

CHAPTER 8

AND it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth *month*, in the fifth *day* of the month, *as* I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me.

2 Then I beheld, and lo a likeness as the appearance of fire: from the appearance of his loins even downward, fire; and from his loins even upward, as the appearance of brightness, as the colour of amber.

3 And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where *was* the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy.

4 And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel *was* there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain.

5 ¶ Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way

toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar this image of jealousy in the entry.

6 He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? *even* the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, *and* thou shalt see greater abominations.

7 ¶ And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall.

8 Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door.

9 And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here.

10 So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about.

11 And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up.

12 Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth.

13 ¶ He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, *and* thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.

14 Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which *was* toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

15 ¶ Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen *this*, O son of man? turn thee yet again, *and* thou shalt see greater abominations than these.

16 And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, *were* about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and

they worshipped the sun toward the east.

17 ¶ Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen *this*, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose.

18 Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, *yet* will I not hear them.

CHAPTER 9

HE cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man *with* his destroying weapon in his hand.

2 And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them *was* clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar.

3 And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the

threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which *had* the writer's inkhorn by his side;

4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

5 ¶ And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

6 Slay utterly old *and* young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom *is* the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which *were* before the house.

7 And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.

8 ¶ And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?

9 Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah *is* exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not.

10 And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, *but* I will recompense their way upon their head.

11 And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which *had* the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me.

CHAPTER 10

THEN I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne.

2 And he spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels, *even* under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter *them* over the city. And he went in in my sight.

3 Now the cherubims stood on the right side of the house, when the man went in; and the cloud filled the inner court.

4 Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, *and stood* over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD'S glory.

5 And the sound of the cherubims' wings was heard *even* to the outer court, as the voice of the Almighty God when he speaketh.

6 And it came to pass, *that* when he had commanded the man clothed with linen, saying, Take fire from between the wheels, from between the cherubims; then he went in, and stood beside the wheels.

7 And *one* cherub stretched forth his hand from between the cherubims unto the fire that *was* between the cherubims, and took *thereof*, and put *it* into the hands of *him that was* clothed with linen: who took *it*, and went out.

8 ¶ And there appeared in the cherubims the form of a man's hand under their wings.

9 And when I looked, behold the four wheels by the cherubims, one wheel by one cherub, and another wheel by another cherub: and the appearance of the wheels *was* as the colour of a beryl stone.

10 And *as for* their appearances,

they four had one likeness, as if a wheel had been in the midst of a wheel.

11 When they went, they went upon their four sides; they turned not as they went, but to the place whither the head looked they followed it; they turned not as they went.

12 And their whole body, and their backs, and their hands, and their wings, and the wheels, *were* full of eyes round about, *even* the wheels that they four had.

13 As for the wheels, it was cried unto them in my hearing, O wheel.

14 And every one had four faces: the first face *was* the face of a cherub, and the second face *was* the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

15 And the cherubims were lifted up. This *is* the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar.

16 And when the cherubims went, the wheels went by them: and when the cherubims lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the same wheels also turned not from beside them.

17 When they stood, *these* stood; and when they were lifted up, *these*

lifted up themselves *also*: for the spirit of the living creature *was* in them.

18 Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims.

19 And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also *were* beside them, and *every one* stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD'S house; and the glory of the God of Israel *was* over them above.

20 This *is* the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they *were* the cherubims.

21 Every one had four faces apiece, and every one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a man *was* under their wings.

22 And the likeness of their faces *was* the same faces which I saw by the river of Chebar, their appearances and themselves: they went every one straight forward.

CHAPTER 11

MOREOVER the spirit lifted me up, and brought me unto the east gate of the LORD'S house, which looketh eastward: and behold at the door of the gate five

and twenty men; among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people.

2 Then said he unto me, Son of man, these *are* the men that devise mischief, and give wicked counsel in this city:

3 Which say, *It is* not near; let us build houses: this *city is* the caldron, and we *be* the flesh.

4 ¶ Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man.

5 And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, *every one of* them.

6 Ye have multiplied your slain in this city, and ye have filled the streets thereof with the slain.

7 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Your slain whom ye have laid in the midst of it, they *are* the flesh, and this *city is* the caldron: but I will bring you forth out of the midst of it.

8 Ye have feared the sword; and I will bring a sword upon you, saith the Lord GOD.

9 And I will bring you out of the midst thereof, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and will

execute judgments among you.

10 Ye shall fall by the sword; I will judge you in the border of Israel; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.

11 This *city* shall not be your caldron, neither shall ye be the flesh in the midst thereof; *but* I will judge you in the border of Israel:

12 And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD: for ye have not walked in my statutes, neither executed my judgments, but have done after the manners of the heathen that *are* round about you.

13 ¶ And it came to pass, when I prophesied, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then fell I down upon my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?

14. Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

15 Son of man, thy brethren, *even* thy brethren, the men of thy kindred, and all the house of Israel wholly, *are* they unto whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, Get you far from the LORD: unto us is this land given in possession.

16 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen,

and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.

17 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.

18 And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.

19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

20 That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

21 But *as for them* whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD.

22 ¶ Then did the cherubims lift up their wings, and the wheels beside them; and the glory of the

God of Israel *was* over them above.

23 And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which *is* on the east side of the city.

24 ¶ Afterwards the spirit took me up, and brought me in a vision

by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to them of the captivity. So the vision that I had seen went up from me.

