

**SPECIAL REPORT: News from NORTHFIELD**

# UPLLOOK

SEPTEMBER 1999

- *Rise & Shine '99* Conference Update
- Charts on the Miracles & Parables
- 8 maps showing the LIFE of CHRIST



**UNIQUE**

# UNIQUE

*We learn about Him by comparisons, but He really is incomparable.*

**T**he dictionary defines *unique* as “being the only one, without a like or equal.” Strictly speaking, something cannot be “somewhat unique” or “very unique.” According to Oxford, the word fell into disuse in the 17th and 18th centuries, no doubt because there was little opportunity to use it in a world where so few things are unique. It was entered in the 1818 edition of Johnson’s Dictionary as a foreign word and characterized as “affected and useless.”

By the middle of the 19th century it found new popularity, but with its popularity came a broadened use. Ignoring its roots (Latin, *unicus*; French, *unus*, one), the word was applied as a comparative, meaning simply unusual or peculiar. Something could now be “fairly unique.”

But I want to speak about Someone who is unique in the absolute sense. In His class there is only one. Of course the Bible is filled with comparisons of Him. He is *stronger* than the strong man (Lk. 11:22), *chiefest* among ten thousand (Song of Sol. 5:10), the *First Begotten* of the dead (Rev. 1:5), the *Last Adam* (1 Cor. 15:45), the *Firstfruits* of them that slept (1 Cor. 15:20, 23), the *Great High Priest* (Heb. 4:14), *greater* than Abraham, Jacob, Jonah, John, Solomon, Moses, Joshua, and the rest. Yet there are ways in which He is beyond all comparison.

*The Lord Jesus is unique in His person.* There is no other Godman in the universe. By Him there will be a great host of godly men and women in heaven, but only One who is fully God and fully man. He will bring many sons to glory, but there is only one Son who ever came from glory. He is God in every sense and man in every sense (sin apart, of course). Thus in His crosswork, He—the infinite God—could provide the infinite price necessary for divine satisfaction; He—the true Kinsman—could die for mankind, tasting death for everyone.

*The Lord Jesus is unique in His incarnation.* No one ever arrived on this planet as He did. He who made the worlds arrived on this little speck of dust. He who fashioned His creatures of flesh and blood partook of flesh and blood. But His arrival was a choice He made. As David Anderson-Berry puts it, “For once in all of history

the door between time and eternity opened *inward*” and He stepped on purpose into this world.

*He is unique in His life.* The Lord Jesus had the only verifiably perfect life. His friends (who knew Him in His most private moments) said He did no sin, that in Him is no sin. His enemies grudgingly confessed, “He saved others...” and “Never man spake like this man.” The judge at His trial declared, “I find no fault in this man.” His executioner exclaimed, “Truly this was a righteous man!”

Even the demons spoke out one day, “What hast Thou to do with us, Thou holy One of God?” And God broke a 400-year silence by saying, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”

*He is unique in His offices and ministries.* There is only one Saviour. There is only one Mediator between God and men. There is only one Forerunner leading God’s people within the veil. Who but Jesus can at the same time say, “I know what it’s like to be weary,” and at the same time

offer rest to the weary? Who but Jesus can at the same time be a sympathizing Man and an all-sustaining God?

*He is unique in His death and resurrection.* No one else could say, “No man taketh [My life] from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again” (Jn. 10:18). He proved it when they came to take Him in the garden and were literally blown off their heels by His “I am.”

No one else could die for another’s sins, but He died for the whole world. No one else could be at the same time a sin and trespass offering as well as a peace, meal and burnt offering—and completely satisfy God with that one offering. No one else surpassed the law’s requirements, opened the way into the holiest, answered the Old Testament types, and fulfilled the Scriptures as He did.

*The Lord Jesus is unique in His present position.* He is a Bridegroom awaiting His Bride, a King awaiting His kingdom, a Judge awaiting the Judgment. He shall not wait a moment too long. The day is coming when the Unique One will, before all, ascend the steps to His throne. Then in a moment uniquely His, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess His uniqueness—“the only one, without a like or equal.” *He is Lord!*



by J. B. NICHOLSON, Jr.

# UPLOOK

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# Learn of Me

*The Lord Jesus is both the Teacher and the Textbook. Learning has never been so beneficial.*

**WARREN HENDERSON**

**T**he disciple of Christ is a learner from Christ. "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me;" said the Saviour, "for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest for your souls" (Mt. 11:29). The believer finds strength, security, and peace in taking and submitting to Christ's yoke. The longer we wear the conforming yoke the more we are transformed to be like Him. We learn Him (see Eph. 4:20).

Christ, God's living Message and Messenger, is our ultimate example to follow and God's ultimate declaration of truth to be obeyed. "The truth is in Jesus" (Eph. 4:21).

How did God choose to record His Son's life and His work of redemption? Through four different writers, from four distinct vantage points and to four different audiences. Matthew is written to the expectant Jew waiting for the promised King; Mark is written to the Roman as an example of an obedient servant; Luke is written to the Greek and presents a perfect Man; and John is written to the world and presents Christ in His deity.

These Gospel testimonies are not complete biographies, but revelations of a Person. God did not choose to record every moment of His Son's life, but only those He wanted us to understand. John explains, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written, that ye might believe that

*Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name" (Jn. 20:30-31).*

The mysteries and doctrines of grace associated with the cross are then revealed and developed in the epistles. Of the 89 chapters in the four Gospel records, 85 address the Lord's ministry years, and 27 of these His last eight days before Calvary. Five chapters are post-resurrection. What might we learn from the Lord, our example (1 Pet. 2:21)?

## THE WAY OF THE LORD

He had a human forerunner (John the Baptist) to prepare the people for

the kingdom message, which began with a call to repentance (Mt. 4:17). Likewise, the believer should never remove repentance from the gospel message today. *We should learn of Him.*

Three different angelic announcements (to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds) and five different human declarations (Mary, Zechariah, Simeon, Anna and the wise men) clearly state that the promised Messiah had come, that He was the Son of God, would deliver the Jews from their enemies, fulfill the Abrahamic covenant, and assume the throne of David forever. However, most importantly He had come to save His people from their sins. Clearly, the Jews did not understand God's plan of two advents for Christ to accomplish all the above.

Israel as a whole rejected Christ and thus the offer of the kingdom was withdrawn until a Gentile bride had been secured for Christ during the Church Age. Paul states in Romans 11 that God would use the Gentiles (a people not His own) to provoke Israel to jealousy. Then during Daniel's seventh week, the Tribulation period, the Kingdom will be again offered to the Jews, but at a terrible cost, as two-thirds of them will die during this horrible period known as "Jacob's Trouble" (Zech. 12:8-9; Jer. 30:7).

## THE LIFE OF THE LORD

The Lord was born of a virgin, through the activity of the Holy Spirit, and thus the God-man was without a sin nature. He was born of a Jewish woman and thus the Lawgiver willingly placed Himself under His own law. He then proceeded to live a sinless life, thus fulfilling the law and proving Himself a worthy substitute to bear the curse of that law for all humanity (Gal. 3:13-14).

**We should learn of Him. While waiting for God's marching orders, we should attend to the responsibilities already given us.**



The Lord grew in wisdom and stature into manhood. The Lord learned to crawl and walk the same way we did. He learned to talk, memorize Scriptures, and to labor in a profession the same way we do. Yet He never lied to His parents, never coveted a toy—"That's mine," never struck another in rage, or acted in self-will. Imagine a boy who held the truth so dear He would never add to it, subtract from it, flavor it, or sensationalize it for His own gain.

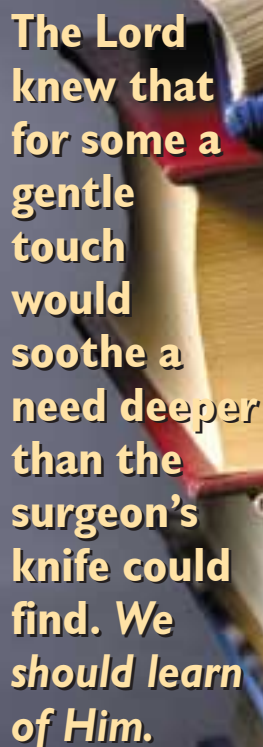
It was evident in the temple at the age of 12 that He already understood His mission as He declared, "I must be about My Father's business." Yet knowing this, He still willingly placed Himself under His parent's authority and labored, helping in the carpenter shop. *We should learn of Him.* While waiting for God's marching orders, we should be attending to the responsibilities already given us and submit to the authority over us. This is good training for whatever service which lies ahead.

The Lord was water baptized, to identify with those He came to save and to demonstrate to John He was the Messiah. It was on this occasion that the Holy Spirit anointed the Lord. This is first of three anointings recorded. Later the thankful tears of a repentant sinner would give witness to the fruitfulness of His ministry, and rich spikenard would prepare the King for death. It was in the baptismal waters first, and then again at the Transfiguration that the heavenly Father audibly expressed His pleasure and love for His Son.

After the "father of lies" failed in three attempts to convince Jesus to bow before him, the Lord chose and trained twelve men (though one was a traitor). The Lord believed in growing the church (still future) through making disciples. *We should learn of Him.*

He preached two major sermons to the multitude at either end of His public ministry (on the Mount, Mt. 5-7, and a Woe to the Pharisees, Mt. 23). He gave two major discourses to His disciples (at Olivet and in the Upper Room) just prior to His death. The fact that not more major messages are recorded gives evidence that His life spoke louder than words. *We should learn of Him!*

He often taught of Himself metaphorically and through analogies. His seven "I am" statements profoundly declare His deity, yet also inform us of His character, abilities, and redemptive work. His 25 major para-



**The Lord knew that for some a gentle touch would soothe a need deeper than the surgeon's knife could find. We should learn of Him.**

bles are matchless in unveiling truth, yet draped in a way that rebellious hearts could not understand.

The Lord was full of compassion for the hurting and needy. On several occasions, such as with a leper and two blind men, He reached out to touch those He was about to heal. Why did He do this when only a word would have accomplished the miracle? The Lord knew that for some a gentle touch would soothe a need deeper than the surgeon's knife could find. *We should learn of Him.*

Many of the Lord's miracles were not specifically recorded in Scripture, but 40 distinct miracles are: 19 healings of physical illness or death, twice affecting the weather, twice denying physical laws, thrice using fish miracles, once withering fig tree, twice feeding the masses, once turning water to wine, seven times commanding demons from their human

hosts, once each disappearing from a mob and driving back His foes in Gethsemane, and effecting His own resurrection.

