



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 41
Issue 1004

The Rapture: Don't Get Caught-Up in It

by — De L. Trefethen

LOGIC:

Trumpets in the old covenant were associated with Israel.

THUS:

Trumpets in the new covenant are associated with Israel.

THEREFORE:

The trumpet of I Thessalonians 4 is associated with Israel.

AND:

The last trump(et) in I Corinthians 15 includes Israel.

LIKEWISE:

The seven trumpets of Revelation are associated with Israel.

In Scripture, trumpets announce some prophesied events, *i.e.*, Jesus returning to Earth to rule with a rod of iron as King of kings and Lord of lords (I Thessalonians 4:16), and at the consummation (I Corinthians 15:24, 28).

EVERYTHING that we read in the new covenant Scriptures aligns with prophecy and the earthly kingdom. NONE of the new covenant Scriptures are about the One Body of the Secret Administration revealed in Ephesians and Colossians.

This is where we, as unashamed workers, need to partition correctly Paul's new covenant letters (*i.e.*, his Acts epistles) from his Secret Administration letters (*i.e.*, his post-Acts epistles) for the One Body and our celestial allotment.¹

1. [Editor:] For more on our Celestial allotment, see the following compilation books,

— [Sonship: \(A Comprehensive Compilation\)](#);
— [The Third Heaven](#);
— [The Three Spheres of Glory](#).

All of these books are by Bible Student's Press, and can be found on the [order form](#) under "Compilations."



Isn't logic fun!?

The last trump of I Corinthians 15:52 is mistakenly identified as the same trumpet in I Thessalonians 4:16. These two events are many years apart.

I suppose the confusion comes because there is mention of a resurrection at each event. The resurrection of I Thessalonians 4 is when the resurrected saints and the surviving saints of the great tribulation (at the end of Israel's Pre-Millennial Kingdom²) are snatched up (continued on page 8453)

2. [Editor:] For more on this important subject, see:

— [Rightly Dividing Israel's Prophetic Kingdom – With Special Emphasis on The Overlooked Pre-Millennial "Kingdom of the Heavens" \(A Comprehensive Compilation\)](#), editors: Clyde L. Pilkinson, Jr., André Sneidar, Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#)

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 41, No. 1004 – January 22, 2024

Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls “my gospel” (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the “preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past” (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);

- union in His death, burial and resurrection and ascended seated position among the celestials (Ephesians 2:6);
- adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any “church,” “denomination,” “movement,” “organization,” “mission,” “creed,” “meeting,” “school,” “conference” or “fellowship.”

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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to “meet” the Lord in the air when He descends from Heaven. The resurrection of I Corinthians 15 is at the consummation, when death will be abolished.

With “fresh-eyes” observation, note that the event of I Corinthians 15:51-54 includes ALL of the resurrected dead and those who are alive at the consummation, ALL of whom will be “changed” to have immortal bodies since death will have been eliminated.

Yet in the I Thessalonians 4 passage, there is NO change in the bodies. I know that some say there is a change from mortality to immortality, but that is insinuating something that is NOT there because they combine these two resurrections in error.

In I Corinthians 15 we *do* see a change that will take place.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory (51-54).

Reading I Thessalonians 4:16-17,

For the Lord Himself will be descending from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice under “Compilation.”

of the Chief Messenger, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ shall be rising first. Thereupon we, the living who are surviving, shall at the same time be snatched away together with them in clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And thus shall we always be together with the Lord.

There is NOT one mention of corruptible putting on incorruption in this passage. NO! We DON’T see it because it’s NOT there.

As a side note, there is also NO mention of those saints being rushed off to the celestial sphere. Why? Because the passage is in regard to kingdom saints whose inheritance/allotment is the Earth.

The saints in the I Thessalonians passage are raised in mortal bodies, NOT in immortal bodies. Whereas those at the resurrection of I Corinthians 15 are raised in immortal bodies. When? At the consummation,³

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. ... then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory” (26, 54).

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: I Corinthians 15:51-54; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Immortality; Rapture; Resurrection; Trumpets
Minor: Consummation; Great Tribulation; Last Trump; Prophecy; Right Division

3. [Editor:] This is the point at which ALL will be immortal, since God will have removed death. Immortality is “deathlessness,” or life beyond the reach of death.



The Supposed Lost Tribes of Israel

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Were some of the tribes of Israel ever really lost? Six works spanning over 125 years, by authors: A.A. Isaacs, Harold J. Berry, A.E. Knoch, Charles H. Welch, and Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

108 pages

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Does God's Love Ever Fail?

Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: GOD / Unit 3: The Love of God / Lesson 10: Does God's Love Ever Fail?

by — Mark D. Vogt

Love never fails (I Corinthians 13:8).

