



The Sharon Star

His Presence, His Glory, His Honour

By A. V. York

Taken from a tape, November 10, 2002

It's an honour to be able to read to you some of the wonderful Truths in the scriptures. I'd like to turn to the Psalms 8: "Oh Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth." What a vision to behold. How excellent is His name in all the earth. A marvellous name, Amen. "Oh Lord! Our Lord! How excellent is your name in all the earth. For you have set your glory above the heavens" (Psalms 8:1). It is wonderful what man has found out about the heavens, but its only a grain of sand compared to all the greatness of it. But His glory is above all that! "Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have ordained strength..." There is no natural interpretation of that. It is only by the Spirit of God that men can see how great God is and the purpose that He has for man. "...you have ordained strength" or the margin reads *established strength* "because of your enemies, that you may silence the enemy and avenger" (Psalms 8:2). Now, there are all kinds of conflict in the earth. It's every day menu-conflict. If it isn't one direct confrontation with the laws of God, it's another confrontation with the laws of God. But He will bring to nought all of the rebellion of man, and

He will impart His Holy Spirit by that marvellous gift of faith that overcomes that which is natural, and that which is man.

"When I consider your heavens, the works of your fingers, your moon and your stars which you have ordained; what is man, that you are mindful of him? and the son of man that you visit him?" or the margin reads *care for him*. "What is man that you are mindful of him? And the son of man that you care for him?" (Psalms 8:3-4). The opening of that realm which is beyond the natural into the spiritual has been, since the inception of the church, when Jesus asked Peter that day, I believe it was by the shore of Galilee, "Who do men say that I am?" He had various answers. "But who do you say that I am?"

That is the crux of the whole plan of God; knowing who Jesus is, and what He means to you, and how much He cares for you. Our greatest enemies are fear and unbelief. "Oh, I'm not just sure that God cares for me *that* much. Maybe Bro. So and So is over stating how much God cares for me when he ministers." But this is a wonderful question that David thought of, I'm sure, by the Spirit: "what is man, that you are mindful of him? and the son of man that you care for Him? For you have made him

a little lower than the angels and you have crowned him with glory and honour" (Psalms 8:5). Made for glory? Made of honour? What kind of glory? What kind of honour? Surely it isn't the award for some prestigious achievement in the natural as we see everyday and we're flooded with in our news media. One tries to achieve this and another tries to achieve that. There may be some semblance of God's glory in it on a natural plane. But this glory that the Holy Spirit is speaking of is that glory that's eternal, that glory that doesn't fade away, that glory that isn't forgotten, that glory that of the increase of His government and of this glory and honour there'll be no end! I thought I'd get you shouting a little bit. Help me out! Amen? Oh, Hallelujah!

These wonders, these marvellous insights into the ages to come, are beyond our natural comprehension. They don't sink in just to the mind, but they have to come into the heart and fill the heart up with His presence, His glory and His honour. I could have a good cry right now about all this. The more I think of the love of the Father, our Heavenly Father, the more I desire that love to flow to my heart and in my life that I may know Him better because His beloved Son, my Elder Brother,

has revealed Him, in part, to me. When you begin to miss that presence in your heart and life, it is time to cry out to God, "Lord, let your presence fill me up; let your presence cause this vessel to be yours and yours alone." Oh, Hallelujah! Like an old Dad, I said to Kelly when I came in this morning, "Are you missing Dad?" And his eyes started to close and I had to put my arms around him. We miss the love of our natural fathers. How much more all of the family of God are missing and desiring that manifestation of the precious love of our Heavenly Father, that His glory and honour might be ours. Glory to God. How? Just think of it. "You have made him to have dominion over the works of your hands. You have put all things under his feet. Sheep, oxen, beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the sea" (Psalms 8:6-9). The Lord has given natural dominion, but this dominion, as we will see when we turn to Hebrews, is centered in Christ Jesus-in Him alone. "Oh Lord! Our Lord! How excellent is your name in all the earth" (Psalms 8:9).

