



NON-PROFIT

# The Good News Letter

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TAX-EXEMPT

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

October 2023

## FROM US TO YOU

There's an old story about a cook who is preparing dinner. Frog is on the menu. The cook places the frog in a pot of boiling water, but the frog jumps out right away. The cook finds the frog and cleans him up. Again the cook puts the frog in boiling water, but same thing happens a second time. The frog is finally recaptured and cleaned up as before. However, this time, the cook tries a different approach. She places the frog in cold water, and the frog seems content to stay in it. In fact, the frog seems to like the cold water, and he starts relaxing. The cook raises the temperature just a little bit. But the frog doesn't seem to notice. He's enjoying himself splashing around in the water. The cook gradually raises the water temperature slowly and continuously. Eventually the frog is too weak to jump out, and it is cooked. This story is a metaphor of American society. The social temperature of what is considered acceptable has risen so slowly that people are not shocked by what would have been considered outrageously unacceptable a hundred years ago.

What was considered thrilling back in 1960 society is considered tame today. People want to be shocked. They want their senses pushed to the limit. Amusement park rides have become more dangerous. The old-fashioned roller coaster of the 1960's generation would not be exciting enough for today's youth. Sports have changed. Peggy Fleming, who was considered thrilling in the 1968 Olympics, would never make the grade today. However, Peggy Fleming was considered way better than Sonja Henie of the 1932 Olympics. Sadly, moral standards have changed as well. We can not even compare old television sitcoms to those of today because the occasional promotional clips are so offensive that we don't watch the shows. Schools of the early nineteen sixty era were safe too. We grew up in that generation. Kids then would get in trouble for chewing gum in class. Shootings in school were unheard of then. And we won't even talk about what sexual content has been reported as being taught to very young children these days because it's too vile to mention.

The problem is people are like sheep. They will follow any old goat that wants to lead the way. The Bible says, *"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all"* (Isaiah 53:6 NIV). The word "Him" of course, was prophetic when written about the coming Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Today we have the fulfillment of the prophecy because our Redeemer and holy Lord has come. In the late 1960's there was a popular science fiction show called "Star Trek." There was one episode where a planet of androids decided to control the humans. When questioned on how they would do it, their answer was that they would serve mankind. How like the spirit world! Since Satan is the ruler of this world (Ephesians 2:2), he and his demons control the systems of this world. Through them, they influence, and, therefore, control the human race. They create the means that affect human thinking



and therefore, action. They use the educational system and media influence. They serve humans by entertaining you, through books, television, magazines, music, computer games, and movies. Talk shows have a profound influence on naive humans too.

*"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly realms"* (Ephesians 6:12 NIV). There was a survey taken recently that appeared on Fox's "Outnumbered" stating that 51% of people aged 18-29 think that open marriage is acceptable. Shocking! But between secular education and the mass media it's not too surprising. And regardless of what you hear elsewhere, same-sex marriage is repugnant to the Lord! *"They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another: Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve **death**, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them"* (Romans 1:25-32 NIV).

We are in the last days before Christ returns for His true church (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). Paul told Timothy, *"...There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—**having a form of godliness but denying its power**. Have nothing to do with them"* (2 Timothy 3:1-5 NIV). Don't be among the lukewarm (Revelation 3:16-22) and lose out when Jesus comes back. True Christians don't celebrate Halloween. That's the devil's day. Come to Christ while the invitation is still available (see Matthew 7:7-8). Do not follow the crowd. *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the 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).

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

# EARTH AND THE HOLY TRINITY

By Anne Kaestner

Many years ago, when I was a young secretary, an associate, knowing I am a Christian, stopped by my desk one day to chat. He said he'd read a book stating that this earth was originally populated by aliens from another planet. It must have been the expression on my face that led him to tell me that he could prove it. "Doesn't the Bible say, 'And God said, Let Us make man in **Our** image, after **Our** likeness...' (Genesis 1:26 KJV)?" he asked. "Yes" I replied. "Then, if there's only one God, why did He say "Us" and "Our" image?" he asked. "God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" I responded. Suddenly his confidence was gone, and he looked stunned. "But Jesus wasn't born yet" he stated; to which I replied, "Jesus said, "...before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58 NIV)." The man didn't say anything but just walked away pensively.

