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*"Teaching the things concerning the
Kingdom of God..."*

The Two Hands of God

By J. Preston Eby

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Chapter One

The Two Hands of God

There are many "hidden truths" in the Word of God that for long centuries have not been understood or known by God's people. But we find that in these days God is doing a "new thing" and unto those that are looking unto Him, He is revealing Himself as never before. In I Pet. 1:5 the apostle speaks of a "salvation ready to be revealed in the Last Time." The apostle Paul in Col. 1:26 tells of "the mystery that has been hid from ages and from generations and is now made manifest, which is, Christ in you the hope of glory." Jesus spoke to the multitudes in parables, and said, "I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world" (Mat. 13:34-35). He spoke to the multitudes in parables and they didn't understand, but then He took His disciples apart, those that He had chosen, the ones who were prepared to leave everything and follow the Lamb wheresoever He went, and to them He revealed some of the "secret things". And today, beloved, He is still revealing to those who are prepared to wait on Him, these "secret things".

There is a uniqueness in the Spirit's dealings which often defies description and is exceedingly difficult to condense into words. Yet we are constrained to share with you at least in a measure some of the things which He has quickened within us - knowing that it will bring confirmation to others who are following on to know the Lord. How marvelous are His ways! There is much in the unfolding of the life of "sonship" that is not understood by those with only a casual acquaintance with the Lord. They might know Him as Jesus, their Saviour. They might even know Him as Christ, the Anointed, and the Anointer, so that they receive of His Spirit and are anointed with the oil of gladness and the enduement of power. But far too often they would limit all this to just walking in the realm of God's blessing, yielding to Him in proportion to the gifts and good things received. But, when one follows on to truly KNOW THE LORD and be conformed to the image of the Son, he finds that it brings him to the cross - to purging, pruning, stripping, refining, discipline,

chastisement, humiliation and death! Then one has to sink deep into God for understanding.

There is a theme about which every Son must have a clear understanding if he is to walk in the Father's dealings in full assurance. It is the fact of the dual aspect of God's nature and His workings - the two sides of love - God's love. And in order to make this clear, perhaps we should share an illustration we recently heard from the lips of another, in which he described a most terrifying scene. We quote: "It was late at night in a suburban area of one of our great cities in America. A child lay restless in her bed. A man, with a very severe and stern look, stealthily entered her bedroom and softly approached her bed. The moment the little girl saw him, a terrified look came over her face, and she began to scream. Her mother rushed into the room and went over to her. And the trembling child threw her arms about her. The man withdrew to the telephone, called someone, who was evidently an accomplice, and in a very soft voice made some sort of an arrangement. Hastily the man re-entered the room, tore the child from the mother's arms, and rushed out to a waiting car. The child was sobbing, and he attempted to stifle her cries. He drove madly down street after street until he finally pulled up before a large, sinister and foreboding-looking building. All was quiet, the building was partially dark, but there was one room upstairs ablaze with light. The child was hurriedly taken inside, up to the lighted room, and put into the hands of the man with whom the conversation had been held over the telephone in the hallway. In turn, the child was handed over to another accomplice - this time a woman - and these two took her into an inner room. The man who had brought her was left outside in the hallway. Inside the room the man plunged a gleaming, sharp knife into the vitals of that little child, and she lay as if she were dead.

"Your reaction at this point may be, 'I certainly hope they will catch the criminal who abducted the little girl and is responsible for such an awful crime.' However, I have not described to you the depraved and degraded action of a debased mind. I have not taken a chapter out of the life of

the man in cell 2455, death row. I have not related to you the sordid and sadistic crime of a psychopathic criminal. On the contrary, I have described to you a tender act of love. In fact, I can think of no more sincere demonstration of love! You see, that little girl had awakened in the night with severe abdominal pain. She had been subject to such attacks. It was her father who had rushed into the room. He had talked to the specialist about it, and when he saw the suffering of the little girl, he went to the telephone, called the family physician, and arranged to meet him at the hospital. He had rushed his little girl down to the hospital and had handed her over to the family physician. The doctor had taken her to the operating room and performed emergency surgery. Through it all, every move and every act of that father was of tender love, anxious care, and wise decision. I have described to you the dark side of love - but love, nevertheless.

"The father loved the child just as much on that dark night when he took her to the hospital and delivered her to the surgeon's knife as he did the next week when he brought her flowers and candy. It was just as much a demonstration of deep affection when he delivered her into the hands of the surgeon as it was the next week when he brought her home and delivered her into the arms of her mother. My friend, love places the eternal security and permanent welfare of the object of love above any transitory or temporary comfort, or present pleasure. Love seeks the best interests of the beloved - at any cost!" -end quote.

We have met some brethren in this end-time move of the Spirit who have exaggerated the bright side of the love of God out of all proportion to its other aspects. The love of God has been presented in such a way that it is a weakness rather than a strength. It has been presented on the sunny side of the street with nothing on the other side ever mentioned. There is a "love" of God preached that sounds to me like the doting indulgence of rather senile grandparents instead of the vital and vigorous concern of a Father for the best interests of a Son. They have used the shopworn cliché" "God is love, God is love, God is love" until love has become such a one-sided, mushy, gooey, syrup-sweet thing,

and they have not told about the dark side of the love of God. They have watered love down, making it sickening rather than stimulating, causing it to slop over on every side like a sentimental feeling rather than an abiding concern for the object of love.

Let every man and woman who treasures the beautiful hope of sonship know that there is the DARK SIDE OF GOD'S LOVE! Ah, the Great Physician will put His child on the operating table. He will use the surgeon's knife when He sees a tumor of self-will or a deadly virus of carnality sapping our spiritual lives, or when He sees the cancerous growth of sin. He does not hesitate to deal with us severely. We must learn this fact early: He loves us just as much when He is subjecting us to surgery, as when He sends us blessings and gifts and brings us into the sunshine of His glory. Precious friend of mine, He loves us most when He is dealing severely with us, "for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives" (Heb. 12:6). "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that bears not fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He purges (prunes) it, that it may bring forth more fruit" (Jn. 15:1-2). We must remember that the Father reaches into your life and mine and prunes out that which is not fruit bearing - and it hurts! But, as some Puritan divine said years ago, "The husbandman is never so close to the branch as when he is trimming it." The Father is never more close to you, beloved, than when He is reaching in and taking out of your heart and life those things that hinder the development of HIS LIFE and the manifestation of HIS NATURE.

Consider now these profound words from the pen of one who has expressed some illuminating thoughts concerning love: "Know you not that hate sprang out of love? If there is no love, then neither can there be hatred, for hatred is the balance of power in a scheme where sin and death are manifest. It is said of God that He hates but it is also said that He is love. How can these two opposing statements be true? It is because HE IS LOVE that He can hate! It is not said that God IS HATRED. Nay! For if that be true, then

hatred would be His nature, in which case He would not be Jehovah Elohim, but a fiendish despot. Nevertheless, because God is love He can manifest this love in a RIGHTEOUS hatred against all evil, that it might result again in pure love." And, let me add, this righteous hatred IS the DARK SIDE OF LOVE! Another has said, "In one sense, love is the highest vibration, hatred is the lowest vibration. God, BEING ALL RIGHTEOUS, can move on the lower vibration without perversion, using His righteous hatred to turn evil once again into GOOD. But man, being unrighteous, receives love, and by absorbing it into 'self', in turn manifests a perverted love. How we need to be 'partakers of His holiness', being made ALL RIGHTEOUS, then we will not pervert that which is pure, but we will be able to take that which has been perverted and restore it to purity once again."

THE TWO HANDS OF GOD

This brings us to the thought we want to share in this message. Almost all Churches and most Christians are not aware of it, but for the most part we have made God to be a one armed or one handed Being. Of course we realize that God is spirit and has no body of material substance and consequently no arms or hands such as we have. But spirit is real, God is real, and the eyes of God are omnipresent spirit eyes, His universal ability to see by the Spirit, and the arms and hands of God are omnipresent spirit arms and hands, His universal ability to act, touch, and perform by the power of His Spirit.

The thought of God having a right hand and a left hand should not be strange to us, although the preachers have so often presented God as a one handed Being. In the Scriptures we find the right hand of God mentioned a great many times, and the left hand of God is mentioned on a number of occasions. A great deal has been said as to the meaning of the right hand, but few have seemed to have any understanding or revelation of the significance of the left hand.

First, let us look at the meaning of these two words, right and left. The word "right" as used with "hand" is generally the Hebrew word "yamim" meaning STRONGER, MORE DEXTEROUS. The word for "left" is "smowl" meaning DARK. From the meaning of these two words it is very easy to understand that God's right hand is His strength and dexterity, or His wonderful ability to do all things. The implication is that the right hand of God is the GOOD HAND of God, doing GOOD things. The Psalmist confirms this when he says, "In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your RIGHT HAND are PLEASURES for evermore" (Ps. 16:11). Again, "The voice of REJOICING and SALVATION in the tabernacles of the righteous: the RIGHT HAND of the Lord does valiantly. The RIGHT HAND of the Lord is exalted" (Ps. 118:15-16).. To which the prophet Isaiah adds his inspired testimony, "Fear not; for I am with you: be not dismayed; for I am your God: I will STRENGTHEN you; yea, I will HELP you; yea, I will UPHOLD you with the RIGHT HAND of My righteousness" (Isa. 41:10).

But, as we have noted, the left hand in the Old Testament means DARK and from this we can readily understand that it signifies the opposite - what we call bad or evil. The left hand represents the DARK SIDE OF GOD. This is the hand of God so little understood. The distinctive work of these two hands is graphically portrayed in the wonderful parable Jesus told of the sheep and the goats. "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and He shall set the SHEEP on His RIGHT HAND, but the GOATS on the LEFT. Then shall the King say unto them on His RIGHT HAND, Come, blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered, and you gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and you took Me in: naked and you clothed Me: I was sick, and you visited Me: I was in prison, and you came unto Me. Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord,

when did we see You hungry, and fed You? or thirsty, and gave You drink? When saw we You a stranger, and took You in? or naked, and clothed You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and came unto You? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of one of these MY BROTHERS, you have done it unto Me. Then shall He say also unto them on the LEFT HAND, Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry, and you gave Me no meat ... then shall they also answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto You? Then shall He answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not unto Me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Mat. 25:31-46).

There are many precious and important truths contained in this parable, but we must restrain ourselves from pursuing them at this time in order to deal briefly with two points. First, it is important to note that this separation of the sheep from the goats was brought about, not on the basis of whether one had accepted Jesus Christ as his personal saviour, but solely on the basis of WORKS. Everything depended entirely upon what the sheep or goats had DONE or had NOT DONE. There was nothing of faith or a spiritual experience connected with this separation. The sheep were set on God's RIGHT HAND because of the fact that they had done something - given meat and drink to the Lord's brethren, clothed them, visited them, and comforted them. All these things the Lord said they had DONE TO HIM. But the sheep confessed that they had never seen Him, so how could they have done these things to the Lord? He answered, "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of one of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me." All of this is a kind of ministry unto the Lord Himself and it brought all these people into a separation unto the RIGHT HAND of God!

This meant an entrance into a kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. This Kingdom was not to be

some far-off land of ivory palaces, golden streets, beautiful mansions, white night gowns, wings and harps, where there is nothing to do and all eternity to do it in. THIS IS A KINGDOM. And because it is a kingdom it denotes rulership and advancement of all kinds. It indicates the bringing of a great many people into a higher realm in the Spirit than they have ever known before. It means WORK and RESPONSIBILITY and a place of ministry and authority to bless.

But the people who had never done all these things mentioned by the Lord were separated unto the LEFT HAND of God! They received no kingdom. There were no rewards for work done or attainments reached. Rather, they were set on the dark side of God, they were put under a kingdom and under authority and they were placed in a process of fiery judgment to receive correction. There is much subtle truth in these words of Jesus: "These shall go away into everlasting punishment." The word punishment is from the Greek "kolasis" which means simply that - punishment. But it comes from the root "kolazo" which sheds precious light upon the nature of the punishment. "Kolazo", according to Strong's Concordance, bears only two shades of meaning, namely, "to curtail" or "to chastise". To "curtail" means to restrain as a person is restrained in jail or a child is restrained when he is "grounded" for a week because of some disobedience. "Chastise" has one simple meaning according to Webster's New World Dictionary: to punish in order to correct, usually by beating. It should be clear to any thoughtful mind that the subject here is not meaningless, sadistic, unending torture, but PURPOSEFUL CORRECTION.

While the King James version states that these goats go into "everlasting fire" and "everlasting punishment", that is not quite the meaning of the Greek. The Greek word here translated everlasting is "aionios", and "aionios" is the adjective form of the Greek noun "aion". "Aion" nowhere means eternal! Its simple meaning is "an age". In its plural form it means "ages". This fact can be unquestionably and incontrovertibly demonstrated from numerous New

Testament passages. Now, once we understand that "aionios" is the ADJECTIVE FORM of the NOUN "aion", a simple little sixth-grade grammar lesson should once and for all establish the exact meaning of "aionios". A noun is a word that tells what you are talking about. A noun is a word that names something, a person, place, thing, quality, etc. Boy, water, tree, age (period of time), truth are nouns.

An adjective is a word that is used with a noun to describe it. It is a word that tells you what kind, what color, etc. If you wanted to tell about the hat a woman was wearing you would describe the hat in some way. You might say that it was a large hat, an atrocious hat, or a red hat. These are adjectives, words that describe what kind, what color of hat. Some words are both nouns and adjectives, that is, the same word can be used both ways. Sometimes the adjective form of the word is identical to the noun form, while at other times the spelling is slightly different. But anyone with even an elementary knowledge of grammar (English or Greek) knows that the meaning of a noun and the meaning of the same word in its adjective form MUST CORRESPOND! It cannot have one meaning as a noun and an exactly OPPOSITE meaning as an adjective!

Let me illustrate. If we say, "John is in college," the word college is a noun. But if we say, "John has sixteen college credits," college is an adjective, modifying the word credits - telling what kind of credits. Now we all know what a college is, so we understand what kind of institution John is attending in the first sentence. Since we know the meaning of college, when we come to the second sentence we have no difficulty understanding what kind of credits John has - college credits. No one in his right mind is going to read that and conclude that John has just finished kindergarten, or that he has a diploma showing he finished sixteen lessons in leather craft at the YMCA, or that he has \$16.00 worth of credit at a department store! College as a noun and college as an adjective cannot have altogether different meanings. They mean the same in both cases!

And yet men who should know better tell us that the Greek noun "aion" means an age, or ages which is TIME, and then proceed to explain how the adjective form of the same word, "aionios", means exactly the opposite - unending, everlasting, ETERNAL! A child of ten should be able to understand that that is not so. The adjective "aionios" modifies two nouns in Mat. 25:46: punishment and life. It tells what kind of punishment and what kind of life Jesus is talking about. It is ages-lasting punishment and ages-lasting life, or the LIFE OF THE AGES. Now I can hear someone protesting, "But isn't the life we have received from God ETERNAL LIFE?" Certainly God's life is eternal life. But we have received that life injected into TIME, so that the inworking of that life through the processings of God is experienced in relation to TIME rather than ETERNITY. Let me explain. Anything that is absolutely eternal is not only unending, but is also UNCHANGEABLE. Anything that changes in any way is not eternal, for in the change some characteristic is left behind and a new one acquired. In every change something ends and something else begins, at least in form. That which dwells in an eternal state knows NO CHANGE. Change is possible only in that which is limited, imperfect, or not fully developed. The Lord declares of Himself, "I am the Lord, I CHANGE NOT" (Mal. 3:6), and the inspired apostle says of Him, "with Whom there is no VARIABILITY, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). But we, in our spiritual life, are STILL BEING CHANGED! "And all of us ... are constantly BEING TRANFIGURED (changed) into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another" (II Cor. 3:18, Amplified).

Thank God! we are being changed! But that means that the life of God within is still in a limited, imperfect, underdeveloped stage. That life as to our condition and state of being is limited, imperfect, and in some measure immature. God has dispensed that life into us in time, that through a process of time with its experiences the spiritual life may be perfected and matured, brought to the fullness of that which HE HIMSELF IS. When the process is completed

and we are fully like Him and see Him AS HE IS, there will BE NO MORE CHANGE. We will then truly know what ETERNAL LIFE is! But as long as the life within is passing through the process of change, growth, and development, it is not viewed as eternal, unchangeable life, but as the LIFE OF THE AGES, life undergoing the dealings of God in TIME.

The "eternal security" of the believer is known only by the overcomers who have fully and forever conquered every vestige of the world, the flesh, and the devil, being conformed into the image of the Son. Of these triumphant ones it is written, "To him that OVERCOMES will I give to eat of the TREE OF LIFE," and again, "He that OVERCOMES... I will NOT BLOT HIS NAME OUT of the Book of Life" (Rev. 2:7; 3:5). The inference is clear ... until this "overcomer" state is attained, it is possible to have one's name BLOTTED OUT of the Book of Life. That could not be ETERNAL LIFE, for if it were absolutely eternal it could not be lost! Little wonder then, that our Lord says to the Church at Smyrna, "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you a CROWN OF LIFE" (Rev. 2:10). It is my deep conviction that He speaks not of the death that takes this old body to the cemetery, but the death that comes by the INWORKING OF HIS CROSS until all that pertains to the realm of carnality has been completely and forever dealt with. Then, and only then, are we CROWNED WITH LIFE - His life reigning within without interference or possibility of defeat.