Let's turn to Hebrews the second chapter. In the previous chapter he is saying the Lord made the foundations of the earth. "The heavens are the work of His hands; They will perish, but You will remain; And they will grow old like a garment, and like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed" (Hebrews 1:10-12). You talk about a garment-there it is. The plan of God as the earth was heretofore, and with this present realm of creation, will pass and God is going to fold them up like a garment; they're going to be changed. So how can man put his trust in anything that is here? It is only temporary. They will be changed, the heavens and the earth. "But you are the same and your years will not fail. To which of the angels has He ever said 'Sit at My right hand while I make your enemies your footstool?' Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?" (Hebrews 1:12-14). Definitely. "Therefore we must give the more heed to the things we have heard lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through

angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which had first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness to us both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will?" (Hebrews 2:1-4). My, what a resume! "For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels" (Hebrews 2:5). No, they're not the administrators. They may be now, and rightly so, for that is the Will of the Father. But what is His will for the time to come?

"But one testified in a certain place, saying, 'What is man that You are mindful of him or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You crowned him with glory and honour, And set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him'" (Hebrews 2:6-8). My, my, my. That's the cry of the news media everyday: "Where is the Lord?" They don't say it, but in your heart and mine, that is the question. Now, man needs witness and in his arrogance finds himself in that position where he's not in control. But listen: "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering" (Hebrews 2:8-9). "Well, Bro. York, we've heard all this before. What does it mean now?" It means now that we are closer to that position God has for us. The position God planned before the foundation of the world.

"For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren..." (Hebrews 2:11).

What a union. What a glory! What honour! That he has made us one with himself. The Holy Spirit is emphasizing that faith that comes from God. If we believe that is true, then those who are being sanctified and the sanctifier are all of one in unity that hasn't any way of being destroyed because it is shaped in the realm of the heavenlies. It's not being brought forth by the legislation of man in the forms he has set in his unbelief. "Not ashamed to call them brethren." Hallelujah! How deep is this relationship? What is it taking, you say? You should not, and we WILL not, limit God in any way, for He knows those who are His.

Lots of times we've seen someone somewhat off the track, but who are we to point the finger and say that they are not a part of the family of God? We, too, have transgressed from time to time and have had to ask for forgiveness. That is a wonderful thing in which God has made provision for us all. "But he is not ashamed to call them Brethren saying, 'I will declare Thy name to My brethren; In the midst of the congregation I will sing praise to You'" (Hebrews 2:11-12). Well, you see, I'm a little bit afraid of the congregation. I don't mind saying a hard word to my fellow man. But in the congregation I am just a little backward; I'm this and I'm that, and I'm the other thing. And I know, personally, about all of those things that the natural thinking can bring up. But "In the midst of the congregation, I will sing praise to You!" And again: 'I will put my trust in Him! And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God hath given Me'" (Hebrews 2:12-13). Shall we not speak what the Master himself declares to be so?

I was talking to a couple of the boys when they were home. There was a pretty good moving of the Spirit in the local meeting here and there was quite a bit of prophecy. So, I said to the boys, "Do you ever prophesy?" and they said "Nope." So, I said, "You don't have to tell the future." Prophecy, in its simple singular form in the local church, is not telling the future. It's the forth telling of what is. It's not the foretelling, it's the forth-telling of what IS. And if God loves you and you know He loves your

brethren or sisters, is it not a blessing to forth-tell? Is it not that which edifies everyone else? I'm expecting the boys to stir up their gift. I told them to do that. This morning I am talking about the most important thing that ever happened to all of God's creation. And that is that Jesus Christ was crowned with glory and honour to make you and I heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. Why shouldn't we shout about it? Why shouldn't we lay aside our fears? And at least impart a sentence or two? Forth-tell the glory of the Lord. Stir up the gift of God that is in you. Well, I know you've read the fourteenth chapter of first Corinthians. Now, how many haven't? (He asked for a show of hands). Well, there's a few. Well now, maybe I should go there after I get done here and read it for you. For the moment, we'll come back to this which the Spirit of God seems to have opened up here this morning.