Many people get confused about the Holy Trinity. When I was a child, God was erroneously explained to me as coming in three forms, such as water, ice, and air. However, the Bible makes it very clear that God is a family unit. The confusion seems to be because, down through ages, demon spirits have posed as "gods" to people who don't know better. The ancient Jews often made friends with pagan tribes and adopted their "gods." They even sacrificed their babies to the "gods." God was livid about this. His own beloved people had entered into sin and now worshiped demon idols. "They made Him jealous with their foreign gods and angered Him with their detestable idols. **They sacrificed to demons, which are not God—gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear. You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birth**" (Deuteronomy 32:16-18 NIV).

The demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God long before mankind was created. They caused a war to take place in Heaven (Revelation 12:7). This mutiny was led by a high ranking angel named Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12 KJV). He was originally "...anointed as a guardian cherub..." (Ezekiel 28:14 NIV) until sin entered his heart. God lost one third of His holy angels (Revelation 12:4) as a result of the mutiny. Angels are often referred to as "stars" in the Bible (Job 38:7). They chose to mutiny with Lucifer, whose name was later changed to Satan or the devil. "But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in Heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray..." (Revelation 12:8-9). The fallen angels are referred to as "demons" in the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible and "devils" in the King James Version (KJV). They are also called unclean spirits.

What took place after that was something like a trial. As a result, the Lord incinerated their bodies as they stood there before Him. The Bible says, "By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries [solid bodies]. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all [good angels] who were watching" (Ezekiel 28:18 NIV). It was part of their punishment. The rest will come later in Hell and the Lake of Fire (Matthew 25:41, 2 Peter 2:4, Revelation 20:10). Until then, they remain in this world today in another dimension. After the failed mutiny, the Bible says of Satan, "...he was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him" (Revelation 12:9 NIV. Also, see Luke 10:18). All that is evil is conceived by them (Ephesians 6:12). Why does God allow it? God gave jurisdiction over this world to Adam legally. And Adam disobeyed God and brought sin into the world. He obeyed his wife, Eve, who obeyed

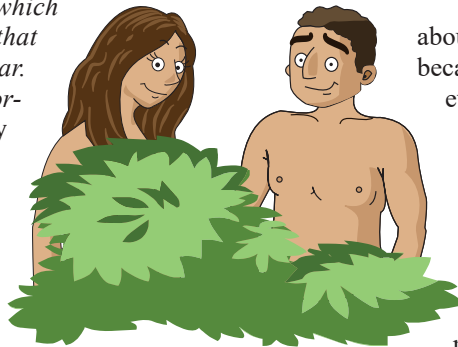
the devil (Genesis 3:1-6). Doing so, Adam became a slave of the devil because, "Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin'" (John 8:34 NIV). Not only was Adam contaminated with sin, but all the future generations, conceived through his seed would also be slaves of the devil.

Eve, Adam's wife, didn't know any better, but Adam knew what he was doing (1 Timothy 2:14). He loved Eve, the creation (Genesis 2:22-24), more than he loved God, the Creator. All mankind was doomed to a destiny in Hell for all eternity. For Adam became a slave of the devil. Likewise, were all his descendants. For the children of a slave are also slaves. Satan was destined to spend forever in Hell, then the lake of fire. And all that was under his influence would go with him (see Revelation 20:10-15), including his human "slaves". All was lost! Yet God had put so much love into making a perfect world for us! The scientists say that this world is 3.5 billion years old, based on dinosaurs, fossils, and other geographical material. They, therefore, believe that mankind is millions of years old as well. And, due to the devil's lie of evolution, they believe that we all started out as some lower form of life, and became monkeys, and then evolved into intelligent human life. This is the opposite of what the Bible tells us (Romans 1:18-23), that God created mankind as an intelligent human being, named Adam. He was the prototype for the whole human race. He was perfect in every way, mind, body, and spirit.

Doctors have said that, these days, we only use about five percent of our brain. Adam used all of his because he was made perfect (Genesis 1:27-31). He even named all the animals (Genesis 2:19). So how could he do something as stupid as to doom himself and all mankind? It wasn't through his head, his intelligence, that Satan trapped him. It was through his heart, his emotions, through his decision to put something ahead of God in his heart.

It was idolatry. According to a rough estimate, Bible scholars have determined that mankind is only about 6,000 years old. However, the dinosaurs and fossils are still there. Many of them are far bigger, and were most likely stronger, than puny mankind. Yet, thank God, they are all dead. The geologists say that there were several ice ages in this earth. We know about the flood in Noah's day (Genesis 6:6-7). However, the earth never turned to ice at that time. Mankind could not live on an earth covered in ice. We have a clue in the scripture that says, "The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. **He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him**" (Revelation 12:9 NIV). Satan and his demons were hurled to the earth.

