



# The Sharon Star

## The Spiritual Journey of Noah

By P.J. Mathew

In every generation God has preserved a remnant of people who are faithful and obedient to Him. It was such a time when the whole world was corrupt and sinful, God saw Noah as a righteous and blameless man, who walked with God among the people of his time. “God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways” (Gen. 6:12, NIV). The word “corrupt” means, marked by immorality, depraved, open to bribery and dishonest (American Heritage Dictionary). It is rather ironic that God saw only one man among so many as being pure and detached from the worldly desires and who had decided to follow God. One of the reasons was that Noah had been blessed with great role models in his patriarchs who had communed and fellowshiped with God. Noah's great grandfather Enoch “walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away” (Gen. 5: 24, NIV). Methusaleh, the grandfather who lived for 969 years, the longest in human history, according to the Biblical accounts, must have had a very close relationship with God. Noah means “rest.” He found repose in God in the midst of all distractions, turmoil and adversities, yet continued to walk in the footprints of his forefathers. Resting in God is a spiritual heritage of the people of God in all ages. “There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience” (Hebrews 4: 9-11, NIV). “In fact, from Genesis to Revelation we discover how God has not only ordained rest for the people of God, but how He has called us to proceed from rest unto rest, from glory to glory, even unto the

very fullness of rest itself” (George Warnock, *The Feast of Tabernacle*, p. 67). It is unquestionably a gift from God to possess that divine rest in our souls even when everything around us seems to go wrong.

In Hebrews Chapter 11: 7, “By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith” (NIV). He was told about a great flood that was to come upon the earth and he believed God at His word. A deluge, an unheard of natural disaster until then in the history of the world and an ark, never fathomed in human imagination, to save his family from the flood. It might have seemed of no significance to the generation of his time but for Noah it was God's word that would come to pass in His time. The decision that Noah took to obey God sealed the destiny of his progeny.

### Footprints of Noah

Noah carved out a path less traveled by ordinary men and women. It was a daunting, unfamiliar and unexplored trail that Noah chose to walk. The world around him did not give him any credence or respect, and they did not see what Noah saw. They disbelieved in what he had to say, and they chose a different path of their own. However, Noah knew his God, heard from God, believed in Him and never hesitated to move

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forward in the arduous journey ahead of him.

**Noah believed God at His word with an unquestioning spirit.**

Noah possessed an unquestioning spirit about God. An unquestioning spirit is defiance against a reasoning mind. Noah cherished the command of God more than his own natural thought process. He literally saw a great flood by faith and began building the ark as God had instructed him. God had dictated to him the actual design of the ark in regard to the height, length and width of it. While building the ark, he might have encountered some logistical problems, which his intelligence might have questioned, analyzed and found some solutions, yet, Noah chose to follow God's way and not trusting in his own ability. In Genesis 6:22, "Noah did everything just as God commanded him" (NIV). In reality, Noah saw an ark emerging according to the pattern of God by faith but it was invisible to the world. Only Noah could explain to the people what he saw by faith. Others would believe only by sight. As Paul mentions in 2 Cor. 5: 7, "We live by faith, not by sight" (NIV). Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans, I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live" (John 14: 15-19, NIV). True believers are able to see Him and His works through the Spirit.

There is a great sense of contentment and clarity in the hearts of God's people, when they follow the plan of God by faith. We have numerous examples in the Bible to illustrate how the patriarchs such as Abraham, in leaving Ur which is in modern Iraq and going to Canaan, the land of promise that God would show, Moses in building the tabernacle according to the pattern shown in Mount Sinai, and David, carefully instructing his son Solomon to build the temple as he heard from God. In Hebrews Chapter 11, we have a list of faith heroes who trusted God unswervingly. They believed in God and His word without a shadow of doubt in their minds.