25 Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the LORD had shewed me.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

A year and two months after his call, Ezekiel was transported, in rapture, to Jerusalem, where God showed him the abhorrent idolatries being practiced in the Temple. Thus, in spite of warning after warning, and punishment after punishment, the once powerful kingdom of Judah, reduced now almost to the point of extinction, was still sinking lower and lower in the depths of idolatrous infamy. After Ezekiel's mission to Jerusalem was ended, he was borne, on the cherub chariot, back to his exile home, where he reported to the elders.

In chapter 9 we see that the glory had moved from the throne above the threshold of the Temple. The throne would now become a throne of judgment. We also see God's servant putting a mark of protection on the faithful remnant of believers, lest they be slain in the judgment to come.

In chapter 10:18 the glory moved from the hovering over the threshold with the cherubim, to the eastern gate of the Temple and, in chapter 11:22,23 the glory moved out of the Temple to the top of the Mount of Olives. The glory of the Temple was removed because God could not share His glory with another. The idols and sins of the people had driven Him away. Their sins had not been hidden from God. He had seen them and judged them.

So it is today! God will remove His blessings and glory from our lives, unless we faithfully serve Him, with a pure and honest heart. It is impossible for Christians to be used of God when they have sin in their lives. God will not place His hand of approval upon those who have unconfessed sin in their lives. Do you want to be used of God? Then you must turn away from sin, repent, and allow God to cleanse you anew. God will only use you when you are a vessel, clean and meet for the Master's use.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the

poor that hath understanding searcheth him out" (Proverbs 28:11).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 17 (found on page 10).

BIRTHDAY TODAY

SONGYE PARKER

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1688

JOHN BUNYAN DIED.

John Bunyan was one of the great preachers in history. Someone has said that John Bunyan preached many times every day. He was thrown in prison for his preaching and for his stand for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and while in prison he wrote *THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*, second best seller in the world today. It has been for many generations now second only to the Bible. He wrote it on milk bottle stoppers that he took off the milk that was brought to him in his prison cell. John Bunyan said, "I was put in prison for preaching. If you let me out of jail today, I'll preach tomorrow."

1776

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WROTE HIS EPITAPH.

Benjamin Franklin wrote Samuel Morris in Philadelphia and asked that this epitaph be placed on his tombstone: "The body of Benjamin Franklin, printer, like the cover of an old book, its contents torn out and stripped of its lettering and gilding, lies here, food for worms. But the work shall not be lost, for it will, as he believed, appear once more in a new and elegant edition, corrected and improved, by the author."

SCHOOL IS ABOUT TO START.

Let us thank God for summer and its blessings. Let us thank God for the blessings of the past month, and then may we pause to thank God for His goodness and provisions for us through the summer season. Then we ought to pause also at the beginning of the school term to ask God to bless our school children, and their teachers.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1962

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO PROCLAIMED INDEPENDENT.

1970

LONNIE MCLUCAS, A BLACK PANTHER ACTIVIST, CONVICTED in New Haven, Conn., court of conspiracy to murder Alex Rackley, an alleged FBI informant. Charges against other defendants in the case were later dismissed.

1979

DONALD McHENRY NAMED TO SUCCEED ANDREW YOUNG AS U.N. AMBASSADOR.

Hymn of the Week

“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

Phillips Brooks

“How happy the angels will be,” was the startling and yet tender reply of a child of the membership of the church of which Phillips Brooks was pastor, upon hearing of his passing on to Heaven.

There is an old adage, “His hat may be greasy and his trousers may not be creased, but if his children flatten their noses against the window pane thirty minutes before he comes home from work, you can trust him with anything you have.” Phillips Brooks had no children of his own; in fact, he was never married, but he loved the children of his Boston church very dearly, and they returned the affection. This was one of his characteristics of greatness.

He was born in Boston in 1835. His family was very much Christian. A great deal of emphasis was placed on education, thus preparing young Phillips for the great role as Episcopal clergyman at the Holy Trinity Church in Boston. He was educated at Harvard and at the Episcopal Theological Seminary at Alexandria, Virginia.

It was under his ministry that the Holy Trinity Church became such a renowned lighthouse. He preached, unlike most protestants of his day in that city, the evangelical Gospel of Jesus Christ. He stood six feet and a half and must have possessed the kindness of a Washington, the poise of a Lincoln, the fire of a Monday and the delivery of a Bryan.

From this famous Church he received a leave

of absence to visit the Holy Land in 1865. He visited the place of the “shepherds” during Christmas week and joined in the service at Constantine’s Basilica, built on the traditional site of the Nativity. This was such a memorable experience that on returning home he wrote a poem for the children of his Monday School, to be set to music and sung at Christmas time, which was close at hand.

He gave the poem to the organist and Monday School superintendent, Lewis Redner, and asked him to set it to music. On Sunday, the night before Christmas, Redner sat up late writing a melody for the verses. He awakened early the next morning and wrote the harmony for the new song in time for the children to sing it at Monday School.

The new song remained relatively unknown for about twenty years, and then suddenly it was published in an Episcopal hymnal. From that time its popularity has spread until now on every hand at Christmas we hear people singing:

*O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see Thee lie!
Above the deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet, in the dark street shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in Thee tonight.*

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 17 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS HARD AND DIFFICULT"

() Proverbs 13:15

Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

() Proverbs 3:17

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

() Matthew 11:30

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

() Isaiah 41:10

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

() Isaiah 41:11

Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.