

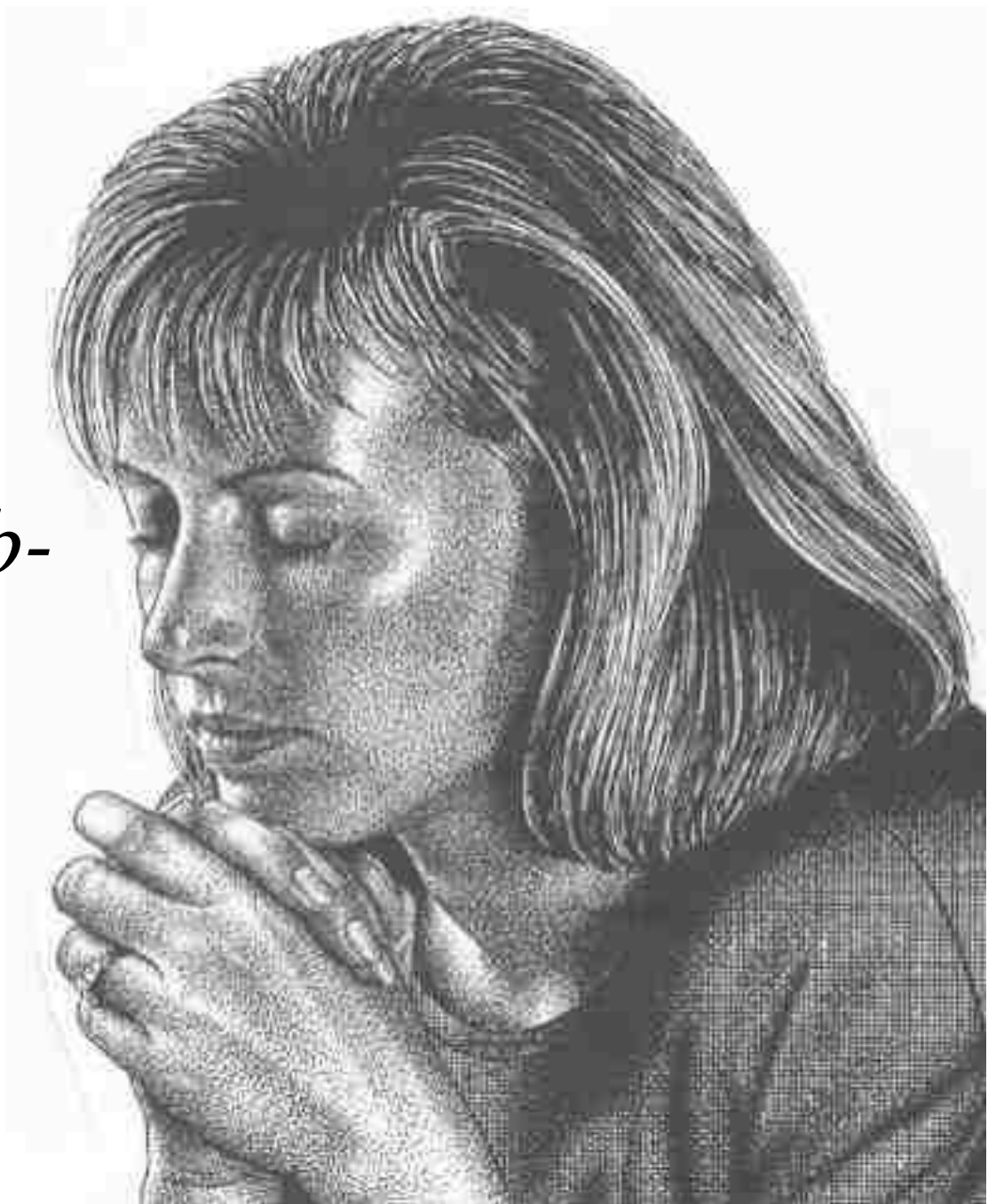
The Bible Guys

of Yesterday and Today

Jan./Feb. 2008

175

The Subject of Faith



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Volume X Number 6

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The People of Truth
A Holy Nation

On the Move

By David M. McNabb

Greetings from Paden, Oklahoma: the new headquarters of The People of Truth. At the leading of the Lord, we began to move here from western Massachusetts in December.