Now take a look at these verses from Isaiah that seems to be prophetic. It seems to describe the satisfaction to be felt by Earth's evil rulers and heads of state, when Satan finally arrives in Hell with them. "The grave below is all astir to meet you at your coming; it rouses the spirits of the departed to greet you—all those who were leaders in the world; it makes them rise from their thrones—all those who were kings over the nations. They will all respond, they will say to you, 'You also have become weak, as we are; you have become like us.' All your pomp has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you. How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; **I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will**



make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit. Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: 'Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?'" (Isaiah 14:9-17 NIV).

Circumstantial evidence seems to indicate that Satan, in his position of "Lucifer" (which means "morning star") was once a ruler over the earth before mankind was created. He was in charge of a population of angels. That must have been before God destroyed the solid bodies of the fallen angels (Ezekiel 28:18), known as demons. At that time, Lucifer, who became Satan, used to have a throne of his own. His pride was his downfall. After Adam and Eve were created, "...God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it..." (Genesis 1:28 KJV). Replenish means to replace something that was previously there. Subdue means to calm something down. In this case, meaning to calm down the earth after the upheavals it had suffered. So Satan's rule on earth was probably at the time the dinosaurs lived. The dinosaurs were probably killed in one of the floods, and their bodies were preserved in the ice before God remade the earth for us.

The Bible says "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1 NIV). That's what happened before the fossils and before the different ice ages. Then, probably billions of years later, it says, "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters" (Genesis 1:2 NIV). Now we know that anything God makes is perfect. And Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12). And He was the builder (John 1:3), while God the Father was the architect. So how did this world go from being perfect to a dark, gloomy mess of chemicals?

We know about Satan's pride. He was probably ruling over the planet at the time. However, he was not content with all the gifts and prestige God had given to him (Ezekiel 28:13-19). He wanted what God had as well. That's the thinking that Satan inspires in all evil rulers who have lived on earth. That's where they get it, from the devil. I have a theory how the planet got in such a state. Since Satan wanted to be equal or greater than God, perhaps God allowed the planet to become inhabitable, then said to Satan, "You think you're so smart and important, alright, you put it back the way I made it." Of course, Satan couldn't do it. Only God is the Creator! Demons, who were influenced by Satan, were being punished too. Perhaps, after God destroyed their solid bodies they were thrown to the earth in its dark frozen condition. They could not die physically because they were already dead (Romans 6:23). Mankind had not been created yet. The only intelligent life that God had created were angels, and one third of them had rebelled against God and had become His enemies. They were thrown out of Heaven. God wanted to be loved. He had done so much good for his angels, even for Lucifer, before his heart became sinful. Then God decided to create mankind and remake the planet for us.

Despite what you see written on Christmas cards, the holy family was **not** Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. God, the Holy Trinity, is the only holy family. He consists of three people. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was **with** God, and the Word **was** God. He was with God in the beginning. Through **Him** all things were made; without **Him** nothing was made that has been made" (John 1:1-3 NIV). Then the scripture talks about a man we now know was John the Baptist, who testified that Jesus Christ was from God (see John 1:29). The Apostle John was Jewish, and he was writing to Jews. So John said of Him, "He was in the world, and though **the world was made through**

**Him**, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right **to become** children of God—children born **not** of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:10-14 NIV).

So we know that the Word of God is Jesus Christ. He was the one who created us and breathed the Word of life into Adam. His breath was an eternal flame of life, "for our 'God is a consuming fire'" (Hebrews 12:29 NIV). Jesus was the builder of our planet and our universe. However, God the Father was the architect of it all. The Bible tells us that Abraham was guided by faith, "For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10 NIV). God the Father was also the architect of our salvation. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV). God the Father is the head of the family of God. Jesus said, "You heard Me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is **greater** than I" (John 14:28 NIV).

Through the prophet Solomon, God's Son, whom we call Jesus

Christ, spoke of the immense joy He and His Father had making this world for us. "The LORD brought Me

forth as the first of His works, before His deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. When

there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before He made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world. I was there

when He set the heavens in place, when He marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above and fixed

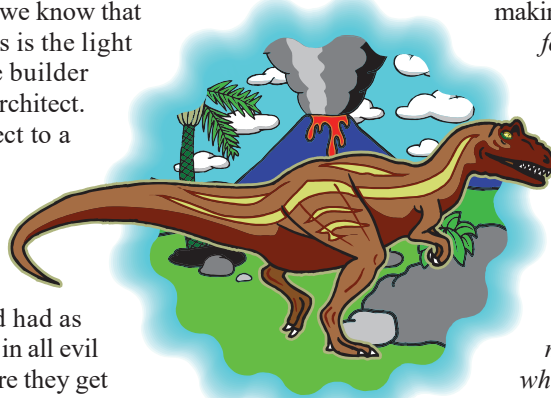
securely the fountains of the deep, when He gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep His

command, and when He marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was the craftsman at His side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in His presence, rejoicing in His whole world and delighting in mankind. 'Now then, My sons, listen to Me; blessed are those who keep My ways'" (Proverbs 8:22-32 NIV).

