### Late Summer 2018

Dear Partners in the Lord's Service,

On a recent Saturday, I experienced what one might call an "epiphany." My online dictionary gives as the first definition of *epiphany* "sudden realization." I suddenly realized that a Scripture verse I'd read many times and heard expounded upon often in faith circles didn't mean what I thought it meant.

It happened like this. I am now reading through the New Testament Letters in the new-tome *English Standard Version*. As I read it, I compare it to Bullinger's notes in *The Companion Bible*. Bullinger gives much light on the Hebrew and Greek texts. The epiphany happened when I came to his commentary on Hebrews 11:3. Here is how the verse is translated, first in the KJV and then the ESV:

#### Hebrews 11:3 KJV

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word [Greek *rhema*] of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

#### Hebrews 11:3 ESV

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Without doubt, both translations are Bible truth. But they do not convey what the Greek actually says. Here is Bullinger's commentary that so grabbed me:

The reference is not to creation, but to the ordering by God of the dispensations, each of which succeeded but did not spring from its predecessor as a plant does from its seed. By rendering *aiōnas* as "worlds" here [instead of "ages"]; *katērtishai* as "framed," instead of "prepared;" and *gegonenai* as "made," instead of "came into being," or "came to pass," <u>the meaning of this important statement is lost</u>.

Checking further, I found that *Young's Literal Translation* correctly translates the original Greek:

## Hebrews 11:3 Young's Literal Translation

By faith we understand the ages to have been prepared by a saying of God, in regard to the things seen not having come out of things appearing.

For years, here and there, often in sudden epiphanies, the Lord has drawn my attention to "the ages to come."

# The Ages to Come

Twelve years ago, as I was praying in tongues over the depths of meaning in the first prayer in Ephesians, I heard myself saying in English: "The pilings .... The pilings ...." My mind went back to when I worked in a construction office during the building of a large chemical plant south of Baton Rouge along the Mississippi River. I recalled the sound of the crew driving pilings into the soft soil to provide a firm foundation.

A strong inner voice corrected my thoughts that were travelling on the wrong track. "Wuest!" I heard, and I ran downstairs to get my *Wuest Expanded Translation of the New Testament* (which I rarely read). You can imagine my surprise when not more than ten minutes after I'd heard myself say "the pilings" I read:

#### **Ephesians 2:4-7 Wuest**

... because of His great love with which He loved us, and we being dead with respect to our trespasses, made us alive together with the Christ ... and raised us with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, in order that He might exhibit for His own glory in the ages that will pile themselves one upon another in continuous succession, the surpassing wealth of His grace in kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

God measures the future in ages! Countless ages will pile themselves one upon another throughout eternity. For ages and ages and ages to come, God will exhibit, for His own glory, the body of Christ as a trophy of His grace.

## **Short Sighted**

From an Alexander Maclaren (1826-1920) funeral sermon, I came to see how the entire Book of Second Peter is prophetic.

Maclaren said that a phrase in 2 Peter 1:9, which the KJV translates "cannot see afar off," should have been translated "shortsighted." The Amplified shows it:

## 2 Peter 1:9 Amplified, Classic Edition

For whoever lacks these qualities is blind, [spiritually] shortsighted, seeing only what is near to him.

An example of how shortsightedness can affect life's choices is couples who say, "We're not going to have children. We just don't want to bring a child into this evil world." God is the Father of spirits. Every person is an eternal spirit. Christian couples have a rich opportunity to train up a child, not just for this age and world, but an eternal spirit who will love and serve the Father throughout eternity.

### The Dispensation of Grace

I often teach about the importance of rightly dividing the Word according to three groups of people: the Jews, the Nations, and the Church (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Cor. 10:32). But another important division in the Word is that of the Ages and Dispensations.

We live in the Dispensation of Grace (Ephesians 3:2), the dispensation during which God is taking out of the nations a people for His name (Acts 15:14). These people are born from above by grace through faith. Individually, they become new creations, a brand-new species unknown before this dispensation. Corporately, they are assembled into a new creation, the very body of Christ. Throughout all the ages to come, that body will be a recognized entity that God will exhibit as a trophy of His grace.

A prophetic word through Kenneth Copeland back in the 1980s gives us a glimpse into an upcoming age when that will happen. Here is an excerpt. <u>The entire prophecy is available on our web page. I call it the "Ecstasy" prophecy.</u>"

For these are the days of the greatest revelations of all. In the future, out in the distant ages that you know nothing of, I'll give you a glimpse of what it shall be like. Never again, never in any age, never in the future again will there be the likes of you. You will walk the streets of the cities of the planets and the stars. I built the Universe for you, and you'll travel it with Me. And all of those that shall be born in the future and all the years to come as natural men and natural women populate the stars.

And they'll say to one another, "There comes one of the kings. There comes one of the special ones. There comes the image of the Master. Oh! Would that we had lived in that age. They are so special. They get the best of everything. Their Father keeps them in His bosom. Oh, we have it blessed, and we have it good, but it's because of them. They walk in the Glory Realm. They walk in the Light Realm. We have Joy. They have Ecstasy!" Normally, we don't make available our Sunday afternoon sessions. But I want to share with you the joy I "felt" as I shared the day after I experienced the aforementioned epiphany. Instructions for how to receive the recording are enclosed.

# Partnership

Thank you so much for your partnership in all the Lord has told us to do. God, through you, sent us to France, Poland, Brussels, Israel and across America.

Our plane is now receiving government-required avionics estimated to cost \$130,000. We have it! Praise His Name! And we are believing Him to build back up our Aviation Account so we can keep *going*!

Doors of opportunity are wide open everywhere. Television. Radio. World-wide streamed live prayer meetings on Prayer Mountain. Feeding the needy, many of whom are homeless. Prophetic teaching about these times we live in. Authority of the Believer teachings. Our church in Collinsville, Oklahoma, under the leadership of Pastors Chip and Candace Brim, is Alive! And reaching so many!

I've been seeing so much in the Word about partnership with God and each other. I seem to be led to write about it. So I plan to have it ready to put into the hands of those coming to Autumn Assembly, October 17 through 22.

I do trust many believers will be here in Branson to work with us in prayer at this critical hour. Considering the enemy's plots against our dear nation, and with mid-term elections in November, our assembling together in prayer will make "*tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]*" (James 5:16, Amplified, Classic Edition).

As the old-timers used to say, "See you Here, There, or In The Air!!!!!"

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