Yet in all these miracles never did He use His power to satisfy His humanity. His meekness is demonstrated in suffering hunger, thirst, sleeplessness, sorrow, and attack, never using His divinity to alleviate the condition or remove the situation. It was within His power to escape suffering, but the Lord tasted every trial that He might "*weep with those that weep.*" *We should learn of Him!*

He was transfigured once. For a brief moment, flesh could not veil His divine essence and the outshining glory which illuminated creation again glowed on earth (see 2 Cor. 4:6). The Lord's prayer life was extraordinary—often sacrificing sleep to rise before morning light or on occasion to span the entire night with solitary communion with His Father. *We should learn of Him.*

What do we find the Lord doing when His hour of supreme trial arrives at Calvary? Praying! His prayers were fervent and personal, but the longest would take less than three minutes to read. *We should learn of Him.*

#### THE GIVING OF THE LORD

The Lord met intense opposition in that final week. Before He had taken His first breath it is likely that He had ridden on an ass into Bethlehem. Now the triumphant King would ride on an ass once more, but into Jerusalem to suffer and die. That day brought one challenge after

another. Pharisees, scribes, priests, a lawyer, Sadducees, and the Herodians all confronted Him—and left defeated. After that no more frontal assaults would come; the enemy retreated to work his evil in the hearts of men.


The evening of His betrayal the Lord of glory washed twenty-four feet, and then instituted a Supper so His disciples would remember His example of humility in service and His sacrificial death. *We should learn of Him and remember Him!*

A few hours later He was arrested and brought to trial; six to be exact: three religious trials and three civil trials. The accusations: that He had claimed to be God and a king. Both true! Yet, Herod and Pilate found no fault in Him. But God's holiness demanded more than human justice could muster on this occasion, and an innocent Man was sentenced to death in spite of the "Not guilty" verdict. The Son of Man was bound twice in His life: once in the womb to be born and once by the cords of evil

men to be murdered. The Lord was born to die. *We should learn of Him*, for the Christian has been reborn to die, to die to self and live to Christ (2 Cor. 5:14-15).

### THE DAY OF THE LORD

The Lord received a mock crown, a hand-me-down robe and a reed scepter prior to death, and a borrowed tomb afterwards. To give evidence of His resurrection on the third day, at least 11 separate accounts are recorded, each one giving us the hope of glorification.

The extent to which He was humbled justifies the measure of His exaltation. In a coming day, all shall declare that the One holding a rod of iron with a nail-scarred hand, with diadems upon His head, dressed in royal apparel, is the Son of God, the King of glory! Yet, beloved, we have the privilege of being the forerunners of His grace now. *Let us learn of Him*, and, like Him, let us be about the king's business. 

## THE LIFE OF CHRIST

### The Footprints of the Saviour

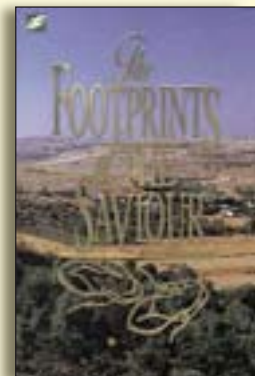
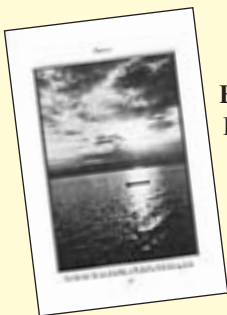
by J. M. Flanigan

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For thirty-three unique and wonderful years our Lord sojourned on earth. Every step was hallowed. In twelve short but sweet chapters of careful exposition and warm devotion, the author takes us on a journey we will not easily forget. Well might we say, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace." Retail \$6.99 U.S. \$9.99 CDN

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## THE PERSON OF CHRIST

### A Plant of Renown

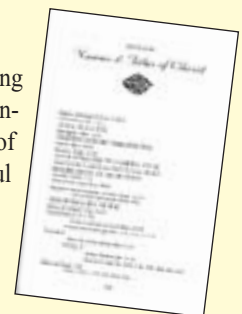
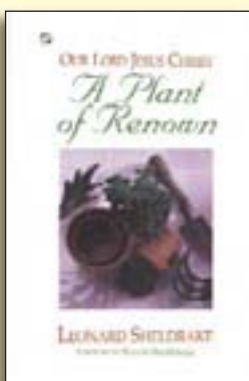
by Leonard Sheldrake

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## YET 2 KNOW

Ladies, plan to attend Challenge '99 on Saturday, Sept. 25 at Don Valley Bible Chapel, Toronto. The theme for this annual Ladies' Missionary Conference is "Yet 2 Know" and an exciting program for girls, Grade 2 and up is also included. Speakers include Betty Brooks, Heidi Croal, Lolly Brewster, Alison Yuille and Marina Haverkamp. For further information or accommodation:

Sheila Henderson  
52 Bentworth Avenue  
Toronto, ON M6A 1P4  
(416) 784-3981  
sheilahknow@idirect.com

## WOMEN'S ADVANCE

The tenth annual Women's Advance will convene in St. Louis, MO, Lord willing, Oct. 1-2 at the Sheraton-Four Points Hotel. Enjoy ministry by Betty McGehee and her daughter Heather Miekley, plus fellowship and relaxation. Should out-of-town guests need accommodations for Saturday night, these will be provided by area assemblies. For information, call (314) 434-8055.

## MOM/DAUGHTER RETREAT

Moms and daughters get together for some quantity time in the Endless Mountains of Pennsylvania at Camp Iroquoia's Mother-Daughter retreat to be held Oct. 1-3. Sara Sanchez will be speaking on "Why We Should Put Our Trust in God." You must see Camp Iroquoia in the fall! Contact:

John MacPherson  
570-967-2577

## CONFERENCE AT CURTIS

Curtis Gospel Chapel, Detroit, MI, will hold their Bible conference on Oct. 9-10. Expected speakers are Joe Reese (ON) and Larry Price (FL). Contact Gerald Fitzgerald at: (734) 425-4217

## INVITATION TO OMAHA

The saints at Keystone Bible Chapel in Omaha, NE, would like to announce their Fall Bible Conference which starts Friday evening, Oct. 8 and continues through Oct. 10. The speakers are Randy Amos (NY), Alan Parks (SC) and Bob Brown (LA). Contact Jeff Patterson:

(402) 238-2878  
jkpne@aol.com

## WESTBROOK, ME

Spring Hill Gospel Hall in Westbrook, ME, will host their annual conference, Lord willing, on Oct. 9-10. The planned speakers are Doug Kazen (WA) and James Harvey. Please contact Dan Chick at (207) 854-4968 for accommodations.

## FIFTY YEARS

The Overbrook assembly in Greenville, SC, is celebrating 50 years of the Lord's goodness. John Gordon (NC) who attended Overbrook while a student will speak on Saturday, Oct. 9; Ken Gross (GA) whose father Ernie pioneered the work, will be there on the Lord's Day. J. B. Nicholson will fill in for brother Elliot Van Ryn (due to his recent homecall) on Oct. 11-13. All are welcome. Contact: Ed Goodwin

(864) 268-7959  
ed.goodwin@juno.com

## MT. HERMON CONFERENCE

The annual conference at Mount Hermon, CA, is scheduled for Oct. 11-15, starting with dinner on Monday night. Due to the stroke that Carroll Van Ryn had a few months ago, he will be unable to speak as planned, so Dr. John Williams (BC) will join Dan Smith (IA).

Henry Kamena, Registrar  
1400 W. 13th St. Sp.91  
Upland, CA 91786-2970  
E-mail: hwerkamena@juno.com

## SKY BIBLE CONFERENCE

Saints of the Asheville Gospel Chapel and Waynesville Christian Fellowship will host the annual Land of the Sky Bible Conference on Oct. 16 from 10 AM to 3:30 PM. The expected speakers are Mark Kolchin (NJ) and Craig Sutherland (PA). A light lunch will be served at Asheville Gospel Chapel at 350 Old Haw Creek Rd. Asheville, NC.

## FALL FAMILY CAMP

Join believers Oct. 22-24 at Camp Living Water (Bryson City, NC) in the beautiful Smoky Mountains for a time of fellowship and study in God's Word. The speaker for the weekend will be Jamie Hull (CO). The cost is only \$60 per family. Contact Theresa Gustafson at (828)488-6012 or e-mail: Living-h2o@juno.com.

## YOUTH CONFERENCE

A youth conference is being planned for teens, ages 13 and up, at Zion Chapel (Sheboygan, WI) on Saturday, Oct. 23 from 10 AM to 5 PM. Warren Henderson (IL) has been invited as the main speaker. His wife will minister to teen girls in one of the sessions. The theme of the conference: "Living for Jesus Christ." Lunches and refreshments will be provided at the chapel. All teens are invited to attend. There is no charge but those planning to attend should notify Allen Hanson at:

2511 Glenside Circle  
Sheboygan, WI 53081  
(920) 458-4137  
glenside@juno.com

## WOMEN'S MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

The 32nd Annual Women's Missionary Conference is planned for Oct. 29-30, at Park of the Palms, Keystone Heights, FL. Expected speakers are Mary Parsons

(Philippines), Carolyn Vargas (Spain), and Pearl Gonzalez (IL).

### CAMPUS BIBLE STUDY

Lord willing, a third year of weekly informal Bible studies at Acadia University (Wolfville, Nova Scotia) will begin this Sept., on Romans 1-8. The Bible study follows an interactive format, with open discussion and relevant questions welcomed. Outlines and assorted helps will be provided. Bring Bible, notebook and a healthy desire to ask, learn, and share. For information:

Rick Morse  
1031 Turner Drive  
New Minas, NS B4N 3R3  
(902) 681-0470

### NEW ASSEMBLY IN OK CITY

In June there was a well attended Bible conference in Oklahoma City. Approximately 200 believers gathered for a series of meetings. The speaker was John Kurian from Kerala, India. The conference was hosted by the Oklahoma Brethren Assembly which meets at 3100 North Rockwell in Oklahoma City.

This assembly which started three years ago has grown from two families to eleven families in the last twelve months. The assembly recently purchased an acre of land with a small building on it and hope to begin meeting there soon.