The life we now have is a progressing, growing, conquering life - the LIFE OF THE AGES. It is life that has come by the quickening of our spirit by His Spirit, giving a new beginning, and the potential to become, in due time, all He is. But I am sure my readers, with myself, must confess that there is much progress to be made, much growth to be experienced, much transformation to be wrought before we stand in Him in the fullness of that life that needs no change, no further development, no additional experience, no more growth, no fuller stature, no added triumph - that state of being as unchangeable as He is unchangeable, as ETERNAL AS HE IS ETERNAL! Only faintly now do our eyes behold the splendor of that ETERNAL REALM which lies before us, but

if we approach softly with reverence and godly fear, not disrespectfully and thoughtlessly as nosey children prying into some sacred thing, then the Lord of glory will meet us and will be a Father unto us and we shall be the Sons of God in whom the Father shall unfold the fullness of His life, mind, will and glory. Thus shall we come into that same image and be sharers with Christ of the glory He had with the Father BEFORE TIME WAS - ETERNAL GLORY! I think I know why some become so enraged when we tell them that we do not now possess the absolutely eternal life. Is it not because they would rather ignore this "life of the ages", somehow projecting themselves into that life which is eternal, claiming "by faith" the finished product, while bypassing the tedious processing? Ah, dear ones, it doesn't work that way! God has graciously given unto us life "aionios" - the life of the ages - and how I thank God that my present state of being is NOT ETERNAL! There is MORE! I would FOLLOW ON to know Him in all fullness. And it will take "the ages", my friend, to unfold it all. We miss so much vital truth by our careless scanning of the Bible, and by clinging tenaciously to the time-worn traditions of the religious systems, mistaking them for the holy truths of God. It should be clear that if the "eternal life" of Mat. 25:41 is really the "life of the ages" then the "eternal punishment" is likewise an age-lasting correction.

The Diaglott says, "Depart from Me, you cursed ones, into that aionian fire ... and these shall go away into a cutting-off age lasting." The Bible in Modern English by Farrar Fenton reads, "And these He will dismiss into a LONG CORRECTION." Rotherham's New Testament says, "These shall go away into age-abiding correction." Young's Literal translation says, "And these shall go away to punishment age-during."

How sobering are these meaningful words of truth, "And He shall set the sheep on the RIGHT HAND, but the goats on the LEFT. Then shall the King say unto them on His RIGHT HAND, Come, blessed of My Father...then shall He say also unto them on the LEFT HAND, Depart from Me, you cursed!" But just what or who are these TWO HANDS OF

GOD? The two hands of God represent two aspects of God's dealings, two ways in which He moves and acts to accomplish His purposes. We can readily see from the parable of the sheep and the goats that God deals through both POSITIVE and NEGATIVE forces. Beautiful truths come lighting like a covey of doves in my heart, begging to be expressed, but there is not room for them all in any message, so much truth will have to abide its time. In this article, however, I wish to point out that the right hand of God bespeaks God moving and acting through POSITIVE FORCES, while the left hand of God denotes God moving and acting through NEGATIVE FORCES.

A key to this vital truth is found in the words of David in Ps. 111:7 wherein he states, "The works of HIS HANDS are verity and judgment." We have already mentioned that God is not a man, He possesses not body such as we have, for He is omnipresent spirit; but God has ordained the visible realm to serve as an allegory to convey the realities which pertain to the higher realm of the invisible. So for just a moment, consider God with two hands, one of verity, and one of judgment. The word "verity" is actually in the Hebrew the word for TRUTH. Thus we see with one hand He is bringing forth truth, and with the other hand of His judgment He is moving to bring us into harmony with truth. What beautiful co-ordination in all the works of His hands! Every time God initiates a new phase of His purpose, He then brings forth the measures needed to bring us into alignment with that purpose. If He can do this through POSITIVE forces He will, in the dealing of His right hand, but if corrective measures are needed He will stretch forth even His left hand and bring negative forces into action to teach us the necessary lesson. How often we pray for God to stretch forth His right hand of VERITY, we are hungry for blessing and truth, and He graciously imparts, but it has been my experience that He does not make it a one-sided working, always piling up blessing upon blessing and revelation upon revelation until we are out of balance. In HIS LOVE, yea, the DARK SIDE OF LOVE, He takes His OTHER HAND and

graciously disciplines, corrects, forms, molds and shapes, until we become one with that truth, to His glory and praise.

In speaking of the corrective judgment brought upon Israel by Babylon, the prophet cried, "Babylon has been a golden cup in the Lord's hand" (Jer. 51:7). God used Babylon as a NEGATIVE FORCE in HIS HAND to discipline His people. But the beloved John beheld quite another scene, "And He had in His RIGHT HAND seven stars ... the seven stars are the messengers (ministries) of the seven Churches" (Rev. 1:16-20). Again we see the working of HIS TWO HANDS. In the one hand is Babylon, a golden cup of fury and judgment, a vessel of wrath; and in the other hand we see seven stars, light bearers, positive ministries, vessels of mercy with a quickening word, through whom He shall reveal His truth and glory to all nations!

THE LEFT HAND OF GOD

That "all things are of God" is declared over and over again in the Bible. Did not the Lord say to Pharaoh, that wicked man of rebellion against all that was of God, "Even for this same purpose have I RAISED YOU UP, that I might show MY POWER in you, and that My name might be declared throughout all the earth?" (Rom. 9:17). The infinite wisdom of God's mind cannot be ascertained by these carnal little heads of ours. We must banish our childish theology and bring our minds into harmony with the mind of Christ. We must begin to peer through the mighty telescope of God's wisdom as it looks through the vast universe of good and evil until heavenly light bursts with blazing brilliance upon our inquiring spirits and we see with crystal clear vision that God is in all things, and is responsible for all things, including all the so-called evil things as well as good things. Is it not a fearful thing to say that evil is of God? There is nothing fearful about this view unless the TRUTH be fearful! I would not be surprised if some of the compatriots of the prophet Amos may have thought he was speaking blasphemy when by the Holy Spirit he said, "Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? Shall there be EVIL in a city, and THE LORD HAS NOT DONE IT?" (Amos 3:6).

There are untold millions of Christians who do not like to believe that A-L-L T-H-I-N-G-S A-R-E O-F G-O-D - including evil. They much prefer to believe, as the harlot system has taught them, that God created good, and the devil created evil!

Why, Oh why can men not believe the simple, unvarnished Word of God? Ah, we have God's own Word for it - His positive statement that HE CREATES EVIL. "That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that THERE IS NONE BESIDE ME. I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and CREATE EVIL. I THE LORD DO ALL THESE THINGS" (Isa. 45:7). God creates evil! It cannot be! But here it is in the Word. What will you do with it, beloved? "We must explain it somehow," the fundamentalist says, "surely it cannot mean that GOD creates evil, sin, sinners, devils, famines, pestilences, calamities, judgments, wrongdoing!" But the word here for "evil" is the Hebrew word "ra" which is used throughout the Old Testament to denote wickedness, sin, and all other evil things. In some five hundred passages it is so used!

It solves most all problems to realize that all the forces of good and evil are directly under the HAND and CONTROL of God. Then we can see that God has PURPOSE in it all, and that no evil forces can ever go beyond the bounds of the limits set by God to accomplish His purpose. It is not even a question of how much God PERMITS. The fact is that God creates just the right amount and kind of evil in order to bring His will to pass fully and completely in all He does. But let us UNDERSTAND! The good that God uses COMES OUT FROM GOD. The evil that God uses is CREATED by God only for the purpose that He has for it. The Bible states that God IS GOOD, IS LIFE, IS LIGHT, etc. Nowhere does the Bible say that God IS EVIL, only that He CREATES evil. There is a vast difference. Having been used of God, He then brings it to naught.

One of the fundamental laws of creation is that an OPPOSING FORCE is necessary for growth, and to produce

strength, stamina, and endurance. Any living thing that grows up without any opposition is weak and powerless. God's NEW CREATION must be strong and powerful, and anything that desires to be strong, or anyone, must wrestle with a force that is contrary to them. Any man who wants to develop muscular power and be strong, must spend weeks and months and years in vigorous training doing heavy exercises, lifting heavy weights, using the OPPOSING FORCE of gravity to DEVELOP HIS STRENGTH. A plant that grows in the greenhouse sheltered from the winds and rains, pampered day after day, may grow large, but it is inherently weak, and if suddenly exposed to the elements will wither and die. But a plant that is constantly exposed to the fierce winds and pounding rains, burning heat and chilling cold, is strong and not easily destroyed.

Saints, if we would be the SONS OF THE MOST HIGH we must be STRONG in the Lord and in the power of HIS might! Our Father wants us to be strong, so He has wisely given us WRESTLING PARTNERS to wrestle with, so we will become strong. These are NEGATIVE FORCES (thank God for them!) that come from the LEFT HAND of God. Some of these adverse things are the principalities and powers in the heavenlies. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). There is a great and magnificent future ahead for the Sons of God, and a great work our Father has for us to do in the ages to come, and He is preparing us and making us ready for the high and holy place He has for us. Can we not see that ALL THE NEGATIVE OPPOSING FORCES WE NOW ENCOUNTER are working together for our good - to develop the strength, character, wisdom, and power we must have?

The chastenings and judgments of God, too, are negative, though they do bring forth a positive result. The positive work of God from the realm of His right hand lies in the inner anointing, guidance, enlightening, etc., and in the precious outward ministries, those the Lord sets in the body for our exhortation, edification, and comfort. The Scriptures speak

much about these positive ministries, which are all wonderful, sweet, and of great importance in the eyes of God. However, there is the work of purging, pruning, discipline, dealing, and training which must be fulfilled in each and every one of God's Sons; therefore in the work of God there is an additional part, the negative, opposing forces, from the LEFT HAND OF GOD!

The positive work of God is wrought directly by the Holy Spirit within or by the Spirit through His anointed ministries. The negative work of God is brought about by Satan, his cohorts, his instruments, and the whole negative realm of evil. All the people, things, and happenings used in the chastening and judgments of God are of Satan's manipulation. For example, if someone is opposing us and causing us trouble, this opposition or trouble is directly the work of Satan. Again, a thief who steals our money, or a fire which burns down our house, is the work of the adversary. If someone is obstinate, rebellious and sins against God, and as a result becomes seriously ill, this sickness is a work of the devil. Therefore, all the people, things, and happenings involved in the discipline and judgment of God are measured to us by God according to our need. But the one who is manipulating and acting upon us in order to harm us is Satan. BUT - that which is acting BEHIND all the people, powers, things, and happenings is the HAND OF GOD, CONTROLLING all the play and interplay until HIS PURPOSE IS ACCOMPLISHED and HIS name is praised! The purpose of our experiencing the disciplines of the Father is that we know the fullness of HIS LIFE. If there were only the discipline, but not the manifestation of His life, it would be meaningless. Thus, the two hands of God bring beautiful BALANCE in the lives of all God's elect!

We see the left hand of God revealed in the life of Job. God had blessed this man with great wealth and a large family. He had seven sons and three daughters, He owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she-asses. His household was very great with many hired servants so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east. The only reliable

testimony we have of Job's true state of being is that spoken by the Lord Himself, and HE declared that Job was a PERFECT AND UPRIGHT MAN, one that feared God and eschewed evil. Perfect yes, but UNTRIED, UNTESTED, and UNPROVEN, as Job himself witnessed in the midst of his ordeal, declaring, "He knows the way that I take: when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10). His perfection remained to be fully proven, tested, and demonstrated.

Now, what does God do but deliberately hand over this perfect man into the hands of Satan to do his worst upon him. It was because God desired to test Job that He brought forth "the smith to blow the coals upon the fire." Please note that it was not Satan's idea to persecute poor old Job! Oh, no! It was God Himself who brought up the subject! There Satan was, presenting himself before the Lord, appearing for duty, and God asked, "Where have you been?" Satan replied, "Walking up and down in the earth" (no mention of Job at all). "Well, Satan," the Lord asked, "Have you considered My servant Job? Have you noticed that he eschews evil and fears God? Have you noticed that, Satan?" You can be assured, dear ones, that Satan HAD noticed Job, but he wasn't doing anything to him.

Satan responds, saying, "Have You not made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth YOUR HAND now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse You to Your face!" And the Lord said unto Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in YOUR POWER; only upon himself put not forth YOUR HAND." Having received these orders, Satan departed from the presence of the Lord. Hear it! "But put forth YOUR HAND now." What was that that Satan said? Did he ask permission to put forth his OWN HAND and touch Job? Not at all! He said, "YOUR hand," or "God, you put forth YOUR HAND and touch him." He is not asking to be allowed to touch Job. But he challenged God to stretch out HIS HAND, and that if HE touched Job and took away his blessing, Job would curse Him to His face. Then the Lord

said to Satan, "All that he has is in your power; only upon himself put not forth YOUR HAND." Can we not see by this that Satan was the NEGATIVE FORCE through which GOD WAS MOVING UPON JOB, and is it not clear that this was the LEFT HAND of God as He was working with Job to bring him into yet a higher place than he had occupied hitherto? Though Satan moved swiftly against Job, GOD WAS DOING THIS and His intention was to do Job good. This was not Satan acting out his own little plan in rebellion against God, but this was Satan as the LEFT HAND of God doing it!

In the second chapter of Job we find all this repeated. Again the sons of God have come before God to report on their activities, and again Satan comes among them. Again Job is presented to Satan by God as a perfect and upright man. We now quote from Job 2:4-6. "And Satan answered the Lord and said, Skin for skin, yea all that a man has will he give for his life. But put forth YOUR HAND now and touch his bone and his flesh and he will curse You to Your face. And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in YOUR HAND; but save his life." Now Job's body will be wracked with disease and tortured with pain, and he will lose his reputation before all men. His good works will be forgotten and he will become the object of ridicule from those who were formerly his friends.

We would now draw your reverent attention to the magnificent words which reveal Job's reaction to all this. "Then said his wife unto him, Do you still retain your integrity? Curse God and die! But he said unto her, You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. What? shall we receive good at the HAND OF GOD and shall we not receive evil? IN ALL THIS DID NOT JOB SIN WITH HIS LIPS" (Job. 2:9-10). Notice! Job never did recognize any such person as Satan in all his trouble. He recognized ONLY GOD in this and said that even as he had received good from the HAND OF GOD was it not logical that he should receive EVIL ALSO FROM GOD? What faith! What marvelous UNDERSTANDING! Job actually attributes all this evil to the work of God. He doesn't even recognize Satan as doing anything, no sitting on the ash heap moaning, "The old devil

has been after me all week!" It will be an appalling shock to many precious people to learn that in ALL this Job did NOT SIN with his lips! We have every right to conclude from this that Job was speaking the absolute truth when he attributed all this evil to God. What he had said was right in the sight of God. No place did the Lord rebuke Job for his words in any way. In fact, in the end of the experience God said that Job had spoken RIGHTLY of Him and ALL OTHERS HAD NOT.

Job has yet a further word on all this and let us see what it is. "Have pity upon me, O my friends: for the HAND OF GOD HAS TOUCHED ME" (Job 19:21). The hand of who? The hand of God! WHICH hand of God? Why, beloved, it was the LEFT HAND of God! Job knew that the hand of God had not been laid upon him for good, but for evil. Yet he recognizes it as THE HAND OF GOD. Prior to this experience, Job had known nothing but the RIGHT HAND of God in good and blessing, in the anointing of God. There had been no adversity. There had been no testing. No severity. Now God has begun using His left hand in His dealing with Job, yet Job still recognizes it as God's hand. What wisdom and understanding!

The nominal Church and its preachers try to make us believe that Satan conspired to do all this to poor old Job by his own design. But it was God, my friend, and Satan was only the LEFT HAND of God, or the negative means God used. These people have no knowledge at all of what they are talking about. They know nothing of the ways and the workings of God. They have exalted Satan to godhood, giving HIM the glory for all he does, and, indeed, in most things, they attribute more power to him and praise him more than they do God! Ignorantly these foolish ones talk about poor little God "trying" to do this and that, while the shrewder and smarter devil slips up on God's blind side and demolishes His whole work. Rubbish!

Dear saints of God, don't believe for one moment that anything in all God's great universe is not in the control of HIS HANDS or part of His plan. God IS GOD, He IS in full control of every sphere of activity, and Satan himself is

under the province of God. May the blessed Holy Spirit enlighten our minds to perceive the truth that Satan has no power at all except that which God delegates to him. My friend, if you believe that Satan is a problem to Almighty God, then your God is entirely too small! Oh yes, those who would be Sons of God MUST OVERCOME HIM. Beloved, when that purpose is accomplished, you will have been fully dealt with by God's LEFT HAND, that you might be exalted to a place of eminence, glory, and power at GOD'S RIGHT HAND! Hallelujah!

The left hand of God is manifested through a people, those in the kingdom of darkness. The right hand of God is likewise revealed through a people, the Sons of the Kingdom. Thank God! we are not called to be a part of the left hand company. "If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, WHERE CHRIST SITS ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:1-2). "Him that overcomes will I grant to sit WITH ME IN MY THRONE, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne" (Rev. 3:21). "The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the RIGHT HAND of the Lord does valiantly, the RIGHT HAND of the Lord is exalted" (Ps. 118:15-16).

Although at this time there is humiliation and suffering, there is coming a time of exaltation, already experienced within. Although today it seems as though not much is happening outwardly, yet there is a time approaching when GOD'S RIGHT HAND COMPANY shall step forth in the fullness of the power of HIS THRONE and there shall be a manifestation of the "greater works" Jesus spoke of. When on earth, the firstborn Son suffered reproach and finally death - but where is He now? Exalted to the RIGHT HAND of the Father, far above all principalities and powers, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but in that which is to come. He passed through a season of shame and reproach, but dwells now in a glory that can never fade. And there is a place with Him and in Him for all who

overcome, a place of glory and eminence and power at the right hand of God for all who move on into God!

Chapter Two

Almost all Churches and most Christians are not aware of it, but for the most part we have made God to be a one armed or one handed Being. Of course we realize that God is spirit and has no body of material substance and consequently no arms or hands such as we have. But spirit is real, God is real, and the eyes of God are omnipresent spirit eyes, His universal ability to see by the Spirit, and the arms and hands of God are likewise omnipresent spirit arms and hands, His universal ability to act, touch, and perform by the power of His Spirit. The thought of God having a right hand and a left hand should not be strange to us, although the preachers have so often presented God as a one handed Being. In the Scriptures we find the right hand of God mentioned a great many times, and the left hand of God is mentioned on a number of occasions. A great deal has been said as to the meaning of the right hand, but few have seemed to have any understanding or revelation of the significance of the left hand.

