

**Monday, 4 March 2019** Revelation 17:1-3

*Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk." And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.*

There are two dominant thoughts that jump out at me in this passage. The first is that I can be in the Spirit and receive a revelation of great wickedness. There was this notion that the Spirit would only lead me into those things which are holy and precious to the LORD, God, the Almighty. No, many times His mission is to warn me of impending doom, of a situation that is very offensive to the LORD.

The other is that the situation facing the Church at this very moment is that the culture in which we exist today is drunk on the wine of sexual immorality. One of the leading signs is glee that has met with the passage of laws in several states legalizing the murder of the unborn at any point from conception to post delivery. May the LORD, God, the Almighty lead His people to cry out, murder, murder most foul.

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**Tuesday, 5 March 2019** Revelation 21:10-11

*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a rarest jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.*

But the Holy Spirit is not Poe's Raven, continually warning of woes to come, but is the voice of the Godhead, laying out the beauties of what is to come. I need to put myself alongside John, watching the holy city descending from the heavens, a physical display of the glory of the LORD, God, the Almighty. Once again, human language is utterly incapable of describing the sheer beauty and magnificence of this event. "A most rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal" will be a total failure when I see the coming of the holy city; utterly breathtaking, overwhelmingly beautiful; human words will fail, but the words of the Spirit will suffice.

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**Wednesday, 6 March 2019** Revelation 22:14-21

*Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The*

*Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come: let the one who desires take the water of life without price. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.*

This is the end of the story, the final words of the Word of God; ending with an invitation and a warning. The call is from God, the Son, God, the Spirit, and the Bride of Christ, issued to all who are outside the City of God. One word, unified invitation, "Come!"

The warning comes from the Spirit that this book, the Word of God is complete. Like the insertion of the last piece of a jigsaw puzzle, there is an audible click. Could it be that anyone who adds or subtracts from the Word is in danger of losing his salvation? I do not want to be one who tests the validity of that supposition.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come!

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**Thursday, 7 March 2019**

The end of an approximately seven-month examination of the role of the Holy Spirit as a member of the Trinity, the Godhead, the LORD, God, the Almighty. I have learned much during this time and pray that any readers of this column have done so also. I need to go back and review all the daily devotionals to summarize my conclusions, but that will be a time-consuming process. Please pray that I will do so.

My overall conclusion is the Holy Spirit is not adequately understood and represented by those who hold an extreme and limiting view. The Holy Spirit is the member of the Trinity through whom the Godhead works to transform the Bride of Christ; He is the one who brings the Word of God and its interpretation to the people of God. Yes, He heals, I know from personal experience. Yes, He enables a wide variety of gifts as needed to advance the Kingdom of God on earth. Yes, He is the Comforter and the Helper, sent by our Lord as He promised. Hallelujah.

Also, there is not a single gift or set of gifts that identifies me as a member of the Body of Christ, or gifts whose absence is equivalent to a red REJECTED stamp on my forehead. No, the Seal of Approval is manifested by the presence of the Holy Spirit in me and His guidance of me in that transformation so completely summarized in Romans 12:2.

Tomorrow will be a resumption of the study on the Fear of the LORD.

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**Friday, 8 March 2019** 2 Kings 19:6

Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me.

I will frequently hear the argument from a professed believer that they cannot accept that the Fear of the LORD, God, the Almighty indeed includes being afraid of Him. He is a loving god, who wouldn't do anything to harm someone whom he loves. I know that there are individuals in this person's life of whom he is terrified; this person can ruin his career or home life or ... with the flick of a finger or the lifting of an eyebrow. The Creator of all things, the One who is in control of all things the one of whom the Scriptures say, "for our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:29, should not terrify me if I disobey His Word?

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**Saturday, 9 March 2019** 1 Chronicles 13:10-12

*And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he put out his hand to the ark, and he died there before God. And David was angry because the LORD had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzza to this day. And David was afraid of God that day, and he said, "How can I bring the ark of God home to me?"*

David was afraid of God and rightly so. The ark was being moved in a manner that was not the way God had defined very explicitly. Ex. 25:13-15, Num. 4:5-15 It was to be carried by Levites using the poles, not on an oxen-drawn cart. Then Uzzah committed the ultimate sin by reaching out to steady the ark. As if God needed help?

Yes, there are good and sufficient reasons to be afraid of God. I am terrified that His fury will break out against me. But I must never forget that the Cross of Christ stands between my sin and the Lord, God, the Almighty's fury.

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**Lord's Day, 10 March 2019** Psalm 119:91

*By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.*

"All things" include that annoying pop-up on my screen a few seconds ago as much as the hymn "Jesus Loves Me" is sung at the same time on the radio. All things mean all things, no more, no less. You create all things and for Your service, whether I can see that or not. My task is to ferret out the wherefore and therefore of each thing. Perhaps the annoying pop-up was to give me a quick lesson in ignoring the distracting and concentrating on the "nowness" of my relationship with You. I failed that test. Change my heart, O Lord!

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*March 4-10, 2019*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 2 Thessalonians 1:3ff**

*We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. . . .*

Thank You, LORD for the increase among the [congregation] in our love for each other and for the growth in solidarity as a community dedicated to advancing the Kingdom in the here and now.

I thank You, LORD for the example of each member and the encouragement that each is in their perseverance; in their faith; in their willingness to undergo hardship and trials for Your Name's sake. Amen

**To fear or not to fear, that is the question.**

The fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that fear.

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