Those interested in visiting for fellowship or itinerant speakers that would like to encourage a new meeting should contact:

Samuel Puthukkeril  
(405) 354-5483  
Bobby Jacob  
(405) 720-0777

### ASSEMBLY IN SAN DIEGO

The saints at Capilla de Gracia in San Diego, CA, have begun to meet at 3040 Fairmount Avenue in San Diego. This a bilingual assembly, with all meetings translated into

English and Spanish. Meeting times are: 1:00 PM Breaking of Bread; 2:15-3:30, Sunday School and Family Bible Hour. Our correspondents are

David Hall (for English)  
4725 34th St, #3  
San Diego, CA 92116  
(619) 284-0102  
George Mora (for Spanish)  
38001 Calle Quedo  
Murrieta, CA 92563  
(909) 677-8807

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

The board of Bethany Lodge would like to announce that after many years of dedicated and exemplary service as our Administrator, Mr. Bill Stainton intends to retire by the end of 1999. The Board is seeking candidates for his replacement with strong administrative or managerial background and a demonstrated interest in the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of the elderly among God's people. Qualified applicants are invited to submit their resumes to:

Mr. Ed Hannah  
President, Bethany Lodge  
23 Second St.  
Unionville, ON L3R 2C2

### WANTED: CHRISTIAN OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Mike Gaynier is a middle-aged Christian ophthalmologist, wanting to slow down in order to allow more time for the Lord's work. He is looking for another Christian ophthalmologist to share his practice which is located in Dayton, Ohio. A general or subspecialist would be considered, in the will of the Lord. Part time work in the mission field would be a possibility. If interested contact:

Dr. Mike Gaynier  
1-800-900-EYES  
mgaynier@aol.com.

### CHRISTIAN HOME IN OK

There is an opportunity to open

another home for older believers wishing to live in a Christlike environment with opportunities for fellowship and Christian service.

In Oklahoma City, OK, a facility is available with 90 rooms, each with en suite bathrooms. Dining facilities, living rooms, two interior courtyards and a small park make this a wonderful environment for middle-aged or retired couples or singles.

There are several growing assemblies nearby which would welcome newcomers into fellowship and there is a strong possibility of a meeting being held on site.

Some minor repairs must be done before it can be occupied. There will be a need for electricians, HVAC and plumbers to work several weeks. We would like 50 rooms reserved before we move on to phase two. Your prayers are appreciated in this endeavor.

For information, contact:  
Stan Engle  
(405)-236-5433  
sgengle@aol.com

### COMMENDATIONS

#### Charles and Carol Baker

Charles and Carol Baker have faithfully served in leadership capacities at Mountaintop Youth Camp near Pinnacle, NC, for almost thirty years. Now Charlie and Carol feel that the Lord is calling them to serve Him in a new field of ministry at Pittsboro Christian Village in Pittsboro, NC.

Charlie will serve as manager of food services and Carol, an LPN, will work with the nursing staff. They will be filling much-needed positions at this fine Christian retirement and care facility.

On behalf of the saints at Grove Park Chapel in Durham, NC, the home of the Bakers, the elders extend their unanimous commendation to the Bakers' new ministries at Pittsboro Christian Village.

### David and Mary Cartwright

It is with joy that the elders of Marsh Harbour Gospel Chapel (Bahamas) renew the commendation of David and Mary Cartwright. David has been serving the Lord full time for forty years and this year marks thirty-five years that Mary has been his life's partner and fellow-servant in the Lord's work.

Since 1965, they have ministered in the various Abaco assemblies, and David has served as an elder of the assembly while being engaged in a pastoral teaching and counselling ministry. Mary is involved in various ministries of the assembly including Sunday School and youth work. They will continue in their current ministries and are open to ministering in other areas as the Lord leads.

### Gurth and Joan Roberts

The elders of the Marsh Harbour Gospel Chapel (Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas) commend to the full-time work of the Lord, Gurth and Joan Roberts. Both have been actively involved in serving the Lord for a number of years. Gurth has served as an elder and has taught adult Bible class and preached regularly in other assemblies in the area. Joan is also involved in various ministries of the assembly. For the present Gurth will continue serving as an elder and as a teacher in the assembly, but he will also be open to minister to other assemblies as the Lord opens doors.

### Jeremy Williams

The elders of the Grove Park Chapel (Durham, NC) have commended Jeremy Williams to work with the youth at First Colony Bible Chapel in Sugarland, TX. Grove Park Chapel is Jeremy's home assembly, where he grew up, trusted Christ, was baptized, and served the Lord until he went to Emmaus Bible College.

Our prayers go with Jeremy as he seeks to serve the Lord in the capaci-

ty to which he believes the Lord has called him. He and his new wife, Dana, began this ministry in July.

### Lazaro Lopez

The Evergreen Bible Chapel (Federal Way, WA) has withdrawn its commendation of Lazaro Lopez to the missions ministry in Guadalajara, Mexico due to differences with Lazaro and the expectations of the Evergreen Chapel.

### USED HYMNALS NEEDED

Glenn Tompkins, an evangelist who works in RV parks in Southern Texas during the winter needs 30-50 copies of used hymnals. He will pay the cost of shipping. Contact:

Glenn Tompkins  
384 Point Lane  
Walling, TN 38587-5181  
(931) 761-5067

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

#### Browns Hill Bible Chapel

The saints that meet at Browns Hill Bible Chapel (3349 Beechwood Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA) have a new correspondent:

John R. Schell  
108 Tanglewood Dr.  
Valencia, PA 16059  
(724) 898-2539  
jschell@fyi.net

#### Watson Road Bible Chapel

Please note the changes in both correspondent and address for an assembly of Christians in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia:

David S. Shatford,  
Watson Road Bible Chapel,  
45435 Watson Rd,  
Chilliwack, BC  
V2R 2H5  
(604) 858-7291  
Email: shatford@dowco.com

#### Bible Research Fellowship

The Bible Research Fellowship has moved to their new permanent

location. Their new address is:  
19593 Old Port Gibson Rd.  
PO Drawer 1247  
Raymond, MS 39154-1247  
Phone: (601) 857-0050

### HIGHLIGHT IRELAND

#### County Cork

The annual conference at Bandon was an encouragement to the local saints as many visitors attended the meetings. Alex McLean and Ian Jackson ministered the Word of God. Brother McLean also reported on his work among Russian seamen. The new hall in Bandon is now open, with a number of meetings convened for both believers and unbelievers (at the beginning of July). Some young believers are to be baptized. Next year, Lord willing, the speakers expected for the conference are Jim Flanigan and Boyd Nicholson.

#### Belfast

The telephone ministry conducted through the work of brother Ed Jameson has constant use from many making request for prayer. Some ask for loved ones to be saved or restored from a backslidden condition, others need comfort during bereavement, some ask for personal help to get their lives back together. Thank God that some call to express their gratitude as prayer has been answered. Our brother Jameson also supervises a large literature ministry which involves many locations abroad as well as large distributions in the UK. Also there are weekly visits to the large military hospital on the outskirts of Belfast where thousands have been contacted over the years.

### MSC ADDRESS CORRECTION

In our June issue we published the wrong address for Missionary Service Committee. It should be:

MSC Canada  
509-3950 14th Ave.  
Markham, ON L3R 0A9





HEAVENS LIGHT for  
EARTH'S NIGHT

**RISE & SHINE '99**

CINCINNATI, OHIO  
December 27-30, 1999

## AN OPEN LETTER to elders across North America and overseas:

In December 1993, CMML convened Missions '93, a nationwide Bible conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. David Gooding and Mr. William MacDonald, together with several capable seminar leaders, were used by God to begin a work of recovery for many believers who were worn and weary from years of turmoil and tension among North American assemblies. From that conference a fresh enthusiasm for the New Testament assembly among young and old alike began to spread through the land. Weekend mini-conferences began to multiply. There was a new hunger for solid Bible study and exposition. Something was happening.

Uplink Ministries was exercised to encourage these things and, with the blessing of our brethren at CMML, hosted Rise Up and Build '95 in Lexington, Kentucky, and Rise Up and Build '97 in Dearborn, Michigan. The saints came. Some had to be turned away. The assemblies were refreshed, encouraged, looking for the blessing of God. Like the days of Nehemiah, the people of God wanted to build again.

The raindrops of blessing are increasing. There are scattered showers and they are spreading. There is a move in the land to again capture the gospel offensive. Young people are taking The Great Commission seriously. Senior citizens are retiring from retirement and looking for ways to get back into active duty. Gospel outreach here in North America and in foreign mission fields is on the minds of many. Could this be the next move of God to begin the 21st century? Is it a final display of His mercy before the rapture?

It is to encourage this work that Rise and Shine '99 is being convened. Uplink Ministries is delighted to have CMML host a special Missions Emphasis Day. Missionaries from around the world will be present—senior statesmen and recently commended workers will join together to encourage us all to see where we fit into the Lord's great agenda in taking the gospel to the whole world.

Many foreign missionaries commended to the field in the post World War II days are now past retirement. Although many of them are like Caleb still, the next generation is ready to take up the challenge. Will you help in this work? Can you identify some in your assembly who would benefit from three days of serious Bible exposition and exposure to opportunities in the Lord's work? Would you make this conference well known in your assembly? Consider helping some financially to attend? Will you come yourself? Could you arrange a bus for your area? Will you pray for showers of blessing?

Dr. David Gooding at Missions '93 took us "back to the gospel." Mr. William MacDonald called us to commitment—to the Bible—to the assembly—to Christ. Little did we know that six years later the everlasting message would have captivated the hearts of so many to be available to spread "Heaven's Light for Earth's Night."

For the Master's sake



Brian Gunning

**Special price expires Sept. 30/99!**

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• Conference Hot Line: (616) 456-5123 • Conference Fax Line: (616) 456-5522 • E-mail: [risesshine@uplook.org](mailto:risesshine@uplook.org)

## FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Far East Broadcasting Company obtained a broadcasting license from the Cambodian government last year—after which plans went awry. However, FEBC's Doug Campbell says God has been working. "It has been frustrating as we have planned, because as equipment has been planned for and shipped to Cambodia, it has been impounded in customs. Now, the son of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, professes to have become a Christian during his stay in the United States and he has had an interest in Christian broadcasting having a presence in Cambodia. On the eleventh of July, the Prime Minister, Hun Sen, himself intervened for Far East Broadcasting.

"We believe that from the time the equipment is released until the time that station can go on the air, it will be a matter of only four days. We are reminded of the story of Esther, 'Who knows but God has put you in a place for such a time as this to save your people?'"

## ISLAM'S OUTRAGEOUS AGENDA IN SUDAN

In Sudan, the Khartoum-based Muslim government is reportedly trying to Islamicize the country by crushing the Christians in the South. Some believe that the government is pressing many people into their cause. Some POW's were Muslims from the north [captured by the SPLA], and the vast majority of them were students from the university. Many were told by the government, "If you expect to get your degree, you must first go down to the South and wage holy Jihad against the Christians there." However, instead of discouraging the Christians, the campaign has had the reverse effect. Many believers are stronger in their faith and there are pockets of spiritu-



al awakening among neighboring animists and even Muslims.

