



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” MARK 16:15

March 2022

FROM US TO YOU

As we mentioned in previous issues, we are living in dangerous times. Bible prophecy is coming true before our very eyes. As we prepare this message, Russia is attacking the Ukraine, its neighbor, and attempting to once again make it a part of the Soviet Union. The European Union is beginning to wake up from its slumber and bind together stronger, learning that they need to stop relying totally on the United States for their defense. Do you remember the dream King Nebuchadnezzar had that greatly troubled him? He called all his astrologers and wise men before him to tell him the meaning of the dream. However, the king could not remember the dream. None of them could explain it or even knew what the King had dreamed. The king was ready to kill all his wise men and astrologers. Then Daniel found out about the dream. He prayed that God would give him the dream and the interpretation. God did. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar the dream and the meaning.

He said, *“You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands He has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, He has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold. After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay”* (Daniel 2:31-43 NIV).

The chest and arms of silver was the Medo-Persian Empire. The belly and thigh of bronze was the Greek Empire. The legs of iron were the Roman Empire. And the last great empire on earth, before Christ comes back, will be the European Union, described

as the feet of a mixture of iron and clay. The ten toes represent ten countries that will make up the empire. Now everyone knows that iron and clay do not mix together well. There’s not a lot of trust between those nations. They have a long history of wars with each other. However, they have powerful weapons, depicted as iron. For years, they have been depending on the United States to protect them. That will change when Mystery Babylon is destroyed (see our [January 2022 issue](#)). We are telling you this so that you will realize how important your relationship with God really is, through Christ. *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”* (1 Timothy 2:5 NIV). This is not the time to be a lukewarm Christian (Revelation 3:16). There is nothing this world has that is worth trading for your salvation. And if you have never repented of your sins and asked Christ into your heart, and His Spirit to control your path (Proverbs 25-37), you will end up taking the popular, well traveled *“...road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.*

But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:13-14 NIV).

Jesus said that no one except God the Father, knows the exact day and hour that He will come back at the time of the Rapture of the church (1 Cor. 15:51-55 and 1 Thes. 4:16-18). Yet He said that we will be able to tell from the signs and seasons when it will be (Luke 21:25-31). Therefore, we would be surprised if it were not more than two generations away. Your relationship with God needs more than church attendance. God wants a personal relationship with you through Christ, His Son (John 14:6). Therefore, *“do not love the*

world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever” (1 John 2:15-17 NIV). Yes, we know that many of you are suffering right now with troubles and afflictions. We are too. So keep us in your prayers. The secret to surviving these difficult times is to keep your spiritual eyes on Jesus, through faith. We like the song that John Starnes used to sing, [“Don’t Give Up On The Child of God.”](#) Our favorite verses are: *“Weep your tears for others. We don’t need your sorrow. We’re held by a mighty hand, the hand that holds tomorrow. We have been through every test and every situation. We stand on His mighty Word, a mighty firm foundation... You may wonder why we smile when we are sometimes in affliction. Because we have more than human help. We know the Great Physician. The reason we’ve stood the test and over mountains soar, over every circumstance, Jesus Christ is Lord.”* So keep the faith, and trust God.

In the Lord’s service, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



Joseph and David

By Anne Kaestner

We all know life is hard right now. And it is easy to get discouraged. To many Christians, the question is “Why is God letting this happen to me? What’s happened to America?” Does it feel like the rug you have been standing on has been suddenly ripped away from you? The problem is that you need a firm foundation. Chances are that although you thought you were standing on a nice plush rug, it was really only sinking sand (see Matthew 7:24-27). The closer we get to Christ, the more trouble the world will have understanding us. It’s because we are from two different worlds. We’re either from this current world which is run by Satan and his demons (Ephesians 2:1-2) or we are from the kingdom of God. Just a short time before He was arrested, Jesus knelt down and spoke to His Father. His thoughts were not about His own suffering which was imminent. They were for His disciples, both present and future. Jesus said “...I gave them the words you gave Me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from You, and they believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those You have given Me, for they are Yours. All I have is Yours, and all You have is Mine. And glory has come to Me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your name—the name you gave Me—so that they may be one as We are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name You gave Me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. ‘I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of My joy within them. I have given them Your word and the **world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.** My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one’” (John 17:8-15 NIV).