First, let us look at the meaning of these two words, right and left. The word "right" as used with "hand" is generally the Hebrew word "yamiym" meaning STRONGER, MORE DEXTEROUS. The word for "left" is "smowl" meaning DARK. From the meaning of these two words it is very easy to understand that God's right hand is His strength and dexterity, or His wonderful ability to do all things. The implication is that the right hand of God is the GOOD HAND of God, doing GOOD things. The Psalmist confirms this when he says, "In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your RIGHT HAND are PLEASURES for evermore" (Ps. 16:11). Again, "The voice of REJOICING and SALVATION in the tabernacles of the righteous: the RIGHT HAND of the Lord does valiantly. The RIGHT HAND of the Lord is exalted" (Ps. 118:15-16). To which the prophet Isaiah adds his inspired testimony, "Fear not; for I am with you: be not dismayed; for I am your God: I will STRENGTHEN you; yea, I will HELP

you; yea, I will UPHOLD you with the RIGHT HAND of My righteousness" (Isa. 41:10).

But, as we have noted, the left hand in the Old Testament means DARK, and from this we can readily understand that it signifies the opposite - what we call bad or evil. The left hand represents the DARK SIDE OF GOD. This is the hand of God so little understood. The distinctive work of these two hands is graphically portrayed in the wonderful parable Jesus told of the sheep and the goats. How sobering are these meaningful words of truth, "When the Son of man shall come in His glory ... before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and He shall set the sheep on the RIGHT HAND, but the goats on the LEFT. Then shall the King say unto them on His RIGHT HAND, Come, blessed of My Father ... then shall He say also unto them on the LEFT HAND, Depart from Me, you cursed!" But just what or who are these TWO HANDS OF GOD? The two hands of God clearly represent two aspects of God's dealings, two ways in which He moves and acts to accomplish His purposes. We can readily see from the parable of the sheep and the goats that God deals through both POSITIVE and NEGATIVE forces. In this article we want to pursue this truth and show in greater depth how the right hand of God bespeaks God moving and acting through POSITIVE FORCES, while the left hand of God denotes God moving and acting through NEGATIVE FORCES.

A LYING SPIRIT

That there is both the bright side of God and the dark side of God, manifested through the works of His two hands, in blessing on the one hand and in judgment on the other, is strikingly illustrated in an extraordinary story found in I Kings chapter twenty-two. The wicked king Ahab is persuading the good king Jehoshaphat to go to battle with him and all the false prophets of Ahab have prophesied they should go to battle, that the Lord will give them victory. But Jehoshaphat asks for a prophet of the Lord and Micaiah is brought with instructions to prophesy like the rest, but he refuses. Micaiah

at first mocks Ahab, by prophesying in just that way, but Ahab knows it is not right, and commands him to prophesy in the word of the Lord.

So in verse nineteen Micaiah begins thus: "Hear therefore the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him ON HIS RIGHT HAND AND ON HIS LEFT. And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? and one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. There came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him. And the Lord said unto him, wherewith? And he said, I will go forth AND I WILL BE A LYING SPIRIT IN THE MOUTH OF ALL HIS PROPHETS. And He said, You shall persuade him, and prevail also: GO FORTH AND DO SO." Now this is God's Word as He sought a way to cause Ahab to be defeated. Out of the heavenly realm came such a spirit, who made himself to be a lying spirit in the mouth of the false prophets with the consent and the authority of God! He caused the false prophets to prophesy falsely and bring about the fall of Ahab, even as he was given commandment of God. We do not always understand some of God's workings, but they are in the Scriptures, and we cannot build a pathway around them, for ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine.

But does it not seem incredible that the Holy Spirit should take such care to record that all the spirits making up "the host of heaven" were standing at God's RIGHT HAND and His LEFT HAND, if this fact is not extremely pregnant with meaning? Beloved reader, ponder, if you will, this weighty consideration: From which of the two hands of God came the lying spirit which brought judgment to king Ahab? After many years of reverent meditation upon this challenging question my heart is satisfied with this answer: The lying spirit came from the LEFT HAND of God - of course!

THE WRATH OF GOD

Many of the Lord's precious people have great difficulty in reconciling a God of LOVE with the atrocious accounts of His actions in the Old Testament which included various plagues, famines, earthquakes, floods, massacres of women and children and indeed all the sordid and bloody episodes of violence and destruction that He imposed. Even in Jesus Himself, there was not always the sweet, gentle, kindly attitude that most of us have come to appreciate and expect; for in His confrontations with the Pharisees, the Chief Priests, Elders, and teachers of the law, and when in anger He made a whip of small cords and drove the money changers out of the temple, overturning their tables, and pouring out their money ... the OTHER HAND OF GOD becomes manifest!

"And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the WRATH OF GOD upon the earth" (Rev. 16:1). There will be manifestations of HIS WRATH, HIS energy forces set in motion to correct and bring forth righteousness - "for the wrath of God IS revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men" (Rom. 1:18). "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thes. 1:8). VENGEANCE IS ESSENTIAL. The Greek word for vengeance is "ekdikeo", a compound word, ek - meaning OUT OF, and dikeo, meaning JUST or RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore we conclude that OUT OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS God will bring forth those judgments, corrective measures, which will bring an end to ungodliness, and restore men into His righteousness again. In Rev. 6:16 it is called "the WRATH of the LAMB". What an amazing divine paradox! The "Lamb" of God who "takes away the sin of the W-O-R-L-D" on the one hand, and the "wrath" of the "Lamb" on the other hand! The Lamb - precious embodiment of the very character of innocence, patience, meekness, gentleness, sacrifice and redemption - coming upon the world for which He died in the hot fury of wrath! The very thought seems incongruous. The two ideas seem completely incompatible and hopelessly irreconcilable - and they are

until we understand the PURPOSE of the LAMB'S WRATH. The Lamb does not suddenly undergo some fundamental change, laying down His Lambhood, transformed into something altogether opposite, now Himself an executioner instead of a Lamb. Nay! It is not the wrath of One who has shed His Lamb nature, for it IS the very W-R-A-T-H OF THE L-A-M-B! This wrath, therefore, is strikingly unique - not unappeasable rage spewing unreparable destruction upon mankind - but CORRECTIVE, REDEMPITIVE JUDGMENT to break the rebellion of men, and RESTORE ALL UNTO HIMSELF AGAIN. That is Divine Vengeance! It is not a "dooms day", it bespeaks a work of discipline and restoration - however severe the process might be required to end the way of degeneration, and begin the regeneration THE MINISTRY OF THE LAMB IS UNTO SALVATION. We do not minimize the workings of wrath, but we do rejoice in the beautiful BALANCE between the work of God's LEFT HAND and that of His RIGHT HAND - both leading to righteousness.

These are wonderful truths. These are unspeakable words almost unlawful to utter. We stand amazed in the presence of the omniscience and omnipotence of our God who IS LOVE. The great PURPOSE behind all His judgments is beautifully expressed in these prophetic words of Zephaniah, "Therefore wait upon Me, says the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for My determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them Mine indignation, even all My fierce anger: for all the earth shall be DEVoured WITH THE FIRE OF MY JEALOUSY. For THEN will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may ALL call upon the name of the Lord, to SERVE HIM WITH ONE CONSENT" (Zeph. 3:8-9).

I know that the theologian does everything he can to break down the expression "the jealousy of God" and tries to say that it really does not mean jealousy. My beloved, it does mean JEALOUSY! Sometimes you hear a wife say this, "You know, my husband is not jealous of me." I have news for her. He does not love her if he is not jealous of her - or else he is just sure that no one else would be interested in her. It is one

of the two reasons, you may be sure of that. God's Word says that He is jealous, and I cannot conceive of a love that would not have that quality in it. It is not the jealousy of an Othello that is being spurred on by a Lago (Othello's antagonist)! This is jealousy of One who loves us, and wants nothing to come into our lives that is going to hurt or harm us. He will do anything in the world to direct us in the paths of redemption and restoration. "For God so LOVED the WORLD..." - and He still does! Even in judgment, dear ones, GOD IS LOVE!

THE DARK SIDE OF GOD

We have previously pointed out that in the Old Testament the word "left" as used with "hand" means DARK, so in reference to God's left hand it becomes the DARK HAND OF GOD. You might get the impression, upon reading the multiplied judgments of God sent upon Israel and the nations in the Old Testament, that God hates His people and His creation. You would think that He is vindictive in His judgment; that He is cruel, brutal, and unfeeling as He moves forward against mankind. Perhaps the liberal, who a few years ago made the statement that the God of the Old Testament is a big bully, had read only the first half of the story. I wish he had read all of it. He would have found that the God of the Old Testament is not a big bully, but that we are shown the DARK SIDE OF HIS LOVE. We have also noted that with His left hand God moves and acts through NEGATIVE FORCES such as Satan, wicked men, false prophets, calamities, etc. to accomplish His purposes. It comes as a startling revelation to some that GOD USES the wicked, even such as Nebuchadnezzar and the king of heathen Assyria, to discipline and correct His people. They are HIS instruments in HIS hand, and they serve HIS purpose. "Behold ... I have created the waster to destroy" (Isa. 54:16). For "the Lord has made all things for Himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil" (Prov. 16:4). "O Assyrian, the rod of MINE ANGER, and the staff in their hand is MINE INDIGNATION" (Isa. 10:5). The more we come to understand the SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD, the more we realize that HE ALONE controls the interplay of good and

evil, and works all things after the counsel of His own will. We shall not rail against His instruments, but learn to submit to the disciplines until we are turned fully to Him, to cleave to Him with our whole heart and fulfill all His will.

Long millenniums ago God called Abram out from the world and promised him a land, an inheritance. As Abraham walked with God he was justified by his faith and his descendants, out of all the peoples of earth, became God's Church (Acts 7:38). In Egypt God took His Church and made a nation of them (Gen. 46:3; Deut. 26:5). And then He led them out of Egypt with many infallible signs and wonders and miracles. He divided the sea for them: the same sea in which their enemies perished. He gave them a tabernacle and sanctuary, patterned after the true Sanctuary on High, and there He condescended to have His very presence dwell among them continually. He gave them a perfect set of national laws written by the finger of God Himself on stone. He showed them His power. He fed them with manna from heaven. He preserved their clothing and shoes throughout the whole period of forty years of wanderings in the wilderness. He spoke comfortingly to them and promised that if they would hearken unto Him they would be blessed above all people, that He would make them high above all nations in praise, in name and honor. And yet, in spite of God's manifest love and care, their very first act, when Moses left them to go up into the Mount of God, was to make a golden calf and fall down to it. Read the account of their sojourn in the wilderness. Read the accounts of their idolatry after they entered their own land! Yes, the first thing they did upon coming into their promised land was the exact opposite of what God commanded them. Instead of destroying their enemies completely, they began making covenants with them. No wonder God says concerning them, "But the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness: they walked not in My statutes, and they despised My judgments" (Eze. 20:13). No wonder God says, "I have called and you refused; I have stretched out My hand, and no man regarded; but you have set at naught all My counsel, and would none of My reproof ... they hated

knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord" (Prov. 1:24-29).

So God decreed JUDGMENT! "Therefore I am full of the fury of the Lord; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with him that is full of days. And their houses shall be turned unto others, with their fields and wives together: for I will stretch out MY HAND upon the inhabitants of the Land, says the Lord" (Jer. 6:11-12). "You have forsaken Me, says the Lord, you art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out MY HAND against you; I am weary of repenting. And I will fan them with a fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children, I will destroy My people, since they return not from their ways" (Jer. 15:6-7). "Therefore ... thus says the Lord God; Behold, I will raise up your lovers against you ... and I will bring them against you on every side; the Babylonians, and all the Chaldeans ... and all the Assyrians ... and I will set judgment before them, and they shall judge you according to their judgment" (Eze. 23:22).

Against the background of the black and forbidding cloud of judgment that swept unmercifully over Israel sounded the voice of the Lord declaring, "I will stretch out M-Y H-A-N-D against you ... I will stretch out M-Y H-A-N-D upon the land, and destroy you!" MY HAND! The nations God brought against Israel were HIS HAND moving against them, His LEFT HAND, if you please, yea, His DARK HAND of judgment. The first weapon that God used against Israel was Babylon, whose armies destroyed Jerusalem, put out the king's eyes and bound him in fetters, and led the nation captive to her own land. Then Babylon was destroyed, and Media Persia took up the rod. She ruled over Israel until overthrown by Greece, which in turn was superseded by Rome.

But all this was nothing compared to the dealing of the left hand of God that smote the nation once their iniquity was filled up to the full. Prophet after prophet had announced to them the advent of Messiah the Prince. In due time HE

came. God was manifest in the flesh. He came unto His own - to this people whom for over two thousand years He had been preparing to receive Him; but "His own received Him not." They despised and rejected Him; they hated Him because He testified to them that their deeds were evil; they blasphemed the Son of God, accusing Him of deriving His power from the Prince of Devils; they took counsel together to slay the Holy and the Just; they bore false witness against Him to put Him to death; they became His betrayers and murderers; they cried, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him!" and by their wicked hands He was crucified and slain. And when the still lingering longsuffering of God sent them one more chance of repentance, and the risen Saviour told His apostles that remission of sins through His name was to be preached among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem, when the Holy Ghost in Peter and in Stephen pleaded still with the house of Judah to repent and be converted, they filled up the measure of their iniquities by rejecting this final offer of mercy. They slew Stephen, and persecuted the Church.

"The Jews both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; they please not God, and are contrary to all men, forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins always, for WRATH IS COME UPON THEM TO THE UTTERMOST" (I Thes. 2:15-16). A few years elapsed, after those words were written, and then that wrath was poured out. Jerusalem fell, and great was the fall thereof! Signal, terrible, and unparalleled was the Jewish war, ending with the siege and capture of Jerusalem by Titus. It needs a pen dipped in fire and in blood to write the story in its true colors! The sufferings and miseries that overtook the Jewish nation in that age are all but indescribable, the very record of them is appalling. One million one hundred thousand Jewish lives were sacrificed in the siege and capture of Jerusalem alone; streams of human blood extinguished the blazing fires that destroyed the houses of the city, and heaps of the unburied corpses of those who had died of starvation during the siege, hid from the Roman soldiers the immense treasures of the temple.

From April 14th, when the siege began, to July 1st, 115,880 bodies were buried at the public expense, or thrown from the walls, not including those interred by friends. Some said that 600,000 of the poorer people died of starvation; women cooked and ate their own children; the maimed and defenseless people were slain in thousands; when the temple at last fell, they lay heaped like sacrifices round the altar, and the steps of the temple ran with streams of blood, which washed down the bodies that lay about. The treasures, with their wealth of money, jewels, and costly robes, were totally destroyed. The value of the plunder obtained was so great, that gold fell to half its former value.

After the fall of the Jewish nation, the markets of the Roman Empire were glutted with Jewish slaves; the amphitheatres were crowded with these miserable people, glad to escape the tyranny of their masters by the expeditious cruelty of the wild beasts. And in the dank underground mines hundreds were doomed to toil for wealth not to be their own. The political existence of the Jewish nation was annihilated; it was not again for 1900 years recognized as one of the States or nations of the world. Judea was sentenced to be portioned out to strangers, the capital was destroyed, the temple demolished, the high priesthood buried in its ruins, and the royal tribe almost extinct. Truly that horrible desolation and 1900 years of humiliating dispersion ensuing was, for that people, a "time of trouble such as has never been since there was a nation." In proportion to the size of the known world, the massacre represented many, many millions in our day. I do not believe that even the slaughter of the Jews in Germany could equal it proportionately.

May the Spirit of the living God lay His finger of inspiration upon these words that we may be able to see that in all these things the HAND OF GOD was made known. Babylon was a negative force, but listen to what the Lord says about that old heathen tyrant, Nebuchadnezzar: "Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, says the Lord, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, MY SERVANT, and will bring them against this land..." (Jer. 25:9). Here God calls Nebuchadnezzar HIS SERVANT, and in Isa. 45:1 He

calls CYRUS, the Persian king, HIS ANOINTED ONE. Do you understand what God was saying? Nebuchadnezzar GOD'S SERVANT, and Cyrus HIS ANOINTED? This could never be according to this day's teaching! but God's Word says so. Thank God! that is not the end of the matter.

God does not destroy forever, for no matter how severe the dealings of His left hand, they are BALANCED by the merciful and gracious workings of His right hand, as "in wrath He remembers mercy" (Hab. 3:2). As a friend has so aptly written on this point, "Yet for all this ... with the severity of the judgment and correctional processes needed, still - 'HE IS KIND UNTO THE UNTHANKFUL AND TO THE EVIL. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful' (Lk. 6:35-36). Christendom has taught that He will have mercy on us 'sweet little saints who have faithfully served Him all these years.' And of course He will! Though not because of our works. He said, 'I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy on whom I will show mercy' (Ex. 33:19). It is by virtue of His own nature and character that He shows mercy. He sends His rain on the just and the unjust. And He purposed to have mercy upon the UNTHANKFUL, even the unthankful who have gone into the depths of degradation, things that ought not to be mentioned, 'For God has concluded them ALL in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon ALL' (Rom. 11:32).