## ATTITUDE & IMAGE

Chinese student protests against NATO bombing of China's embassy in Serbia reflect not only a new attitude toward the United States and the West, but a changing view about the government in Beijing. Observers say students are more likely to support the Communist leadership than they were 10 years ago in the wake of the Tiananmen Square massacre (June 4, 1989). There are two reasons—improved economics and effective propaganda. One Chinese political scientist notes, "Most students still have only one source of information, and it shapes their image of the world.

## MORMONS WORLDWIDE

For the Mormon church, the more things change, the more they stay the same. The so-called Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints reports that it has continued its robust growth. One sociologist says the

organizations' 10 million members, living in 163 countries, will multiply to 320 million by the year 2080. In an interview with the *New York Times*, Gordon Hinckley, a leader, stated that the church is not changing its doctrine to account for the increased international membership. He stated, "I think that you'll find the same program followed, the same doctrine taught, in a congregation in Johannesburg as you would in Salt Lake City. On a given Sunday, you'll even find the same Sunday School lesson being taught across the world—though in some places the Sunday comes earlier."

Yet the church continues to be as flexible as it can in reaching non-Mormons. It now offers a website to the general public, allowing people to search for their roots. Mormons are renowned for their genealogical acumen, which comes from their belief that baptizing ancestors by proxy gives them the chance to become Mormons after they have died. The site has received tens of millions of hits since it was unveiled May 24.

## FIRST LADY'S DOUBLESPEAK



Hillary Clinton

Campaigning for the U. S. Senate in New York, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton assured Jewish leaders that she considers Jerusalem "the eternal and indivisible capital" of Israel.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has declared his intention to establish an independent state on the West Bank and in Gaza, with its capital in Jerusalem. Hillary Clinton has voiced support for a Palestinian state, which could alienate some of New York's Jewish voters.

# News from Northfield

*The weather was fine.  
Wish you were there.*

**T**he farmer's field where the Northfield tent is pitched just outside the pretty seacoast town of Newcastle, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, is a parable in itself. Once a peat bog that nobody wanted, it was reclaimed and made useful by local Christians who believe that God can salvage and remake lives just like that. They could take as their theme the Psalmist's testimony: *"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"* (40:2). In conversation with me, Austen Alexander, who owns the field, said with a smile, "I get my best crop from this field."

Long before the tent is raised by a crew of 40 local believers, the work is well in progress. Months of prayer are invested at local assemblies and by friends around the world. Then as the time draws near (each year the meetings are held for two weeks beginning with the July 12 weekend) articles and ads are placed in local papers; posters are installed in shops; signs are placed strategically around the area; every home in a five-town area is visited with a personal invita-



**The Newcastle waterfront where the evening open-air were held.**

tion; friends, relatives, and acquaintances are pressed to come.


Being a resort town, hundreds throng to Newcastle for this two-week holiday period. As well, Christians from other areas of the North and South of Ireland, and elsewhere, are encouraged to stay in the area at hotels, B&Bs, or to pitch a tent or park a caravan (travel trailer) on the same field, where restrooms and showers have been installed.

A ministry meeting is held each morning of the first week from 11:00-12:00. The second week mornings had some sessions for young people. Also each morning and afternoon children's meetings were held in two area trailer parks with Colin Sheldon (Dublin, Eire) giving the talks. He was assisted by a Gospel Literature Outreach (GLO) team under the direction of John Speirs (Motherwell, Scotland). Brother Speirs also assisted each night with the gospel meeting (preaching the last four nights) and in the open-air times at the promenade when weather allowed. The GLO team also did

visitation in the area. One day, the tent was filled with disabled, for singing, gospel, and afternoon tea.

A prayer tent (see lower photo, center of picture) was also reared where 50-80 believers met each night for close to an hour to pray before the gospel was preached. That tent, equipped with close-circuit TV, was also used for overflow when the 1000-seater was too small.

Who can tell the results of two weeks of concerted effort like that? With 800-1200+ each night and scores of unsaved, only heaven will tell the full story. We do know of four who asked for baptism (19 were baptized last year), some were restored (one woman after 40 years!) and nine (including three children) professed to be saved.

How serious is prayer when we see people getting saved! How great is our joy when we rejoice with heaven over sinners repenting! What fellowship is like *"fellowship in the gospel"* (Phil. 1:5)! Let us pray that we see an outbreak of such gospel vision all across our land! 



**A view of the field, the tents, and hundreds of cars. Twelve hundred filled the tents this evening.**

# MAP 1 from the LIFE of CHRIST

## DISTANCES and REGIONS

MAP 1  
KEY:



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### REGIONS

Placenames

Notes

Physical Features

Distances

MOUNTAINS

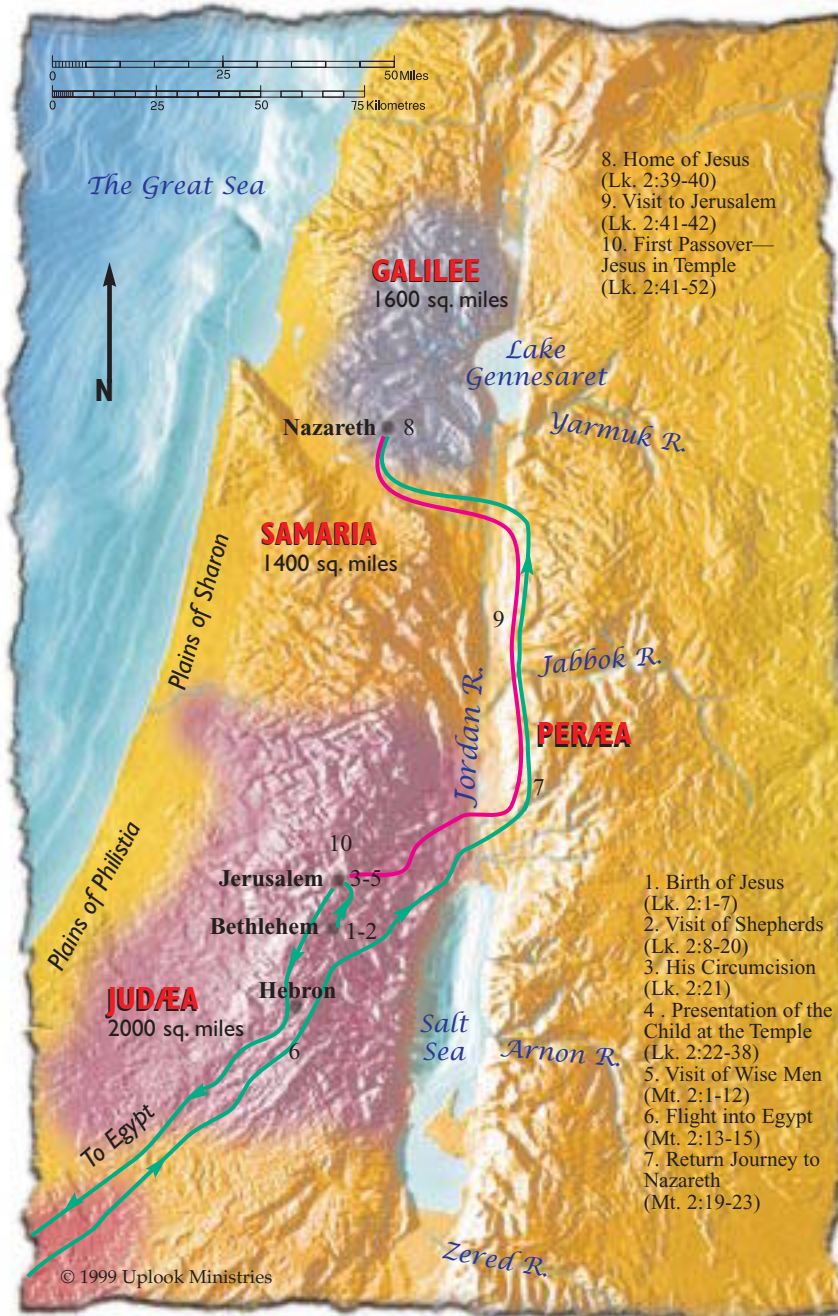
Bodies of Water

1

# MAP 2 from the LIFE of CHRIST

## His BIRTH and HOME (5 B.C. to 27 A.D.)

MAP 2  
KEY:



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### REGIONS

Placenames

Notes & Movements

Significant Locations

Bodies of Water

Movement from 4 B.C.

Movement from 1 A.D. to 27 A.D.