Jesus isn’t in this world anymore. However, His Holy Spirit is. Before Jesus left His disciples He told them, “...I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you” (John 14:16-20 NIV). As a believer in Christ, the devil sees you as his enemy. That’s why people sometimes dislike you for no reason. I remember an experience I had when I was a child. I was sitting in a New York City delicatessen one afternoon with my family. I was the last one on the edge of the booth. A homeless woman was in the restaurant that day. I found out later that she would come into the place frequently, and the owner would feel sorry for her and give her some free food. I’d never seen her or been in the delicatessen before, so she didn’t know me. However, she seemed to have some kind of a personal animus toward me. I was about ten years old at the time. I don’t remember what she said, but I got the feeling that it was laced with profanity, even though I didn’t recognize any of the words used. She was pointing her finger at me, and it was very intimidating, and confusing to me. I hadn’t done anything to her to arouse such anger. I didn’t know what tongues was at the time, but she might have been speaking in Satanic tongues. Because they sure were not Christian tongues (Mark 16:17). For the devil likes to counterfeit the things of God (Mark 13:22). My family

didn’t say anything. I think they were as stunned, as I was. However, the man behind the counter came over and grabbed hold of the woman. He led her to the door, kicking her in the rear end as he threw her out.

You might not have had an experience as dramatic as that but if you love and serve the Lord, you may have experienced unexplained hatred from people from time to time. If you have, and have done nothing to cause it, Jesus said, “*Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you*” (Matthew 5:11-12 NIV). One important spiritual lesson I have learned over the years is that God uses the attacks that the devil hurls at us for His glory. It’s sort of a boomerang affect. “*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose*” (Romans 8:28 NIV). Joseph is one example of that. “*Now Israel [Jacob] loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, ‘Listen to this dream I had: We were binding*



sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.’ His brothers said to him, ‘Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?’ And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said” (Genesis 37:3-8 NIV).

So Joseph’s brothers knew the meaning of the dream. They were supposed to be righteous, the sons of Jacob. But their hearts were not right with God. Jacob is a type of metaphor for God the Father. His anointing was

on Joseph because Joseph was more righteous than his brothers. As a result Satan hated Joseph because he somehow knew that God planned to use him for His glory. Their hatred of Joseph was so strong that some of them wanted to kill him. “*When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. ‘Let’s not take his life,’ he said. ‘Don’t shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don’t lay a hand on him.’ Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the richly ornamented robe he was wearing” (Genesis 37:21-23 NIV).* This is a metaphor for the hatred Christ’s own race had for Him. Jesus had a beautiful garment too. “*When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took His clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ‘Let’s not tear it,’ they said to one another. ‘Let’s decide by lot who will get it.’ This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, ‘They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.’ So this is what the soldiers did” (John 19:23-24 NIV. Also, see Psalm 22:18).*

As for Joseph, his brothers sold him as a slave to a caravan of Ishmaelites, who took Joseph to Egypt. However, God was with Joseph (Genesis 39:2). He was purchased by a man named Potiphar. However, God blessed Joseph. Potiphar, “*...left in Joseph’s care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and*

after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, 'Come to bed with me!' But he refused. 'With me in charge,' he told her, 'my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?' And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her" (Genesis 39:6-10 NIV). Joseph had integrity, but Satan was determined not to give up easily. One of his strategies is to influence his people to be his bait, or the means of his attack against us. In this case it was Potiphar's wife. She couldn't get him to sin, so she lied about him. "One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, 'Come to bed with me!' But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. 'Look,' she said to them, 'this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house'" (Genesis 39:11-15 NIV).

This is the type of thing that causes many Christians to blame God. Their thinking would be something like this, "I served God and I end up being sold into slavery by my own brothers.

Things finally get better for me and now this happens.

I can't win." The devil has a nasty habit of lousing up everything that seems to be working out well for God's children. Yet if we trust Him, He always has a plan, and a way out. However, it takes patience, and a great deal of faith. So, "trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil" (Proverbs 3:5-7 NIV). "When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, 'This is how your slave treated me,' he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did" (Genesis 39:19-23 NIV).

Some believers would have gotten angry at God and sinned against Him. Have you ever been in a situation like this where you were blamed for something you didn't do? Joseph kept trusting God. The years went by and God gave Joseph the gift of interpreting dreams. Then one day Pharaoh had a dream that troubled him. Joseph gave Pharaoh the interpretation of the dream. Joseph told Pharaoh, "Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land" (Genesis 41:29-30 NIV). After all the years of slavery and imprisonment, God had finally brought a purpose to everything that had happened to Joseph. So Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be

ruined by the famine. The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials" (Genesis 41:34-37 NIV).

Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of it all. "And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number" (Genesis 41:48-49 KJV). Then there came a time of severe famine and Joseph's father and brothers feared that they would starve to death. Then they heard that there was food available in Egypt. So they went to Egypt to buy food. "Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, 'You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected'" (Genesis 42:8-9 NIV). Joseph was now in a position to finally take great revenge on his brothers for the way they had treated him. However, Joseph didn't do it. Over several days he made certain demands of them to give them a hard time. And he threw a great scare into them by making it look like they stole a silver cup. "They said to one another, 'Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come upon us.' Reuben replied, 'Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood.' They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter" (Genesis 42:21-23 NIV). But he took pity on them and became very emotional. After all they had done to him, he still loved them.

Joseph longed to see Benjamin, his only brother born to his mother Rachel, and he told his brothers to bring him. "When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, 'Take these men to my house, slaughter an animal and prepare dinner; they are to eat with me at noon.' The man did as Joseph told him and took the men to Joseph's house" (Genesis 43:16-17 NIV). "Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come close to me.' When they had done so, he said, 'I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt'" (Genesis 45:4-8 NIV).

This has similarities to the story of David. A man named Jesse had eight sons. After God's anointing left King Saul (1 Samuel 16:14), God told the prophet Samuel to go to Jesse's house and anoint one of his sons the next king of Israel. Jesse got seven of his sons ready to greet Samuel when he arrived. They were tall and strong, like Saul had been. And Jesse was sure that Samuel would choose one of them. However, God told Samuel, "...Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7 NIV).

"Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' So he asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have? There is still the youngest,' Jesse answered, 'but he is tending the sheep.' Samuel said, 'Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.' So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance (Continued On Page 4)



Joseph and David (Continued From Page 3)

and handsome features. Then the LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; he is the one.' So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power..." (1 Samuel 16:10-13 NIV).

Even David's father didn't regard David as a leader. He thought he was just good enough to take care of the sheep. However, God saw the potential in David, and the faith in his heart. And he was the one that God chose. Of course that didn't make him very popular with his brothers. Like Joseph the anointing of God was on David, and his brothers felt he was a poor choice. In their mind, they had all the worldly attributes that David didn't have. And, like Joseph, he was good, in their eyes, for nothing more than watching the sheep. So they resented him. Now there came about a time when a Philistine name Goliath began to challenge Israel. Goliath was a giant. "...He was over nine feet tall. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels... Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, 'Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.' Then the Philistine said, 'This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.' On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified" (1 Samuel 17:4-11 NIV).

All the army of Israel was scared to death, including all seven of David's big, strong brothers. "For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand. Now Jesse said to his son David, 'Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines.' Early in the morning David left the flock with a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry" (1 Samuel 17:16-20 NIV). David was not among those chosen to fight for Israel. He was only given a minor role in the family like a gofer, or message boy.

"David asked the men standing near him, 'What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?' They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, 'This is what will be done for the man who kills him.' When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, 'Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.' 'Now what have I done?' said David. 'Can't I even speak?' He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him" (1 Samuel 17:26-31 NIV). Eliab was undoubtedly still smarting from the humiliation of not being chosen the

anointed one, when David was. And Eliab resented David, his little brother. However, Eliab was afraid of Goliath, and David wasn't. That's because Eliab was depending on his own human strength, but David was depending on God. When King Saul heard that David was volunteering to fight Goliath, he was skeptical. David responded, "'Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.' Saul said to David, 'Go, and the LORD be with you'" (1 Samuel 17:36-37 NIV).

King Saul put his own armor on David. But it was too big and cumbersome for him. "David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. 'I cannot go in these,' he said to Saul, 'because I am not used to them.' So he took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine. Meanwhile, the Philistine... kept coming closer to David. He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him. He said to David, 'Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?' And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 'Come here,' he said, 'and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!'" (1 Samuel 17:39-44 NIV). However, David knew that God would fight for him, so he was not intimidated. "David

said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a

God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give all of you into our hands.' As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he

fell facedown on the ground. So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran" (1 Samuel 17:45-51 NIV).

The Philistines knew that the best warrior they had was no match for the weakest of God's army. As Paul put it, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13 KJV). Notice that David used Goliath's own weapon against him, to cut off his head. God has a habit of using His enemy's own weapons against them. And David eventually went on to become King of Israel. So no matter how outnumbered you feel by the enemy, or what anyone else thinks of you, "...we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28 NIV). And God uses what the world considers foolish and insignificant "...to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him" (1 Corinthians 1:27-29 NIV).