"God made it very clear to Israel, 'If he commit iniquity I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: BUT MY MERCY SHALL NOT DEPART FROM HIM' (II Sam. 7:14-15). God has His disciplines, His chastening processes, but HIS MERCY is not departing, it has not ceased. 'For I am the Lord, I change not; THEREFORE YOU SONS OF JACOB ARE NOT CONSUMED' (Mal. 3:6). HE IS A MERCIFUL GOD, and He doesn't change - He will never become an unmerciful, tyrannical despot. Men have tried to change Him, they have imputed to Him all the base and perverted emotions of men, and charged Him with all their own weaknesses, but while they have made a caricature of their God, and in their own minds He has been changed, nevertheless HE REMAINS

UNCHANGED. 'With Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning' (James 1:17). It is because He doesn't change, because HE REMAINS MERCIFUL, that we are not consumed. Indeed, 'It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are NEW EVERY MORNING: great is Your faithfulness' (Lam. 3:22-23).

"Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption' (Ps. 130:7). 'For You, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive: and plenteous in mercy unto ALL THEM that call upon You' (Ps. 86:5). PLENTEOUS in redemption, plenteous in mercy - such is our Father, and such will be all those who are 'begotten of Him' - after His kind. Sons of the Highest will be merciful as He is merciful." - end quote.

Even for Israel there would be another day, after the breaking, after the discipline, when they would be thoroughly turned to the Lord with a whole heart, restored into His righteousness, and "so all Israel shall be saved" (Rom. 11:26). The promise is sure: "Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God; I will do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for Mine holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the heathen, whither you went. For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and you shall be My people, and I will be your God. And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. Thus says the Lord God; I shall yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them" (Eze. 36:22-38).

A PRESENT DAY APPLICATION

What holy assurance stirs within as the Spirit of God floods our souls with the divine understanding of truth so sublime as this: "For BY HIM were all things created that are in

heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created BY HIM and FOR HIM: and He is before all things, and BY HIM all things consist" (Col. 1:16-17). Your whole outlook on life will change from one of fear and dread to one of blessed assurance and confidence with the entrance of the understanding that ALL THINGS are vassals of His power, His dominion, and His control, and ALL THINGS are in His hands. Nothing exists without His consent. None acts without His orders or prospers without His blessing. In His omnipotent hands the nations of the earth in all their vaunted might and power are but dust upon the scales. You will not spend sleepless nights worrying about the Chinese, or the Russians, or Communism when your heart rests assured that GOD, for purposes comprehended only by those minds enlightened by the Spirit, has raised its godless head for a little moment to purge the filth and corruption of Mystery Babylon from the face of the earth.

We think of Communism being a great Challenge to Christianity, and for the harlot Church systems it is; but no system can be seriously threatened by an enemy "without" until it has been corrupted and weakened by some enemy within. While I am in no way sympathetic toward the misguided ideology or the cruel and repressive system of Communism, I must state that I am more concerned about the lack of living relationship to Christ on the part of professing Christians than I am about conspiracies, intrigues, and world-wide advancement of the Communists. Lenin once said, "Religion is a kind of a spiritual gin in which slaves of capital drown their human shape and their claim to any decent life." The sad fact is that the Russian Orthodox Church under the Czars had given Lenin and his followers absolutely NO MANIFESTATION OF TRUE CHRISTIANITY! Lenin had seen RELIGION, but he had never beheld the LIVING CHRIST in His people!

Thus Lenin was right when what he said about "religion" is viewed in the context of the place and the times in which he lived, and the so-called Church he had observed. The

grossest darkness hung like a dense cloud over that whole religious system which reigned over the Russian people in that day. The vast majority of its priests were nothing more than well paid hirelings, twice dead in lifeless tradition, empty ceremony, and fleshly forms. Very few of them even knew Christ, much less had they been called by Him or separated by His Spirit unto the ministry of the Lord. In their gross ignorance of God and His attributes they portrayed before the people a deity who was little more than an idol. The people's hearts and spirits were buried beneath the stifling dust of useless human tradition, piled layer upon layer by scribes and Pharisees, priests and bishops and canons, ritual and ceremony, blinding their eyes and numbing their minds to the glorious and eternal realities of HIM Who came that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

The cry of the hireling ministry then, as now, was for money, money, money, while her coffers bulged at the seams with gold and silver, and her poor were downtrodden and her slaves held in the prison house of ignorance and superstition. The Church in Russia was full of ignorant priests who were deceiving and being deceived, masquerading before the world as the representatives of the only true Catholic and Orthodox Church of Jesus Christ. But its recognized head was a poor, diseased, devil possessed, epileptic youth sitting upon the Czar's throne, and they pointed to this miserable creature, saying, "There, behold him, the White Czar, the Head of the Church of God!" Awesome and wonderful was the day when the Spirit of God was poured out upon a tiny remnant of faithful saints and the cry of the Spirit sounded like a trumpet blast through that dark land. The Spirit of prophecy burst forth in the midst of these righteous souls and the Word of the Lord roared out of Zion warning of impending persecution, disaster, and destruction, a swiftly approaching hour when the Church would no longer prosper, all the flocks would be scattered, and their temples torn down. Soon thereafter the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia, vast numbers of priests were murdered or jailed, the Churches were closed and their properties confiscated, the blood of millions of saints ran

through the streets, and the pride and power of the State Church was destroyed.

My brethren, I must point out to you by the spirit of inspiration that there has been no country in the whole world that has sunk beneath the heel of atheistic Communism EXCEPT THAT THE PROFESSING CHURCH IN THAT COUNTRY WAS SPIRITUALLY BANKRUPT. This was the case in Russia and it has been true in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, Cuba, and in every other country where Communism has triumphed or where the Communist party is strong. Even as I pen these words (1983), many nations in Central and South America, Africa, Asia, and Western Europe are frighteningly close to a Communist takeover. In each and every case the ruling organized Church systems in those countries are apostate, spiritually dead, tradition bound, whose religion is adulterated with idolatry, watered down by secularism, and contaminated with godless humanists. Ah! I do not hesitate to declare it - the Almighty has again stretched forth HIS LEFT HAND OF JUDGMENT, GOD has Himself raised up the specter of World Communism FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS, and it is my deep conviction, witnessed by the Spirit within, that God is using the Communists to JUDGE MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT.

The following words of Scripture graphically describe precisely what is taking place in nation after nation where the Communists seize power and persecute or destroy organized religion. "And the ten horns which you saw upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall MAKE HER DESOLATE, and shall EAT HER FLESH, and BURN HER WITH FIRE. For G-O-D HAS PUT IN THEIR HEARTS TO FULFILL HIS WILL" (Rev. 17:16-17). The sins of the so-called Christian nations are now so great that judgment is inevitable - unless there is national repentance!

Has not God done this before? When God judged Israel of old He brought a wicked, godless government to bring correction to His own people. The very same situation exists today. America and Western Europe are on a money-making, pleasure-mad spree unparalleled in the history of

the world. God is generally ignored and publicly ridiculed. Much of that which parades in His name professing to be the very power of God is nothing but sickening flesh and wicked abominations. How many professing Christians consider Christ, not as a life giving reality, but as a shot in the arm, a spiritual "fix" administered in a brief visit to the "church" on Sunday morning? It becomes a duty, and often a painful one, like going to the dentist, and the patient heaves a sigh of relief when the preacher says "Amen" and the weekly treatment is over. Though Lenin by no means presented the whole picture, he was right when he stated that "RELIGION is the opiate of the people" helping to dull the pain of living in a greedy, self-seeking society. Thus the greatest threat of Communism is not Communism itself, but the filthy abominations of MYSTERY BABYLON and the spiritual poverty of her inhabitants!

The reverent heart is made to wonder at the terrible power and effectiveness of GOD'S LEFT HAND as He moves to judge, correct, and discipline through NEGATIVE FORCES. Communism is in reality doing a much better job of disposing of the external structure of the harlot system than are the saints. It is an exasperating but undeniable fact that we in recent years have seen the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Canada, the heads of European governments, the Queen of England, and, saddest of all, leading evangelists and officials of the Evangelical, Pentecostal, and Charismatic movements, making their journey to Rome to visit and receive the blessing of the Roman pope. Red Russia has better sense than many Christians in some respects; she is stamping out everything Babylonish where she holds sway much more faithfully than are the so-called ministers of God! God is thus using her as a weapon in HIS LEFT HAND. When He is through with her, she also will go down, as Babylon, Assyria, Rome and all the negative instruments of history have gone down to defeat and utter ruin. He who has raised it up will cast it down and break it to shivers beneath His feet when His purpose for it has been fulfilled. Then shall it, as Babylon, be as the chaff

of the summer threshing floor, trodden beneath the foot of man and driven by the wind.

Are we, as Sons of the Highest, to turn our preaching and teaching and praying faculties over to an all-out FIGHT against Communism? Nay! This is neither our mission or task. I can assure you by the Word of the Lord that in due time God shall deal with the Communists. There shall be social, economic, political and military factors involved in its world-wide collapse, but beneath and above and beyond it all shall stand God STRETCHING FORTH HIS RIGHT HAND! From within and without the Communist world God is even now preparing, in the fires of testing and in the furnace of affliction, a RIGHT HAND COMPANY that shall arise at the appointed hour. There shall be a moving of HIS SPIRIT, and a demonstration of the wisdom and power and glory of the living God that shall take the world by surprise, knocking the godless Communist rulers off their thrones of power, and there shall be seen the triumph of the Kingdom of God and His Christ as the Lamb overcomes them.

What assurance fills the hearts of God's elect as they rejoice in the wonder and simplicity of the Father's plan! Abiding in the secret place of the Most High, they fearlessly await the fiery trials now falling upon the whole earth in the assurance that the TRUE CHURCH shall be purified and made white in the preparation for the glory of Christ that will encompass the whole earth as the triumph of HIS KINGDOM marches on!

Consider now these true and eloquent words penned by another: "His sharp, two edged sword will not be stained with the blood of His enemies. It is instead that same sharp, two-edged sword which is the WORD OF GOD. With it and by its transforming power He will smite the nations, not in the bloody conflict and seething hate of war, but as He smote the people at Pentecost, bringing them to repentance and the joy of salvation. He will pierce the consciences of the people and cause them to cry, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' He will prick them as Saul of Tarsus was pricked, and He will save them as he was saved. This is the way His righteous sword is wielded. It kills only to make alive and

wounds only to heal. It kills only those things that should die and makes alive the things that should live. Thus will He rule the world through His body of Sons, with an iron rod - the rod of righteous judgment and the scepter of spiritual power and transforming grace." -end quote. This is the government of the RIGHT HAND OF GOD!

How truly the whole creation waits and groans for the manifestation of the Sons of God! How we ourselves do groan within ourselves! Does it seem that months turn into years and years pile up into decades and all things continue as they have been? Ah, my friends, I can tell you that our God shall move again! He shall come, He shall move in and through His body, the enChristed ones, in the fullness of the power and glory and authority of which His coming at Pentecost was but the firstfruits! And then "the kingdom, the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heavens SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom and ALL DOMINIONS SHALL SERVE AND OBEY THEM. This was the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly upset me and my face changed color; but I kept the matter in my mind" (Dan. 7:27-28, Goodspeed).

THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

Those elect saints who press forward toward the mark for the prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus are becoming related to God in His right hand. "Therefore being by the RIGHT HAND OF GOD exalted" (Acts 2:33). This speaks of Jesus Christ, the firstborn Son, our Forerunner. He is EXALTED to the RIGHT HAND of God. He is the POSITIVE FORCE of God in the universe "Who is gone into heaven (realm of government) and is on the RIGHT HAND of God; angels and authorities and powers BEING MADE SUBJECT UNTO HIM" (I Pet. 3:22). Contrary to popular theology, the right hand of God IS NOT A PLACE. I know that many have an idea here of Christ, looking like the Jesus they see in pictures, sitting beside some kind of a throne, along side of another figure who is supposed to represent.

God. How unspeakably childish! The throne of the God who is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent Spirit is not a material one, but bespeaks the REALM OF HIS SUPREME AUTHORITY AND RULERSHIP; and our Lord Jesus Christ has been exalted to the glory of that rulership. The RIGHT HAND of God is a REALM OF POWER AND AUTHORITY, A POSITION OF EMINENCE, A CONDITION AND STATE OF BEING. It is an assumption of the almighty power and universal dominion of the Father. It is the dispensing of HIS POSITIVE ENERGY FORCE into His creation.

The Queen of England is on the throne of England, we say, yet we do not refer to the "royal bench", and as a matter of fact she seldom occupies it. When we say she is on the throne, we mean that she rules as the royal sovereign of England. The "right hand" signifies the chief place, position of excellence or favor, next to the chief ruler. Historically, Prince Bismarck was exalted or seated at the right hand of power, by the German Emperor; and Joseph was at the right hand of Pharaoh in the kingdom of Egypt - not literally, but after the customary figure of speech.

Some of the greatest truths of the Word of God are the ones that lie hidden like pearls of great price, unnoticed by the careless but available to all who will search beneath the uninviting surface of the ground. What wonder and glory are to be discovered in these magnificent words of our Lord spoken so long ago to Caiaphas: "Here after you shall see the Son of man sitting on THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING IN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN" (Mat. 26:64). How the reverent heart is made to wonder! The Son of man sitting at the right hand of God and coming! The One sitting is, at the same time, COMING IN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN! Here now we must ask the Spirit of the Lord to lift the hidden things from before our understanding and reveal the things that since the world began have been kept secret.

The words of Jesus quoted above do not refer to two separate events; it is rather two aspects of the same event. The Son of man sitting at the right hand of power comes in the clouds of heaven. The invisible One is made visible. He

cannot be seen or known in that heavenly realm, but He is made manifest "in the clouds of heaven". He remains at the right hand while coming in the clouds. "Ye shall see the Son of man sitting...and coming!" It means that HE COMES IN POWER AND AUTHORITY. Listen to the words of Peter as he drives this beautiful truth home to the hearts of the multitude on the day of Pentecost: "Therefore BEING BY THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD EXALTED ... He has SHED FORTH THIS which you now SEE AND HEAR" (Acts 2:33). It is all very glorious!

Most assuredly Paul gives us the true meaning of "the clouds of heaven" when he says in Heb. 12:1, "Wherefore seeing, we also are compassed about with so great a CLOUD OF WITNESSES ... let us run with patience the race." Throughout the Bible the term "cloud" signifies witness or ministry. In II Pet. 2:17 and Jude 12 it speaks of false ministries being "clouds without water". Like the fig tree with leaves but no fruit, they give the appearance of life and ministry, but there is no life in them. Prov. 25:14 says, "Whoso boasts himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain." What a picture of some present day ministries! WINDS of doctrine (Eph. 4:14), and CLOUDS without water! Wanting only to float through the heavens to be seen of men. But no willingness to be a POURED OUT LIFE to bless God's thirsty creation!

The picture of a true life-giving ministry is found in Eccl. 11:3... "If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth." These are the kind of clouds, or witnesses, or ministries we are surrounded with. AND THESE ARE THE CLOUDS JESUS IS COMING BACK IN. A great many Christians seem to be waiting to meet Jesus on top of a cloud somewhere a few thousand feet up in the sky. They think it will be one of these big, fluffy, white cumulus clouds! But, precious friend of mine, I would have you notice that the Scriptures nowhere say that Jesus comes "TO the clouds", or comes down from heaven, "ON a cloud". The Word is careful to tell us that He comes "IN the clouds of heaven" (Mat. 24:30), "Coming IN a cloud with power and great glory" (Lk. 21:27), "sitting on the right hand of power, and coming

IN the clouds of heaven" (Mat. 26:64). He is also said to come "WITH the clouds of heaven" (Dan. 7:13), "Behold, He comes WITH clouds" (Rev. 1:7). But never does the Holy Spirit tell us that Jesus returns "TO the clouds of earth", or to the natural rain clouds.

Thank God! there is a CLOUDS OF HEAVEN PEOPLE, those indwelt by the SON OF THE RIGHT HAND, daily experiencing the inworking of HIS LORDSHIP. This company IS the manifestation of GOD'S RIGHT HAND OF BLESSING in the earth today, and this right hand shall do even much more valiantly as the Sons of God press on in to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Those who dwell in the "clouds of heaven" company shall not only REIGN upon the earth, but they shall RAIN upon the dry, parched earth and all peoples and nations shall be watered and given life through the gracious and bountiful outpouring of the RIGHT HAND OF GOD! Praise HIS wonderful name forever!

Chapter Three

In the previous two messages of this series we have noted that in the Scriptures we find the right hand of God mentioned a great many times, and the left hand of God is mentioned on a number of occasions. The word "right" as used with "hand" is generally the Hebrew word "yamim" meaning STRONGER, MORE DEXTEROUS. The word for "left" is "smowl" meaning DARK. From the meaning of these two words it is very easy to understand that God's right hand is His strength and dexterity, or His wonderful ability to do all things. The implication is that the right hand of God is the GOOD HAND of God, doing GOOD things. But the left hand in the Old Testament means DARK And from this we can readily understand that it signifies the opposite - what we call bad or evil. The left hand represents the DARK SIDE OF GOD. This is the hand of God so little understood.

A key to this vital truth is found in the words of David in Ps. 111:7 wherein he states, "The works of HIS HANDS are verity and judgment." We have already mentioned that God is not a man, He possesses no body such as we have, for He is omnipresent Spirit; but God has ordained the visible realm to serve as an allegory to convey the realities which pertain to the higher realm of the invisible. So for just a moment, consider God with two hands, one of verity, and one of judgment. The word "verity" is actually in the Hebrew the word for TRUTH. Thus we see with one hand He is bringing forth truth, and with the other hand of His judgment He is moving to bring us into harmony with truth. What beautiful co-ordination in all the works of His hands! Every time God initiates a new phase of His purpose, He then brings forth the measures needed to bring us into alignment with that purpose. If He can do this through POSITIVE forces He will, in the dealing of His right hand, but if corrective measures are needed He will stretch forth even His left hand and bring NEGATIVE forces into action to teach us the necessary lesson. How often we pray for God to stretch forth His right hand of VERITY, we are hungry for blessing and

truth, and He graciously imparts, but it has been my experience that He does not make it a one-sided working, always piling up blessing upon blessing and revelation upon revelation until we are out of balance. In HIS LOVE, yea, the DARK SIDE OF LOVE, He takes His OTHER HAND and graciously disciplines, corrects, forms, molds, and shapes, until we become one with that truth, to His glory and praise.