"Here am I"-this is what Jesus is saying-"and the Children that God has given me." Is Jesus saying that this morning? Are you a child of His? I am sure you are. There is no doubt in my mind about that. But notice how wonderful the correlation is and how striking truth really is: Jesus and His children. "Inasmuch as the children have partaken in flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise shared the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is the devil..." There's a whole sermon right there in that verse, "and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:14-15).

I've seen the victory this morning, Oh Hallelujah! Faith is the victory. And it relates to all of this. "For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:16-18). That word "aid," I noticed this word in the old King James is "succour,"

but that word "aid" means just plain "help" and I've got four lines under the word in my bible. And I think we should put a few more lines under it, under the ability of Jesus Christ, our God to help us in our needs. And to help us to have the freedom to encourage one another in the holy assembly. We do well, but as the elders said this morning, we can do better. Can we do better? I believe we can!

Now, I should read the third chapter. Being that I disgraced there and the Holy Spirit seemed to put us in that venue, I believe that for the sake of those who haven't read I Corinthians chapter 14, please turn to that passage of scripture in your bible and follow with me as we read it. "And now," isn't that quite a word, that word now. "And now abides faith, hope, love, these three. But the greatest of these is love. Pursue love and desire special gifts; but especially that you may prophecy" (I Cor 13:13-14:1). Now, something that we pursue is going to lead us somewhere, isn't it? Going to lead to improvement. God isn't going to leave us without any help. He's going to help us. And notice that word, "desire." Desire. Desire! Maybe I should ask Brother Hinchliff what the definition is of the word desire? He says, "you want it and you'll go after it, and you long after it" and it is especially at the top of your list — 'oh, I'm just happy with praying and singing with everybody else' — but he says *especially* that you may prophesy. There are a lot of reasons for all of this, but let us dwell a little on this specialty that God has brought into the midst of our church. We shouldn't lose it because we neglect it. And you young people are key to this. 'It's all right for the elders to prophesy, Bro. York and Bro. Hinchliff and one or two others.' But we want you all to prophesy! Can everybody say Amen? Everybody! Everybody! Being that I've got the "Amen," in the days to come, don't put it off, but in the meetings to come, please, for your sake and your growth and the growth of the church endeavour to speak, forth-telling the glory of the Lord, the love of the Lord. There are a thousand ways that you can say that Jesus is Lord! Amen? Oh yes! Stir

up the gift!!

Now, notice carefully, "He who speaks in tongue does not speak to men but to God" (1 Cor 14:2). Oh, marvelous. Now that's a venue that all of us appreciate. When I wake up in the night, I begin to speak in tongues. I find that first thing in the morning and last thing before I go to bed, talking to God is marvellous. No one understands it. However, in the spirit He speaks mysteries. The mystery of Godliness fulfills the will of God in our lives. And communing with our Lord and with our God in the unknown tongue causes the Spirit to come alive. It's a wonderful thing, this venue of prayer. "But he who prophesies speaks edification, and exhortation, and comfort" (1 Cor. 14:3). Have you ever come to a meeting where what God said through a messenger comforted your heart? There's a testimony right there. He's comforted my heart so many times. Some of the things the Spirit said this morning through the songs, I wept inside. I couldn't help but just love Him a little more for His presence, for God is good and His mercy endures forever. I get those tears and then I can't read, but I've got to read, because some of you haven't read this before.

