Nov. 1958. West Sacramento Calafornia
730 Pecan Avenue,
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"THE BOW IN THE CLOUD"

Dear brethren;-

In Gen.9:12-17,We have the following:"And God said, this is the token of the covenant which I make between me and youa and every living creature that is with you,for perpetual generations; (13) I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. (14)And it shall come to pass,when I bring a cloud over the earth,rhat the bow shall be seen in the cloud; (15)And I will remember my covenant,which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. (16) And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.(17) And God said unto Noah, this is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth".

In all ages of the world, wherever the bible has gone,when a dark cloud came over ,and the token of God's covenant,the bow, was cast upon the cloud, a HOPE was raised in the hearts of men that they would not be all destoyed with a flood of waters.

Most every one knows that the rainbow is formed upon a cloud by there being some,not much but some rain,and the sun shining through those drops of rain,they acted as a prisom and separates the different colors of the rays of light,and casts them as a bow upon the cloud as a background.

Now to apply the figure, and get the lesson to us. First, we all know the clouds of the flood brought the distruction of the antedeluvian world. Hence the cloud applied to us would have to be a cloud of adversity and trouble. Second, the raindrops were of the same formation; hence, the raindrops through which the sun shines to form the rainbow on the cloud of adversity,would have to be,as it were,drops of adversity and trouble falling about us,through whicha light shone through and cast a BOW of HOPE upon the cloud of adversity.

THird, that light is God's word. Proof:Ps.119:105;"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,and a light unto my path.-" Ps. 119:172;"My tongue shall speak of thy word; for all thy commandments are righteousness". Ps.119 :130;"The entrance of thy word giveth light;it giveth understanding to the simple." From the above it is clear the word of God is light. Mal.4:2;"But unto you that fear my name shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth,and grow up as calves of the stall". Here Jesus is called THE SUN of righteousness. A"SUN "gives light. Jno.1:9;"That was the true light,which lighteth every man that cometh into the world". Here,again we see Jesus was the "LIGHT" and since the gospel,is the gospel of Christ,it is the medium through his light shines.

2 Cor.4:4,Speaks of the glorious LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL SHINING.

In the third chapter of 1 Corinthians shows the superiority of the gospel's shining above the law. Therefore we can see that light that shines through the drops of adversity that is falling arround us, and thus casts a BOW of HOPE upon the dark cloud of adversity and trouble that might be threatening us, is the gospel.

Now to some of the clouds of adversity that beset us on our travel through this world.

First--The cloud of guilt.

Rom.3:23;Paul says,"For all have sinned,and come short of the glory of God". 1 Jno.1:8 says;"If we say we have no sin we decieve ourselves,and the truth is not in us." Verse 10,says,If we say that we have not sinned,we make him a liar,and t## his word is not in us". James 1:15,says,"Then when lust hath conceived,it bringrth forth sin;and sin when it is finished,bringeth forth death." these scripptures paints a very dark and gloomy "CLOUD" Of guilt. The raindrops of guilt are falling arround us because of our sins we continue to commit;However,the sunlight of God's word breaks through,, for in Mat.1:21,He says, "----for he shall save his people from their sins".Paul speaking of Christ in Heb.5:9 says,"And being made perfect,he became the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him".Rev.22:14,says,"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the city". To the christian,these words of promise shines through the "drops" of trouble about us and casts a "BOW" of HOPE upon that dack and dreary cloud of "GUILT".

THE CLOUD OF TEMPTATION .

Jas.1:14,"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lusts, and enticed. This we know is true,and it bringd before our eyes a dark bitter colud, for we are tempted on every hand; and left to our own it looks like there is no escape.Paul,in viewing this CLOUD in Rom.7:24 exclaimed,"O,wrecked man that I am! Who shalldeliver me from the body of this death"?

But the light of God's word shines through the "raindrops" of temptation falling about us;when Paul says,"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man:but God is faithful,who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able;but will with the temptation also make a way to escape,that ye may be able to bear it" 1 Cor.10:13: and casts a glorious "BOW" of hope on that dark,foreboding cloud of temptation.

"THE CLOUD OF DEATH".

"The CLOUD of death is one we have all come under the shadow of.The apostlePaul tells us; "And as it is appointed unto men once to die but after that the judgment;" Heb.9:27. When one is not a believer and contemplates passing under the CLOUD of death,all is dispair.

But when he accepts the word of God,and reads, that Jesus rose, and became the first fruits of them that slept,1 Cor.15:12-20;and read concerning us,"It is sown a natural body,it is raised a spiritual body--"1 Cor.15:44; and,"For this corruptable must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on imortality. So when this corruptable shall have put on incorruption,and this mortal shall have put on imortality; then shall be brought to pass the saying, death is swallowed up in victory." 1 cor.15:53,54 Then the sunshine of God's word shine through the "raindrops" of dispair and cast a "BOW" of hopeupon the dark and dismal CLOUD OF DEATH.

THE CLOUD OF THE JUDGMENT.

All men who believe God's word knows he must face the judgment; 2 Cor.5:10; Rev.20:11-15 and they know we all sin,Eccl.7:20; 1 Jno. 1:8,10; and James 1:15,says,"--sin when it is finished bringeth forth death; the CLOUD OF JUDGMENT is indeed dark and foreboding; but when we remember Jesus "--became the author of eternal salvation to all that obey him ,Heb.5:9; then the sunshine of God's word shines through the "raindrops" of dispair , and casts a "BOW OF HOPE"upon the dark and dreadful "CLOUD OF THE JUDGMENT".