**Noah built the ark in holy fear.**

While Noah was engaged in this great endeavor of building the ark, he was filled with reverence for God. First of all, he might have been thinking of the love of God for choosing him to be a conduit for the task of building the ark. The more he obeyed the more he knew God and, as he revered God, an awe filled his innermost being and he was able to enter into the fullness

of that calling to understand the revelation of God more clearly. He saw an invisible hand of God moving as he progressed in building the ark. There might have been disappointing and tiresome days but yet, the word of God was whispering to him about the ark and the great day of judgment of God about to happen upon the face of the earth. He kept believing and building the ark not as a duty or obligation but as a vocation from God. In our spiritual journey, we are already in this finished ark who is Christ. How much more is expected of us in terms of reverence and adoration to His holy name. Jesus taught us in Matthew 6: 9, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" (NIV). "Hallow means to regard as different, to give a unique and special place to. Therefore, when we pray, "Hallowed be thy name," it means, "Enable us to give to thee the unique place which thy nature and character deserve and demand" (The Daily Study Bible, William Barclay, p. 206). Reverencing His presence in our earthly treasures of clay and being aware of His presence in our midst must not be taken lightly. "The man who fears God will avoid all extremes" (Ecclesiastes 7: 18, NIV). To reverence God means to live in a God-filled world, to live a life in which we never forget God. This awareness is not confined to the Church building or while visiting so-called holy places; it must be an awareness which exists everywhere and at all times. In Psalms 5: 7 "But I, by your great mercy, will come into your house; in reverence will I bow down toward your holy temple" (NIV). "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God" (Eccl. 5:1, NIV). "Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. "Therefore stand in awe of God" (Eccl. 5:7, NIV).

**Noah obeyed the pattern of God.**

When God chose Noah to build the ark, He gave him a definite pattern to finish this task. He was not an engineer or had any qualification to design the shape of the ark. However, Noah was chosen to build an ark (Genesis 6:14-16) and the ark was like the hulk of a ship, fitted not to sail upon the waters (there was no occasion for that, because it was landlocked) but to float upon the waters. God gave him wisdom to grasp the specific instructions concerning this ark. First of all, it must be made of gopher wood (KJV) or Cypress wood (NIV). It is believed that gopher wood was the most durable and incorruptible material for the task. When God provides raw materials to build the ark they are strong, and durable. In 1 Peter 1:23 we read that "For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God" (NIV). We are "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the

chief cornerstone” (Ephesians 2: 20, NIV). Secondly, Noah must make it three stories or decks high within. The number three has a special significance in the Bible. The tabernacle in the wilderness and the temple in Jerusalem had three important divisions. It also indicates divine perfection. Thirdly, he must divide it into cabins, with partitions, places fitted for the several sorts of creatures, so as to lose no room. All the space that is available must be made used. “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Cor.12: 27, NIV). Fourthly, exact dimensions such as length, width and height were given him. God places importance for right design, precision, and specificity, including every minute detail and the method of how it should be erected. “In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built” (1 Kings 6:7, NIV). It is important to note that the dimensions of the ark were decided by God and Noah had no authority to alter the plan of God. Also the temple site was not to be disrupted by clamorous constructional activities since it was the holy habitation unto God. Fifthly, he must coat it with pitch inside and out to shed off the rain, and to prevent the water from soaking within, and to take away the bad smell of the beasts. The ark was set to float and not to get stuck in the water. The people of God are not to be bound by the world and its desires. “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him. For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes, and the boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever” (1John 2:15-17, NIV). Sixthly, he must make a little window towards the top to let in light. There was no darkness within the ark because God provided sufficient light to all the residents of the ark. “God turns my darkness into light” (Ps. 18:28, NIV). “Even in darkness light dawns for the upright” (Ps.112:4, NIV). Finally, he must make a door in the side of it, by which to go in and out. Genesis 6:22 “Noah did everything just as God commanded him” (NIV). We read in John 10: 9 “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” (KJV). There was only one door in the ark which was used as the passage for the people and animals to come in and get out. As we read and understand the scriptures, Noah did everything according to the pattern that was revealed to him.

**Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2: 5, NIV).**

Noah was not only righteous but also preached God's righteousness. Righteous means upright, virtuous, blameless, morally right, equitable, right thinking, according to Webster's dictionary. Noah had lived in such a time when people had forgotten what righteousness means, but he preached to the people all about righteousness. He spoke to them about the judgment of God and warned them about the catastrophic consequences of the impending flood, but they did not listen. In J.B. Phillips translation, we read that “Noah (was) the solitary voice that cried out for righteousness” In a sinful and unrighteous world, Noah's lone voice cried out for justice and holiness. It was like the voice of John the Baptist crying out for repentance in the Judean wilderness, “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, ‘Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near.’ This is who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: ‘A voice of one calling in the desert, Prepare the way for the Lord, and make straight path for him’” (Matthew 3: 1-3, NIV).