The apostle, John, saw God the Son in His natural form. He no longer looked like He had on earth, as our vulnerable suffering Savior. John said, "I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lamp stands, and among the lamp stands was someone 'like a son of man,' dressed in a robe reaching down to His feet and with a golden sash around His chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later'" (Revelation 1:12-19 NIV). And that's when John wrote the book of Revelation.

As for God the Father, the prophet

(Continued on Page 4)



Daniel saw God the Father in a vision. He describes Him this way, "As I looked, 'thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took His seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of His head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before Him. Thousands upon thousands attended Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him...'" (Daniel 7:9-10 NIV).

Actually, the inspiration for this article came from the song, "Jesus Be Jesus In Me." The sentiment is good, but the doctrine is wrong. We Christians are supposed to be Christ-like. God the Father knew ahead of time which of us would serve Him, and which would not. So He planned in advance for us "...to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers" (Romans 8:29 NIV). God the Father is so proud of His beloved Son, Jesus (see Mark 1:11) that He wanted for us to be just like Him in spiritual fruit. However, our natural personalities are influenced by Satan, through our first birth. So we need to make drastic changes in our lives. We inherited an attitude of sin. "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will **not** inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21 NIV). On the other hand, to be reborn through Christ (John 3:3) our personalities are expected to change and be more Christ-like. We are to produce good spiritual fruit for God.

To be like Christ we need to have the fruit of His Holy Spirit in us. Jesus is in Heaven. After His death and resurrection, He left planet Earth and went back to His Father in Heaven. So how is it possible for us to change the earthly habits of a lifetime and grow spiritual fruit for God? First we have to know what it is. "...The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other" (Galatians 5:22-26 NIV). So how do we get spiritual fruit?

First we have to cling to Christ the way grape branches cling to a vine. Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me; apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does **not** remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, **thrown into the fire and burned**. If you **remain in Me** and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples. As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love" (John 15:1-9 NIV).

How do we cling to Christ? After the death of Jesus, Mary went to His tomb and saw He was not there. She began to cry. The angels "...asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?' 'They have taken My Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put Him.' At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she

did not realize that it was Jesus. 'Woman,' He said, 'why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking He was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabbinic!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said, '**Do not hold on to Me**, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to My brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God''" (John 20:13-17 NIV).

So how can we cling to Jesus when we can't physically touch Him? That's where the Holy Spirit comes in. Jesus is in Heaven now. He has a solid body, as does God the Father. He can only be in one place at a time. Christ's contribution to our salvation, His death, and resurrection, is completed. Jesus had told His disciples that He was leaving them. "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. 'You heard Me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I'" (John 14:26-28 NIV). Eventually, after appearing to His disciples again, Jesus bid them farewell, and promised to eventually return to them. "When the day of Pentecost came,

they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from Heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:1-4 NIV). Jesus was gone, but true to His promise, the holy breath that Jesus had breathed on them (see John 20:22) had reached Heaven and returned them with the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Some people say that the Holy Spirit was only for biblical times. But that's not true. There are people all over the world today that have the peace and joy that the Holy Spirit brings. In fact all of the miracles that Jesus performed were done through the Holy Spirit. Jesus had left His own glory and power behind in Heaven when He left His Father in order to be born into this world. That's why when the religious leaders of His day said that He was performing His miracles through the devil's power, He accused them of blaspheming the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31). It's why when the woman with a blood disease touched His garment she was healed. The Holy Spirit knew of her faith. Jesus didn't even know she had been healed. He had just felt the power go out of His body, and He said, "Who touched Me?... " (Luke 8:45 NIV). After the Holy Spirit arrived, the Christians were so filled with His anointing that their joy bubbled up inside of them, and some people joked that they seemed drunk. Peter told them that they weren't drunk on alcohol. That it was the Spirit of God. And Peter quoted Old Testament prophecy to them. "**In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams**" (Acts 2:17 NIV). "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7 NIV). "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:9 NIV).