It is during this discipline process that we are so likely to forget the love of God and misunderstand His judgments toward us. We will be inclined to think that, because God allows many failures, pressures, and misfortunes to befall us, He has forgotten us or turned against us. Christian friends will be at pains to tell us that our suffering is a sure sign of God's displeasure with our life. Nothing could be further from the truth! He has forgotten nothing, but while we in our childishness want nothing but His blessings, at the same time trying to build up and establish our own desires, plans, and programs, which are fleshly, God's purpose is to LAY IT ALL WASTE, bring it to naught, and teach us HIS WAYS. The childish Christian wants to build up the natural, the visible, the audible, and just enjoy all the wonderful blessings of God forever. But God has purposed that we should become PRINCES WITH GOD, heirs of God and heirs with Christ. This requires the development of divine wisdom, character, and power. Therefore in love He lays waste the immature and undisciplined ambitions within us.

The right kind of parents do not allow their children the privilege of doing whatever they want to do. They are not permitted to be "free moral agents", to make their own decisions and have their own way, until they have reached an age of maturity. Until they can make their own way, the parents must do it for them. The children may fuss and cry and rebel a long time, but the proper parent holds them to their decision that is for their betterment. The parents know what is best for the children. Ah, we hear a lot about our being "free moral agents", but if you treasure the beautiful hope of sonship you will forget all about that for our heavenly Father makes the decisions for us, and although many of His children do a lot of fussing and crying, HE HOLDS US TO IT,

and how thankful we should be that He does! WHEN WE HAVE BEEN TRIED WE WILL COME FORTH AS GOLD.

You see parents today who have, by work and sacrifice, put away a little money in order to send their boy away to school. After the boy is in school for a while, he writes back, "Dad, its hard here - the assignments are too heavy and the dormitory is too strict. I'm homesick, and I want to come home!" The father writes back a stern letter, "You stay on, study hard, and apply yourself." When that boy gets the letter from his dad, he says, "I don't think my dad loves me anymore. My dad couldn't love me or he wouldn't want me to go through this torture." At this point the son understands nothing of the divine principle, "And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks unto you as unto sons, My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are rebuked of Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges EVERY SON whom He receives" (Heb. 12:5-6). The word "chastening" in these verses really carries no thought of punishment at all. Rather it means to child train. God is training you and me, beloved, not for an earthly career, but He is preparing us for rulership in the Kingdom of God. And it is His principle to always deal with HIS SONS like this.

THE TWO SIDES OF GOD

It should not seem strange that God, who made man in His image, should have both a bright side and a dark side, manifested through the works of His two hands, in blessing and glory on the one hand, and in discipline and judgment on the other. The right hand of God, as we have seen, bespeaks God moving and acting through POSITIVE FORCES, while the left hand of God signifies God moving and acting through NEGATIVE FORCES. This reveals the beautiful balance in God's nature, as in all His works, and the whole creation is a revelation of this balance that exists first in the Creator Himself. There must be a balance. There must be the negative as well as the positive. That is but a natural law and we see it all around us. Without the negative and the positive we would have no electricity. Without the

evil we would not know the beauty of the good. Without the sorrow we would not know about the wonder of joy. Without failure we would not know the wonderful feeling of success. Without the darkness we would not appreciate the light. The dawn is all the more beautiful because of the darkness of the night. We learn by contrast and we find that God is working by contrast. Specially in His work of preparing His Sons for the great work of His Kingdom in the ages to come, we do learn by contrast and we see this principle exemplified in all the wonderful stories, experiences, and prophecies of the Bible.

In Prov. 25:16 we read, "Have you found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for you, lest you be filled therewith and vomit it." In other words, for us to eat nothing but honey will make us sick. There must be other things also. And as in the natural, so in the spiritual. And so it is with the TWO HANDS of God! Have we found the pleasures at the RIGHT HAND of God? Have we received His blessings, so lavishly bestowed? If so, eat just enough and let it be balanced with something from the LEFT HAND of God. Even if you THINK it is not good for you, accept it as from God, for we must not become sick from too much goodness from God. How can too much goodness sicken us? If God gave us only GOOD things, we would never become strong. If Job had never known anything but God's blessing unto him, he would have continued to be so weak that God would always have had to enclose him in a hedge. But after God's LEFT HAND was through dealing with Job he was an entirely different man, a man who not only was perfect, but tried, tested, and proven; a man who had been in a great deal of adversity, sorrow, and loss, but now he knew STRENGTH as well as God's blessing. Now God could bless him with twice as much as before - and with NO HEDGE!

There is a wonderful lesson in nature observable by the biophysical scientist. When one adjusts the lenses of his microscope to watch the individual cells of an organism he sees tremendous struggles going on within those cells with only particular successes and failures, victories and defeats in what appears to be a ruthless "dog-eat-dog" battle. But

when he changes the level of magnification to observe the organism as a whole, he sees that what was conflict at the lower level is harmony at the higher: that the very health and wellbeing, the ongoing life of the organism is precisely the OUTCOME of this microscopic turmoil. Ah, my brother, my sister, when our consciousness is raised high enough in the Spirit to see the WHOLE PICTURE, to SEE AS GOD SEES about all the circumstances and events that touch our lives, rather than dwelling upon the particular events themselves with their apparent negativeness, becoming irritated, worried, and upset by what is happening, we will see and know by the understanding HE GIVES that indeed, all these things ARE WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR GOOD and the ongoing development of our spiritual life is precisely the OUTCOME of all the conflict. Praise His name!

THE HIDDEN HAND

In the New Testament the Greek word for "right" as used with "hand" means THAT WHICH USUALLY TAKES. That is, it is the one that reaches out to take and we can also know that it is the one that usually reaches out to give. It is the far more active hand of the two in the vast majority of people. The left hand seems to be the subordinate member, helping the right hand. There is a wonderful and meaningful statement made by Jesus in Mat. 6:3, often passed over unnoticed. Jesus said, "But when you do alms, don't let your LEFT hand know what your RIGHT hand does." In other words, keep your left hand in the dark as to what your RIGHT HAND is doing! And remember, the right hand is the one that REACHES OUT either to take or to give. Jesus said hypocrites gave their alms openly to BE SEEN OF MEN, and the joy of being seen WAS THEIR REWARD. Such people had their reward already and no further reward would be given them. Their left hand, as it were, had full knowledge as to what their right hand had done and their ego and self-righteousness were fully rewarded in the praise of men received.

But Jesus cautioned His disciples to not let their left hand have knowledge of what the right hand was doing. Their

reward would come FROM GOD and not from men. Therefore their left hand, or their ego, self-nature with its self-interests and self-love, would be kept in the dark, left unsatisfied and unfulfilled in the good that was being done. Thus the left hand could in no way deprive them of the far greater reward THE FATHER HAD FOR THEM for their deeds of compassion and love.

In applying this principle to the actions of God's two hands, we find that Satan, wicked men, and all the forces of the negative realm have absolutely NO UNDERSTANDING of what the right hand of God is doing. Those of the left hand cannot perceive or know the PURPOSES AND INTENTIONS of the right hand in doing what it does. With this in mind, what a world of truth opens to our understanding from these inspired words of the apostle Paul, "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to naught: but we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which NONE OF THE PRINCES OF THIS WORLD KNEW: FOR HAD THEY KNOWN IT, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CRUCIFIED THE LORD OF GLORY" (I Cor. 2:6-8). None of the princes of this world KNEW! They were the negative force in God's left hand moving against the Christ, that the purpose of God in giving His beloved Son for the redemption of the world might be fulfilled.

"Him, being delivered BY THE DETERMINATE COUNSEL AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD, YOU have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" (Acts 2:23). Pilate said to Jesus, "Don't speak to me? Don't You know that I have power to release You?" Hear the answer of Jesus! "You could not have any power at all against Me except it were GIVEN TO YOU FROM ABOVE" (Jn. 19:10-11). For God to bring His redemptive plan into effect, there must be a balance, there must be a negative force opposing the positive power and force of God in Christ Jesus. There must be a Judas, CHOSEN to bring all things to a head in the fullness of time when Jesus must be crucified. There must

be a Pilate, GIVEN POWER FROM ABOVE, to take care of the legal side of all that happened on that dreadful night. There must be the soldiers selected to nail Jesus to the cross. There must be those who ridiculed Jesus, who scorned and mocked and cursed Him. Without a Satan, without a Judas, without a Pilate, without a rebellious, hateful nation of Israel, there would never have been a blessed Redeemer DYING FOR US!

Yes, GOD was doing this thing, GOD was in control of each and every action, it was all the work of HIS HAND! But those He moved upon at His left hand moved in darkness and did not know anything of what the right hand was doing, they knew not who the Christ was, why He was here, or what He was doing or would do. Never did they dream, in their wildest imaginations, that He really was the Son of God, that He actually would rise from the dead, that He would pour out the Holy Spirit in mighty wonder-working power and spread His Kingdom from pole to pole! They were doing what God had raised them up to do but they walked in darkness, they didn't KNOW! The left hand was at a great disadvantage. Today, as then, these evil forces do not even realize that it is the hand of God that is directing all of their actions. The forces of evil and the people under their control, have the false idea that they are directing their own steps and doing all things of themselves, and God allows them to think so! So we see them going their way boasting of all they are doing and believing themselves to be masters of their own destiny, marking out their own pathway!

The right hand of God is the ANOINTED HAND of God, for Christ (the Anointed) sits AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. It is this hand of God, the Christ, Head and body, that reaches forth to all mankind bringing redemption, restoration, and blessing. How we praise God for HIS RIGHT HAND, HIS POSITIVE FORCE, and that it is the more active and the stronger of the two! While the left hand is kept in ignorance of what the right hand is doing, the right hand is not always ignorant of what the left hand is doing "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (II Cor. 2:11). "But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that that

day should overtake you as a thief. You are all the children (sons) of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness" (I Thes. 5:4-5). When we realize we are in the light of God and know at least a little something of what is going on, then it is amusing, at times, to be able to watch the foolish moves being made by those used by the left hand of God. Foolish, perhaps, but so necessary to God's plan! How we rejoice to be able to stand by in assurance and confidence, watching GOD work, knowing that God is the One who is the author and finisher of all that happens in between. It is wonderful to be able to walk in at least a measure of light during all those times of testing, trial, proving, and judgment.

There is a further and enlightening application of this truth which we would share briefly. In the Song of Solomon 2:6 the Shulamite maiden says of her Beloved, "His LEFT HAND is under my head, and His RIGHT HAND embraces me." The meaning is clear - the left hand of God is under our head, it is hidden, unseen, the less visible working of God upon our lives, upholding and undertaking for us in all the ways and circumstances in which we do not see the hand of God. God has manifested Himself in history in the figure of the "left hand" - unseen and invisible, when men did not recognize Him. Elisha's servant (II Kings 6:13-17), as well as the prophet Habakkuk (Hab. 1:1-4), and many others, did not see the hidden hand of God, behind the head, away from the front of the eyes, working His plan and will. However, there are other times when the "right hand" of God works in an obvious fashion, before the eyes, in front of the face, performing the supernatural and the miracle right there for all to see. But keep in mind that if we had eyes in the back of our heads, so to speak, we could see both the right and left hand manifestations. We would see that God is there working ALL THE TIME. And all those blessed ones who have the "eyes of their understanding ENLIGHTENED" do see HIM IN ALL THINGS!

How often, in the midst of testing and trouble, we, like Peter, look at the billowing waves and behold not the Lord! When the blessings come pouring in and the glory waves sweep

through our souls, we know it is the Lord and we acknowledge and bless Him. But when trouble surrounds us, when adversity comes, calamity strikes, and all hell breaks loose, we fail to see where God's hand can be in THAT! But without that, we could not receive all He would give and do for us with His right hand. The right hand is the hand of His manifest grace and power, His inward love and joy, the smile of His approval with which He encourages and equips us. The left hand, under our head, holds us fast and secretly deals and works upon the clay of the earthen vessel in ways we understand not. The embracing of His right hand is so precious, as He lets His love fall upon us like dew, as He leads us into deeper revelations of Himself and of that which He has prepared for us. As we behold the King in His beauty He perfects that which concerns us and gets us ready to shine forth in His image.

While we rejoice in the embrace of God's right hand of love, let us not despise His left hand; let us yield to Him though He would use the knife upon us and pour the wine into the wound; for He will then pour in the oil and soothe us; He may wound, but He will heal us. Let us not forget, however, that He not only holds us fast and comforts us in trial, but He holds us fast in the fiery furnace, and on the swiftly moving wheel of His purifying and molding processes. How many times we would get out of His hands if He did not hold us fast when He puts us into the purifying furnace, out of which we would take ourselves if it were possible. It is His precious unseen left hand that holds us still as the dross is being consumed.

REIGNING AT THE RIGHT HAND

The Scripture tells us that "there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the MAN Christ Jesus" (I Tim. 2:5). Seated at the right hand of God today is a MAN. God came down from heaven and invaded humanity, He took upon Himself the nature and the body of a man, so that when He went back to the throne, He would take humanity back to the throne. There is no mystery to it that God sits on the throne, He belongs there; but to think now that MAN is

sitting on the throne! "Jesus of Nazareth, a MAN approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs ... THIS JESUS has God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore BEING BY THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD EXALTED..." (Acts 2:22, 32-33).

Some people have the impression that the New Testament Church was in a constant expectation to meet Jesus around every corner or to see Him appear during their gatherings, but that is not true. That happened only for forty days after His resurrection. Then one day He wanted them to know that they must not look for Him around corners or the next time they went fishing, so He took them up on a mountain, blessed them, and allowed them to see Him in that body one last time, not disappearing as He had done on many occasions, but ascending slowly up into heaven, caught up into a cloud, ascending into life on a higher plane, caught up into transcendent glory, so that they knew, as Paul later wrote, that we have one mediator between God and man, the MAN Christ Jesus, yet a man ASCENDED and EXALTED, SITTING ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. So we do not look for Him in any physical appearance for "henceforth know we NO MAN after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more" (II Cor. 5:16). But it is still a MAN at the right hand of God!

There is confirmation of this in Acts 7:55-56 where we read concerning Stephen, "But he being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God and JESUS STANDING ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. And said, Behold I see the heavens opened and the SON OF MAN standing on the right hand of God." The right hand of God, as we have previously pointed out, is the realm of ALL AUTHORITY, POWER, DOMINION, WISDOM, AND KNOWLEDGE. It is the realm of God's OMNIPOTENCE. It was rankest blasphemy in the minds of the persecutors of Stephen for him to say that he saw JESUS, the SON OF MAN, standing at the RIGHT HAND of God. Such words were for him to seal his doom at the hands of the high priest and all the council. If Stephen had said he saw the SON OF

GOD there, it would not have been so grievous, perhaps, but when we realize that it is the SON OF MAN seated in such a place, then it assumes proportions that we never before have thought about.

The right hand of God is not a geographical or astral PLACE. The throne of the God who is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent SPIRIT is not a material one, but bespeaks the REALM OF HIS SUPREME AND UNIVERSAL AUTHORITY AND RULERSHIP; and our Lord Jesus Christ has been exalted to the glory of that rulership. The RIGHT HAND of God is a realm of power and authority, a position of eminence, a condition and a state of being. It is the assumption of the almighty power and universal dominion of the Father. It is the dispensing of HIS POSITIVE ENERGY FORCE into His creation. Exalted to that high realm Jesus no longer walks in a limited physical body, for He now indwells the Church, which IS His body, the FULLNESS OF HIM THAT FILLS ALL IN ALL (Eph. 1:22-23).

And blessed be God! we now have a share in the REALM OF THE RIGHT HAND. "If you then be risen with Christ, SEEK those things which are above, WHERE CHRIST SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. Set your affection on things above, and not on things on the earth. For you are dead, and your life is HID WITH CHRIST IN GOD" (Col. 3:1-3). Eph. 2:5-6 tells us that "when we were dead through our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ ... and raised us up with Him, and made us SIT TOGETHER WITH HIM in the heavenly places." This shows that as we come to know the resurrection life of Christ, we are also made to experience the ASCENSION of Christ. We are chosen of God not only to be made alive from the dead and have God's life, but also to sit in the heavenly places as ASCENDED MEN. He causes us to ascend with Him and sit with Him in the heavens - NOW! Therefore, ascension truly is the position of those who know Christ in His fullness. The position of ascension rests not only on the fact of Christ's ascension, but on the LIFE OF ASCENSION WE HAVE OBTAINED WITHIN US. The Christ who indwells our hearts IS THE ASCENDED CHRIST, and His life is ascended and

heavenly, and is given from heaven. It is a life which reaches heaven. Therefore, once we obtain this life, we have fellowship with heaven and are joined to heaven and dwell in heaven. Although according to the conditions of the outer man we still live on earth, yet according to the INNER MAN we are already in heaven. The situation is just like our Lord's during His time on earth. He said then that though He "descended from heaven" He was still "in heaven" (Jn. 3:13). This was due to the fact that His life was heavenly and one with heaven.

Man in God's image, man in Christ at the right hand of God, is God's government in the Kingdom of God. Was not this magnificent purpose burning in the heart of our heavenly Father when on the sixth creative day He proclaimed the wonderful decree: "Let us make man in our image ... and LET THEM HAVE DOMINION over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth" (Gen.1:26). In this shadowy type we behold a vivid portrait of God's purpose for man, that when man comes fully into GOD'S IMAGE he shall be, first, the ruler of things beneath, the lowest realms of the bottomless, typified by the fish swarming in the depths of the seas, and the creeping things; next, the things upon the earth, typified by the cattle, and all the earth; and lastly, the things of the heavens also, typified by the fowl of the air. One may find it difficult to embrace so great a truth from so small and insignificant a type, but it was upon this very Edenic type, as reiterated by the prophet David in the eighth Psalm, that the writer of the book of Hebrews enlarged when by the Spirit he wrote, "For unto the angels has He not put into subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, what IS man, that You are mindful of him? You made him a little lower (Gr: for a little while lower) than the angels; You CROWN HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, and set him OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS: You have put A-L-L T-H-I-N-G-S in subjection under his feet. For in that He put ALL in subjection under him, He left N-O-T-H-I-N-G that is NOT put under him!" (Heb. 2:5-8).