When the Lord gave Abraham the commandment to circumcise all of the males of his household, the Scripture says, "And Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all that were born in his house, and all that were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house; and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin *in the selfsame day*, as God had said unto him" (Gen. 17:23). As difficult as it may have been to understand God's reasoning, and as hard as it may have been to carry out, Abraham wasted no time in obeying the word of the Lord.

Likewise, one day as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, He met Peter and Andrew. "And He said unto them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' And they straightway left their nets, and followed him" (Matt. 4:19-20). Immediately upon knowing the will of God for them, these brothers walked away from their jobs and set out to perform it.

So, too, have we determined to obey the Lord and relocate to this small city in central Oklahoma. God has already blessed us richly in so many ways since we arrived here, even providing us with a house of worship. So far, we have been visiting several local churches, introducing ourselves and extending an invitation of fellowship to the children of God in the area. Lord willing, we will begin ready to hold our own regular services by late March.

Because of the demands of the move, as you may have noticed, we produced two "bi-monthly" issues of The Bible Guys, instead of our usual monthly schedule. Now that we are more or less settled in, we should be back on track for the March edition. I am excited about the ability we have to share the word of the Lord with each of you.

We will be observing the Feasts of the Lord here in Paden this year. We will be observing Passover on April 20, the Feast of Pentecost June 5-8, and the Feast of Ingathering October 16-18.

God told His people Israel, "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people" (Ex. 19:5). Samuel said to King Saul, "Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (1 Sam. 15:22). It is obedience to the will of God that He values most in His people. Whether it involves moving halfway across the country, or rejecting pagan-influenced customs and keeping those ordained by our heavenly Father, we must walk in the steps of the faith of Abraham: trusting and obeying God in all things.

As we have been showing by the Scripture, we *are* in the last days. The Lord said that these days will be dark, gloomy and full of trouble; because of their disobedience, Christians will face severe persecution. But the word of the Lord cannot fail. His promise is as true today as it was when Moses received it. Hear ye the word of the Lord: "When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, *even* in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God *is* a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them" (Deut. 4:30-31).

Unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



Schedule of Coming Events

By C. Elden McNabb

Beginning with Moses, God used a large variety of men to write for us His prophetic word concerning the coming events unto the end of the seventh millennium from Adam and beyond. But mostly He was telling us of the great works which He was going to perform during the time of the life of His son Jesus Christ until about the turn of the third century A.D., and during the last 120 years preceding the seventh millennium and the return of our Lord.

There are several things which must occur; some of which require our active participation to affect their fulfillment. For instance, there is the harvest in the "parable of the tares." In this parable, Jesus pointed out that the "time of the end" is marked by two periods of harvest, first the tares, then the wheat. He showed that the tares were sown *after* the good seed had been sown, and that, when the time of the end of the Grace Age would come, the tares would be gathered first, and afterward the wheat (Matt. 13:24-30; 36-43).

The Lord let the tares and wheat grow together until 1962. Then He sent Pope John XXIII to begin the Ecumenical Movement to begin the process to "gather together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them." So began what Jesus called "the end of the world." That is to say, the end of carnal man's six thousand years of misrule. It certainly seems that the megachurches of today have joined in also, and are diligently laboring to help to finish that work.

The events portrayed in the parable of the tares began with the ministry of John the Baptist, and end with the "little flock" receiving the Kingdom of God (Luke 16:16; Luke 12:32; Matt. 21:43; Daniel 2:42-45).

Throughout the Old Testament, there were two flocks of God's sheep, Judah and Israel, Judah being the "Little Flock." Perhaps I can best describe the matter with Psalm 114:1-2, 1 Chronicles 5:2, and Psalm 60:7. "When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language; Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion." "Judah prevailed above his

brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's." "Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver."