2

# MAP 3 from the LIFE of CHRIST His JUDÆAN MINISTRY (27 A.D.)



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## REGIONS

### Placenames

### Notes & Movements

### Physical Features

### MOUNTAINS

### Bodies of Water

### Movements in Spring Months

### Movements in Summer Months

### Movements in Winter Months

3

# MAP 4 from the LIFE of CHRIST His GALILEAN MINISTRY (28 A.D.)



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## REGIONS

### Placenames

### Notes & Movements

### Physical Features

### MOUNTAINS

### Bodies of Water

### Movements in Spring

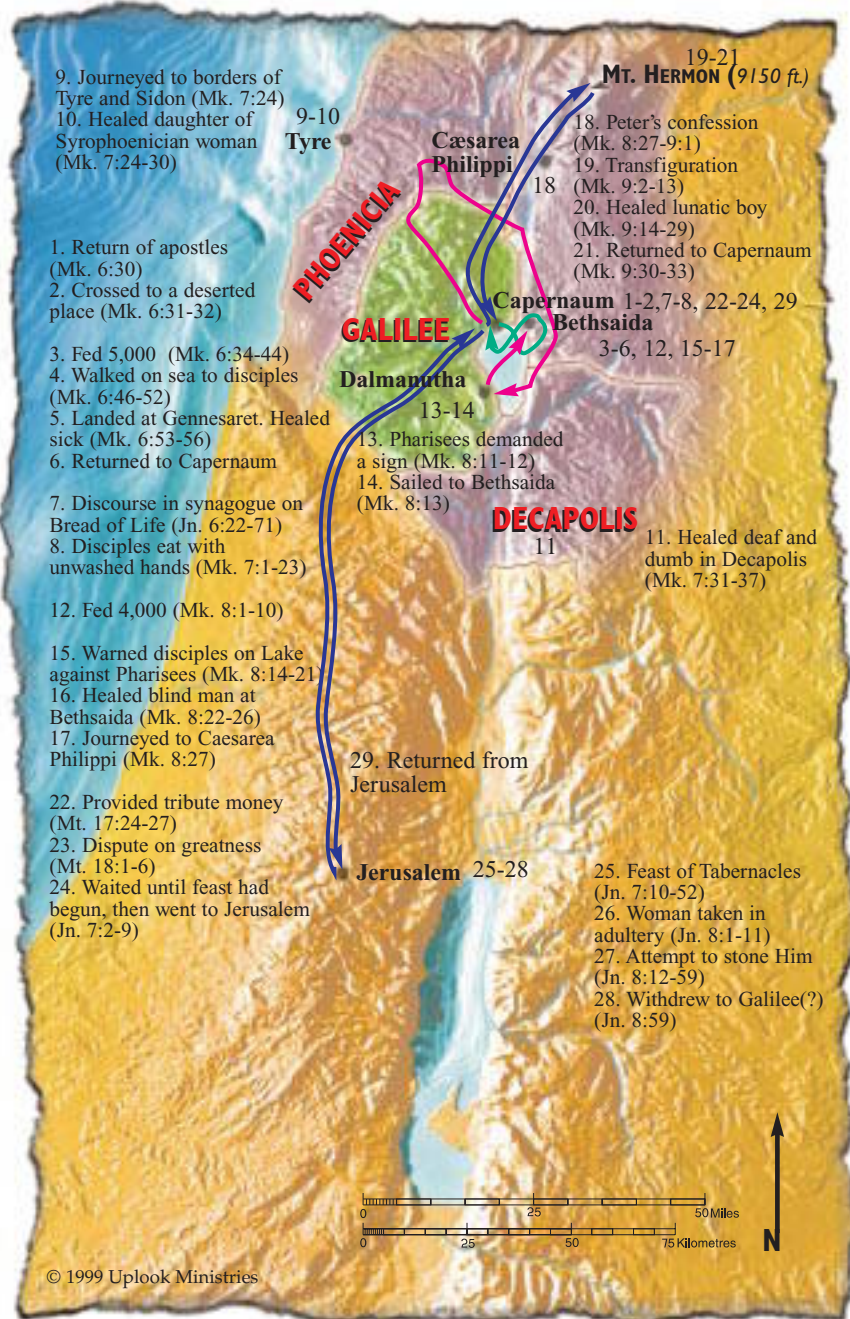
### Movements in Summer

### Movements in Autumn

### Movements in Winter

4

## MAP 5 from the LIFE of CHRIST His GALILEAN MINISTRY (29 A.D.)



## REGIONS

## Placenames

## Notes & Movements

### Physical Features

## MOUNTAINS

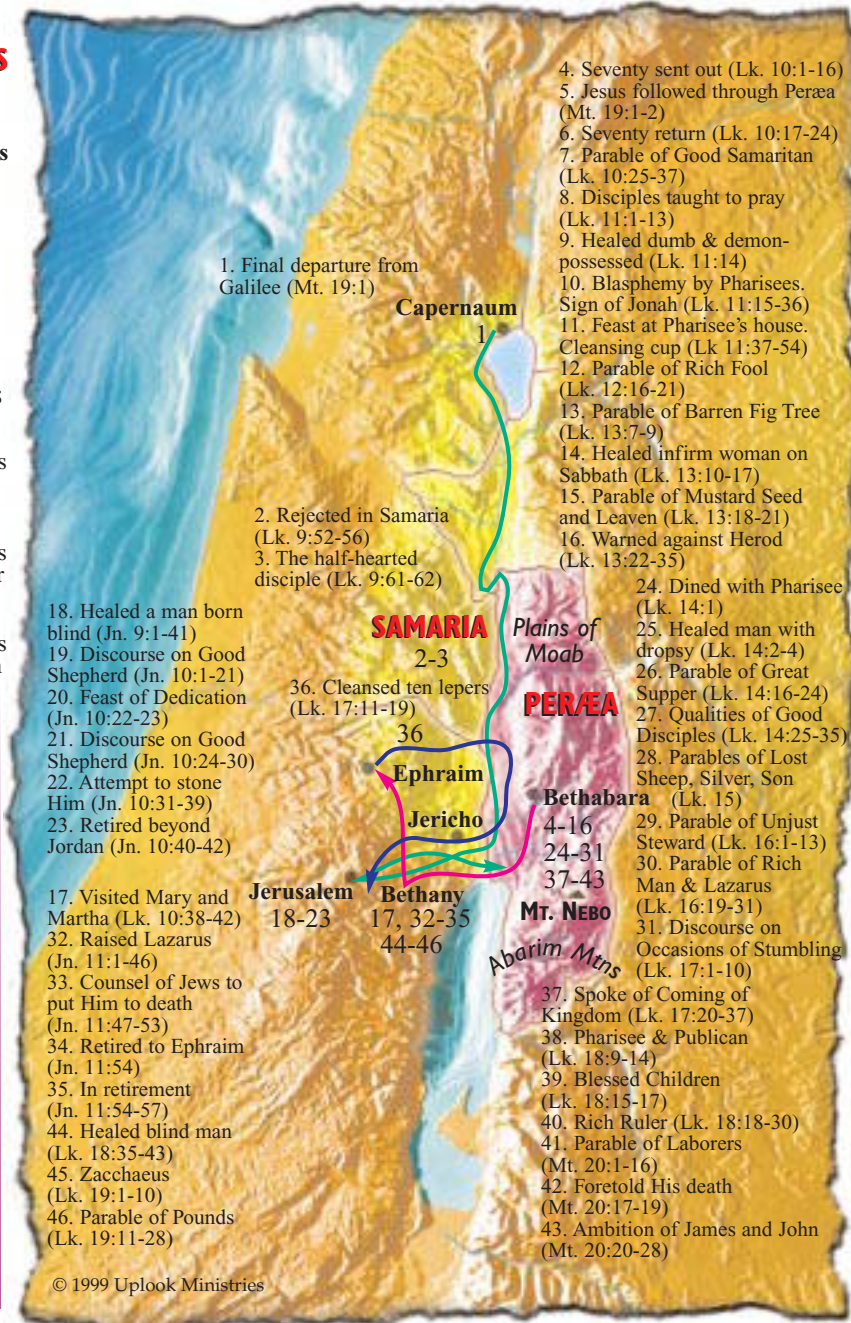
 Movements  
in Spring

## ← Movements in Summer

## Movements in Autumn

5

## MAP 6 from the LIFE of CHRIST His PERÆAN MINISTRY (29-30 A.D.)



## REGIONS

## Placenames

Notes &amp; Movements

### Physical Features

## MOUNTAINS

← Movements

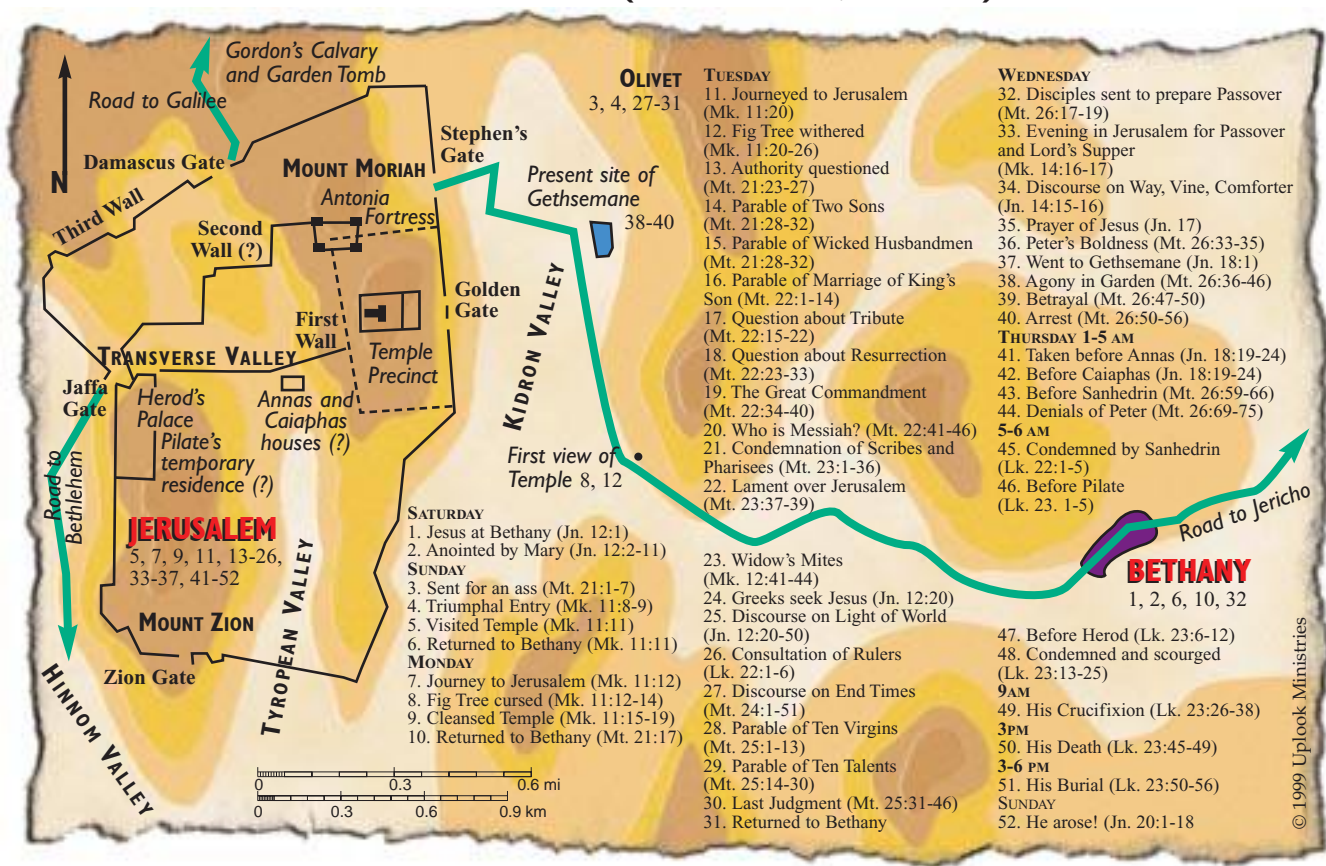
(winter)

In Stage 2  
(Winter)

**Movements  
in Stage 3  
(Winter)**

4

MAP 7 from the LIFE of CHRIST  
The PASSION WEEK (Nisan 10-16, 30 A.D.)