Apostle Paul exhorts us through his writing to the church at Philippi 1: 11, “Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and the praise of God” (NIV). May His Spirit enable us to be like Noah to cry out for righteousness in the world and our preaching be, that we are to be filled with the fruit of righteousness.

#### **Noah was undeterred by the mockery of others**

Every day when Noah began his work, people might have challenged his plan and determination. They might have mocked him for his relentless building of the great hulk of the ship for there was no sea or lake to sail nearby. It was all done in a dry land. It looked quite foolish to the people who passed by. It is true that the individual who walks according to God's word may often have to adopt a course of action which looks outlandish to the world and most of the time it is a lonely untrodden walk of experience. In the early days of Church history, anyone who became a Christian was considered an outlaw, and they were tortured, imprisoned, thrown to the lions, and crucified or burned at the stake. That did not stop the church from growing from strength to strength. In 1Cor. 1: 18, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (NIV).

**Noah walked with God.** We might rephrase the word “walked” as “fellowshipped” with God. One of the significant qualities in Noah's life was that he was a transformed man after he believed God at His word. He found a great companion in God just like his great grandfather, Enoch. Every step of his journey he

walked and counselled with God. He experienced a deeper and more intimate relationship with God. When we fellowship with God we will be able to talk to Him. Speaking in tongues is talking to God, and it is praising God in a heavenly language. Jesus said, "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither you can bear fruit unless you remain in me" (John 15:4, NIV). The more we fellowship and commune with God, the more is the impartation of the nature of God upon us. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" (1John 1: 7, NIV). According to John we should also fellowship with one another. I strongly believe that as God's people truly fellowship with one another, there is a deeper mystical impartation of Christ passing from one to another.

**Noah's faith was a judgment on others.**

Noah was not critical of the people around him. He lived his faith with a strong demonstration. A true believer does not find fault with other people but simply being true and faithful, he passes judgment on other people. I believe that he was very concerned for the salvation of the people from the great deluge. Day after day his righteous soul might have been tormented by the lawless deeds he saw and heard. It took a long while for the vindication of his faith. When the flood covered the face of the earth, "Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Everything on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark" (Gen. 7: 22-23, NIV). When the flood came, God's word proved to be true, Noah's faith was vindicated and the world's unbelief was judged. Noah became the heir of righteousness that came by faith. Noah expressed complete trust in God and His word, even when it is related to "things not yet seen" as stated in Hebrews 11:1, namely the coming of the flood.

**Noah faithfully obeyed God when he was shut into the ark.**

When all that entered the ark including Noah, his wife and sons and their wives and all pairs of creatures that have the breath of life as God had commanded, then the Lord shut him (Noah) in. Noah faithfully obeyed God, and God took care of him. God shut the door to secure and keep Noah safe and those who were with him including the animals. The door of the ark was open for the reason that any individual who repented and believed during the last seven days (Genesis 7:4) might have been saved from destruction.

However, after the door was shut no one could open the door. Even Noah himself could not open it even though he had built it. When the Lord shut the door, no one could alter the plan of God. "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open" (Rev. 3: 7, NIV). Noah and those who were with him were in the ark resting in the promises of God. "For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased, they lifted the ark high above the earth" (Gen.7: 17, NIV). Noah was a preacher of righteousness who had warned the world about the flood, and it happened in God's time. Those who wanted to escape from destruction could not approach Noah or the ark any more because it was high above the earth floating on the surface of the water. We notice here two groups of people, ones who obeyed God and others who did not want to obey God. Those who obeyed the call of God rested in the ark safely, and those who were disobedient perished in the flood. God gave everyone an equal opportunity for salvation, but those who heeded the call were saved and those who did not heed were lost. God is merciful and gracious to forgive us of our sins. We must be willing to accept the offer that God is making to us. "But what does it say? 'The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is your mouth that you confess and are saved'" (Romans 10: 8- 10, NIV).