Key Points:

God's love cannot be measured.....	8454
God's love for us will NEVER FAIL!.....	8454
God's love cannot be earned or lost.....	8458

God gives us circumstances in our lives as a backdrop to teach us about Himself and His loving kindness for us. One of these things He uses is our relationship to our parents, and more specifically to our fathers. Now, it is recognized that not all people have a loving relationship with their earthly fathers. Rare is it to have a father-son/daughter relationship that serves as a great example of God's relationship with ourselves, but they are out there. Yet, regardless, all know what such a relationship should be.

The issues of inadequacy that are present in such relationships are a result of our fathers being human, and as such they are in the same situation that plagues all of us. This is the result of the fact that we are all dying and therefore have a difficult time understanding and appreciating His love. Even in the best examples of a father-son/daughter relationship there is only a hint of the great love that God has for all.



God's love cannot be measured, and His love for us is in no way dependent upon anything that we do in return. We cannot do anything that will make God withdraw His love from us, nor can we do anything that will make God love us even more. His love is entirely dependent upon Himself, and what He chooses to do – and He chooses to love mankind.

This brought Paul to the inevitable revelation that God's love will never fail.

Love never fails (I Corinthians 13:8).

Think of that for a minute, or an hour, or an entire day. What a glorious thing to contemplate – **God's love for us will NEVER FAIL!** (For that to happen He would have to change His Own intrinsic, eternal nature which is: love perfected!)

Job 14:15 says,

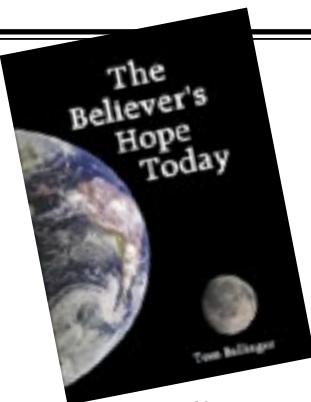
(see BSC, last page)

The Believer's Hope Today

by — Tom L. Ballinger

This is a look at the believer's “*blessed hope*” at Christ's appearing as contrasted with “*the hope of Israel*” in the Acts period. It will show that the hope about which Paul wrote in I Thessalonians 4 and I Corinthians 15 is found not only in the Old Testament Scriptures, but was taught by Jesus Christ in His earthly ministry in Matthew 24 and other places. It also reveals our hope for today as found in Paul's latter epistles.

See [order form](#) under “Ballinger.”



60 pages





Tidbits of Truth #62

“Tidbits” is a column dedicated to short comments, thoughts, studies and excerpts.

“Shepherds,” not “Pastors”

[To: D.S.:] The English word “*pastors*” appears but once in the *King James Version* of the New Testament: Ephesians 4:11. How strange that such a prominent position as “*pastor*” within Christianity has but a solitary appearance in the entire New Testament.

Yet, a quick survey of 20 translations readily accessible around my desk reveals that 6 have “*pastors*” in Ephesians 4:11, and 14 have “*shepherds*.”

Of course, the actual Greek word that Paul used was ποιμῆν (poimēn, G4166, SEC), which is defined as “shepherd.” An example of a previous translation of *poimēn* is found in Luke 2:8,

And there were in the same country shepherds

[*poimēn*] *abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night (KJV).*

Therefore, it should seem apparent that the English translations that render the word “*pastors*” in Ephesians 4:11 are inaccurate.

Interestingly, the Greek word used by Paul, *poimēn*, is actually found 18 times in the Greek Scriptures. In the *King James Version* it is translated “*shepherd(s)*” 17 of those times, and yet only once as “*pastors*.” Sadly, the *Concordant Version* simply follows suit, translating it “*shepherd(s)*” 17 times, and “*pastors*” once. Thus, the *Concordant* rendering of “*pastors*” in Ephesians 4:11 is simply *disconcordant*. Nevertheless, other literal translations – such *Rotherham’s, Young’s, Diaglott, Derived, exeGeses, LSV and MLV* – correctly render *poimēn* as “*shepherd*.”



109 pages
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under “Smith.”

The God of All Comfort

by — Hannah Whitall Smith (1832–1911)

Hannah Whitall Smith was the author of the famed *A Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life*, first published in 1875. She was an influential author of “higher life” and “holiness” movements. Her books have been published by dozens of publishers over the years.

Remarkably, Smith would eventually come to see and embrace the salvation of all, with which came remarkable clarity in her ensuing works, *The God of All Comfort* being the most noteworthy.

This work offers many beautiful insights concerning God. This carefully edited and abridged edition should bring joy and encouragement to the hearts of many.