In the New Testament, the little flock is called "the Bride," and the rest are the "ten virgins, some of whom will go in to the wedding as the guests (Matt. 25). Many things in the Bible are misunderstood, because this fact has been overlooked, or understated. To understand at least a little of it, you must believe the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:13. He said, "All the prophets and the law prophesied."

In chapter 3 of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians, he explained how that he and the other apostles and prophets had received knowledge of the "revelation of the mystery ... to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers (Apostles and Prophets), in heavenly places (such as the offices of the Twelve, and the Seventy, and the Seven), *might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.*" Then there is chapter 4:11-14, in which Paul showed that the work of the gifted ministries of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers will not be finished until there is a group of saints who have "all [Jews and Gentiles] come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Paul is speaking of the "female" half of "man" which must be made up of two parts, the early Jewish Church, and the Gentile Church which is alive and remaining unto the coming of the Bridegroom.

We know, from "the parable of the tares" and the launching of the Ecumenical movement, when "the end of the world" began, but when does it end? In Jeremiah 5:24, the prophet wrote as he was moved upon by the Holy Ghost, saying, "He (God) reserveth unto us the *appointed weeks* of the harvest." That is true of the seven weeks of days which precede the day of Pentecost, as well as the seven weeks of years which precede the year of Jubilee. Those times are both, in their own way, prophesying of the last fifty years before the seventh millennium from Adam, which began in 1962.

That time – that season – is almost over. We are perilously near the end of the "time of the end," and "the time of trouble" is upon us (Job 38:22-23).

In the last three or four decades, we have been bombarded with a barrage of "end-time" false prophecies, as Jesus forewarned us in Matthew 7:15-16. He warned us to beware of false prophets, who He said would come to us in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves. How true those words have proved to be in our time. A whole new theology has been developed which is lovingly called "End Times."

Even as I write, our most prominent, most visible, most popular ministers are misleading us concerning the events which lead up to the imminent return of our Lord and King. Few of us have grasped the absurdity of the promotion that Jesus will come without the courtesy of telling us when He is coming. Matthew 25 and Revelation 19 are both very specific about Him coming here for the marriage. "They say" there will be no sign, but John told us that the angel of the Lord Jesus told him that "the marriage of Lamb" would come when "His wife hath made herself ready" (Rev. 19:7-8). That surely sounds like to me that "the Church" reaching perfection will be a major sign of the very soon coming of Jesus. The other Christians, "bad and good" alike shall be persuaded to come to the supper as guests (Matt 22:8-10; 25:1-13). These are not obscure, or difficult passages. Hear the prophet and heed them, "The ear trieth words, as the mouth tasteth meat" (Job 34:3).

Jesus is coming, but not until the bride has told us when. Can you imagine Jesus showing up in His tuxedo, and the bride standing there in blue jeans and with a dirty face, and others show up in even worse array? I do not claim to be an expert on what Jesus thinks His people should wear to what kind of occasions. However, in Matthew 22, when the king came in and found a man there without having on "a wedding garment," the king ordered him to be cast out. (Well, so much for the marriage taking place in Heaven.) Apparently, the Lord will have a strong opinion about our condition on that occasion (Ruth 3:1-3; Esther 2:12-16). It surely looks to me as if it is necessary for us to have enough advance notice to clothe ourselves properly. Perhaps clothing ourselves with "true holiness" would be in order (2 Cor. 7:1).

All the males who survived the forty years in the wilderness with Moses were

required to be circumcised in the flesh before they could participate in the taking of “the promised land.” The marriage of the Lamb is the prelude to our beginning to take over the world in fulfillment of the promise to Abraham that he would inherit the world (Romans 4:13). Even so, all who go to the wedding will be obligated to experience the circumcision of their hearts. Not all of us will have time to perfect our holiness (2 Cor. 7:1), but all who go in to the wedding will experience what the Apostle Paul called “Sanctification of the Spirit (2 Thess. 2:13).