**Noah built an altar.**

After Noah was brought out of the ark, he acknowledged the favor of God by building an altar to offer sacrifice to God. "Then he built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it" (Gen. 8: 20, NIV). Noah never complained of the long confinement but he was thankful to God for preserving his life and all others who were with him. Noah was ready to give a very good account of his responsibility for all that were given to his charge. He had lost none. The presence of God was within the ark. It is no wonder that Noah was at peace even when the floods raised the ark upon the surface of the water. With a thankful heart, he first served God. One who begins with God does begin well in all his/her works. Noah could have thought about building a home first, but he thought first to serve His God who had protected him, his family and all others with him. He knew His God very intimately who had dwelt in

the ark during all the days of deluge. Joshua made a proclamation to the people after crossing Jordan into the promised land about serving God. “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Jos. 24: 14-15, NIV). As Joshua was in the promised land, so Noah also was in a new earth which was purged from all inequities after the flood. He chose to worship God first before everything else.

**Noah pleased God and God remembered him.**

God did not forget Noah and the rest who survived in the ark during the flood. We read that after he built an altar and offered sacrifice, God smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart never to curse the ground because of man. He made a covenant with Noah. “Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth” (Gen.9: 16, NIV). The rainbow is the sign of the covenant and it was a visible seal of the commitment of God to mankind. God had a plan for Noah and his family in the cleansed earth that is to be fruitful and to increase

in number (Gen.9:1, NIV). God would remember not to destroy mankind again by flood through the rainbow covenant that he had promised. In the New Testament, God made a new covenant through Jesus for us, making the old obsolete and ushered us into a new living hope. Here the covenant is used to describe the relationship between God and man. “By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear” (Heb. 8: 13, NIV). We must understand that the mention of the first covenant refers to the laws given at Mount Sinai. Jesus abolished them by dying on the cross and obtained a superior covenant. “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations” (Eph. 2:14, NIV). He became the mediator of the new covenant. “But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises” (Heb. 8: 6, NIV).

In Conclusion, Noah believed God with all his mind, body and spirit. He obeyed and rested in God unconditionally. His faith, reverence and fear of God enabled him to accomplish what God had ordained. In all his life he communed with God and heard from God. His desire to worship pleased God and ultimately was able to seal an everlasting covenant with God.

# The Manifestation of the Sons of God

*By Andy Snoke*

“For I (reason) that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

For the earnest expectation of creation waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God” (Romans 8: 18-19, KJV).

Unknowingly, unwittingly, all of creation is waiting for this blessed event. Every man, woman, and child, every tree, every flower, every plant, every creature under the sun has a need built into his or her DNA for deliverance.

All of creation, including those that God has called to be the first fruits company, groans under a weight of natural decay and death. Within the heart of man, saved and unsaved, is the constant aching question: “Is there more?”

Yes, there is more. The riches of His presence are indescribable.

All of Creation is looking for this event, as it is identified with the return of Jesus Christ.

Rapture, rapture, rapture, cry the multitude of books. Many are looking for the great “rapture,” or as it has been called, the “evacuation.” And truly, there is a catching up to God, but the timing and method may be quite different than the simple formulae that many follow.

The creation is waiting for the “sons of God” to come into their own.

The scriptures teach us a bold truth that contradicts the very laws of thermodynamics. It teaches that the law of death and decay will be superseded by the law of life, and restoration for ALL of creation.

“For the creation was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him who has subjected the same in hope. Because the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption

into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves which have the first fruits of the spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body” (Romans 8: 18-23).

It is important to understand that the word “creation” used in Romans chapter 8, is from the Greek word ktisis, which means, “The complete product of God’s creative acts; everything that God has made.”

Furthermore, the scriptures teach that there is an order to the introduction of this translation from death to life. The order is simply this:

“For as in Adam ALL die, even so in Christ shall ALL be made alive. But every man in his own order: CHRIST THE FIRST FRUITS; afterwards they that are Christ’s at His coming” (1 Cor 15: 22-23, KJV).

To fully understand the above scripture, one needs to understand what the Greek meaning of the word “all” is. It is used in a powerful way concerning creation. What can it mean? In Greek (the most expressive language of the time), ALL means, ALL.

God has always had His whole creation in mind when he created man in his own image. And in the final analysis, He will have a creation that is His.

“And God said, Let us (the Trinity) make man in our image, after our likeness, ...” (Gen 1: 26, KJV).

“ So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him. Male and female created He them” (Gen 1:27, KJV).

“Wherefore, God has highly exalted Him (Jesus) , and given Him a name that is above every name. That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, of things in heaven and things in the earth. And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord , to the Glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2: 9-11).

