



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Joy!

Showcasing all humanity finished in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 45
Issue III5

There is still much light to break forth from the Scriptures. A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

How to Determine Word Meaning

[Click here to listen to this article](#)

by — Clyde L Pilkington, Jr.

It is the glory of Elohim to conceal a matter, and the glory of kings to investigate a matter (Proverbs 25:2).

WORDS MEAN THINGS

Words carry weight and consequences. They aren't just sounds or letters, but representations of ideas, and influence how messages are received and interpreted, impacting understanding. They are important to help avoid ambiguity or misinformation.



When we're trying to understand the meaning of words there are number of important elements that can help. Let's quickly go over these.

DICTIONARIES

First, we can consult dictionaries and lexicons and see what kinds of definitions men have provided. In the case of Scripture, we have Hebrew and Greek dictionaries to look at. We also have English dictionaries as well, because we're looking for words in our language that best translate words from the original languages. As with all resources, we must always remember that they are authored by fallible men. They are *not* the final determination.

ROOT WORDS

A second related resource is etymology – to go beyond basic definitions to identify the root word and

its historical meaning. This is very important no matter if it's Hebrew, Greek or English. Word families are built around these roots (parent words). Their offspring are generated by adding prefixes and suffixes, or combining other words to form a new one (compound words). Word families are true in any language. So, the children of these parent words take on variant qualities, such as in changing a word from a noun to a verb, or from a verb to an adverb or an adjective, etc. All this can be important in understanding what part of speech a word performs, and its relationship in the entire word family tree.

SYNONYMS & ANTONYMS

Then there are synonyms and antonyms – what Hebrew, Greek and English words are similar, as well as opposite in meaning. Determining these variants gives us broad shades of color – shades of meaning – and by being able to see variances, we can home in on more precise meanings of a particular word.

(continued on page 9345)

How to Determine Word Meaning.....	9343
God's Plan for Evil and Sin (part 3 of 4).....	9346
Editor's Desk: The Study Bible Project –	
A Beautiful Process	9348
Our Mailbox.....	9350
Giddy Over Hell (quote: John Moneyppenny)...	9350

How to Access Our Resources

Our Main Website:

<https://studysshelf.com/>

Daily Email Goodies Signup:

<https://studysshelf.com/emailgoodies/>

Bible Student's Notebook Electronic Issues:

<https://studysshelf.com/bsn/>

Bible Student's Notebook Article Audios:

<https://studysshelf.com/audios.htm>

Bible Student's Notebook Bound Volumes:

<https://studysshelf.com/product/bible-students-notebook-volumes/>

Bible Student's Notebook Master Index:

<https://studysshelf.com/BSN/BSN-Master-Index.pdf>

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/@BiblicalResources>

Audios:

<https://studysshelf.com/audios.htm>

Themed Blogs:

<https://studysshelf.com/our-blogs/>

Bibles:

<https://studysshelf.com/product-category/bibles/>

Books by Clyde Pilkington:

<https://studysshelf.com/clp/>

Books by Author:

<https://studysshelf.com/author/>

Books by Subject:

<https://studysshelf.com/subjects/>

Newest Book Releases:

<https://studysshelf.com/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/clyde.pilkington>

Facsimile Project:

<https://studysshelf.com/facsimile/>

Donate:

<https://studysshelf.com/donate/>

Bible Student's Resource Index:

<https://biblestudentsresourceindex.blogspot.com/>

A Directory of Multi-Media Biblical Resources.

Bible Student's Version:

<https://biblestudentsversion.wordpress.com/>

A Continuing, Composite Translation of Scripture.

Standardized Scripture Terminology:

<https://standardizedscriptureterminology.wordpress.com/>

Clarifying Confusing Scripture Terms.

Online Key:

<https://studysshelf.com/abbreviation-key.pdf>

Definitions of abbreviations/acronyms.

e-Books:

<https://www.amazon.com/s?k=clyde+Pilkington+kindle>

Study Bible Project:

<https://studysshelf.com/studybibleproject/>

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 45, No. 1115 – April 6, 2026

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 joy (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 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 saints 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).

We're just presenters, not persuaders. – Steve Martin

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

Bible Student's Press™

PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963

Local: (814) 701-0063 info.inquiries@studysshelf.com

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Publisher

André Sneidar – Editor-in-Chief

Steve Martin – Chief of Staff

Associate Editors: Bob Alan, Chris Carnahan, James Fine, Rick Lemons, Marcy Money Penny, Deverlain L. Trefethen, Mark Vogt

Copyright © 1989-2026 Bible Student's Press™

Antonyms are about word opposites. This is meaningful because God is all about contrast. So, if we want to know what the word “peace” is, for example, it would be helpful to know what its opposite is – like war, strife, contention and division. Then, all of a sudden antonyms bring “peace” into better focus, and then we can know that we’re *not* waging war, we’re waging peace. How beautiful is that?

