 2:1-3(NKJV)

THUS, although it is not 'spelled out' in Genesis 6, GRACE had already been promised in Genesis 3:15— yea, even before the foundation of the

world! (Ephesians 1:4) NOAH WAS **GIVEN** GRACE!

But the main focus of this article is that by the time of Noah— sin and rebellion was so strong and wide-spread that it would have APPEARED that the PROMISED MESSIAH would never come. BUT GOD!

But God GAVE GRACE to Noah!

3. Genesis 12-25— From the Flood to Jacob: Messiah was to come through Abraham, but he was old and his wife, Sarai, was barren. Nevertheless, Isaac was born. However, Isaac’s wife was also barren; **but God performed yet another GRACE miracle** so that the promised Messiah could come through the line of Jacob.

4. Genesis 27-Exodus 32— From Jacob to Israel in the Wilderness: Esau wanted to kill Jacob. Later, Pharaoh sought to destroy Israel and Moses. Afterwards, Israel sinned so greatly that God was poised to destroy them in righteous judgment. And He would have done so, had it not been for the interceding of Moses on their behalf. [In the conflict of the ages, often satan is not openly mentioned; but rest assured the great tempter, liar, and hater is at work in and among sinful men— John 10:10.]

5. I Samuel 18-19— From Israel in the Wilderness to King David: God chose one man out of the tribe of Judah through whom Messiah would come. However, more than once Saul endeavored to kill that chosen one, David. O what a raging war against the ‘line of promise!’

6. II Kings 11— From David to Jezebel’s daughter, Queen Athaliah: Athaliah thought she had been successful in killing all of the royal seed. However, **Joash** (The sole survivor of David’s royal seed!) **was hidden for six years** and at age seven began to reign! This is utterly amazing mercy and grace! The road to Bethlehem’s manger was long and dangerous!

7. Isaiah 7— From Queen Athaliah to King Ahaz: Wicked ones sought to blot out the house of David and set up a foreign king. But in those days Isaiah stood up and prophesied, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name **IMMANUEL**.” PRAISE GOD, when HE purposes to do something, none can stay His hand!

8. Esther— From King Ahaz to Queen Esther: In this brief account of

satan's attempt to destroy "The Woman (The people of God) and her Seed" we have advanced forward in time to 5BC. Wicked Haman persuaded King Ahasuerus to decree that all Jews must die! **Once again the great dragon, satan, stood over the woman (Rev 12) to devour the royal seed and to destroy all hope of merciful salvation through Messiah. BUT GOD!**

9. Matthew-John— From Esther to Bethlehem, to the Cross and the Empty Tomb: As the mighty drama continued, Herod slew all the young boys of Bethlehem, age 2 and under, as he sought to kill Messiah. Later, religious leaders sought to kill Messiah before God's appointed time. Later, satan and his children doubtless thought that the Cross was, at last, their deliverance from Messiah!

But "up from the grave He arose, triumphant over all His foes!"

10. Acts-Revelation— From the Empty Tomb Until His Second Coming: For over 2000 years, the raging war against Messiah has continued as satan has turned his hatred toward those who love and follow Messiah. (Rev 12:6, 10-17) Throughout the centuries, many of the followers of Messiah, the Lamb of God, have left **A TRAIL OF MARTYR'S BLOOD.**

But they cannot be silenced, stopped, nor destroyed. All of Messiah's followers are destined to rule and reign with Messiah, as they worship God and the Lamb for all eternity.

11. AND KNOW THIS: In God's time, satan and all who are deceived by satan and marked by him will experience eternal ruin in the fires of hell.

**O SINNER, FLEE THE WRATH OF GOD TODAY,
BEFORE IT IS EVERLASTINGLY TOO LATE!**

**HERE ARE SOME FAITH EMPOWERING LESSONS FROM THE BATTLE
FIELDS OF THE RAGING WAR AGAINST CHRIST AND HIS SAINTS:**

1. God ALWAYS watches over His Word to perform it! (Jer. 1:12; Luke

21:33)

2. Satan was and is and forever will be powerless to frustrate the purposes of God. He can never do more than or other than what God allows. And all that God allows him to do is ULTIMATELY directed by God for some good purpose in the plan of God. (Job 42:1-6!)