The “manifestation of the sons of God” is a glorious event that God has not as yet allowed to come into full focus. There are only shadows of understanding, of this precious truth. We can see this great truth slowly come into focus just as the majestic Rocky Mountains slowly come into view in the growing light of morning. There is enough of a silhouette that can be seen that leaves one filled with expectancy, as we cry out “Thy Kingdom come.”

This great truth of the scriptures seems to be identified as part of His “second coming.” The whole program of the tribulation seems to be temporarily put on hold, until God has sealed His first fruits company in their minds (foreheads).

I believe, as yet fully unrevealed, that the 144,000

mentioned in Rev 7 and 14 somehow speaks of the “first fruits” company, of the “manifestation of the sons of God.”

“And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the East, having the seal of the Living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of God in their foreheads” (Rev 7: 1-3).

God is quietly calling out a chosen company through out all of the ages. He is calling a “first fruits” company that will be so identified with Christ that it is as if His name is written into their very existence (forehead or mind). It will be a fellowship of believers that have forsaken all and happily follow the lamb “where ever He goes.”

Though there is much that is not understood clearly, I am sure that some of the truths that are identified with this called-out company of believers include:

Spiritual gifts and ministries to the individual (1 Cor. 12).

Apostolic gifts to the church (the 5 fold ministry) (Eph 4:11).

The divine order of the Church (Acts 14: 21-23).

Unity among the believers (John 17:11).

The baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2: 38-39).

God’s timing.

May we all, with sincere desire, seek the Lord that we might humbly become a part of His “called out ones.” May we cry with all of our hearts as the Master taught His disciples to pray “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”

May God reveal Himself to the world, through His Son’s appearing with a great cloud of believers, to bring both judgment and deliverance to His creation. May the world finally see with their own eyes the manifestation (revealing) of the sons of God.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Pinelaw Fall Family Camp..... Nov. 14-17, 2014

Indiana Young Peoples..... Dec. 27-Dec. 31, 2014

North Battleford Young Peoples ... Dec. 28-Jan. 1, 2015

# New Dispensation, New Revelation

*By Sajith Mathews*

The following scripture has been burning deeply on my heart in the last few weeks. Isaiah 43:18-19, "Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past. 'Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.' " We have experienced a tremendous outpouring from the dispensation of 1948 where the Spirit made Himself very evident through prophecy and brought forth a new revelation to the body of God's plan for His people. He showed the church the power of His anointing and the fruit of His works that would be demonstrated through His church. He unveiled a foundation of the apostles and prophets upon whom He would build His church. This message inspired many to go far and wide with this fresh anointing and powerful dispensation. Many signs and wonders followed behind this, as God was showing Himself to be very evident among His people. When we look at the signs of every fresh dispensation, we realize a very common pattern. There is a clear revelation that occurs in the hearts of those He reveals himself to, and it completely transforms them. It provides within them a zeal that is so strong that even death will not stop them from doing what they have been called to do.

The greatest example of this is Saul of Tarsus, a leader of the Nazarenes and apostle to the Church. On His way to Damascus, God revealed Himself in a powerful way. Here was a man of the old pharisaical order, but when he had received a transformative experience of God, he found himself preaching the very message that He stood opposed to. Not only that, he was willing to preach this throughout the Roman empire and wherever the Lord would send him even if it meant his martyrdom. He realized he was being brought out of the old into a new work that had begun at Pentecost. After the outpouring on that day of Pentecost, numerous members were being added to this heretical sect known as the Nazarenes (a term they used to describe followers of Jesus of Nazareth), as people were witnessing something that could not be described in words. Here was a group of people, relatively insignificant in society, who were breaking bread together and were being joined together in a way that baffled the Romans. They were called cultish and often blamed for crimes they never committed. They were witnesses to a powerful work that was evident among them. They had received a new revelation, which was that they would receive the forgiveness

of sins by placing their faith in Jesus Christ and be baptized in His name. Not only that, but they would then receive the baptism not just of water, but also of the Spirit.

Numerous citizens, some who were of great repute, found they too were being added to this fold, and yet did not know how they found themselves in this company of believers. Moreover, the passion and zeal which was planted in them through this revelation was so clear that they were willing to go where they were led and were willing to lay down their lives for this cause. How is it that people, some who were wealthy and some who held high positions in society, were willing to make such a drastic change in their life? How did Paul go from persecuting believers to preaching the very thing he opposed? They received a revelation from above!