“Hannah Whitall Smith ‘got it.’ I appreciate her insight and words.” – **PA**

“The precious comfort that Hannah Whitall Smith shared in her writing builds up faith and confidence in our Father’s love for us in a very tender way.” – **IN**

“Hannah Whitall Smith hit a homerun! *The God of All Comfort* breathes with God’s breath and His wisdom. No doubt her insight came through deep trials and suffering. Father took her to a place that transcended man’s religion, doctrines and creeds. Her chapter, “Sources of Discouragement,” is one of the best things on depression I’ve ever read.” – **SD**





Also, as an important side note, the sheep/flock/fold/shepherd metaphors all belong exclusively to Israel, and are all now in abeyance, along with God's once favored nation.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

“Heirs” / “Inheritance”

“Heirs” and “inheritance” are common translations in the *King James Version* and other English versions. Yet these are weak English words to convey the meaning of the Greek words being translated.

Κληρονόμος (*klēronomos*, G2818) and κληρονομία (*klēronomia*, G2817) are both from the Greek root κλῆρος (*klēros*, G2819) which is accurately translated “lot” on occasion in the *KJV* (Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:24; Acts 1:26; 8:21). *Klēronomos* has to do with “(... partitioning, that is, [reflexively] getting by apportionment); a sharer by lot ... by implication a possessor” (SEC), is “one who receives by lot ... one who receives his allotted possession by right of sonship ... one who has acquired or obtained the portion allotted to him” (TGL). Thus, a more accurate translation of these words would be “allotees” (or “enjoyers of an allotment,” “allotment enjoyers”) and “allotment” (or “allotment enjoyment”) as found in the *Concordant*, *Dabhar*, and *Derived* translations.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

“So Great a Death”

(II Corinthians 1:8-10)

[To G.B.:] Paul’s expression, “so great a death” is not a reference to eternal conscious torment. Context is always key. Isolated verses can be used to “prove” just about anything. In this passage Paul is talking about suffering, and about the circumstances of dying horribly as a martyr. Note carefully the context of the two verses leading up to :10.

For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our TROUBLE which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we DESPAIRED EVEN OF LIFE: indeed we had THE SENTENCE OF DEATH in



Evaluating Western Christianity's Interpretation of Biblical Polygamy

by — Lauren Heiligenthal

88 pages (see [order form](#) under “Other Authors.”)

This book demonstrates that the popular Western worldview regarding marriage affects biblical interpretation. While most Western societies uphold monogamy as God’s ideal form of marriage, a number of other cultures practice polygamy. Western Christianity often perceives polygamy as a threat to the monogamist ideal; therefore, this book evaluates whether the Bible clearly advocates that polygamous men should become monogamous through divorce.

After interpreting Scripture through the lens of the biblical audience, this book then applies the interpretations from the five biblical texts to a modern situation involving polygamy. Since there is no biblical text that explicitly prohibits polygamy or promotes monogamy, this book argues that the interpretation of the monogamist ideal tends to derive from one’s worldview rather than the Bible.

ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God Who raises the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that He will yet deliver us.

Paul knew that, even if he died a horrific martyr’s death, his trust was “in God Who raises the dead.” Yet at the time of writing II Corinthians, he rejoiced that he HAD BEEN delivered “from so great a death,” and was AT THAT TIME being thus delivered, and trusted that God would CONTINUE to “yet deliver” him and Timothy from Martyrdom (1:1).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: [“Shepherds” not “Pastors”:] Pastors [“Heirs” / “Inheritance”:] Allotees; Allotment; Heirs; Inheritance [“So Great a Death”] II Corinthians 1:8-10; Martyrdom; Suffering





[BSN issue] 1000 ... WOW what an accomplishment! Think of the revelation of understanding that not only you have grown in, BUT the impact and growth of understanding that you have been allowed to share with so many. The BSN is a true timeless jewel of great value. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE OF TRUTH ABOVE ALL ELSE. – IN

I cannot believe I have not known of your book and website before! I am 78 years old and ... I expect to be purchasing from your book source for the rest of my life as I love the sources and authors you have and love to pass them on to others. Thank you for your ministry and service to our Lord! – VA

I have just finished my first reading of your book [*Rightly Dividing Israel's Prophetic Kingdom*]¹ and at first, I thought that I would wait a couple of days to formulate a response that would be worthy of the research, dedication and prolonged effort it must have taken to produce it, but I can't.

I expected to be taken by surprise at least with some of the content, but I wasn't. The assimilation of the knowledge and wisdom shared *seamlessly integrated itself with my understanding as if it was something my inner man was waiting for*. It makes well researched biblical sense and addressed specifically some of the

1. Editors: Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., André Sneider; Bible Student's Press, on the [order form](#) under "Compilation."

issues I have been praying about for some time.