"He who prophesies speaks edification," that builds up; "exhortation," that brings along that which is the truth and encourages us to walk in it "and comfort. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself" (1 Cor 14:3-4). Is there anybody here who's never been down? How many have been down? We're all mortal. 'But we already know these things Bro. York.' Well, it seems the Spirit wants to emphasize them just a little more this morning. Edify yourself in this unknown tongue. The Spirit is communing with the living God; the God of the ages; the God that has everything in His hands. He's got you and me in His hands. I love that song, "He's got the Whole World in His Hands." They jazz it up, but I like to sing it reverently. Oh, Hallelujah! Does it ever happen that we think He hasn't? There's a testimony on occasion, but does that change God? Oh, the answer is no! Oh, Hallelujah! "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies,

edifies the church" (1 Cor 14:4). Builds up the church! You and I are coming to be built up! How does it happen?

One day, when the move of the Spirit began, I came to one of the ministries and somewhere between the third row there, they laid hands on me and said I would prophesy. All I did was cry, and cry and cry. And I didn't know why I cried, and I didn't know how to prophesy. I didn't understand that it was this forth-telling. I thought it was some great thing that God wanted to reveal in the future. I didn't realize that it was in the venue of the flow of the meeting and what God was doing now, and following the trend of the meeting. At that time, I was a pastor of a little church south of here. So, the brother said to me, "When you're standing up just preaching, if there's a little extra anointing comes upon you, just start to prophesy." I thought that was a word of wisdom because I really didn't understand it all. I didn't know the battle of faiths; I didn't know the necessity of edifying myself and all the rest of them; all those doubts and fears. But it did happen that way.

So, am I going to be selfish? Just keeping His Spirit to myself by speaking to God and edifying myself? Or am I going to share what the Spirit of God has put in my heart with the rest of the church? Do you understand the question? Do you realize how blessed you are that you can commune with God in the unknown tongue? And yet you don't prophesy! He who prophesies edifies the church! Let's all repeat it! Now, this building up the church refers to an essential part of God's great plan. In the old days when I was on the farm, the only way that the sheaf got from the stook into the rack was by putting a little exercise on the end of the fork, putting them into the rack. That's the only way I could get a load of sheaves, to bring them into the thrashing machine. And it would appear to me that the only way that we're going to build up the church a little more is to have more prophesy. At least having all of the members from time to time doing their part. I don't know whether the sheaves are too heavy for you to put in the rack or you don't know how to

handle the fork. But, you know, when we were kids the way we found out how to do that was by learning. The first time or two, when Dad was putting them in real good, why sure, we didn't make it up to the rack, and oh, the handles too short or too heavy or all the rest of it. But, you know, in this matter of spiritual things, they can be so simple that many times we don't realize how the Lord is helping us and strengthening us. I noticed at the young peoples meetings, a thirteen-year-old boy was prophesying just like an old prophet. We can all ask God to help us. Each one of us. Now, I'm not wanting to put a lot of pressure on anyone as an individual. But at the same time I want to put enough pressure on that you do what is best for the church and best for yourself and honouring to the Lord.

"I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless he interprets, that the church may receive edification" (1 Cor 14:5). In this latter part of this verse, Paul is speaking about languages. "But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying or by teaching? Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they have made a sound, unless they have made a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle?" (1 Cor. 14:6-8). Now, a certain sound, middle C, is where our songs start from, either up or down. And Paul was trying to correct the disorder here, which we found back in the denomination: a lot of disorder and disparity — many messages in tongues, but no interpretation. But in the Move of the Spirit, we haven't had too much of that, because we are going to a new place.

"So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air" (1 Cor 14:9). There are so many kinds of languages in this world, and none of them is without significance.