MAP 7 KEY:

CITIES

Important Places

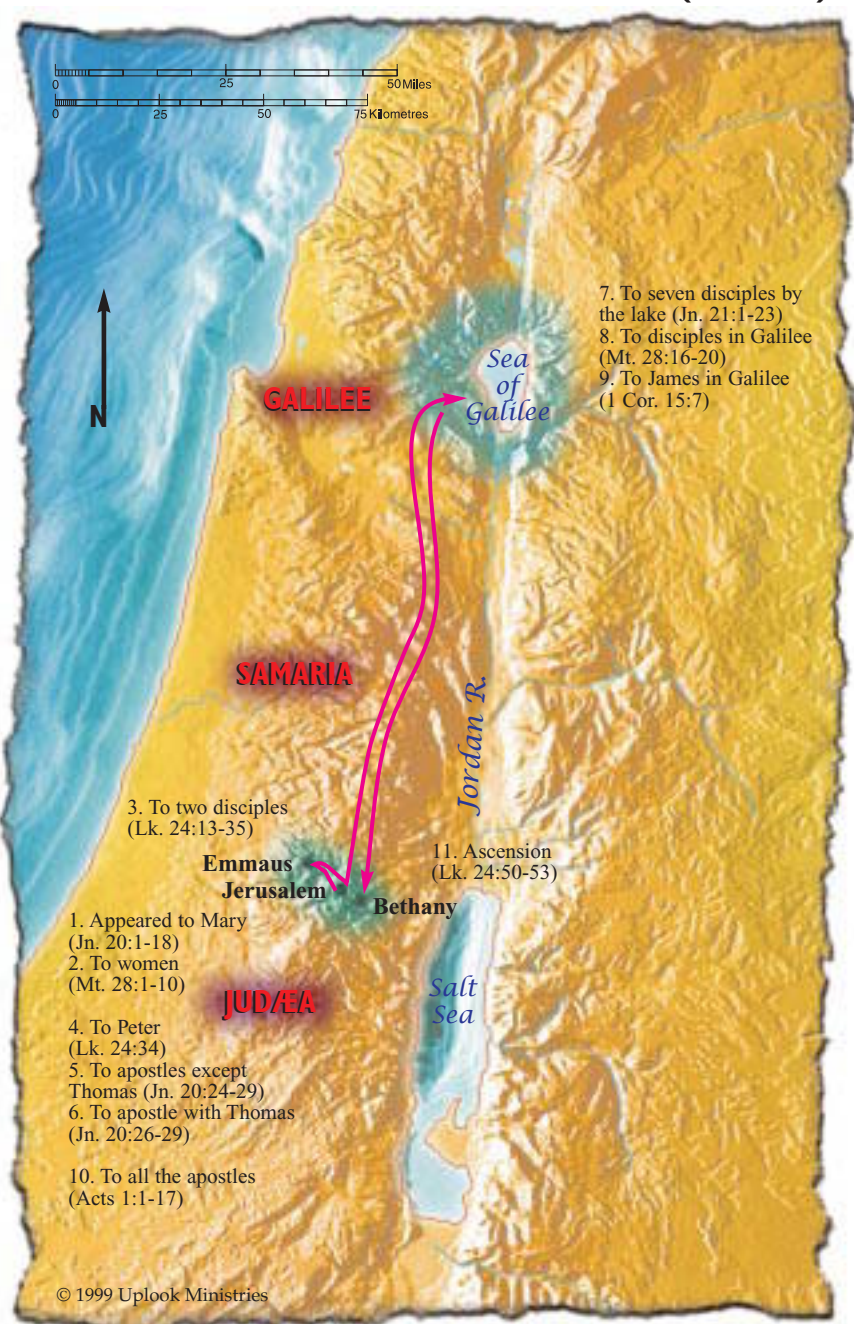
Gates & Walls

Mountains & Valleys

Notes & Movements

Major Travel Routes

MAP 8 from the LIFE of CHRIST  
RESURRECTION & ASCENSION (30 A.D.)



MAP 8  
KEY:

REGIONS

Placenames

Notes & Movements

Bodies of Water

Movement after resurrection

# The parables of Christ

*Earthly stories with a heavenly meaning, parables were designed at the same time to reveal the truth to honest seekers and hide it from merely curious gawkers.*




**The Good Samaritan Arriving at the Inn**  
by Gustave Doré

PARABLE	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
Temple reared in three days (Jn. 2:18-21)			
Physician, heal thyself			4:23-30
Fasting during Bridegrooms presence	9:14, 15	2:18-20	5:33-35
New cloth and old garment	9:16	2:21	5:36
New wine in old bottles	9:17	2:22	5:37-39
Blind leading the blind			6:39
The mote and the beam	7:3-5		6:41, 42
House on rock and sand	7:24-27		6:48, 49
Tree and its fruits			6:43-45
Children in the market place	11:16-19		7:31-35
The two debtors			7:40-48
Concerning kingdom of Satan	12:25-30	3:23-27	
The unclean spirit	12:43-45		
The sower and the seed	13:3-23	4:3-25	8:5-15
Lighted candle	5:15-16	4:21	8:16; 11:33-36
Seed's growth and the kingdom of heaven		4:26-29	
Tares	13:24-30, 36-43		
Mustard Seed	13:31, 32	4:30-32	
Mustard Seed (repeated)			13:19
Leaven	13:33		
Leaven (repeated)			13:21

## THE PARABLES OF CHRIST

PARABLE	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
Many parables	13:34-35	4:33	
Hid treasure	13:44		
Pearl of great price	13:45-46		
Parable of the net	13:47-50		
Parable of the householder	13:51-52		
Blind leading the blind	15:10-15		
Unmerciful servant	18:23-35		
The Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:1-17)			
Man taking a far journey		13:34-37	
The good Samaritan			10:25-37
The importunate friend			11:1-13
The rich fool			12:16-21
The waiting servant			12:37-40
The wise steward			12:42-44
Cloud and wind			12:54-57
The barren fig tree			13:6-9
Chief seats at the feasts			14:7-11
The great supper			14:16-24
Counting the cost before building			14:27-30
Counting the cost before going to war			14:31-34
Assessing the savor of salt			14:34, 35
The lost sheep	18:12-14		15:2-7
The lost coin			15:8-10
The lost sons*			15:11-32
The unjust steward			16:1-13
The rich man and Lazarus*			16:19-31
The unprofitable servants			17:7-10
The importunate widow			18:1-8
The Pharisee and publican*			18:9-14
Laborers in the vineyard	20:1-16		
Parable of the pounds			19:11-28
Bread of Life (Jn. 6:47-58)			
Vine and branches (Jn. 15:1-5)			
The two sons	21:28-32		
The wicked husbandmen	21:33-42	12:1-9	20:9-16
Marriage feast and the son	22:1-14		
The fig tree	24:32-36	13:28-32	21:29-35
The master and the thief	24:43-44		
The wise and the evil servant	24:45-51		
The ten virgins	25:1-13		
The talents	25:14-30		
The sheep and the goats	25:31-36		

\* These stories are probably true accounts but are parabolic in their teaching nonetheless.

 **ur Lord...gives a very complete picture of His own character and work in the parables....He is not only the humble Sower, the patient Shepherd, the eager Seeker for goodly pearls or treasure, but He is the Master, the Judge, the King. The people knew Him as one born in an stable, but He revealed His noble birth; they knew His poverty, He told of His wealth; they saw**

**His sorrow, He looked forward to the joy; they despised and rejected Him, but He showed that He was to be their Judge. We need to ponder prayerfully these marvellous unfoldings of Himself, and the more we do so the more shall we be able to discern the ever-fresh beauties that lie hidden in these seemingly simple stories.**

—*The Study of the Parables* by A. R. Habershon

- **MIRACLE:** The supernatural act
- **WONDER:** The effect on observers
- **SIGN:** The spiritual lesson derived

# Miracles of Christ

MIRACLE	PLACE	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
Turning water into wine (Jn. 2:1-11)	Cana			
Nobleman's son healed (Jn. 4:46-54)				
Miracles of disappearance (Jn. 8:59)	Nazareth			4:30
Lame man healed (Jn. 5:1-9)	Jerusalem			
Miraculous draught of fishes (when disciples were recalled)	Sea of Galilee			5:4-11
Peter's wife's mother healed	Capernaum	8:14-17	1:29-31	4:38-39
Man with unclean spirit healed	Capernaum		1:21-26	4:31-37
Healing of a leper	Gennesaret	8:2-4	1:40-44	5:12-15
Paralytic let down through roof	Capernaum	9:2	2:3-12	5:18-26
Man with withered hand healed	Capernaum	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11
Healing of centurion's servant	Capernaum	8:5-13		7:1-10
Widow's son healed	Nain			7:11-15
Many healed in presence of delegation from John				7:21
Stilling the storm	Sea of Galilee	8:24-26	4:37-39	8:22-24
Demoniacs healed	Gadara	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39
Blind and dumb demoniac healed	Galilee	12:22		11:14
Christ raised daughter of Jairus	Capernaum	9:18-19, 23-26	5:22-24, 35-43	8:41-42, 49-56
Woman with issue of blood healed	Gennesaret	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:43-48
Two blind men healed	Capernaum	9:27-31		
Dumb demoniac healed	Capernaum	9:32-34		
Feeding of 5000+ (Jn. 6:1-14)	Mountainside	14:13-22	6:34-44	9:11-17
Christ walking on the sea (Jn. 6:19)	Sea of Galilee	14:24-27	6:48-50	
Peter saved from sinking	Sea of Galilee	14:28-31		
Tempest stilled	Sea of Galilee	14:32	6:51	
Ship to its destination (Jn. 6:21)	Sea of Galilee			
Daughter of Syrophenician healed	Tyre	15:21-28	7:24-30	

## THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST

MIRACLE	PLACE	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
Deaf and dumb man healed	Decapolis	15:29-31	7:31-37	
Feeding of 4000+	E. of the Galilee	15:32-39	8:1-9	
Blind man healed	near Bethsaida		8:22-26	
Healing of demoniac child	near Mt. Hermon?	17:14-21	9:20-27	9:37-43
Miracle of tribute money	Capernaum	17:24-27		
Miracle of man born blind (Jn. 9:1-7)	Jerusalem			
Healing of infirm woman	Jerusalem			13:11-13
Man healed of dropsy	Jerusalem			14:1-6
Raising of Lazarus (Jn. 11:43-44)	Bethany			
Two lepers healed	Samaria			17:12-19
Blind Bartimaeus & another healed	Jericho	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43
Cursing the fig tree	Mt. of Olives	21:18, 19	11:12-14	
Soldiers fell backward (Jn. 18:6)	Gethsemane			
Restoring ear to Malchus	Gethsemane			22:50-51
Raising His own body (Jn. 2:19; 10:18)	Garden tomb			
Draught of fishes (Jn. 21:6)	Sea of Galilee			

## Miracles of Christ, not specific: Jesus “*went about doing good*” (Acts 10:38).

MIRACLE	PLACE	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
Many miracles (Jn. 2:23)	Jerusalem			
Many healed	Galilee & Syria	4:23-24		
Many healed	Galilee	9:35		
All diseased and demon-possessed were healed	Capernaum	8:16-17	1:32-34, 39	4:40-41
Multitudes healed	E. shore of Galilee	15:29-31		
Multitudes healed	Sea of Galilee		3:8-12	
Multitudes healed	Mount Hattin			6:17-19
Multitudes healed	Gennesaret	14:36	6:56	
Multitudes healed	Judea	19:2		
Few healed in His own country			6:5	
All healed who were sick				9:11

# I know my Redeemer lives

*Did Jesus really rise?*

**JONATHAN ARMSTRONG**

**I**t was after the resurrection that the eleven disciples were transformed into the powerful company that turned the world upside down. And examining the resurrection of Christ has turned hardened atheists into men of God. It is because of the resurrection that Christians have hope of redemption and resurrection. How important to the Christian faith (and to the gospel) is this unique historical event.