So the story goes, that the church went through the dark ages and the message of the gospel was lost in the ecclesiastical undertaking. Where power and human forces were keeping the truth eclipsed, one man in Germany, received a revelation that would usher in a new day. That revelation was this- that the just shall live by faith alone, by placing their faith in Christ. "When a fellow-monk," said Luther, "one day repeated the words of the Creed: 'I believe in the forgiveness of sins,' I saw the Scripture in an entirely new light; and straightway I felt as if I were born anew. It was as if I had found the door of paradise thrown wide open." This was sufficient to give him a genuine conversion experience and to come to a clear conviction that the just need only to put their faith in Christ for the salvation of their souls. This was the first hole in the ceiling of the man-made ecclesia, and light began to shine into the lives of God's people. One by one they followed suit and placed their faith in Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. This message went far and wide during Luther's day despite much persecution and fear of being put to death in certain instances. In fact, we owe much to this stand, as many people to this day continue to come out of ecclesiastical clutches to find their personal salvation by placing their faith in Christ.

Other dispensations have followed since, like the one in Los Angeles at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A group of laborers received of the Spirit in a fresh and a new way, and thus was the dawning of the Pentecostal age. People were being brought out of formal religion to experience God by His Spirit. They were being brought out of one thing into another. In many places

it was considered rather shameful to be among the “tongue speaking” company as they were often looked down upon as being less educated and purely experience-oriented. And yet for those who experienced the infilling of the Spirit, it was more than sufficient to place within them a conviction of what God was bringing them into, a fold joined together by the Spirit to experience Him in His power. In fact, so powerful was this move at the beginning of the last century that at the height of racism in America, blacks and whites were worshipping side by side. One journalist, so amazed by what he was witnessing, wrote, “The color line was washed away in the blood.” Today, it might not be so heretical to call yourself a pentecostal, but at one time this movement was revolutionary.

The pattern seems to be the same. When God is moving in his people, all on the outside would look at such a group as being strange and heretical. Yet, for the ones who are experiencing the freshness of that season, they don't seem to care what anyone else around them thinks. They know without a shadow of a doubt that they have been brought into something that cannot be described as anything other than a new dispensation. The miracles and the wonders seem to be common occurrences in this company, and the freshness of God's presence is quite palpable. Many dispensations, including our own, have given us a witness of the fresh move of God. New revelations have always sprung forth from this fresh move. They are but hallmarks of the work of God.

Some years back, John Levson and I wrote an article entitled, “New Wine in New Wineskins”. The gist of it was that you could not receive new revelation with an old understanding. Yet, when there has been a transformation of the mind and its orientation, new revelation seems to pour in until it overflows. Should such revelation be introduced into a mind with old understandings, there would surely be an implosion because the new thoughts that God wants to pour in

would be incompatible with old ones. Yet, when there has been a transforming experience by the Spirit and the mind has been renewed, there is a clear conviction about what God is saying to His people in the here and now, without any conflict of what we knew in the old. Whether it was the dispensation of 1948, the Christians of the early church (Nazarenes), the Lutherans or the Pentecostals, the pattern was always the same. Their minds became one and they were being joined together to experience something new. We believe with all our hearts that such a new dispensation is unfolding as we speak. As it says in Isaiah, 60:5 “Then thou shalt see, and flow together...”

We believe that we are being joined into something new, where minds are being transformed and united, to receive the fresh new wine of revelation. Our days of waiting are coming to an end. Song of Solomon 2:11-12, “For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.” May God richly bless you.

## CALLED HOME

Ernest Martz  
July 29, 2014  
Chilliwack, BC

Joy Hrabia  
September 19, 2014  
Regina, SK



*For a listing of dates and  
contact information visit  
[www.globalmissionsinc.org](http://www.globalmissionsinc.org)*

The Sharon Star is a bi-monthly paper, published and mailed out on the free-will offering plan, as a medium of information for all who are interested in the unfolding revelation of the Word of God. Published by Sharon Children's Homes and Schools, Box 878, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, S9A 2Z3. Sharon Star on line [www.thesharonstar.org](http://www.thesharonstar.org) Office (306) 445-2733. Publications Mail Agreement 40012206

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