THE CLOUD OF ALIENATION.

When one realizes he is alienated from God, and that he must appear before the judgment seat of Christ to answer for his sins(2 Cor.5:10), and his doom will be everlasting distruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of his power,(2 Thes.1:7-9 ; the CLOUD of alienation is indeed a dark and disquieting one. But when he realizes, they who does the Lord's commandments will have a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the city,(Rev.22:14); the sunlight of God's word shines through the "raindrops" of despondancy and casts a glorious "BOW OF HOPE" on the dark cloud of alienation.

May God bless everyone to so live as to have that"BOW OF HOPE" IS my prayer. with love , J.S.B.

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"A OFTEN AS YE EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THIS CUP**"

Because the above expression says,"As often --,it is argued by many that there is no set time in which to eat the Lord's supper;while others argue,there is a set time but it is not binding that we "Eat the Lord's supper" each first day of the week.

Heb.10:25;" Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves togather;as the manner of some is;but exhorting one another; and so much the more as ye see the day aproaching".

First--We are commanded,"Not ~~the~~ FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGATHER". Second-- we are told to exhort one another and so much the more AS WE SEE THE "DAY" APROACHING. Hence,we see there is a "DAY" in which to "Assemble" ,and we are commanded to do it.

The purpose of the "ASSEMBLING" is to "BREAK BREAD"; Acts 20:7-11; I Cor.11:33. Hence we see the "As often--", is on the "First day of the week" and we are commanded ,"NOT TO FORSAKE IT" (Heb.10:25);and the purpose of the assembling is to eat the Lord's supper,Acts 20:7-11;1 Cor.11:33.Hence,the expression,"As often--",does not give us the authority to fail to eat the supper.

Mat.18:20 shows us as few as two or three constitutes an assembly. However under extreme circumstances as mentioned in Rev.3:14-20; "any man",one man,May eat with his Lord.

How any one could purposly fail to eat the Lord's supper is a mystery. 1 Cor.11:25"---this do ye,as oft,as ye drink it in memory of me". Realizing that it is memory of him who gave so much for us we should not even intertain the idea of failing to eat it when posible. And further,verse 26,"For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup you do show the Lord's death till he comes". Yes,and we show his ""DEATH"" till he come, the death that gives us life; how could we purposly fail to eat it each first day of the week,the appointed time to eat it.

Let us remember,in Mat.26:29,Jesus said,"For I say untoyou,I will nt drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father s kingdom". thus showing conclusively,in some way he would drink it with us.Now, dear brother, would you slight a chance to eat with the king of the universe? Would you with a very slimsy excuse refuse to eat with the president of tge United States? Then why,O,why will you slight the king of the universe,and place your soul in joperdy?

" DISCERNING THE LORD'S BODY".

"For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily,eateth and drinketh damnation to himself,not discerning the Lord s body".1 Cor.11:29.

"Discern",means to;to make out as with the eye or by the mind; to see; to understand; to detect. Webster,def.1.

Hence to "Discern the Lord8s body",in eating the Lord8s su pper,would through the bread be"tomake out as with the eye or by the mind; to see; to understand; to detect", the Lord's body. We see him as he suffered while praying in Gethsemane.We see him as he was betrayed with traitors kiss by Judas. We see him as he was crowned with a crown of thorns.Yes,we see him as he bore the heavy cross; as the nails were driven through his hands and feet; as he suffered for hours in the deepest agony for you and me.How,he at last yielded up his Spirit. How he was burried the third day rose again;ascended up to heaven.

Dear brother,when you assemble on the first day of the week; do you do it just to eat a little bread and drink a little of the fruit of the vine with the brethren Or in that eating and drinking do you discern the Lord8s body?

Lets never,never, forget in this act we MUS T. discern the Lord's body or we are eating and drinking damnation to ourselves.

OUR MAIL BOX

A letter,several weeks back,from brother Coy Garrison stated he had baptized a fine young lady into Christ at Nocona Texas.

A letter from brother Harry Wegley tells us the church at Cave Junction Oregon was moving along fine. Two of brother Sam Mickeys girls were baptized into the Lord.

A letter from brother R.C.Clements tells us his health is still poor. Our prayers are that brother Clements will have a speedy recovery.

A letter from brother Foy Garrison states he had baptized a fine young man at Nocona Texas(his home church) ,who was interested inlearning teach in the assembly. Wonderful news.

A letter from brother J.V.Wood stated brother Coy Garrison had given them a wonderful lesson in thechurch at Oklahoma City.

As to thenews with us; brother Lowery went over to Roseville Calif., and baptized a fine lady into the Lord and established a church of 8 or 10 members. He and Ervin Tibbs go over most every Lord's day to assist them. They also have a fine boy who is learning to take over and lead,teach etc.

Brethren,I am not writing these letters to get any one to follow me or accept any peculiar doctrine I might have; but to try to get a closer study of God's word that we all might walk closer to him.

On any point I am mistaken on,I am willing for any brother,or brethren to come here and reason with me on the subject. I only want the truth; and if you correct my error you are my friend.

May God bless and keep you unto that eternal inheritance for which we are all striving is my prayer. As ever, Your's in Christ,

J.S.Bedi ngfield.

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