You won't quite grasp that at first. Its too overwhelming! To be CROWNED means to be given KINGLY RULE. To be crowned with GLORY and HONOR is to be given such rule as Jesus Christ has NOW, and of that rule we read, "Wherefore God also has HIGHLY EXALTED Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus Christ every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11). We have already stated that MAN in God's image, MAN IN CHRIST AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD is God's government in the Kingdom of God. Paul said it this way, "Who (Jesus) IS THE IMAGE of the invisible God ... by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers ... and you are complete IN HIM WHICH IS THE HEAD OF A-L-L PRINCIPALITY AND POWER" (Col. 1:15-17; 2:9-10).

All who in Christ come to God's image are destined to share that awesome dominion, seated together with Him, far above all principality and power. The reason so many people fail to attain to the great heights of the Spirit is because they are unable to see God's purposes, and therefore they have no particular incentive to seek the great heights that are IN HIM. So many Christians are far too taken up with carnal ideas and childish notions about mansions in the skies and harps and white night gowns and sitting on clouds eating pork chops with nothing to do and all eternity to do it in, to be able to see the true purposes of God at HIS RIGHT HAND. Simply speaking, the purpose of God is that we might reign with Him, and to reign is to exercise authority for God - to rule all things. Paul tells us that we are to SEEK those things which are ABOVE - WHERE CHRIST SITS at the RIGHT HAND of God. This means that we are to SEEK THE THINGS OF THE RIGHT HAND! Reigning with Christ must become one of the great goals in the life of every man or woman who has received the call to Sonship.

Our reigning is rooted not only in the position of ascension, but also in the position of order arranged by God. Therefore, if we want to reign for God, not only do we need to live in the conscious awareness of ascension, but we must also keep the position of order given us by God - that is, to submit to the authority to which we should submit. Let me illustrate. In Lk. 10:19 the Lord says, "Behold, I have given you AUTHORITY to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the POWER of the enemy." It is true, the King James version states that Christ has given us "power" to tread on serpents and scorpions, but the Greek word is "exousia" meaning AUTHORITY or JURISDICTION. When Jesus speaks of the "power" of the enemy, however, He uses a different word, "dunamis", meaning POWER. Our English words dynamite and dynamo come from that Greek word. Ah! all our adversaries have is POWER, but what the Lord gives us is AUTHORITY. The Lord gives us authority in order to deal with all the power of the enemy. We may illustrate this by an automobile moving along the road. Although it is full of power, yet a traffic policeman has authority over it. When he blows his whistle the mighty engine must slow to a whisper and the car must stop. Again, it is like an army. Although it has great power with its men, guns, tanks, airplanes, and bombs, yet the general has the authority. When he gives an order, the army must obey. He has authority over the power. This reveals that authority is over power and can control power, therefore, authority is greater than power.

But authority depends entirely upon position. With the position, there is the authority; without the position, there is no authority. A policeman without his uniform and not standing in the assigned post has no authority to direct the traffic. A general taking leave from his duty has no authority to command an army. Likewise, our heavenly authority depends solely on the reality of our ascension and our position in the order of God. All the authority of the traffic policeman previously mentioned depends not only on his standing at the assigned post, but also on his submitting to his superior. If he leaves his assigned post, he will not be

able to direct the cars. If he rebels against his superior, he will lose his official rights. Therefore, a policeman's executing of his authority depends on the keeping of his duty on the one hand, and on keeping the position of his rank on the other hand. The position of his duty is equivalent to our position of ascension, seated together WITH HIM in the heavenlies, and the position of his rank is equivalent to our position of order, submitted to HIS LORDSHIP.

Matthew 8:5-13 tells us of a centurion who came to ask the Lord to heal his servant's sickness. His faith was based on his knowledge of the position of order. He said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having under myself soldiers: and I say to this one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my servant, Do this, and he does it." Since he himself was under authority, he could command those under him. Therefore, he believed that the Lord needed only to exercise His authority and give a word of command, and the matter would be done. He really knew the relationship between order and authority. He knew that in order to reign, he had first to submit to the reigning. In order to be the authority, he had first to submit to authority.

When God created man in the beginning, God gave man authority to have dominion over all the creatures in the sea, in the air, and upon earth, representing all realms from the lowest of the bottomless, to the highest of the heavens. At that time, man was submitting to God's authority; hence, God's authority was in him, and all things were made to submit to man. But once man rebelled against God, unwilling as he was to submit to God's authority, he then lost the authority of God. As a result, all the creation under man was no longer in subjection to man's authority. Therefore, not only can sin, sickness, sorrow, pain, death, and the devil harm us today; even the snakes, wild beasts, mosquitoes, and fleas can bite and torment us! This indicates that the entire fallen universe is full of the creatures' rebelliousness and insubordination.

But in this rebellious and confused universe, whenever there is one who is still willing to accept and walk under God's authority, God's authority will be manifested upon him and he will be able to reign. Moses is an example. He was a man who submitted to God's authority and thereby reigned for God. When he was confronted with the rebellion and stubbornness of the Israelites, he submitted himself to God's authority. Especially at the time Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and those with them rebelled and assembled themselves together against him, he submitted himself even more to the authority of God. They attacked Moses and Aaron, saying, "You take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and Jehovah is among them: wherefore then lift you up yourselves above the assembly of Jehovah?" (Num. 16:3). They said that Moses was taking too much authority over the people; their intention was to overthrow his authority. At that time, Moses did not look to his own authority and seek to solve the problem himself. On the contrary, he FELL UPON HIS FACE BEFORE THE LORD and let God vindicate him. His falling upon his face before God was his KEEPING THE POSITION OF ORDER. He knew that his authority was not based in himself, but in God. Only by his complete submission to God and dependence upon HIM would he be able to reign for God. In the end it was manifested even more clearly than before that the authority of God was upon him.

Let us consider David. In his entire life, David submitted not only to God's authority, but also, in an absolute way, to the authority of order. He recognized that Saul was God's anointed one, that Saul was in the position of king, and that Saul was placed by God to be His authority. He realized that he was only a subject of Saul. Therefore, no matter how Saul persecuted him as an enemy, he never dared to rebel against him. In this way, he kept the position of order, not grasping authority, but submitting to authority. Consequently, the day came when God also anointed him king, that he might reign for God in the nation of Israel.

But all those men who submitted to God and reigned for him were imperfect, tarnished by their own blemishes and

weaknesses. It was not until the Lord Jesus came as the Word made flesh that there was in this rebellious universe A MAN who submitted absolutely to GOD'S AUTHORITY. "For I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me" (Jn. 6:38). "I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father has taught Me, I speak these things. And He that sent Me is with Me: the Father has not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him" (Jn. 8:28-29). In the life of the firstborn Son, every word and action, every move and cessation, were in accordance with His Father's will and in subjection to the Father's authority. "He humbled Himself, becoming OBEDIENT EVEN UNTO DEATH, yea, the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:8). Therefore, God HIGHLY EXALTED HIM, seating Him at His own RIGHT HAND, far above all principality and power, and far above all heavens. Every knee shall bow to Him and every tongue in all God's great universe shall call Him Lord - all in submission to HIS AUTHORITY. Because the Lord Jesus SUBMITTED TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE FATHER and kept the position of order, He obtained authority and is able to reign for God!

Precious friend of mine, if ever you hope to reign with Christ YOU MUST BECOME SUBMITTED TO THE AUTHORITY OF GOD. And I'm not talking about coming to El Paso and submitting to my ministry, or to any other man or group of men. Certainly we must walk in all humility with our brethren, "submitting ourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Eph. 5:21). But true SONSHIP SUBMISSION is SUBMISSION TO THE FATHER THROUGH THE HEADSHIP AND LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST for God has "put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23). "And He is the Head of the body ... who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things HE might have the preeminence" (Col. 1:18). How tragic that there are so many in this hour who are "not holding the Head, from whom all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increases with the increase of God" (Col. 2:19).

There are multitudes across the land who loudly profess to have received the call to sonship who, rather than submitting themselves UNDER THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD, submit their walk with God into the hands of others who persuade them that they are more capable than themselves to watch for their souls. The land is filled with men calling themselves apostles, elders, shepherds, etc., who desire to lord it over a flock or other men's lives, telling others what they can and cannot do, esteeming themselves spiritual enough to discern for everyone else what the will of the Lord is, though they bear no credentials other than their own word that they possess such authority. Certainly there are many precious under-shepherds, true ministries HE has set in the body, humble examples to the flock, with a flow of HIS LIFE, bearing the true word of the Lord for this hour, a source of encouragement, confirmation, and strength unto all unto whom they are sent, and we praise God for them. All such true ministries bear one signal mark of distinction: they do not draw followers after themselves, they POINT ALL MEN TO THE LORD; they do not ask you to blindly submit to them, but they present you unto HIM WHO IS THE HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH.

I speak the truth when I say that the greatest need in this hour is for the people of God to begin to KNOW THE LORD FOR THEMSELVES. Let all who treasure the beautiful hope of sonship begin to seek God, and walk with God, and know God, and hear from God, and submit to Him in all His ways, and to His will and to His word, and GOD HIMSELF will be YOUR FATHER and you will sup with HIM and He with you. Ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and before you realize it you will find yourself digging deep in the storehouse of God's treasures of wisdom and knowledge and sitting with Him at His banqueting table. He will spread a table before you in the presence of your enemies, He will lead you through green pastures; He will reveal to you fountains of living water flowing FROM WITHIN; He will cause you to rest beside cool, still streams; and HE, the Great Shepherd of the sheep will abide with you and your cup will overflow with the

unspeakable riches of His grace and the wonder of His glorious and eternal reality.

How many are submitted to men but not to God! If you would keep the position of order in God's house of Sons you must remember that "Christ is a Son OVER HIS OWN HOUSE; whose house we are" (Heb. 3:6). He is the Head, He is the Great Shepherd, He is the Lord, He is the firstborn. I can assure you, dear ones, that to the degree that you KNOW HIM in intimate fellowship and vital union and SUBMIT TO HIM in all His will, ways, and dealings, you will know HIS AUTHORITY and be able to reign with Him and HE will be able to REIGN THROUGH YOU in all things! It is not enough to know how God would have us think, act, and be as Sons of God. There must be submission to Him, with daily inworkings of His nature, mind, and power. We must know our position in ascension and live continually in the consciousness of the heavenly life, but we must also keep the position of order and be in all things SUBMITTED UNTO GOD, joined unto the Head, obeying His will as He reveals it to us. When we obey men our authority comes from men. When we obey God the authority comes from God. And when we obey God - we REIGN!

THE TRIUMPH OF THE RIGHT HAND

"Your right hand, O Lord, is BECOME glorious in power. Your right hand, O Lord, has dashed in pieces the enemy" (Ex. 15:6). While it is difficult for us to conceive of God becoming something more than He already is, and as to His nature there can never be any change, yet the Spirit reveals that the RIGHT HAND of God had not previously been all that it was when the children of Israel triumphantly marched dry-shod through the red sea, for the prophet speaks of a day wherein the right hand of the Lord "is BECOME glorious in power", denoting a process in the UNFOLDING of the power of His right hand in the midst of men. And, while the right hand of God is first and foremost the realm of God's almighty power and authority, His right hand BECAME glorious in power when it was revealed in mighty signs and wonders through the person of the man Moses. And now

there has been a wonderful enlargement in the revelation of God's right hand, for Jesus Christ has been exalted to the realm of the right hand, and there shall be a further enlargement, the promise is sure, "To him that overcomes will I grant to SIT WITH ME IN MY THRONE, as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne" (Rev. 3:21). Thus Jesus was able to say, "ALL POWER is given unto Me in heaven and in earth" (Mat. 28:18), and again, "But YOU shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:8). God's right hand is BECOMING A PEOPLE, the Christ, Head and body, a many-membered SON OF THE RIGHT HAND, and the manifestation of God in this RIGHT HAND COMPANY shall BECOME even more glorious in power as the appointed hour for the unveiling of the Sons of God arrives. These shall not only declare His Word, but have authority and ability to see it established in the earth. When the power of God arises in all fullness in His body of Sons, and He is exalted in the people He has prepared, how unspeakably glorious and honorable He will be in the eyes of His creation!

"O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He has done marvelous things: His RIGHT HAND and His holy arm, has gotten Him the victory. The Lord has made known His salvation: His righteousness has He openly showed in the sight of the heathen. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for He comes to judge the earth: with righteousness shall He judge the world, and the people with equity" (Ps. 98:1-3, 7-9). Think of it - His enemies submit, the nations are ready to worship Him, and sing to His name, the ends of the earth all shall turn to Him, because His right hand shall do marvelous things, and He shall make known His salvation to all!

Truly, beloved, this RIGHT HAND COMPANY will get Him the victory! There is no doubt about it, no devil, no wicked men or nations or armies can stop this company from doing the things God has declared they will do, and because of

their ministry, the nations will come to know the Lord and sing His praise. As the work of restoration progresses, what harmony, what glorious unity shall fill the universe, as this company of KING-PRIESTS flow together, by that which every joint supplies, to gather together into Christ all things, till all has been set in array, and God is indeed ALL IN ALL - everything to everybody. Hallelujah!

How sweet shall be the influence of this RIGHT HAND COMPANY, the POSITIVE FORCE of God's energy, ministering His life, His love, His joy, His peace unto creation. How thankful we are not to be numbered among those who are called to the LEFT HAND, to walk in darkness, and be vessels of wrath. There is no harshness in the ministry of the right hand, oh yes, even the right hand "dashes the enemy in pieces", but it is the destruction of the negative qualities that there might be LIFE. These bring correction MINISTERED IN LOVE, leading all mankind to the Fountain of Living Water, feeding them in green pastures, causing them to lie down and rest, and not be afraid. Ah - we would SEEK THE THINGS AT THE RIGHT HAND!

Chapter Four

For the past few months we have emphasized the truth that in the Scriptures we find the right hand of God mentioned a great many times, and the left hand of God is mentioned on a number of occasions. The word "right" as used with "hand" is generally the Hebrew word "yamim" meaning STRONGER, MORE DEXTEROUS. The word for "left" is "smowl" meaning DARK. From the meaning of these two words it is very easy to understand that God's right hand is His strength and dexterity, or His wonderful ability to do all things. The implication is that the right hand of God is the GOOD HAND of God, doing GOOD things. The Psalmist confirms this when he says, "In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your RIGHT HAND are PLEASURES for evermore" (Ps. 16:11). But the left hand in the Old Testament means DARK and from this we can readily understand that it signifies the opposite - what we call bad or evil. The left hand represents the DARK SIDE OF GOD. This is the hand of God so little understood.

It should not seem strange that God, who made man in His image, should have both a bright side and a dark side, manifested through the works of His two hands, in blessing and glory on the one hand, and in discipline and judgment on the other. The right hand of God, as we have seen, bespeaks God moving and acting through POSITIVE FORCES, while the left hand of God signifies God moving and acting through NEGATIVE FORCES. This reveals the beautiful balance in God's nature, as in all His works, and the whole creation is a revelation of this balance that exists first in the Creator Himself. There must be a balance. There must be the negative as well as the positive. That is but a natural law, established by God Himself, and we see it all around us.

All nature is a revealing of the Creator as Paul explains in Rom. 1:20. "For ever since the creation of the world His invisible nature and attributes, that is, His eternal power and

divinity have been seen and made intelligible and clearly discernible in and through the things that have been made - His handiworks" (Amplified). The universe unmistakably reveals the awesome fact that there is polarity in God. What exactly, is polarity? Webster defines it as "the condition of having magnetic poles, one positive and attracting, the other negative and repelling; the contrary qualities, powers, etc., as both wrath and mercy." Polarity is more than simple duality or opposition. For to say that opposites are "polar" is to say much more than that they are far apart: it is to say that they are RELATED AND JOINED - that they are the terms, ends, or extremities of a SINGLE WHOLE. Polar opposites are therefore INSEPARABLE opposites, like the poles of the earth or of a magnet, or the ends of a stick or the faces of a coin. Though what lies between the poles is more substantial than the poles themselves - nevertheless the three are undivided, constituting a single whole.

The correct understanding of this principle gives the answer to the all-important question, "Is God this, or is He that? Is God a God of wrath, or is He a God of mercy? Is He absolute love, or is He absolutely just?" The answer to such questions is simply that He is BOTH! God is not one OR the other. He is the perfect harmonization and balance of POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE. God has TWO HANDS! "The works of HIS HANDS are truth AND judgment" (Ps. 111:7). We will never understand God or His dealings aright until we grasp the truth that many experiences, values, qualities and powers which we have believed to be contrary and distinct are, after all, TWO ASPECTS OF THE SAME THING. God does not pit His judgment against His mercy, neither does He show ONLY MERCY to some and ONLY JUDGMENT to others. The sweet singer of Israel intoned these enlightening words: "I will sing of mercy AND judgment: unto You, O Lord, will I sing!" (Ps. 101:1). The prophet Isaiah, speaking of the ministry of the Christ, declared of Him, "A bruised reed shall He not break, and the smoking flax shall He not quench: He shall bring forth judgment unto TRUTH" (Isa. 42:3). Judgment unto truth - how unspeakably blessed! This kind of judgment can never be characterized as unrestrained,

unappeasable, implacable, sadistic rage inflicting purposeless, merciless, unending vengeance upon mankind - but CORRECTIVE, REDEMPITIVE JUDGMENT to break the rebellion of men, and BRING THEM ALL INTO TRUTH AGAIN. As the apostle so beautifully confirms, "I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for ALL MEN ... for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who WILL HAVE ALL MEN TO BE SAVED, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:1, 3-4). We do not minimize the workings of wrath, but we do rejoice in the beautiful BALANCE and PURPOSE between the work of God's LEFT HAND and that of His RIGHT HAND - both leading to righteousness. "For the Word of the Lord is right; and ALL His works are done in TRUTH. He loves righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the GOODNESS of the Lord!" (Ps. 33:4-5).