By way of comment, I find that very interesting, because so many people when they are looking to the Lord to commune with Him in the unknown tongue, want to get it right, and they'll pray that what they say to the Lord is right, till they don't say anything at all. But if you are teaching your children the language in which you were born, oft times they say it many times over in a way that is not distinct, but nevertheless you know what they are attempting to say because you are teaching them. So, if you are talking to God in the unknown tongue, don't worry about whether you've got it right or not, just commune with Him. Hallelujah. "Therefore if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks shall be a foreigner to me. Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you may excel. Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. If I pray in the tongue, my spirit prays, my understanding is unfruitful" (1 Cor 14:11-14). And in that verse I have found great comfort in this. Many situations that I do not know how to pray about, just how to say it to the Lord, I pray in the unknown tongue for the simple reason that the Holy Spirit said He would make intercession for me to Him who is our great intercessor, Jesus Himself.

"What is the result then? I will pray with the Spirit. I will pray with the understanding. I will sing with the Spirit, and I will sing with the understanding" (1 Cor 14:15). Verse 31: "For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged." Anybody need encouragement? If you don't need it, you come and tell me how you manage that! I need it. I need Jesus. If your prophecy is filled with His love, filled with His strength, glory to God, it will encourage me. "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace" (1 Cor 14:32-33). So, if we are anointed, and there's something on our heart, we can wait our turn. Now, verse 39, "Therefore brethren, desire earnestly

to prophesy." What did the first verse say? "Desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy!" "Therefore brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy. And do not forbid to speak with tongues." Forgive me if I have in any way not stirred up the gift. But if I have, say "Amen." God bless you.

P.S. In the year 1948, and subsequently, the present tense became a new reality. A new era began of the present tense when Jesus said to the woman at the well, "The hour cometh and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth; for the Father seeketh such to

worship Him" (John 4:23-24). God is Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. The Holy Spirit has opened the hearts of those who see God to look beyond form and ritual to believe for the righteousness, peace and joy of the kingdom of God.

Children's Corner

To God Be The Glory

Daniel, along with his companions, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were among the Israelites who had been taken into captivity at the time when Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, had been sent to bring God's judgment upon the land of Judah. At that time, the vessels of gold and silver were removed from the temple and carried into Babylon.

While Daniel was in captivity in Babylon, he read the prophecies of Jeremiah where it said that God would send Nebuchadnezzar against this land (Judah). It speaks of 70 years captivity after which the people would be set free and allowed to go to their own land, and Jerusalem would be rebuilt. Daniel began to fast and pray that they would be set free. God sent the angel Gabriel, to tell him that his prayer was heard.

Nebuchadnezzar's chief officer chose Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to study to go into the King's service. For three years they had to learn the language of the Chaldeans. They were fed special food from the King's table. Daniel did not want to eat the meat or drink the wine that had been offered to idols because it was unclean by the Lord's law. He purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. The officer did not want to disobey the King, so Daniel suggested, "Let us try it for ten days." The four young men ate only vegetables and drank only water. At the end of ten days, they were stronger and healthier than all the young

men who ate from the King's table. Then the officer agreed to give them all only vegetables and water.

After three years, the four young men were taken to the palace of King Nebuchadnezzar. He found they were wiser and more learned than all the other wise men in his kingdom. He was greatly pleased with them.

One night, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. Even though it troubled him much, he forgot what the dream was. He commanded the wise men to be brought in. "You must tell me the dream and the interpretation," he said. "We can't do that," the wise men told the King. He became very angry and commanded all the wise men to be put to death. The officer told Daniel and immediately Daniel went to the King's palace. "Don't kill all your wise men," said Daniel, "but give me time and I will be able to tell you all you want to know." Then the commandment was stopped and Daniel and his companions began to pray. God told Daniel the dream and the interpretation.

When Daniel came in to King Nebuchadnezzar, he said, "The secret which you have been demanded can no wise man tell the King, but there is a God in Heaven that revealeth secrets. Thy dream and visions of thy head upon thy bed are these: - He that revealeth secrets, maketh known to thee what shall come to pass hereafter. But for me," Daniel said, "this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than anyone living, but for

our sakes who make known the interpretation to the King, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

Thou, O King, saw a great image. This image stood before thee. It was very bright and terrible. The head was of fine gold, the breast and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of brass, the legs of iron, the feet of part iron and part clay."