HISTORICAL TRANSLATIONS

Another line of understanding is the many ways that Hebrew and Greek words already have been translated into English in the past. We would be remiss ignoring centuries of English translations that have attempted to convey understanding of Hebrew and Greek words, placing their perceived equivalents into our language. So, translations – as biased as most may be at times – are certainly another great tool.

CONTEXT

Then there is *the king of all resources* for defining a word: by the context of its usage. We read the Scriptures to identify the way that words are used in their many and various contexts. So ultimately, it doesn’t matter how many dictionaries and lexicon provide definitions; if they do not consistently match their contextual use they are simply incorrect.

When we attempt to insert word definitions, obtained by all of these resources that we have already considered, and the meaning does not consistently match every context where the word appears – then we know that there is a problem, perhaps a strategic one, purposefully brought on by the Adversary to

distract, distort, confuse and/or integrate error.

REALIZATION

Yet despite all of these wonderful resources – there is *one* that is essential above all others: realization.

Divine realization surpasses all. So, the quality of English words that are being used in any passage really doesn’t matter; if God doesn’t grant us realization, then we will be blinded and it will make no sense at all. Likewise, regardless of what poor words are used, if you have realization, they do not prevent understanding.

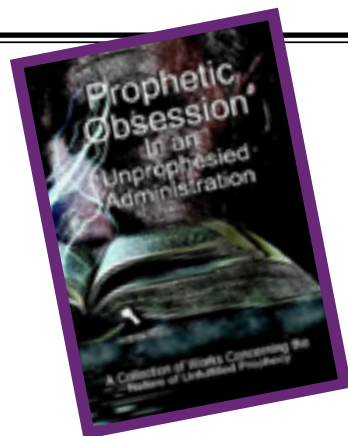
All the study in the world cannot manufacture realization. But once the light of divine realization has dawned, you can’t *not* get it. And you can’t *unsee* it. You have eyes to perceive behind the veil of tradition, behind the veil of translation, behind the veil of language. You can’t miss it. You never see a particular truth in any other way. This is because realization is divine understanding *beyond* the limitation of words. And it’s a gift. It’s a divine grant from God. And how wonderful it is!

Chris Carnahan has beautifully stated.

Human language cannot adequately express all that God is and all that God is doing.

So, whether it’s Hebrew, Greek or English, at best we’re dealing with inadequate words to fully express the true God and His magnificent ways. For how can the frailty of human words ever fully express Who

[\(see MEANING, page 9349\)](#)



Prophetic Obsession in an Unprophesied Administration

(A Collection of Works Concerning the Nature of Unfulfilled Prophecy)

List of authors contained in this work are: Sir Robert Anderson (1841-1918), Cecil J. Blay (1906-1976), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), J. Vernon McGee (1904-1988), Andrew Miller (1810-1883), Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992) and C.R. Stam (1909-2003).

God's Plan for Evil and Sin

Chapter 3 (of 4): The Actors in the Drama

by – Steve Martin

[Click here to listen to this article](#)

God's plan is not a chaotic series of events but a divine drama with key actors playing specific, designated roles. This section will explore the true nature of God's absolute control, the surprising purpose of the adversary known as Satan, and the powerful illusion of human "free will."



He was never a holy angel. The Scripture states that the Slanderer "*is sinning from the beginning*" (I John 3:8). This indicates that he was created for his adversarial role and did not "fall" from a prior state of perfection.

He is an instrument in God's plan. By introducing opposition and sin, Satan plays a necessary, though negative, part in God's purpose of revealing His grace. He is not a rogue force thwarting God's will, but an unwilling pawn fulfilling God's ultimate intention.

THE UNSEEN ENEMY: WHAT IS SATAN'S TRUE ROLE?

The popular story of Satan as a beautiful, holy archangel who rebelled against God and "fell" from Heaven is a powerful piece of human tradition, but it is *not* found in the Bible. A direct look at Scripture reveals a very different origin and purpose for this being.

The Bible presents Satan not as a rival god, but as a created instrument in God's plan:

Satan is a creature. Like everything else in the Universe, visible and invisible, he was created by God. He is not a self-existent, independent power.