Yet, as one might suppose, the bodily resurrection of Jesus is not an unchallenged historical fact. Many unbelievers have diligently applied themselves in the hope of finding a secular solution to this greatest mystery of all time. However, despite the best efforts of lawyers and laymen alike, all theories which deny the bodily resurrection of Christ are found to be unsound. Several of these theories will be presented in the following paragraphs.

## **DID A DISCIPLE STEAL THE BODY?**

The first theory to serve as a substitute for the belief in a bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ was the story invented by the Jewish authorities only hours after the actual event. This theory is, of course, that the disciples stole the body of Jesus and thus managed to create a forged resurrection to substantiate their Lord's prior claims.

At first glance, this theory has a certain plausibility. After all, the disciples would have the motive to perform such an act. Seemingly, they would want to see the tomb empty



and Jesus' claims vindicated. If they could successfully steal the body, the world might be persuaded that Jesus actually was the Messiah and that they, as the original followers, were right after all. On the basis of this theory, Jesus was a fraud and His disciples thieves and cunning liars.

To examine the validity of this theory, we must work through what we do know of the resurrection. Joseph of Arimathea took custody of the body shortly after the crucifixion. He and Nicodemus performed the burial preparations (Jn. 19:38-39). Apparently, the disciples learned of the location of Jesus' body through the women who were watching this take place. Although Joseph was a disciple of the Lord's, we have no other mention of this man anywhere which might suggest a prior connection between the eleven and this silent disciple.

The Jewish authorities had received permission to have the tomb

guarded lest the disciples took the opportunity to steal the body. If the disciples had been planning to rob the tomb, this action by the Jews and Romans would have surely laid such plans to rest. Even so, if the disciples had been foolish enough to attempt this ridiculous feat, it would be inconceivable that they could do it without notice or personal harm. If anyone had been wounded, either the guards' story that they were asleep while the disciples stole the body or the disciples' story that Jesus had been resurrected would have seemed utter insanity.

Following the logic of this theory, what should be amazing is not that the guards blamed the disciples for the empty tomb, but that they were largely believed by the popular mind. Not one of the eleven disciples was killed in the supposed attempt; all of these men died at a later date.

The first claim made by the soldiers was that the disciples performed their thievery while the four-man guard were asleep. This theory can hardly be seriously considered, given one obvious fact: If the guards had been sleeping at the time of the abduction, they would not know who performed the theft.

Besides, the guards certainly would not want their superiors to know that they were sleeping while on duty. This would mean certain death for men who were asleep during what would later be known as the single most important watch in history (Mt. 28:12-14; Acts 12:19).

## **DID JESUS NEVER REALLY DIE?**

The second most prominent theo-

ry regarding the resurrection of Christ is known as the Swoon Theory. This supposes that Jesus in fact never died, that He only temporarily swooned and was revived while lying in the tomb. It is proposed that soon after He came back to consciousness, He went to His disciples. His followers were astonished to see their Lord and began to proclaim that Jesus was the only Saviour of the world.

As with the first theory, while this idea provides a possible explanation for some of the events recorded, it is so inadequate in other essential areas as to effectively discredit itself.

It is rather naïve to think that Jesus could have survived the crucifixion in the first place. It is true that some victims of this most cruel form of Roman capital punishment were still alive after three days of pain. However, Jesus was also flogged, abused by an angry mob, and run through the heart with a spear—all in addition to the typical crucifixion.

The theory proposes that Jesus was revived on account of the cool air in the tomb. However, these cool, possibly damp conditions provide a very poor atmosphere for resuscitation. Ideally warm, dry surroundings would provide the best chances for a nearly dead man to revive. In all likelihood, the chilled stone of a first century sepulcher would have only aided the extinguishing of any life left in this horribly tortured man.

Even so, if Jesus could have survived until the third day with no medical treatment (four days without food or water) while breathing under one hundred pounds of funeral wrapping and spices, it is highly unlikely that an almost dead man could escape His burial clothes (Jn. 19:39b). After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He ordered that those present free the newly resuscitated man. It is almost sure that Jesus had a more extravagant burial and therefore would have had a more difficult time escaping His own burial wrappings.

Then the stone must be rolled away, a stone which three working women knew they could not dislodge from the outside! In His severely weakened condition, He would have to roll it away from the inside.

The soldiers were waiting outside to guard against any intruder. It is absolutely absurd to think that Jesus, granted His condition, could have fought off the quaterion of soldiers barehanded. Even if Jesus had only swooned, what good would it do Him? If He didn't suffocate after three days of agony on cold stone under an enormous weight of costly burial wrappings, He couldn't possibly have rolled the stone door away or escaped the guards.

### DID EVERYONE GO TO THE WRONG TOMB?


The third theory, and the last to be considered here, is

known as the Wrong Tomb Theory. It has been proposed that out of the hundreds of tombs dotting the hillsides, the faithful women, weeping and overcome with grief, lost their way and went to the wrong tomb. Jesus is thought to have lain dead for the past two thousand years in an inconspicuous tomb, still unidentified and probably at this point unidentifiable. Although this theory may sound plausible to the modern mind, it was never even considered by the ancients.

Not only would the women have to been misled by going to the wrong location, the disciples must have gone to the wrong tomb as well. And the soldiers, were they at the wrong tomb for guard duty as well? And any curious Jews? Even if everyone else could have been confused over the true location of the tomb in which Jesus was buried, there is one individual who could not have possibly been mistaken. Joseph of Arimathea would not have been bewildered over the identification of his own private tomb. And, had there been any such difficulty, the authorities could have questioned Joseph or his neighbors regarding his property.

However, this theory is shown to be in further error when we consider the likelihood that the Roman authorities had placed the seal of their sovereign on a tomb that did not contain their charge.

Finally, had everything been a scandal, even just one denial from any of the disciples would have been sufficient to destroy the entire network of lies. All eleven men died very undesirable deaths, the least of which was a life sentence on a solitary island which served more or less as a prison. Under torture, had just one of these men released the truth, the church would have immediately collapsed. History is filled with death-bed confessions that clear up incredible mysteries, but there is no such answer to the resurrection of Christ.

After examining the various evidence, we can draw only one conclusion. Jesus actually came back from the dead by resurrection. At first it may seem too incredible to be true. But, it is the perfect conclusion to a sinless life filled with amazing demonstrations of divine power and the highest moral teaching. It may seem fantastic to believe that Jesus was bodily resurrected, but it is even more fantastic to believe that His disciples stole His body, or that He only fainted, or that everyone went to the wrong tomb. This most remarkable event in history provides unbelievers a proof of the gospel and gives Christians the joy to celebrate His victory over death and His power to live life as He intended. *"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Cor. 15:55-57). 

# The Firstborn

*As with Abel, Isaac, and Jacob, the one born first was not always the firstborn. There is a richer meaning.*

JOHN BOYD

**T**he term “firstborn” is used three times of the Lord Jesus Christ in relation to others: the Firstborn of every creature (Col. 1:15); the Firstborn from the dead (Col. 1:18); the Firstborn among many brethren (Rom. 8:29).

An excellent definition of firstborn is found in Genesis 49:33. Jacob, in his last message to his sons, refers to his eldest son, Reuben, as “my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength; the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power.” Thus it would seem that at least three things are implied in the scriptural use of the word: priority in

time, in dignity, and in power. Let us see how these priorities are exemplified in the three relationships mentioned above.

## THE FIRSTBORN OF EVERY CREATURE

The Lord’s threefold priority as “Firstborn of every creature” (or, as the RV, “of all creation”) is seen in the three prepositions the Revisers use concerning Him in Colossians 2:16. He is the prototype, God’s ideal, the One whose uncreated glory is manifested in the glory of creation.

1. The Lord was before all, for in Him, as architect, were all things created. His was the mind that conceived the great plan of the universe. He was the “I AM” before “the earth

was...when there were no depths...when there were no fountains abounding with water...before the mountains were settled” (Prov. 8:23-25).

2. The Son of God had a dignity greater than all created beings, for all were created *unto Him*, that is, for His glory. Even the seraphim, the highest of His creatures, veiled their faces in His presence; they spoke of His holiness high over all; they confessed that “the fullness of the whole earth is His glory” (Isa. 6:3).

3. The Lord was preeminent in power with regard to creation, as *through Him* all things were created.

Man today may boast of launching satellites into space, but what puny efforts they are compared with creating worlds, and suns, and constellations, and nebulae. Not only did the Lord make all these by His power, but by that same power He keeps each in its respective orbit. What a mighty Creator!

## THE FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD

As “Firstborn from the dead” the Lord was the first to rise, no more to die. This the Lord had indicated was the criterion of true resurrection (Lk. 20:36). Jairus’ daughter, the son of the widow of Nain, and Lazarus were raised from the dead, but they returned to their graves, to await the quickening shout when the Lord comes back to meet His loved ones in the air.

Christ is also described as the “Firstfruits” of the resurrection, as preceding all others (1 Cor. 15:23). After His resurrection, the Lord was set at God’s right hand in the heavenly places, far above all the angelic ranks, with all things under His feet—the place of supreme dignity (Eph. 1:20-22). He is exalted and extolled, and is very high (Isa. 52:13). The power that raised Christ from the dead Paul describes as exceeding great, the working of the strength of the might of God (Eph. 1:19, RV). Note the ascending climax as Paul heaps up words in an attempt to express a power so mighty that his mind cannot comprehend it.

## THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN

In the title “Firstborn among many brethren” we see the Lord Jesus Christ fulfilling a great plan that God conceived in ages past. God



## THE FIRSTBORN


had found perfect pleasure in His Son from all eternity. He wished to have “many sons” like Christ, to enjoy with Him eternal bliss. To this end the earth was made, and man placed upon it. The Son of God took on Himself manhood to die man’s death. He provided a means whereby man, who had become estranged from God, might be reconciled and be fitted to share His throne.