The head of gold represented the Kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar. It was the greatest and richest on earth. The other materials in the statue represented other kingdoms that would arise after Nebuchadnezzar's death.

"Then a stone was cut out without hands, out of the mountain. It smote the image upon his feet and broke them in pieces...After that the stone grew and grew until it filled all the earth." The stone represents the Kingdom of Christ, which will fill all the earth and break down the other kingdoms.

Because Daniel was able to tell the dream and interpretation, Nebuchadnezzar gave him great honours and made him chief of the wise men, but Daniel never took the honour to himself. He gave God the glory. It was only the power of God that could make it possible to reveal the dream and tell the interpretation. Daniel humbly acknowledged his own lack of wisdom. We should acknowledge that God helps us in all that we do. Always give God the glory.

— E. Frances Cotcher

An Experience Beyond Our Experience

By Andy Snoke

Phi 3:10-11: "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable to His death; if by any means I might attain to the resurrection of the dead."

This is quite a statement made by the apostle Paul regarding his experience in Christ. Every word, every phrase is loaded with meaning and truth.

Paul had met the Lord on the road to Damascus quite some time before penning these words. Paul had been blinded by his own religious experience and understanding up to that important day when he met with the Master. He was lost in his own righteousness that came from following all that he had been taught by the religious leaders of his day. But within a few seconds of blinding Holy Spirit light, he was forever changed.

Act 9:1-6: "And Saul, still breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to Damascus to the synagogues; so that if he found any of the Way, whether they were men or women, he might bring *them* bound to Jerusalem. But in going, it happened as he drew near to Damascus, even suddenly a light from the heaven shone around him. And he fell to the earth and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me? And he said, Who are you, lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom you persecute. *It is* hard for you to kick against the goads. And trembling and astonished, he said, Lord, what will You have me to do? And the Lord *said* to him, Arise and go into the city, and you shall be told what you must do."

After being filled with the Spirit, and faithfully serving the Lord for many years, Paul writes to the Philippians and tells them (and us) what he still desired

more than anything, even life itself.

1. To know Him.
2. To know the power of His resurrection.
3. To know the fellowship of His sufferings.
4. To be conformed unto His death.
5. To attain the resurrection from the dead.

After serving the Lord faithfully, Paul was looking far beyond that wonderful, indescribable reward that is reserved for the saints in the heavenly "here after." He was looking for these unspeakable experiences in the here and now. He wasn't singing the "I'll fly away, Oh Glory" songs, which speak of the blessed heritage we have in heaven, he was longing for heaven to swallow him up, in the *here and now*.

Paul may have caught a glimpse of these unspeakable experiences when he was caught up into the third heaven (whatever that is) and saw things that were inexpressible.

2 Co 12:1-4: "Indeed, it is not profitable for me too boast. For I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ fourteen years before (whether in *the* body, I do not know, or outside of *the* body, I do not know; God knows) such a one *was* caught up to the third Heaven. And I know such a man (whether in *the* body, or outside of *the* body, I do not know; God knows), that he was caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not allowed for man to utter."

He longed for an experience beyond his present experience. Paul would not have longed for something, neither would he have written about it, if it were not available for the Church. In essence, he longed for what Jesus taught us to pray for: "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is heaven."

Putting it another way, he longed for the experience that God created mankind for in the first place: To be in the image of God, to have fellowship with him, and to have dominion over the earth.

Gen 1:26-27: "And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creepers creeping on the earth. And God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female."

Paul made it clear that he was not yet in that place. Phi 3:12-14: "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect, but I am pressing on, if I may lay hold of that for which I also was taken hold of by Christ Jesus. My brothers, I do not count myself to have taken possession, but one *thing I do*, forgetting the things behind and reaching forward to the things before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Throughout the scriptures, there is given a call to a remnant to inherit the Kingdom of God. A place of overcoming, of fellowship with the Divine.