3. We often wonder how a Good and Sovereign God could allow sin and satan and all of the incredible suffering that goes on in our fallen world! **But Romans 9:22-23, reveals** that God has “**endured**” and/or “**designed beforehand**” all things **so that there will be GRAND DEMONSTRATIONS of His holy attributes.** There are many things that we may not understand or know; but there are some things which God has revealed to His children!

FOR EXAMPLE: The Bible reveals that, **God raised up** Pharaoh for the purpose of demonstrating God’s power and God’s name! (Romans 9:17) **God raised up** Israel to set forth God’s praise! (Isaiah 41:21) In case we have forgotten, **God is busy carrying out His agenda, not ours!** God created all things for Himself! (Col. 1:16)

God is busy doing all of His good pleasure and will; and nothing nor no one can stop Him! (Ps. 115:3; 135:6; Prov. 19:21; 21:1; Isa. 43:13; Dan. 4:34-35) **Thus, God is never anxious or frustrated!** In all of the incredible drama of sinful man and satan’s attempts to destroy Messiah, not for one moment was God caught off guard!

He never has to put “emergency measures” into place! Rather, the glorious reality is that God was, is and will be, according to His own time-table, orchestrating every event to reveal **GRAND DEMONSTRATIONS OF HIS CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES!**

*“What if God, willing **to show His wrath, and to make His power known, endured with much long-suffering, the vessels of wrath, fitted for destruction; And that He might make known the riches of His glory on vessels of mercy, which He hath afore prepared unto glory...**” (Romans 9:22-23)*

4. Therefore, when difficult experiences of life tumble in and when the raging horror of sin, selfishness, and satan are attacking on every hand— **stay close to the Good Shepherd!**

Love God and watch Him work it all out— not only for His glory, but also for the good of all His born again children! (Romans 8:28-39)

But also this: Let us worship God in awe and wonder at HIS PATIENCE AND LONG-SUFFERING with vessels of wrath!

And most of all, let us all be astounded at “THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY ON VESSELS OF MERCY!” MOREOVER, LET US BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR **GRAND DEMONSTRATIONS OF GOD’S HOLY CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES!**

5. Because we live in Spiritual War Zones, SAINTS will have continuous conflict of some sort. However, these situations are but **the settings/the stages** for some glorious victory!

Christian: You have what it takes in Christ to “*overcome him (satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of your testimony.*” It is God’s will that we be among those who do not hold this present life so dear that we are unwilling to lay it down for Jesus’ sake! (Rev. 12:11)

6. TRACING THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF CHRIST’S FIRST COMING and simultaneously tracing the attempts of satan and God-hating humans to destroy Messiah and/or Messiah’s followers from Genesis 3 through days yet ahead of us **should be of great comfort to all saints! WHY?**

For we see clearly that **God** says what He means! **God** means what He says!

God keeps all of His promises! **God** does all of His good pleasure! It is God’s good pleasure to redeem and to save sinners and to bring all the redeemed, safely home to heaven!

LET US TRUST HIM! REDEEM THE TIME! LABOR FOR THE MASTER! SPREAD THE GOSPEL! LOOK UP! REDEMPTION DRAWETH NIGH! **Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!**

Great Grace and Great Christ-filled Celebrations to one and all! James Bell

www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

TUESDAYS: Come and sing at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Contact Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

WEDNESDAYS: ☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities; ☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— **(For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)**

☐ **6:30pm— CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE**... Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— NEXT, planned for early 2016

* **EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study!** {Study in ROMANS}... Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2015:

Sunday, December 20—

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship— **During the worship service...** — We will lift up our hearts and voices in PRAISE and THANKSGIVING as to the WONDER OF CHRIST COMING TO EARTH for sinners; **Ben Davis, Dean Baney, Adam Troutt, Chris Estep, and Jaden Allen will guide us through**

TWENTY FOUR REASONS WHY JESUS CAME; and we will come to THE LORD'S TABLE.

(No meal or afternoon service)

SUNDAY, December 27: 9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship (No meal or afternoon service)