Jesus, in His parable of the ten virgins, told us that, while the foolish five went to buy oil, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready, the wise five, “went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.” The foolish five represent foolish Christians who will, when they hear the midnight cry, awake, trim their lamps: study up on the scriptures about His coming, and go quickly to get a supply of the oil of understanding, but will not be able to get ready in time. “Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as you think not, the Son of Man cometh.” We are not appointed unto wrath, but the Christians who foolishly wait too long to prepare for the wedding will surely experience it.

What is this “Fullness of the Gentiles” which I mentioned earlier? This is not as obscure a statement as we might first think. Paul is writing here of things which he was commanded of the Lord Jesus (Acts 13:44-48; Isaiah 49:6). His message was to both the Jews and the Gentiles, which he faithfully performed in person and in his letters.

In Romans 2:5-11, Paul showed that whatever God did with, and to, the Jews He would also do with, and to, the Gentiles. He said, God “will render to every man according to his deeds. Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil: of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; but glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good; to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: for there is no respect of persons with God” (Romans 5:1-2).

Even so did God give “glory, honor, and peace” to that faithful elect which we see in the New Testament. Those things have not yet been given to a group of Gentiles, but the time has come for that to happen.

In his epistle to the Church at Ephesus (Eph. 2:1-22), Paul explained


how that when we were without Christ, we were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise. He explained how that God, by the sacrifice of His son had abolished the enmity, the law of carnal commandments which had separated the Jews and the Gentiles. He showed that we who had formerly been “afar off” from the promises of God were thereby made near. We Gentiles had been aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise. He told us that God had done that to make it possible for him to reconcile both Jews and Gentiles into one body.

For through Jesus we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father, “and are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building (Church) fitly framed together growth unto a holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.”

This passage clearly shows that God’s Church will be a specific group of people with whom someone such as Paul, will, “as a wise master builder,” build this Gentile section of the Church, in preparation for the coming of the Bridegroom, upon the foundation which Paul laid (1 Cor. 3:10).

In Ephesians 2:15, Paul explained that God had abolished the law so that He could make in Himself of two, Jews and Gentiles, one “new man.” He explained further in chapter 4:11-14, saying that God had given the five gifts of the ministry “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: *till we all come in the unity of the faith*, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, *unto a perfect man*, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

God ordained that the Church should be composed of two sides in reverse from each other, just as the human body has. God has illustrated this to us partly by the fact the Jews write from right to left, but we write from left to right. Up until now there has not been a Gentile Church like the Jewish one we read about in the New Testament. However, that must be corrected by God now, bringing the Gentile half of the Church to its fullness so that, when Jesus comes, the new man, the

“female of the species,” bone of his bone and flesh of His flesh, will be ready for the wedding (Ephesians 5:30; Genesis 2:23). 

The Subject of Faith

By David M. McNabb

One of my high school instructors was a confessed agnostic (someone who feels that the existence of God is unknown and unknowable). He was a member of the local Universalist-Unitarian congregation, which is a very liberal, “tolerant” society, allowing its adherents to hold to their own personal views of God, or gods, and of life in general.

Particularly during my junior and senior years, he and I had several conversations about God. Each time he would ask me various questions about the Word of God, in an apparent attempt to dissuade me from my fervent belief in its unimpeachable veracity. Each time I would, to the best of my ability, and with the help of the Holy Ghost, present the case for the faithfulness of the Scriptures, and would include supporting historical and scientific evidence. Regardless of the particular subject, each line of questions would inevitably lead to a point where my limited knowledge would be exhausted, and I would find myself with my proverbial back to the wall, and only one possible answer at my disposal: “How do I know for sure that such and such is true? By faith.”