But what are some of the requirements for these experiences? I wish I had a simple formula that we could follow that guaranteed success, but I don't. But a few of the truths that will point us in the right direction are as follows:

Complete humility, humbleness, preferring one another. Phi 2:5-7: "For let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, thought *it* not robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, and took *upon Himself* the form of a servant, and was made in *the* likeness of men."

The attributes found in the 144,000 in Rev. 14 speaks of the nature and requirements of the manifested sons of God. These certainly will help us grow into the resurrection experience.

Rev 14:3-5: "And they sang as it were a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. And no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousands who were redeemed from the earth. These are those who were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, as a first fruit to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile, for they were without blemish before the throne of God."

Please note that:

1. They were redeemed from the earth (They weren't part of the fly away crowd).
2. They were redeemed from among men. (A remnant)
3. They were not defiled with women. (This speaks of defilement with the world).
4. They follow the lamb wherever He goes. (They have lost their own selfish will).
5. They are first fruits to God. (Indicating that there is a great harvest of fruit to follow.)
6. In their mouth there is no guile. (No deceit, they speak the truth).
7. They are without blemish (Because of His righteousness).

There is much more that could be said regarding this great experience that Paul longed for. We are told clearly that this experience is still available to the Church at large, and we are encouraged to press into it.

Heb 4:9-11: "So then there remains a rest to the people of God. For he who has entered into his rest, he also has ceased from his own works, as God *did* from His. Therefore let us labor to enter into that rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of unbelief."

Let us hunger for all that God will allow us to have in the here and now. And let us continue to walk forward, and faithfully into all that the Lord has revealed to us.

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

Big Spring, Texas Jan. 31 - Feb. 1-2, 2003
North Carolina Winter Camp Feb. 21 - 23, 2003
Feast North Battleford April 17-20, 2003
Illinois Gathering (King's House) May 2-4, 2003
Camp North Battleford July 6-13, 2003
North Carolina Summer Camp July 27-August 3, 2003

North Carolina Camp Meeting

July 27 - August 3, 2003
Catawba College, Salisbury, NC

Catawba College, site of the camp, is located in the town of Salisbury, NC, about 40 miles from either Charlotte or High Point via Interstate 85. The campus is about 3 miles west of Interstate 85 (Exit 76-B) on West Innes Street (Hwy. 601) and can also be reached from the west and Interstate 40 via Hwy 601 or Hwy 70.

You may bring linens (single bed), towels, & pillows, or these can be rented at \$5 per set.

Check-in time begins at 2:00 pm on Sunday, July 27. Meals will be served in the college dining hall beginning at 5:00 pm on Sunday, July 27, followed by the first meeting at 7:30 pm. The camp will conclude with the noon meal on Sunday, August 3.

Buildings are air conditioned. Swimming pool, gym, and other recreational facilities are available.

Charges for Room & Board:

Age 0-3	No Charge
Age 4-6	\$60.00 per week or \$12.00 per day
Age 7-Adult	\$90.00 per week or \$18.00 per day

Send reservations to: Global Missions Regional Camp
c/o Mrs. Anita Love
112 Queensbury Rd.,
Winston Salem, NC 27104

or call: Anita Love 336-765-9271
or email: <ASLOVE1@aol.com>

Flight arrangements may be made to Charlotte or Greensboro, NC.
For Greensboro Airport pickup call Dave Heath at 336-841-0607 or e-mail <DDPACK@juno.com>
For airport pickup in Charlotte call Kim Kaufman at 704-583-0651 or email <kkaufman@carolina.rr.com>.

Phi 3:15-16: "Let us therefore, as many as *are* perfect (mature), be of this mind. And if in anything you are otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this to you. Yet, as to what we have already attained, let us walk in the same rule, let us mind the same thing."

Big Spring Texas Meeting

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