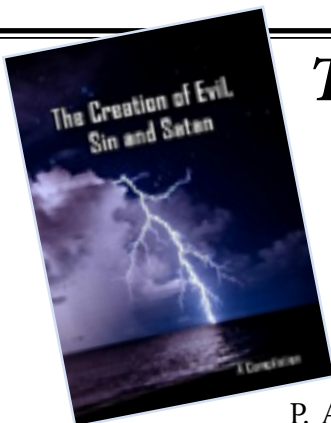
He was created to be the Adversary. His very names – Satan (Adversary) and *Diabolos* (Slanderer) – describe his function. His role is to introduce opposition, to test, and to accuse.

The popular idea of two gods – one good, one evil – struggling for control is much closer to the ancient Zoroastrian religion than to biblical teaching. The Bible proclaims one sovereign God Who is in absolute control of all things, including His designated adversary.

If even God's greatest adversary is an instrument in His plan, what does that say about the freedom and control we believe we have over our own choices?

THE PHANTOM OF FREE WILL

The feeling that we are the free and independent captains of our own souls is a powerful human experience, but from a scriptural viewpoint, it is an illu-



The Creation of Evil, Sin and Satan

(A Compilation)

The truth laid forth in this work should help us greatly in our dealings with others, especially those who have failed in some way which may bring dishonor on His Name, or cannot accept His truth, or even oppose it and us, especially mature teachings such as is put forth in the pages of this book. It contains 19 authors, 49 works, spanning 150 years. Authors include: Arthur

P. Adams, E.W. Bullinger, Alan Burns, Edward Clayton, John Essex, H.W. Fry, Vladimir Gelesnoff, Norman P. Grubb, Donald G. Hayter, A.E. Knoch, William Mealand, André Piet, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Ray Van Dyke, William H. Walker, and James Webb.

sion. Our will is not a sovereign force, but actually is the product of two powerful factors over which we have no ultimate control: our **heredity** (the traits and tendencies we inherit from our ancestors) and our **environment** (our circumstances, surroundings and external influences).

The story of Pharaoh provides the clearest illustration of this principle in action. God's purpose was to display His power to the world through the liberation of Israel.

- First, God stated His **revealed will**: “*Let My people go!*”
- Pharaoh, influenced by his pride, resisted this command. Yet the biblical account reveals that his resolve was weak and faltering after each plague.
- To ensure continued resistance, God actively intervened. At times, He “**fortified**” or “**strengthened**” Pharaoh’s wavering heart. At other times, Pharaoh himself “**honored**” or “**glorified**” his own heart, proudly resisting God’s command.
- The result was that Pharaoh *felt* he was acting on his own defiant will, but he was in fact being controlled by God – and his own pride – to fulfill a larger purpose: the demonstration of God’s unmatched power.

This story reveals the crucial difference between what God commands and what He ultimately intends. This distinction is the key to understanding how a sovereign God operates in a world of apparent opposition.

God’s Revealed Will	God’s Ultimate Intention
His direct commands; what He says He wants.	His hidden, overarching plan or purpose.
Can be resisted by humanity.	Cannot be resisted; is always accomplished.
Example: “ <i>Let My people go.</i> ”	Example: To display His power through Pharaoh’s resistance.

Understanding this critical distinction is the key to seeing how every actor, even in their resistance, ultimately serves God’s sovereign purpose.

Every actor in this divine drama, from Satan to Pharaoh to ourselves, plays a part in a story written and directed by God alone.

BSN

Topics:

Major: Evil, Satan; Sin; Sovereignty

Minor: Will



The Edifice: Building a Life on the Sovereignty of God

by — Steve Martin (with Clyde Pilkington)

This thought-provoking book challenges the notion of randomness in life, asserting that every moment is part of a divinely orchestrated plan. Centered on the foundational truth of God’s absolute sovereignty, it reassures readers that their lives are not accidents, their failures do not define them, and their faith is not dependent on their own efforts.

Rather than advocating for spiritual self-improvement, *The Edifice* invites readers to recognize the solid structure already beneath them – crafted by God, the ultimate Architect. It explores deep theological concepts, such as God’s dual will, the peace found in surrendering to His plan, and the liberating realization that life’s script was never ours to control.

Designed for those weary of religious striving, the book offers a call to rest, reminding readers that faith is not about performance but about trust in the God Who has been carrying them all along.



Editor's Desk

The Study Bible Project – [Click here to listen to this article](#) A Beautiful Process

Arthur Ashe (1943-1993) wrote:

Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome.

I have been thinking about this concept a lot lately. It really resonates with me.