The "rightness" or "leftness" of a thing, however, exists not in the thing itself, or in the space it occupies. It exists rather in the thing's RELATIONSHIP TO US. Let me illustrate. If we are facing each other, what is on the right or the left of me hasn't the same meaning for you. Its meaning, in fact, is exactly reversed in each consciousness. The things on your right are on my left. If we are talking to each other on the phone, however, left and right have no concrete meaning at all in the absence of a common reference point. They exist only abstractly. How important, then, the words of Jesus become! "And before HIM shall be gathered all nations: and HE shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and He shall set the sheep on HIS RIGHT HAND, but the goats on the (His) LEFT. Then shall the King say unto them on HIS RIGHT HAND, Come, blessed of My Father ... then shall He say also unto them on the (His) LEFT HAND, Depart from Me, you cursed..." (Mat. 25:32-34,41).

The only way we can ever know what is "right" and what is "left" is by becoming properly RELATED TO GOD, positioned IN HIM, to SEE AS HE SEES! Right and left is never determined in relation to us, from where we sit or how

things appear to the natural mind, but only in relation to God, from where HE sits and how things are to HIM! "I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on HIS RIGHT HAND and on HIS LEFT" (I Kings 22:19). "Therefore being by the RIGHT HAND OF GOD exalted ... He has shed forth this which you now see and hear" (Acts 2:33). "GOD ... set HIM at His OWN RIGHT HAND in the heavenly places ... and has raised US up together, and made US sit together in the heavenly places IN CHRIST JESUS" (Eph. 1:20; 2:6). Ah, it is there IN CHRIST JESUS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD that we are positioned with God, to see as He sees, the things at His right hand becoming the things at our right hand and the things at His left hand are at our left hand. How can we know, in any circumstance or situation, what is needed? Should God deal with His right hand of blessing or His left hand of judgment? Should we rebuke the devil that the captive be set free, or remain silent in the knowledge that this one is, for a season, delivered unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh? If we render a decision based on some blanket set of "promises" in the Word, or on how things look to us, apart from the mind of the Spirit, we will invariably take the wrong action! The natural mind always has things reversed. Only in proper relationship to God, in union with Him, receiving the mind of Christ, and the illumination of the Holy Spirit, can we comprehend God's purposes, our spirit saying Amen, and our actions flowing in harmony with what the Father is doing. We must reign AT HIS RIGHT HAND!

THE DEALINGS OF GOD'S LEFT HAND

There is a theme about which every Son must have a clear understanding if he is to walk in the Father's dealings in full assurance. It is the fact of the dual aspect of God's nature and His workings - the two sides of love - God's love. Let every man and woman who treasures the beautiful hope of sonship know that there is the DARK SIDE OF GOD'S LOVE! Ah, the Great Physician will put His child on the operating table. He will use the surgeon's knife when He sees a tumor of self-will or a deadly virus of carnality sapping

our spiritual lives, or when He sees the cancerous growth of sin. He does not hesitate to deal with us severely. We must learn this fact early: He loves us just as much when He is subjecting us to surgery, as when He sends us blessings and gifts and brings us into the sunshine of His glory. Precious friend of mine, He loves us most when He is dealing severely with us, "for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives" (Heb. 12:6).

The Lord is causing His elect to "PASS UNDER THE ROD", the rod of chastisement in His left hand, and all who are Sons indeed are aware of the effectiveness of that ROD OF THE LORD. When the Lord gave His covenant to David, He also included a promise to David's seed: "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with THE ROD of men, and with the stripes of the children of men" (II Sam. 7:12-14). We are also aware of the fact that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God", therefore, chastisement and correction is necessary for all who would attain unto the glory of God. And if we are to inherit the covenants of God with promise, it is important that we submit ourselves unto Him for the corrections necessary to bring us into conformity to His likeness and glory.

Job was a man who was PASSING UNDER THE ROD OF GOD. He was called to something in God and his life was marked by intense trials and testings. As he endured the trials of the rod of the Lord, he observed that other men were not called upon (at that time) to go through such testings, for he said, "Their houses are safe from fear, NEITHER IS THE ROD OF GOD UPON THEM" (Job 21:9; 9:34). The Psalmist recognized that the Lord alone was his Shepherd and that He led him "in green pastures" and "beside still waters". "He restores my soul," declared David, "and He leads me in the paths of righteousness." And then David revealed how it was that God so led Him when he said, "...for You are with me; YOUR ROD and Your staff they comfort me." When we are able to see the wonderful purpose and benefit of the rod of

the Lord, as did David, then we likewise declare, "YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF THEY COMFORT ME!"

In the beautiful eighty-ninth Psalm we read more of the seed of David and the necessity for the rod: "My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and My covenant shall stand fast with him ... his throne shall endure as the days of heaven. If his children forsake My law, and walk not in My judgments ... then will I visit their transgressions WITH THE ROD, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless My lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer My faithfulness to fail. My covenant will I not break..." (Ps. 89:28-37).

In the original covenant with David the Lord stated, "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son" (II Sam. 7:14). In the Wisdom of Solomon we read of the true relationship of a father and his son: "He that SPARES HIS ROD hates his son: but he that loves him chastens him betimes" (Prov. 13:24). It is, therefore, evidence of a father's love when he chastens his sons with his rod. The wise man also said, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; BUT THE ROD OF CORRECTION shall drive it far from him" (Prov. 22:15). Ah! The Lord's ROD OF CORRECTION in His left hand is driving from us the foolishness of our own ways. Thank God!

The prophet Micah forth told the Lord's purpose in correcting His people, Israel. In the burning passion of prophetic anointing he declared, "The Lord's voice cries.. HEAR THE ROD, AND (HIM) WHO HAS APPOINTED IT" (Mi. 6:9). And again, "FEED (OR RULE) YOUR PEOPLE WITH YOUR ROD" (Mi. 7:14). There shall be an obedient people, Sons conformed to the Father's image, the elect of the Lord who shall HEAR THE ROD OF HIM WHO HAS APPOINTED IT. Beloved one, is God causing you to HEAR THE ROD? Are you receiving correction from the rod of the Lord and HEARING ITS MESSAGE? The Sons of the Most High are truly PASSING UNDER THE ROD in fulfillment of the prophetic type, and are thereby being separated unto the Lord to rule and reign at His right hand.

One fact stands out from history, the Bible, and our own experience: GOD DOES NOT CHASTEN AND CORRECT ONLY SAINTS - He also judges individual sinners, wicked families, cities, and nations. Some months ago I turned on my car radio while en route to a meeting on a Sunday morning and heard a preacher relate a most interesting and illustrative story. He said, "I remember a friend of mine that I was in school with. He was a pastor in the East Texas oil fields at the time of the explosion at the New London School. I shall never forget that night when word came in on the radio that that school had exploded and that over 300 boys and girls had been killed. I was speaking the next morning on the radio in Dallas, Texas. And that morning I directed everything I had to say to the parents and loved ones of those boys and girls. We had cards and letters from New England, from Cuba, from Mexico, from all over the country.

"But this pastor friend of mine told me this story. He said, In the parish in which I was the pastor, there lived a man that had become suddenly rich. He was a Texan who had become oil rich, even had put up a small refinery. And he had made already several millions of dollars. He had built a lovely home. He had a wife and two beautiful boys. And the wife and two boys were Christians, fellowshipping in our Church. And this pastor went on and said, This man was the worst blasphemer I had ever met in my life. I've never heard a man talk as that man would talk. He would blaspheme God, curse God. And his wife was so concerned about him and asked me to go see him. I went to see him, and I've never been treated like that in my life. He cursed me from the time I opened my mouth until I got out of earshot. He called me everything that was in the book and some things I didn't know were in the book. He was vile. His wife and one of his little boys took sick during the flu epidemic and both died at the same time. I went over that night to see them. I went in and there sat the father and the little boy that was alive. I went over and sat down beside them and began to talk, and he began to abuse me again. And curse - I've never heard anything like it! It was vile beyond description. He blasphemed God's name. There was nothing left for me to

do but get up and walk out of there, which I did. I had the funeral. The man wouldn't even speak to me. And he became more vile after that. But all of the love that he'd had for his family, and that seemed to be the only thing about the man that was a redeeming feature, was now turned to this one little boy that was left.

"That little boy was in the New London School. This man, when he heard of the explosion, went out to that school and went through that rubble like a madman until he found the torn and twisted, broken body of that little boy. Then he took it in his arms and walked up and down that schoolyard like a madman until they actually took it away from him and carried it to the funeral home. You know, I felt it was my duty to go and talk with him. So that night I went over to that big home, and I went in and there was that little white casket and there he sat, the same place he'd sat before. I just steeled myself for the cursing that I was to get. I was afraid to say anything. I just sat down. Then that great big hulk of a fellow looked up and our eyes met. He hadn't cried before, but there were tears in his eyes. And instead of cursing me, he said to me, God has been after me all the time. He's tried to speak to me all my life, and I turned my back on Him. He took my wife and my other little boy, and I knew He was talking to me. But I was afraid of what men might say, those I worked with and was associated with. Oh, what a coward I've been. And now He's had to take this one! Well, he said, God can have me now. And that man got down on his knees beside that casket and took Christ as his Saviour. The last time I saw that pastor friend of mine he told me that that oil man was still serving God."

That man did not respond to the dealings of God's right hand through the POSITIVE witness of the gospel of God's grace, so corrective measures were needed, and God stretched forth even His left hand and brought NEGATIVE forces into action, thereby getting his attention. Once broken under the dealing of God's left hand, he knelt before the Lord and received the salvation so graciously offered by God's right hand. Hallelujah!

Precious friend of mine, once we thoroughly understand the dual ministry of God's two hands we will THANK HIM for all things He sends into our lives. We will thank Him for adversity - not just for blessing, for adversity. And we will thank Him for every problem, every disappointment, every faithless friend, every heartache, every false accusation that has ever been made against us. "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to TRY you, as though some strange thing happened unto you..." (I Pet. 4:12). When God by revelation has made this very real to our hearts we will say, "Oh, God, I thank You for putting me on the operating table, for cutting out that which was hindering me." You and I are being trained and disciplined in order that in wisdom and righteousness and power and love we may reign with Christ at God's right hand.

What is YOUR RESPONSE to the dealings of God in your life? Are you angry and bitter at your circumstances, filled with resentment and rage? Are you inwardly shaking your fist at God, demanding, "Why does this have to happen to me?" Or are you thankful and broken? What is your spirit? What is your attitude? There is a verse in the Old Testament that beautifully clarifies these truths. "I will mention the loving kindnesses of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, and according to the multitude of His loving kindnesses. For He said, Surely they are My people, children that will not lie: so He was their Saviour. In all THEIR AFFLICTION HE WAS AFFLICTED, and the angel of His presence saved them: in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled, and vexed His Holy Spirit: therefore HE WAS TURNED TO BE THEIR ENEMY, and HE FOUGHT AGAINST THEM" (Isa. 63:7-10).

Everything that happened to Israel in the Old Testament happened for our example and learning (I Cor. 10:11; Rom. 15:4). When Israel rebelled against the Lord, He became their ENEMY! God becomes your enemy when you walk after the flesh, for the carnal mind is HOSTILE toward God

(Rom. 8:7). The Lord's people, then and now, rebel and grieve the Holy Spirit. Then God becomes your adversary. Whenever the believer frustrates the grace of God by being bull-headed in his conceit, or stubbornness, or pride, or bitterness, or resentment, God becomes his enemy. In that moment the LEFT HAND OF GOD becomes the adversary against that UNHOLY attitude. And for our GOOD, God will fight with us...to correct us. God will discipline and mold us as Sons. This will produce the peaceable fruit of righteousness in us. To be carnally minded is death. God wants us to live! God will trouble us, pursue us, and put His sword at our throat until we break and learn that God's way is the BEST way!

God wants us to prosper. God wants us to be in health. God wants to lavishly bestow blessings upon us from His right hand. I believe that and I preach that and I practice that. But God also wants us to be refined as gold is refined in the furnace and come forth bearing His nature! You and I, beloved, must be discerning and get a solid, balanced perspective of God's plan for our lives, or we will miss the very thing that can bring us into His likeness, and image, and glory. There has been a subtle, deceptive teaching creeping through the body of Christ that says that ANYTHING negative or adverse is wrong. But I do not hesitate to tell you that we must have a balanced diet of spiritual things. To the best of my ability I am going to preach a balanced Word. I want my daughter to eat a balanced diet and grow up to be strong and healthy. Did you ever learn to eat spinach? I am talking about those things that don't taste so good (at least to children) but which are good for us! Some Christians are like little children - they only want to eat that which is good TO them, but not that which is good FOR them. Mama says, "Eat your spinach, honey." And then we hear a further word: "Eat ALL of it. It is good for you!" My deep desire is for you to grow up to be strong and healthy in Jesus Christ as Sons of God! I want you to be an overcomer. I really do. I don't want you to be filled with frustration. I learned something a long time ago: if you want to know what the Bible means, then first see what the Bible SAYS. "We MUST through MUCH

TRIBULATION enter into the Kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). Now, instead of that word "tribulation", insert that person or thing or circumstance that God has custom-built for YOUR development! I know what is happening to you who are crying out in your spirit to be like the Lord: you are being processed and matured and trained and changed! One extreme in the land proclaims the great things, bountiful blessings from God's right hand. The other tangent can only project the terrible things, doom and gloom and the working of the cross. But God has TWO HANDS and He works in a balanced way. We rejoice in the faith and goodness and prosperity from God's right hand, but we also praise God for the chastenings and dealings from His left hand that will make these truths work themselves out in reality and practicality.

The carnal mind says, "I see no value or purpose to all this trouble and tribulation." The carnal mind is shrewd as a lawyer looking for a loophole. The carnal mind doesn't like it or want it. The mind of Christ, the spiritual mind of Rom. 8:1-6, knows that the servant is not above his Lord. The disciple is not above his Master who learned obedience by the things He suffered. God is preparing a people who cannot be moved or upset or frustrated by anything. The cry of His heart is for a people who can share His throne and shepherd the nations with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:26-27). We cannot afford the luxury of our personal feelings. WE HAVE NO "RIGHTS". If we do, we'll lose them under the dealings of God's left hand! Your testings will last as long as it takes to change your mind, attitude, and actions. Can we walk around in the furnace without complaining? Can we sing and dance in the fire? Can we sing praises in jail at midnight? The key to God's whole program operating in your life is your spirit and attitude of response to HIS WILL in your life. When your attitude and conduct become right, then the dealing of God's left hand will cease.

How beautiful the knowledge that BOTH of God's hands are WORKING TOGETHER to produce in us the righteousness and glory of God. "Your people also shall be all righteous ... the branch of My planting, the WORK OF MY H-A-N-D-S,

that I may be glorified" (Isa. 60:21). And how wonderful, too, the knowledge that God shall in due time so deal with all mankind. How important that we enter into such intimate relationship and vital union with God that we see all things AS HE SEES THEM. Recently I read a sermon by a brother who gave this precious experience which, to me, wonderfully reflects the purpose in the dealings of the two hands of God. The brother said, "On Mother's Day I did something so vital for all God's ministries: I sat and listened to someone else preach. It was a wonderful Word, and while listening I had an opportunity to do something that I do not have opportunity to do when the pressure of preaching is upon me; I sat there and looked at the folk in a very relaxed sort of way. I saw a mother wearing a lovely corsage sent to her by her son in the East. He is a prominent business man, high up in government circles, but he is not a Christian. She is praying for him. She has asked others to pray for him. She said to me one day, with tears streaming down her cheeks, 'Oh, Bro._____, I pray that God will save my boy. I pray that He will save him even if he has to put him on a sick bed; EVEN IF HE HAS TO KILL HIM - I pray that He will save him!' If the FBI heard her plotting like that, would they arrest her? No, sir! She loves her boy! She loves him with all her heart, and if giving her own life would save that boy, she would give it immediately." -end quote.

Even in judgment, dear ones, God is love! May all who are called to be KINGS AND PRIESTS of God be possessed by such a divine love for the whole world! "For God SO LOVED the world, that He GAVE His only begotten Son" (Jn. 3:16). God so loved that He was willing to pay the VERY HIGHEST PRICE to redeem the World unto Himself. God gave His blessed Son to be slain for us, and now He says to us, "I will save you and I will conform you to My image - even if I have to KILL YOU to do it!" "See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with Me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of My hand" (Deut. 32:29). Praise God! This is how His righteous hands work, He kills only to make alive and wounds only to heal. He kills only those things that should die and makes alive the

things that should live. What beautiful co-ordination in all the works of HIS HANDS!

CHRIST - THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

The right hand of God is the ANOINTED HAND of God for CHRIST sits at the RIGHT HAND OF GOD, and CHRIST means THE ANOINTED. Paul tells us that we are to SEEK those things which are ABOVE -WHERE CHRIST SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. This means that we are to SEEK THE THINGS OF THE RIGHT HAND! Reigning with Christ must become one of the great goals in the life of every man or woman apprehended to sonship to God. Man in God's image, man in Christ at the right hand of God, is God's government in the Kingdom of God. It is this hand of God, the right hand, the Christ, Head and body, that reaches out to take from God and give to men. It is the hand of strength and dexterity. It is the more active hand of God. THIS IS THE GOOD HAND OF GOD. It is the POSITIVE energy force of God. It is the hand that bestows the blessings and benefits of His Kingdom. The left hand of God is also a benefit to God's people but to them it does not seem so at the time. But the right hand is THE ANOINTED hand of God that shall reach forth to all men and nations bringing blessed deliverance and restoration into His righteousness, joy, and peace. The overcoming body of Christ, the MANY-MEMBERED SON OF GOD is being raised up and seated in power and glory at the right hand of God and is, indeed, BECOMING THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. "Your right hand, O Lord, is BECOME glorious in power..." (Ex. 15:6).