At this point, each discussion would take a slightly darker tone where this teacher would begin to question the power and validity of faith. Each time, I remembered the words of Paul, who admonished us to take up the “shield of faith” to quench the fiery arrows of the wicked. With my mind’s eye, I pictured our individual discussions as battles where the enemy, by way of this teacher, was taking aim at me. No matter how much I supposed I knew, whether through man’s wisdom or that of God, ultimately it was faith that protected me from each salvo that came my way. Each battle would come to a point where the enemy would see the impenetrable nature of my “shield” and would resort to his most subtle of tactics: he would try to convince me that my “shield” was flawed. As the validity

of my reliance on faith was being questioned, it was as if the enemy was saying to me, "Your shield is no good. It's full of holes. Put your shield down for a moment, and let's examine it together. Maybe we can find a way to fix it before you really get injured." I have little doubt that had I yielded to the enemy's attempt to get me to question my "shield's" integrity, even for a moment, he would have struck a blow to which I would have been completely vulnerable.

To us, as believers, faith is of utmost importance. That may sound a bit redundant, but in these evil days, it is our faith that is under the greatest attack. On the one hand, we are constantly greeted with colloquialisms like "Keep the faith!" and "You gotta have faith!" On the other hand, we are told that there are many faiths. Today, the religious tolerance heresy points all religious adherents to seek harmony through interfaith meetings. The careless Christian may find himself mesmerized by the demonic rhetoric of the tolerance movement, and neglectful of the call of God upon each and every child of God to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." This doctrine of devils stands in direct opposition to God's purpose for His children, one of the primary goals for which God gave the gifts of the ministry: that we all come in the unity of the faith. The Lord has not called upon us to "get along" with people of various "faith traditions," but that we continue in the faith, grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which we have heard from the Scriptures.

Paul enumerated the qualifications of a bishop in Titus 1:7-16. He said, "A bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.* For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers ... Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. *Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;* Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn


from the truth. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Tit. 1:7-16). Apparently, God wants the leaders of His people to be strong in the faith, and willing to stand strong in its defense. God is not looking for us to negotiate a truce with the unbelieving, but to convince them of the faith which is in Christ Jesus!

To be sure, the term faith is heard from pulpits in churches around the world. There is even a movement called "Word of Faith." This doctrine, was originated in the early twentieth century by E. W. Kenyon, spread by Kenneth Hagin, and is a fundamental teaching of most televangelists. With its "Name it/Claim it" philosophy (or, as Kenyon put it, "What I confess, I possess"), a great many people are convinced that God is ready to grant their every wish, if they simply tell Him what they want, and give the biggest offering they can, sowing their "seed of faith." Their acceptance of, and belief in, this doctrine is unquestionable, but is this "the faith" of which the Bible speaks? Is it possible for a doctrine which uses some Scripture for its support to actually be a *departure* from the true faith of God in Christ Jesus? Is faith the means to achieve our own goals, and fulfill our own desires?

King David said, "Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak. The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:

Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?" (Psa. 12:1-4). As in the days of David, vain words from the pulpit have caused the numbers of the true faithful to diminish. True, biblical faith has been replaced by new age belief systems. This "snake oil" has been packaged and sold to multitudes of unwitting believers, and because of a lack of knowledge, the people of God are being destroyed.

The Word of God tells us that whatsoever is not of faith is sin (Rom. 14:23); without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6); and the preaching of the Word of God, if it is not mixed with faith, is of no profit to the hearer (Heb. 4:2). How many churchgoers find themselves in one of these categories? With so much at stake, I call upon us to look together at the subject of faith. And not only at the subject of faith itself, but at our own selves, as Paul exhorted the Corinthians, "Examine yourselves, *whether ye be in the faith;* prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobrates?" (2 Cor. 13:5).

In the coming months, we will examine faith – and ourselves – by the Word of God. We will look at the meaning and importance of faith, the source of faith, and the power of faith. With the help of God, who is faithful above all, we shall be established in the truth and delivered from evil, keeping His commandments, having our hearts directed into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ. 

Join The People of Truth in fellowship!

The Saints in Paden, Okla., Tulsa, Okla., Springfield, Mass., Indianapolis, Ind., and Orlando, Fla. invite you to worship God with us in the power of His Word and the presence of the Holy Ghost!

For information about service times and locations, please contact us by phone, mail, or e-mail at:

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