The **Study Bible PROJECT** is not *just* about the publication of a complete Study Bible somewhere out in the future. I am coming to see that it is MUCH MORE than that. It is a journey of *realization* that we share together – along with all of our co-laborers, contributors, readers and watchers.

At times I have felt “hurried,” and others of being “overwhelmed” as to how daunting the PROJECT is, but I am learning to relax and appreciate this as something MUCH LARGER than a mere PROJECT.

Instead, I am seeing it as a JOURNEY. And as a result, I am embracing and relishing the daily moments of this PROCESS – rather than merely focusing on some measure of future accomplishment that must be achieved.

So, this is FAR GREATER than just a Study Bible PROJECT, as it is a Study Bible PROCESS. Not that I am looking for a name change, but I am embracing this JOURNEY of ours TOGETHER. Making this shift from PROJECT to PROCESS, in my heart and mind, places emphasis on our steady sharing of the details of this PROCESS with others *as we go* – through continued video updates at Biblical Resources, in a word-by-word video commentary series, and Advanced Reading Copies of select portions of our work, that will themselves result in new themed books.

Perhaps as much as, or even more than the actual “finished” PROJECT, it appears evident to me that Father has co-written this being a massive PROCESS of REALIZATION TOGETHER. And I can see Father has been leading us all of these years to this beautiful place – the crowning work of our lives together!

I have never been more excited and passionate about the **Study Bible PROJECT**, but I sense something different deep in my spirit – something *broader* – that is being brought about through this endeavor.



The Deity of God

by – John Henry Essex (1907-1991)
Nottingham, England

Creation cannot help itself that all of its achievements are futile because of the slavery of corruption, but we take immense comfort from the fact that, in spite of all of its present “groaning and travailing,” it was subjected to vanity in expectation of the eventual realization of that glorious freedom which is now already being enjoyed by the children of God.

It is in the prison epistle of Paul to the Ephesians that we find the most absolute expression of the Deity of God in relation to the points we have been considering. Here we find the phrase which puts all other Scriptures into their perspective:

According to the purpose of the One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will (1:11).

God is the captain of the ship of the universe; all of His creatures are its passengers. He is guiding the vessel across the ocean of time from the port that is called “*All in God*” to the haven that is termed “*God in all.*”

Recording and publishing our **Study Bible Project findings** as we go along is something that we have already been doing naturally. I'm just recognizing, embracing and being more deliberate about this **PROCESS**. So, we will continue actively recording and publishing our **Study Bible Project findings** during this process – with it becoming more and more the **FOREFRONT** of all of our labors.

It is our heart-felt desire to encourage each of you, and to be helpers of your joy!

Joy & Peace,

MEANING (continued from page 9345)

God is and what He is doing?

Little wonder that in Ephesians Paul uses words that are never used outside of Ephesians – and in Ephesians and Colossians together he's using even more words that he never used, words that no one else in Scripture uses, not even himself in his earlier epistles. He even appears to be coining words, by adding prefixes and suffixes, to create new words. How imperative such unique words were in the writing of the revelation that God gave him!

And despite even new words to capture attention and seek to impart recognition, the bottom line was that he knew full well that it would take divine realization for readers to grasp the magnitude of his revelation, so much so, that in Ephesians 1:15-23 he paused the divine *revelation* and prayed for divine *realization* for his readers.

*Therefore, I also, on hearing of this faith of yours in the Lord Jesus, and that for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may be granting you a **spirit of wisdom and revelation in the REALIZATION of Him, the eyes of your heart having been enlightened, for you to perceive what is the expectation of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of the enjoyment of His allotment among the saints, and what the transcendent greatness of His power for us who are believing, in accord with the operation of the might of His strength, which is operative in the***



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.
The Pilkington Abby
Paint, PA

Contribute to the *Study Bible Project*, visit:
StudyBibleProject.com

TOPICS:

Major: Study Bible Project
Minor: Realization

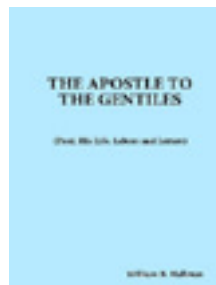
Christ, rousing Him from among the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the Super-Heavens, up over every sovereignty and authority and power and lordship, and every name that is named, not only in this eon, but also in that which is impending: and subjects all under His feet, and gives Him, as Head over all, to the Ecclesia which is His Body, the Complement of the One completing the All in all.