What is the power of the right hand of God? Paul tells us something about it in Eph. 1:16-23. "...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, WHICH HE WROUGHT IN CHRIST, WHEN HE RAISED

HIM FROM THE DEAD, and SET HIM AT HIS OWN RIGHT HAND in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and has put ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the Church, which is HIS BODY, THE FULLNESS OF HIM THAT FILLS ALL IN ALL."

We find in this passage that there is an EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF POWER that is TOWARD US. This is God's inheritance in the saints and it is rich in glory! We do not naturally know or realize just what this power is or just what it can do, so in these words Paul by the Spirit gives us a measure by which we can have a little idea of just what this power is and what it is able to do for us. Let us see! The power that is directed to us is according to a power that God wrought in the Christ. It is that power by which God raised up the Christ from the dead and SET HIM AT HIS OWN RIGHT HAND. By this power God set the Christ far above all principality, all power, all might, all dominion, and every name that is named not only in this world but in the ages to come. This power that God used for the raising up of the Christ has put all things under His feet and made Him to be the Head over all to the Church. And the Church, HIS MANY-MEMBERED BODY, is the FULL DEVELOPMENT OF GOD, as we read in the translation of the Diaglott.

This power of God that Paul describes is the rule by which is measured the power God has for all who follow on to be filled with all the fullness of God. The power that God has for us is just the same in quality and character as is the power God used for the raising of the Christ and the placing of Him at THE RIGHT HAND. Therefore be assured, beloved, that the power that God has toward us and for us will do for us JUST EXACTLY WHAT THAT POWER THAT GOD HAD FOR JESUS CHRIST DID FOR HIM. In other words, the power God has toward us will also RAISE US FROM THE DEAD AND WILL SET US AT HIS OWN RIGHT HAND. It will set us far above all principality, all power, all might, all dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in

this world or age but in the ages to come. It will put all things under our feet and give us dominion over all the work of God's hands, both earthly and heavenly. This in no way detracts from the glory, authority, and preeminence of Jesus Christ. Rather it is the FULFILLMENT OF HIS MINISTRY as HE moves in and through His many-membered body, the "many brethren" brought to His very own glory.

The Greek word for "heaven" is OURANOUS. The meaning of OURANOUS is elevation, height, exaltation, eminence. It has both natural and spiritual applications. In its spiritual application it bespeaks THE ETERNAL AND OMNIPRESENT REALM OF THE SPIRIT in which God dwells, far above the realm of the physical, material, earthly, and mortal. It is not a geographical or astral location. It is not a place. It is a realm, a dimension of life and reality, as eternal as God is eternal and as omnipresent as God is omnipresent. Christ left His heavenly glory. He humbled Himself, took upon Himself the form of sinful man; and becoming a man, was despised and rejected. He was of no reputation. And yet, while in humility and reproach, a Man among men, He made this amazing statement: "No man has ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man WHICH I-S IN HEAVEN" (Jn. 3:13). The Son of God left His glory, and descended to the depths of shame and reproach. He came and took our place of disgrace in order that we might be raised and exalted and honored and, under Him, be given a name above every name. He, the Christ, Who was made in all things like unto His brethren, yet, while a man on earth, in humility, Himself said, "The Son of man WHICH IS IN HEAVEN!"

Our Lord was in heaven; He came down from heaven, AND WAS STILL IN HEAVEN! It is something a person can be in, can descend from, and still possess. Our Lord was the Mighty God. But He descended from that state. He humbled Himself and became despised and rejected. But nevertheless, in His humility He was still the Mighty God, God manifest in the flesh, Immanuel, God with us! Yes, even while in the flesh, by the eternal Spirit within He was ONE with the invisible, eternal REALM OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

His flesh was conscious of the earthly realm and one with it, but in Spirit He was conscious of the eternal realm and one with it. The heavens were open to Him, He dwelt and lived and walked and manifested OUT OF THE DIVINE SPHERE OF LIFE. THAT is OURANOUS - heaven!

But now in Eph. 1:20 we have the Greek phrase "en tois epouraniois", "in heavenly places". "...He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES." We are still dealing with the word OURANOUS, only now we have something added to it. And the compound word thus formed is of such great import to us that we must consider it very, very carefully. We have the Greek word EPI, which means SUPERIMPOSITION, or in plain speech, ABOVE, HIGHER THAN, OVER. And when joined to OURANOUS, it becomes EPOURANIOS. The two words joined together mean ABOVE HEAVEN or THE HIGHEST HEAVEN or HIGHER THAN ALL HEAVENS - SUPERIMPOSITION! This word is found twenty times in the New Testament.

Our Lord and Saviour when on earth, even though He had humbled Himself and had descended to the depths of the realm of death and had borne our sins, was still the exalted One. He was still in heaven (Jn. 3:13). But then He arose the conquering Christ! And not only that, but He ASCENDED victor over all the powers of darkness having brought in eternal redemption for a lost world and redeemed all things unto Himself. "Wherefore God has HIGHLY EXALTED HIM, and given Him a name which is ABOVE EVERY NAME." Or as Paul tells us in Eph. 4:10, "He ... ascended up FAR ABOVE ALL HEAVENS." Or, let us note carefully, God has set Him "at His own right hand IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES." And the word which is mistranslated here as "heavenly places" is EPOURANIOS, or to be exact, EPOURANIOIS, which is the adjective form of the same word, which change does not in any way alter its meaning, it still retains the meaning of HIGHER THAN HEAVENLY. It is ABOVE HEAVEN, HIGHER THAN HEAVEN, FAR ABOVE ALL HEAVENS! Thus we read, "He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand "IN EPOURANIOIS"

FAR ABOVE ALL PRINCIPALITY, AND POWER, AND MIGHT, AND DOMINION, AND EVERY NAME THAT IS NAMED, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and has put all things under His feet" (Eph. 1:20-22).

And let demons rage. Let fools and unbelievers hang their heads in shame. We quote once more from the incomparable Word of God. "BUT GOD ... HAS raised US up together, AND MADE US SIT TOGETHER IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS" (Eph. 2:4-6). And this "heavenly places" where WE NOW SIT with the firstborn Son is this same super heaven, or epouraniois, the same position which He holds "far above all heavens"! Ah, we who have come the way of the cross, we whose spirits have been quickened by His Spirit, we in whom the mighty power is working which God wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand far above all heavens - are enthroned with Him in this super-eminence N-O-W. Christ is enthroned in the higher than all heavens and WE HAVE BEEN QUICKENED AND RAISED UP AND GIVEN JOINT SEATING WITH HIM IN THE UNION OF HIS DIVINE LIFE!

Note carefully... it is not just a future hope, but a PRESENT REALITY! "HAS raised us up ... HAS made us sit together..." And yet Christians in ignorance sing, "When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be!" Heaven for those who have been born from above is not a future hope. It is an ACCOMPLISHED FACT! To be sure it must be appropriated, walked out, and lived out in very practical terms in our daily lives. "If we LIVE in the Spirit (heavenly realm), let us ALSO WALK in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25). Oh! Sons of God - let us arise and LIVE THE HEAVENLY LIFE! Our bodies may still be tied to earth, but the Sons of God are discovering the glorious and eternal reality of HEAVEN N-O-W! And how much BETTER is this than a golden street, or a pearly gate, or a cabin in the corner, or a mansion over the hilltop! Hallelujah!

REIGNING N-O-W!

There are certain basic principles of the Kingdom of God that must be a part of the frame of mind and the experience of all who press forward into sonship to God. We must learn to think like God. We must begin to RULE WITH CHRIST IN THIS LIFE. Too many saints are weak, frustrated, and defeated. May the dynamite of God's Spirit blow us all out of the low places of lethargy, discouragement, oppression, and defeat into a vibrant walk with Christ in the high places of peace, joy, and triumph of His Kingdom. "...strengthen yourselves in the Lord and in the power which His supreme might imparts. Put on the complete armor of God, so as to be able to stand firm against all the stratagems of the devil. For ours is not a conflict with mere flesh and blood, but with the despotisms, the empires, the forces that control and govern this dark world - the spiritual hosts of evil arrayed against us in the heavenly warfare. Therefore put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to stand your ground IN THE EVIL DAY, and, having fought to the end, TO REMAIN VICTORS ON THE FIELD" (Eph. 6:10-14, Weymouth).

Once the believer embraces the truth that he is now seated with Christ at the right hand of God in the higher than all heavens, his heart will find rest and joy and confidence in the face of all situations and circumstances. The right hand of God is the place of omnipotent universal power and dominion - FAR ABOVE ALL THINGS! Such all-embracing majesty is far too vast for my feeble understanding, yet I know by the Spirit that the body of Christ is being formed and prepared for the explicit purpose of UNIVERSAL DOMINION. But how can a man rule over principalities and powers and universes if he cannot RULE HIS OWN SPIRIT? "He that rules his own spirit is better than he that takes a city" (Prov. 16:32). God is a God of principle. He does not do anything by chance. It is my deep conviction that what happens in your life and mine is a result of the use or abuse of the principles of the Kingdom of God. Learn this, beloved, and you will know one of the fundamental principles of reigning with Christ: OUR AUTHORITY IS OVER SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS FIRSTLY IN OURSELVES!

Our first great battle is WITHIN OURSELVES. For if our dominion over our own spirit is to be perfect, then every thought, desire, and impulse must be brought into subjection to Christ. This discipline will be an attribute of the mind of Christ within, and when this is in effect, then we will be able to expel every mutineer, or every thought, attitude, and emotion which rises up against the knowledge of God. Our great training in THRONESHIP AUTHORITY takes place in the bringing of our own selves into conformity to the Christ. We have got to look at and deal with ourselves first. Then as we are victorious OVERCOMERS in the different phases of our own lives, there comes a very real sense of victory and AUTHORITY over evil spirits no matter where they might be found. It is a great fact - deliver yourself of it first and then you will have complete AUTHORITY over the same problem or spirit anywhere else! You will never have power over spiritual wickedness in high places, you will never be able to deliver your brethren, or cities, or nations into the Kingdom of God until first every wicked and rebellious spirit within your own nature has been brought into subjection to the Spirit of Christ ...

I never think of the glory of reigning with Christ without remembering an incident that happened a number of years ago. In 1966 three other brethren and I made a trip from Florida to Central America by automobile. We arrived late one night in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. From there we would fly after a couple of days to the island of Roatan for a series of meetings. Three things needed to be done the following day before our departure for Roatan. The brakes on the car must be fixed, we must find a place to leave the car while away from the capital, and we must locate the Embassy of El Salvador and secure visas for our return trip through that country.

After breakfast the next morning we inquired at the desk for the address of the Embassy of El Salvador. The desk clerk courteously gave us directions and we set out to accomplish our business. But there was no Embassy at the address we were given. Driving around the block we found nothing in that area that resembled an Embassy. Finally, inquiring of a

man on the street, we were informed that the Embassy had moved to another location. But when we arrived at the new address, there was no Embassy there, either! I entered a small shop nearby and introduced myself to the owner, a well-dressed, distinguished looking business man. He said, "Oh, yes, I know exactly where that Embassy is, in fact, I have business in that part of the city and will be most happy to accompany you." He climbed into our vehicle and happily we sped away. An hour later we were driving around in circles and our distinguished guide still could not find the building he was quite certain he had seen a hundred times before!

Disheartened, we dropped that project, concentrating instead upon getting the brakes repaired. In a matter of minutes we discovered a large garage and were motioned in. We stated the problem, whereupon a mechanic proceeded to jack up the car, take off the four wheels, and remove all the brake shoes. Once the parts were laying out on the floor an attendant informed us that it would be three days before they could fix the brakes! Astonished, we instructed them to reassemble the brakes, and made our departure.

I was aware of an American Church in the city and thought perhaps we should seek help from the pastor. We did find the Church rather quickly. Leaving the brethren in the car I walked to a side door where there appeared to be a residence. I rang the doorbell. A young American girl answered the door. I asked if she could direct me to the pastor of the Church. Her response was that she didn't know the pastor and neither did she know his name, where he lived, or how he could be contacted. By this time I was completely confounded! We had spent the entire morning accomplishing absolutely nothing! Our efforts to locate the Embassy were fruitless. The attempt at getting the brakes repaired ended ridiculously. And now here we sat in front of an American Church in a Spanish-speaking city in the heart of Central America, and an American girl in that American Church denies any knowledge of the pastor of that Church!

I related this news to the brethren, whereupon one brother, especially sensitive to the Spirit, exclaimed, "The Lord shows me that this city is RULED BY SPIRITS OF CONFUSION. We must agree together and bind these spirits in Jesus' name!" We joined hands there on that hilltop, and spoke to the spirits of confusion reigning over the city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, commanding them to loose their hold. After several minutes of praise and rejoicing we drove down that hill, saw a Texaco station, and were impressed by the Spirit to pull in. We met the proprietor, an English-speaking gentleman. In the conversation that ensued we found that he knew where the Embassy was, and he graciously offered to park our car by his station while we were in Roatan; furthermore, he would fix the brakes while we were gone - and then the icing on the cake - he picked up his phone and arranged a free night's lodging for us at a Bible School on top of a mountain just outside the city. Within forty-five minutes after we took our position in the higher than heavenlies and bound the spirit of confusion that had us (and the entire city) running in circles, every problem was solved, every need met, and all our business accomplished! Furthermore, we were convinced in spirit that not only had we personally triumphed in Christ, but something tremendously glorious had transpired in the heavenlies that would overflow in blessing to that city for years to come!

Simply speaking, the purpose of God is that we might reign for Him, and to reign is to exercise authority for God - to rule all things. All who in Christ appropriate the fullness of His life and glory and exaltation are destined to exercise that awesome dominion, seated together with Him, far above all principality and power. This is the blueprint and strategy for the triumph of His Kingdom in all realms, from the lowest hell to the highest heaven. Ah, beloved, we shall reign throughout the ages of the ages to come until all enemies are conquered and Christ is all in all. But we must begin to reign with Him here and N-O-W!

The reason so many people fail to be overcomers or to attain to the great heights of the Spirit is because they are unable to see God's purposes, and therefore they have no particular

incentive to seek the great heights that are IN HIM. So many Christians are far too taken up with carnal ideas and childish notions about mansions in the skies and harps and white night gowns and sitting on clouds eating pork chops with nothing to do and all eternity to do it in, to be able to see the true purposes of God in REIGNING AT HIS RIGHT HAND.

Thank God! there is a RIGHT HAND COMPANY, those indwelled by THE SON OF THE RIGHT HAND, daily growing in the nature, wisdom, and power of HIS LORDSHIP. This company IS the manifestation of GOD'S RIGHT HAND OF BLESSING AND DOMINION in the earth today, and this right hand shall do even much more valiantly as the Sons of God press on in to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. This present time is but a proving ground for those who through grace will reign with their Lord over the endless vastnesses of infinity. He is raising us up and teaching us to sit with Him in the higher than heavenlies, gaining victory upon victory as we learn what it is to reign. And the place which He has prepared for each one is not only a world to come, and a Kingdom of light and love, but a place IN HIM, bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh, Spirit of His Spirit, nature of His nature, wisdom of His wisdom, power of His power - LIFE OF HIS LIFE! Glory to His wonderful name!

About The Author

J. Preston Eby was born into a Mennonite family in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. While still a toddler his parents received the baptism in the Holy Spirit through the witness of some Pentecostal brethren in the area. They were led of the Lord to sell their business and move to Alabama to do missionary work. In his twelfth year Preston was filled with the Spirit – and in that same year the Holy Spirit sovereignly unfolded to his understanding the wonderful truth of the reconciliation of all things and all men unto God. No one else around him – in family or church associations – embraced this revelation. Through those early years he kept this truth to himself and pondered it in his heart. Later he came into contact with, and was touched by, a mighty move of the Spirit known as the "Latter Rain", with emphasis on the body of Christ, gifts of the Spirit, laying on of hands, impartation, five-fold ministry, prophetic ministry, spiritual worship, the kingdom of God, and going on to perfection, unto fullness of sonship to God.

The Lord pressed him into a deeper walk with Him, intensifying within his heart the truths of sonship and the kingdom of God, already planted within as seed through the visitation of the Lord as Latter Rain. Along the way he became associated with brother Gerald Derstine and The Gospel Crusade in Sarasota, Florida, serving as an associate minister with him for eight years, first co-pastoring and later pastoring the Revival Tabernacle in that city. His wife Lorain and he, with their family, were on the mission field in Latin America for a total of five years, with ministry in several other areas as well. For seven years, following this, he was an elder in a fellowship of believers in El Paso, Texas where they witnessed a precious move of the Spirit and a body of saints flowing together in the liberty and life of the Spirit.

Eventually the Lord changed even that order, and in 1976 led him into a full-time writing ministry directed to those who are called and chosen as elect of God to grow up into the full stature of Jesus Christ as sons of God. The writing ministry includes a monthly message titled KINGDOM BIBLE STUDIES as well as a number of booklets on various subjects. This ministry is greatly expanding

throughout the world and our sincere hope and earnest prayer is that this course shall redound to HIS GLORY in encouragement, strengthening, edification and blessing to unnumbered thousands of God's elect sons everywhere – that creation may at last witness the true manifestation of the sons of God, setting all creation free from the bondage of corruption, restoring all things to God, and bringing to pass the glory of the kingdom of God throughout the whole earth and unto the unbounded heavens.

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