Of this elect band, whom the Lord calls “brethren” (Heb. 2:11) He is the first. His incarnation and death made possible this brotherhood. He is called “the Author of their salvation,” lit., the File-leader, the One who goes first, leading many sons to glory (Heb. 2:10). This word “Author” is again used of the Lord in Hebrews 12:2, there pointing Him out as the File-leader whose faith we should seek to emulate.

The dignity of the Son of God is such that the Father desires that we, the sons of God, should be conformed to His image. He is set before us as the great example, “Till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a full-grown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13, RV). While He is pleased to call us brethren, it is better that we should not call Him our “elder Brother.” His dignity is such as to place Him far above us. Let us never forget to acknowledge His Lordship.

His priority of power is seen in His conquest of Satan, who had the power of death, and who kept the children all their lifetime subject to bondage. But the Lord, through His death, has wrought a mighty deliverance.

His power is also manifest in our weaknesses. As to Paul, so He says to us, “My power is made perfect in weakness.” May we with all our hearts reply, “Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Cor. 12:9). As His brethren, we follow Him; we worship Him; we can do all things through Him that strengthens us.

In our thinking, then, let us not give the Lord merely a place with others, nor even prominence, but pre-eminence in all things. This is His by right, and it is “the good pleasure of the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell” (Col. 1:19, RV). 

*Join all the glorious names  
Of wisdom, love, and power,  
That mortals ever knew,  
That angels ever bore:  
All are too mean to speak His worth,  
Too mean to set my Saviour forth.*



## AT MY DOOR

*“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:  
if any man hear My voice, and open the  
door, I will come in to him, and will sup  
with him, and he with Me” (Rev. 3:20).*

*What love, Oh Lord is at my door,  
As by Thy side I stand,  
Can human need the gift ignore,  
Or shun Thy piercé hand?*

*No! while I raise my languid eyes,  
And view that light in Thine,  
I see against those star-lit skies  
A countenance divine.*

*Oh sacred brow that bled for me,  
Beneath the platted thorn,  
Oh sinless One who wept to see  
The troubled sisters mourn.*

*Lord, even in my coldest mood,  
And in this worldly place,  
May my belated gratitude  
Reflect Thy boundless grace.*

—T. TODD

# THE MOST LOVELY LIFE

*Beauty in the eye of the believer*

A SONG OF MY BELOVED

He is our Life—we cannot die.  
He is our Peace—it must endure.  
He is our Strength—to help us nigh.  
He is our Hope—steadfast and sure.

Law finds in Him its righteous end,  
Grace doth by Him unhindered shine;  
Justice and Mercy in Him blend,  
Love owns Him as its source divine.

The erring one He fondly seeks,  
The penitent He doth restore;  
To weary hearts He fitly speaks,  
To grace received He addeth more.

He gilds with hope the tear of grief,  
He maketh death but sweet repose;  
He gives the spirit sweet relief,  
The weary rest from earthly woes.

The chiefest my Beloved is,  
The fairest One among the fair!  
And He is mine and I am His—  
He, my great portion—I His care.

—William Blane

**T**he Sermon on the Mount is Christ's biography. Every syllable He spoke had already been written down in deeds. The sermon merely translated His life into language.

—Thomas Wright

**Do you think it was self-denial for the Lord to come down from heaven to rescue a world: was it self-denial? No, it was love—love that swallows up everything, and first of all self.**

—N. von Zinzendorf

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

**John 1:1, 14**

**L**eonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper," has been called the most perfect composition in the history of painting. Even the cup used was perfect, an ornate golden vessel richly set with jewels. When he completed the picture, it is said that he admitted a few friends to see it. "What a wonderful cup!" they exclaimed, "Such a cup was never painted before!" The artist immediately splashed some dark color over the glittering chalice and made it look ordinary and of little worth. Christ, not the cup, must be the central object of his great work. In all things, He must be pre-eminent.

**And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.**

**1 Timothy 3:16**

**H**e was the Son of God, moving out to man. He was the heart of God, throbbing out to man. He was the voice of God calling out to man. He was the hand of God, strong and tender, reaching out to man. He was the person of God, wearing human attire and living in a humble carpenter shop. All this that He might find man and take him back to God.

—Moore

*What grace, O Lord, and beauty shone around Thy steps below!  
What patient love was seen in all Thy life and death of woe!  
For ever on Thy burdened heart a weight of sorrow hung;  
Yet no ungentle, murmuring word escaped Thy silent tongue.  
Thy foes might hate, despise, revile; Thy friends unfaithful prove;  
Unwearied in forgiveness still, Thy heart could only love.  
O give us hearts to love like Thee, like Thee, O Lord, to grieve  
Far more for others' sins than all the wrongs that we receive.  
One with Thyself, may every eye in us Thy gentle brethren see,  
That gentleness and grace that spring from union, Lord with Thee.*

**He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.**

**Isaiah 53:3**

# Consider the lilies

*Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these!*

JOHN LANDIS

**T**he common day lily grows prolifically along country roads and highways, as well as in many of our gardens in the northeastern region of the United States. I suspect its growing range may go far beyond that, for this plant is so very hardy, it seems to grow easily most anywhere. We call it “common” because of its wide spread range, as well as its ability to produce such a profusion of blossoms. In reality it is anything but common, rather another evidence of our Creator God’s breathtaking handiwork and matchless design.

I don’t know if our day lily<sup>1</sup> is the same as the “*lily of the field*” referred to by our Lord Jesus in Matthew 6:28-31 and Luke 12:22-27. If not, it would seem to surely be a similar one, because our familiar day lily fits so perfectly two of the characteristics of the lily our Lord referred to. First, our brilliant orange day lily is certainly a spectacular burst of bright vivid color, beautifully shaped with petals rolling open in six directions, always positioned so regally high on its stem, well above the bowing leaves below. It truly presents a majestic display for all to see. Secondly, the lovely blossom is very short lived—just one day, then it’s gone.

In our home garden we grow day lilies for several reasons. They are



**Yes, here is another flower painting from the brush of John Landis, an elder in the Lansdowne assembly in metro Philadelphia. The last one, with lilacs, was reproduced in our January 1998 issue.**

easy to grow, requiring minimal care. They are perennial, that is, they come up from the same roots year after year, well able to survive the cold, frosty ground of winter. They also grow to a fine tall height of about four feet or more, creating a good background for the shorter flowering plants at the front edge of our garden. They stand alone unsupported, needing no stakes and the work of tying them up. Lastly, we just thoroughly enjoy them, never ceasing to marvel at their glorious display every year through June and part of July.

The day lily comes by its name with good reason. Each bloom lasts

about twelve hours or one period of daylight. Each plant sends up a strong stem, with every stem producing a series of buds. Just this year I’ve counted as many as fourteen buds on one stem, all near the top of

the stem. Each of these opens one at a time, more or less on a one-blossom-a-day schedule, until the last one has had its turn bursting into bloom. Each one has its day in the sun, beginning as the sun rises in the morning. Just as surely when the sun later sinks beyond the western horizon, that blossom so dazzlingly bright and beautiful in the morning and throughout the daylight hours, now wilts into a shriveled mass. Soon it dries up, then falls to the earth from whence it came. True, the next bud on the stem opens in its turn to the sun’s call next morning for its day of grandeur; however, it

will also pass away at God's appointed time.

While working on this oil painting, I've observed these flowers always have six petals—like the number of man, and how like man this flower is with such a short life span in comparison to eternity. It is created by God in such perfection—but it too, like man's fall into sin, has a germ of decay within, which at the end of its day causes it to perish.


Now the verses in Matthew 6 and Luke 12 are very instructive to us, for how many times do we find ourselves fretting and chafing over details of life, such as clothing, food or shelter. Here the Lord reminds His disciples that the lilies of the field are not encumbered with the concerns of toiling and spinning. "*Yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*" Can you just imagine how King Solomon when dressed in all his finery must have appeared? Listen now as Christ gives us His insight. Solomon's most lavish splendor never compared with that of this lily of the field. For Solomon's glory was hung up in the closet at night, but the flower's glory is intrinsic to it.

The Lord reminds us, that if God clothes the grass of the field which is here today and becomes fuel for the oven tomorrow, how much more will He clothe you, oh you of little faith.

These verses certainly are not teaching in any sense that God's people have a loophole through which to shirk responsibilities nor to avoid laboring to meet the needs of life. Far from such thoughts, rather we are to have implicit faith and complete trust in God our Father who—knowing our needs—provides for us. This may well be

accomplished by His providing employment through which we then have the means to purchase needed food, clothing, and shelter. The Lord's provisions are new every day and His methods are limitless.

Did not the same God lead His people through the wilderness for forty years—yet their clothing and sandals never wore out? Was it not our same God who provided manna in the wilderness, always enough for the day at hand, always sufficient for the whole host of Israel? Did not our same God feed His servant Elijah, using ravens to fly food to him morning and evening? Was our Lord not able to borrow from a lad five loaves and two fish, then dividing them to feed thousands to their satisfaction? Can't you just see the excited boy joyfully telling his parents the story? Our same Lord Jesus Christ changed ordinary water into the finest wine the wedding guests had ever tasted. Is He not still abundantly able to provide for our needs today? Yes, even through Y2K? We would do well to ask ourselves, Is there reason for Him today to repeat, "*Oh you of little faith*"?

Remember, dear friend, and ponder the deep and loving lesson of the lily of the field. 

### ENDNOTE

1 The word for lily is *shushan*, *shoshannah*, a generic term for a number of flowers: lilies, irises, anemones, etc., similar to the Arabic *susan*. The design of the lily was part of the ornamentation of Solomon's temple. Four psalms (45, 60, 69, 80) bear the title *Shoshannim* (*eduth*) or *shushan-eduth*, "lily (lilies) of testimony." —*ed.*

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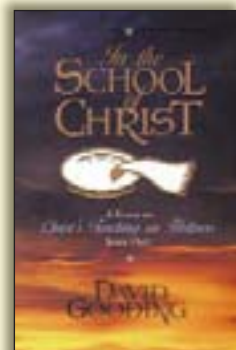
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# The SECRET of the BROKEN BOX



Ruth Gibbs Zwall

The scent of precious ointment—how it lingered  
Long after all the guests had gone away;  
And Mary's hands, how sweet since she had touched it,  
The alabaster box she brought that day.

It filled the empty room with love's anointing,  
Reached to the neighbors on the busy street,  
And ministered in many deeds of kindness  
To friends and strangers whom she chanced to meet.

In every task she found the fragrance with her,  
The pitcher that she carried bore the scent;  
The coins exchanged for food within the market—  
She took the blessing everywhere she went.

The box, unbroken, could have kept its treasure,  
And pleased each unsuspecting dinner guest;  
But Mary broke the box, and in the breaking  
Her Lord and all beside were richly blest.