From the *Study Bible Project* **BSN**

TOPICS:

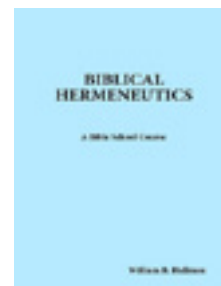
Major: Realization; Resources; Root Words; Word Meanings
Minor: Context; Etymology; Study; Translations

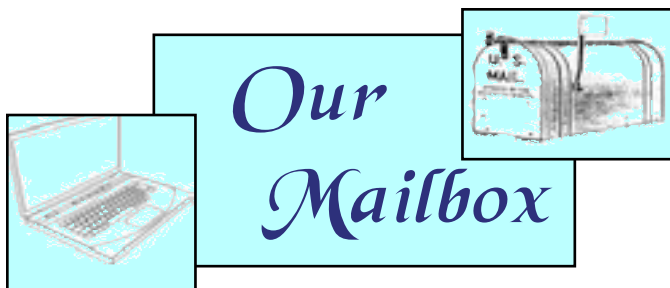
**Two Works from
William B. Hallman (1902-1985)**



**The Apostle to the
Gentiles (Paul, His Life,
Labors and Letters)**

**Biblical
Hermeneutics**





Your ministry has changed my spiritual life! – WA

I am excited for the work you are doing.

I see that the question of *merit* is almost a ridiculous proposition when you are acting out of joy. As an example I think my disposition towards my children is one of *joyful* favor. They always inherently merit my favor because of the fact that they are my children.

Thank you again for all your labors! Joy and Peace!
– *Germany*

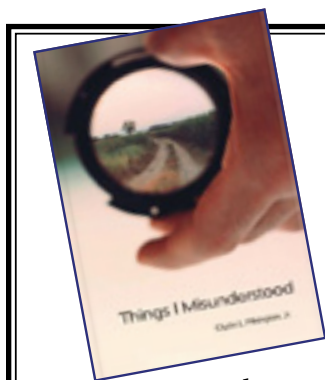
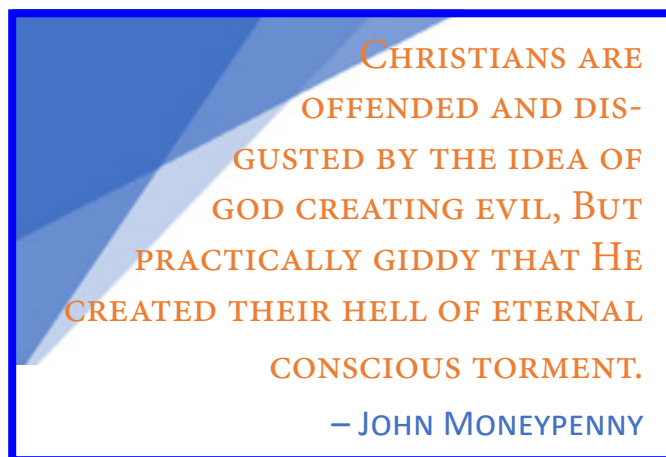
This uncovered truth is truly a “Game Changer” in how we perceive the New Testament and God’s heart. I love it. Keep up with this important work! – *TN*

Isn’t it the most wonderful thing that we are experiencing in spirit and in truth – the realization that Father has granted to us. To be “in the know,” so to speak. I’m beyond giddy when I sit and ponder how Great is our God and His purposes that He has planned for all that came out from Him – that in the celestials and that upon earth. Giddy, I say.

You mean the world to me, and Papa alone knows

how much you’ve been used to increase my inner man. I can only imagine when all of us will rejoice together in our manifestation as the Christ in glory. We will, at that time, have all the tools to complete the restoration work set before us among the celestials. I find it difficult to express with proper words because I know it will be far beyond what I can even begin to verbalize. – CA

I can’t tell you how much you mean to me. I remember so vividly your smiling face when you were a guest preacher at Open Bible Church in Brockport, New York. I remember visiting your house about 30 years ago. Back then I had no clue what God had prepared for me. Today, not many of us have been blessed to see the full realization of our God and Father. Many have left the faith, some returned back to religion. Today, I’m over the moon that God has chosen me to see the full realization. Still learning, still growing! I just love what you’re doing. When our Father gives us something and we see it ... we can’t unsee it! – CA **BSN**



Things I Misunderstood – ... about God
... about Salvation ... about Christ’s Sacrificial Work ...
about the Rich Man & Lazarus ... about Prophecy

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Early on in his life and ministry, what the author knew and taught about the themes found in this book were simply what he had learned since childhood: traditional Evangelical Christian doctrine. However, in time he would come to see things quite differently. In this work he shares with the reader things that he had misunderstood, and after fifty years of personal Scripture study, what he now understands – realizations that have brought him great peace.