



*“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth... For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast. (Psalms 33:6,9).”*

*The early days of autumn usher in the remembrance that our all-benevolent Creator has so ordained seasons that His creatures may receive nourishment from the fruit of His ground, and wonder from the beauty of His creation.*



John Phillips

# The “Good News” Letter

Our church family has been saddened by the passing of Anita Marlor. We had all hoped that the kidney transplant would be successful and that she would be able to enjoy a normal and happy life for many years to come. But it was not to be. Obviously, this is not what our Lord had in mind. Many prayers had gone up from Good News on her and Bobby’s behalf. We prayed that above all else, God’s will would be done. We placed them both in His capable hands and trusted Him to do what was needed. And He has.

God has all power. We believe that without question. It was well within His power to touch Anita and lift her from the bed of affliction. But, He also has all wisdom, knowing

the end before the beginning. While at the present we only see, “...through a glass darkly,” He has no such limitations. God sees and knows all things. Consequently, God has a plan for all based upon His infinite power and wisdom.

We may not at present be able to comprehend God’s plan and all of His actions. But, we know beyond question that God, along with being all-powerful and having all wisdom, is also all-benevolent. If we could see Anita just now we would be able to see just how good He really is. Someday, when we are no longer bound by this limited understanding, we will see all of the good that God had in mind in all of His dealings over the past months and years. Until then, we must trust Him and know that He

always does what is best.

Our prayers and our love go out to Brother Bobby and all of the family. We are praying that God’s amazing grace will be bestowed upon them in a real and blessed way. And, church family, know that someday all of the sufferings of this present time will fade into obscurity when we stand in the presence of the One that loved us, and gave Himself for us. In that blessed day, that eternal day, we will experience all of the joy and peace that the Almighty and All-Wise God can provide through His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN!

*Preacher Steve*

## W h i c h C o m m e n t a r y ? W h i c h A u t h o r

As I have said in the past, commentaries on the Word of God are not absolutely necessary for the child of God. However, they do serve as wonderful tools in the study of the Word. Though I hasten to remind you, it is imperative that you choose the correct commentary; this is the purpose of this series of articles. The author we are considering this month is John Phillips.

John Phillips has been teaching and preaching for many years. He was

born in Britain, and after WWII he moved to Canada, where he founded and served as pastor of a small church. Phillips later joined the staff of Moody Bible Institute where he served for 25 years. Phillips served as Assistant Director of the Moody Correspondence School and spoke regularly all over the Moody Network. During these years, Phillips authored his first books, *Exploring the Scriptures*, *Exploring Romans* and *Exploring Revelation*. To date, Phil-

lips has authored over 50 books, which includes a complete set of New Testament Commentaries. He currently travels the country preaching at churches, schools and conferences. His commentaries are thorough but simplistic at the same time. He gives very wonderful outlines of each chapter of each book. Here are the authors we have covered thus far: *Adolph Saphir*, *J. Vernon McGee*, *Ivor Powell*, *Henry H. Halley*, *A.W. Tozer*, *J. Sidlow Baxter* and *Alfred Edersheim*.

# Genesis Chapter Six: The Teachings of Jesus

Jesus often referred to the Old Testament in order to illustrate a point that He was trying to teach. One such occasion was when Jesus was teaching on His Second Coming and He referred to Genesis six. Let us examine the Old Testament Scripture and then how Jesus wove this into His teaching.

**Genesis 6:5** "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Sometime during the course of history the godly line of Seth began to marry with the ungodly line of Cain, and thus we come to the moral condition of chapter six: "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." This word "imagination" in the Hebrew language not only signifies the thoughts, but also the purposes and desires. The human race during this period of time was committing open, proud, rebellious sin; and all this was done in unbelief. The sin of the people was not, and never is overlooked by God. His main concern is His creation; He has made it that way. When Seth was born to Adam and Eve the Bible

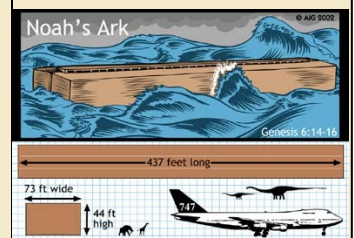
tells us that "then began men to call upon the name of the Lord (Genesis 4:26)." With the birth of Seth came a renewed sense and acknowledgement of God. However, as mentioned earlier, somewhere over the course of history people stopped calling upon the name of Lord, and began fulfilling their own wicked desires. I believe it would be safe to say that the men and women of that day stopped recognizing sin for what it was, rebellion against God. One could probably come to the conclusion that they also forgot, or either rejected the promise that had no doubt been passed down from Eve; the promise of the deliverer that would bruise the head of the wicked one (Genesis 3:15). Thus we come to the heart of God: "And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart." The heart of the LORD was broken by the sinful acts of His creation. The attitude and actions of man were a constant reminder of the great gulf of sin that separated man from God. The righteousness of God cannot be overstepped; He is righteous, and sin cannot go unpunished. God also has all knowledge, He knows the end before the beginning, that is why He revealed the many promises about Jesus so long before He was born. With this in

mind, we now come to the judgment of God upon man: "And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth...(Genesis 6:7)." The judgments of God are no doubt mingled with mercy, and wisdom. He had given this generation much time to turn from their sins, and turn to Him, and they did not. In all of this sadness, there is a ray of hope, and that is the faithfulness of God to those that call upon Him. The next verse reveals to us the grace of God: "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Noah was no doubt one man left in the earth that still "called upon the name of the Lord," that is, he "walked with God." The story is very familiar to most, God commanded Noah to build the ark, and God warned Him of the judgment that would occur: "And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth..." Now let's turn to the teaching of Jesus in the New Testament.