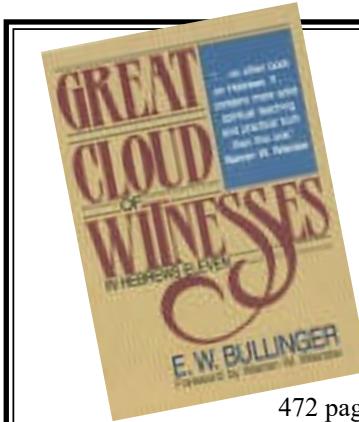
I have been sensing a deep yearning to "live life" for some time now, I am hoping the Father will grant me some time and opportunity to do that, thank you for reaching back out to me and being a channel of blessing and enlightenment through your ministry. – Canada

Thank you for your response, sometimes a delay is still timely in that I may not have been ready to receive the information you have proposed in your reply. Reading your reply *places me on the threshold of moving from one room of knowledge to another, each having fewer and fewer people in each room*. I watched your video [[The 3 Ministries of Paul](#)] a number of times so that I would not be guilty of jumping from one thing to another, but each time your presentation made sense and sat well in my mind and spirit. ... – Canada

[Things I Misunderstood](#)² has been such an encouragement to me because it is many of the same things that I took for granted as being true; the same basis upon which most of us have begun, not recognizing the trappings built within tradition. ... I deeply appreciate the honesty. Thank you. – IN

I am a Palestinian refugee from the 6-day war of 1967. I was born in Jerusalem in 1963 but had to flee our home when I was four because Israel moved in and took our land. What is going on in Gaza right now and the slaughter of my people is bringing back horrible memories. I read your book [Being OK with Not Being OK](#)³ and that provided some understanding and help. Thank you. – KS BSN

2. Bible Student's Press, on the [order form](#) under "Clyde Pilkington."
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Great Cloud of Witnesses in Hebrews Chapter 11 by — E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

A great classic exposition of this famous and beloved passage, including an examination of the greatest heroes of the faith. Full of rich, practical applications.

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BSC (continued from page 8454)

You shall call, and I shall answer You; You shall long for the work of Your hands.

God will not give up on His work. His work is precious to Him. It is precious to Him because all came from Him (Romans 11:36). God did not create us out of nothing, but created everything out from within Himself.

All is out of Him, all is through Him and all is to Him (returning to Him; Romans 11:36).

Since this is true, how could God ever cast away any of His children? For He would be casting away part of Himself! Therefore, none of His offspring, flawed as we all are (and this is by His design), could ever lose the love that God has manifested toward and for us. (By “children” it is meant every man, woman and child ever born.)

If God took His love away from any one of His created ones, then that would indicate not only a flaw in Himself, but would constitute “sin” on His part.

Remember the definition of “sin”? Sin is to miss the mark or miss the target. God missed the mark? No! Christianity’s view of God, as is with all religions, believes that God’s love has to be earned, and once earned that love can be lost if the adherent doesn’t comply with all of the requirements that their particular system dictates.

Yet God’s Word, when *rightly divided* for the Administration of Grace in which we live, teaches otherwise.

For in grace, through faith, are you saved, and

this is not out of you; it is God’s approach present, not of works, lest anyone should be boasting (Ephesians 2:8-9 CV; cf. Romans 11:6).

God loves us – all of us – and He will never take away that love. He gave us His Own Beloved Son to prove to His creation the depths of His love (Acts 2:23; II Corinthians 5:21). What more could He have done to prove the sincerity of His love (cf. II Corinthians 8:8)? **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: God, Love of; Love

Minor: Death; Father; Salvation of All



Some Writings of F.H. Robison

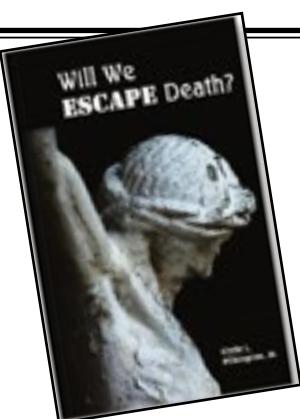
by — F.H. Robison (1885-1932)

Also the author of the work *Are the Bride and the Body Identical?* Robison was a faithful associate of A.E. Knoch and George Rogers.

See [order form](#) under “Robison.”

“... A MAN’S LIFE
CONSISTS NOT IN
THE ABUNDANCE OF
THE THINGS WHICH
HE POSSESSES.”

(Luke 12:15)



Will We Escape Death?

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The plight of humanity is mortality and death. In every age the believer’s hope has always been resurrection from the dead and the glory which lays beyond. It was Satan who first introduced the idea, “*Thou shalt not surely die.*” So, what makes anyone think that Satan was right – that we are actually not going to die? What makes someone expect that, of all of the people who have ever lived before them, they will somehow be the ones who will *escape* death? The answer, in one word: tradition.

62 pages

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