**Matthew 24:37-39** "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of man be."



*"Whatever else may glide into oblivion, the marvelous works of the Lord in ancient days must not be suffered to be forgotten. When faith has seen its seven years of famine, like Joseph in Egypt, opens her granaries."*  
- C. H. Spurgeon



# The Teachings of Jesus

Just days before His crucifixion, Jesus was spending time with His disciples, He was teaching them about what it will be like when He returns. Jesus taught using the Old Testament because He is the fulfillment of every aspect of the Old Testament. He is the fulfillment of the law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms. Jesus is teaching His disciples, men that knew the Old Testament, and He makes reference to a very familiar portion of Scripture. For lack of time let's notice two things from this lesson.

1. The moral condition of the earth will be the same as it was in the days of Noah at the time of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus said *"But as the days of Noe (Some names in the New Testament have a different spelling because of the Greek language) were..."* Think of the verse in Genesis that we looked at, the imagination of the human heart was only evil continually. Can you see this description in our day? I know that men have been sinning since the Garden of Eden, but we

are in a day when sin is more openly and proudly committed than in any other day. People are no longer ashamed and shocked at sin. Sin is no longer called sin, it is no longer considered an act of rebellion against God. Men and women today are eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, and leaving God out of everything. Proudly living immoral and sinful lives, choosing not to consider the day when all men will stand before their Creator. The picture which our Savior painted is seen today, in the home, in the work place, in the city hall, in our Nation's Capital. The days of Noah are being lived out in front of us.

2. We must combine these two lessons from the Word of God, along with another verse to get our second point of this lesson. Jesus wants us to know that just as when the trees are budding, we know that summer is right around the corner; so it is with His second coming, the rapid moral decline of the human race is a sign that He is coming soon. Now consider Noah: *"Noah found grace in*

*the eyes of the Lord."* The heart of God was broken over the sin of man, but He was faithful to the man that called upon Him. God had dual purposes in sparing Noah. The most important of these purposes is that God was going to continue the human race so that the deliverer could be born, Jesus Christ. I am thinking of a verse that is close to my heart: *Titus 2:11 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men."* Just as sure as the flood occurred, just as sure as the rising and setting of the sun, Jesus is coming back. My friend, I want to tell you that we can be ready to meet Him with joy, because they that belong to Him will forever live with Him.

I will be the first to confess that it is so easy to get caught up in this life, and our busy schedules, and our own selfish desires, that we forget the promise of His Second Coming. We sing a hymn that goes like this: *"Living He loved me, Dying He saved me, buried He carried my sins far away! Rising He justified, freely forever! One day He's coming! Oh glorious day!"*

*Jacob S. Smith*

## Upcoming Events

### October 5

Ladies Missionary Fellowship at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited! This is a wonderful time for you to get involved in the lives of other ladies at your church and learn more about our missions program. You are invited, and bring a friend!

### October 12 and 26

Tuesday night Bible study at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying through the book of Hebrews and are currently in the eighth chapter. Everyone is invited to join us for this time of fellowship, refreshments and Bible Study.

### October 30

Men's prayer breakfast at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet at 8 am for breakfast and fellowship. All men are invited and encouraged to come. This is a chance for you to get out of your shell and come fellowship with some of the men in your church!



**“A Tempted Savior— Our Best Help”** (Taken from “Power in the Blood” by C.H. Spurgeon)

*“For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted (Hebrews 2:18).”*

“One Important area in which God helps us from the beginning of the year to the end of the year is that of temptation. *Hebrews 2:18* is a staff for old age to lean on in the rough places of the way. It is a sword with which the strong man may fight in all hours of conflict. It is a shield with which youth may cover itself in the time of peril. And it is a royal chariot in which spiritual babes may ride in safety. There is something here for everyone of us, as Solomon put it: “*A portion to seven, and also to eight (Eccl. 11:12).*” If we consider the Great Prophet and High Priest of our profession— Jesus Christ— as being tempted in all points (*Hebrews 4:15*), we will not grow weary or faint in our minds. No, we will prepare to run in our future journey, and like Elijah we will go in the strength of this meat for many days to come (*1 Kings 19:8*). You that are tempted— and I suppose most readers would fall into this category— read what I have tried to explain about your temptations and the temptations of Jesus. For Jesus, having known your trials, is able to help you at all times.

**Christ was Tempted—** Our first point is this: many souls are tempted— even Christ was tempted. All the heirs of heaven have carried this burden. All true gold must feel the fire. All wheat must be threshed. All diamonds must be cut. All saints must endure temptation. Saints are tempted from every direction. It is like Christ’s parable about the house built on the rock. The Bible says, “*And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock (Matthew 7:25).*” The descending rain may represent temptations from above. The floods pouring their devastating torrents over the land may denote the trials that spring from the world. And the howling winds may typify those mysterious influences of evil that issue from the “*prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2).*” Now, whether we shudder at the descending rain, fear the uprising flood, or are amazed at the mysterious energy of the winds, we should remember that our blessed Lord “*was in all points tempted like as we are (Hebrews 4:15).*” This is to be our consolation: nothing has happened to the members of Christ’s body that has not happened to Christ, the Head.”

*(We will continue this excerpt, taken from “Power in the Blood” by C.H. Spurgeon, next month)*



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**P r a y e r   R e q u e s t s**

- Mildred Rogers
- Bobby Marlor
- Helen Trantham
- 
- Roger Bowman
- Jim Allison
- Ruby Harwood
- Bobby Marlor’s dad
- Jim Young’s mother
- Steve Schultz’s dad
- Ruth Masters
- Charles and Mary Moore
- Linda Holland
- Joe Bob Stevenson