

NEW COVENANT PRESS

NEW COVENANT CHURCH “NEWSLETTER” Georgenne Snook, Editor Issue # 43 Sept. 2021

WHAT DOES GOD LOOK LIKE?

In the book of Ezekiel, one finds that in 1:26-28 there is what seems to be a description of what God looks like! Can that be true? Can anyone ever see God? In 1:1, Ezekiel does see “visions of God”. Verses 26-28 say that Ezekiel saw a heavenly throne, “and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. v. 27 And I saw as the color of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it from the appearance of His loins even upward, and from the appearance of His loins even downward. I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. v. 28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of One that spake.” The NIV says it even better---v.27 “He looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded Him.” v.28 “Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around Him.”

We, like Ezekiel, will someday gaze on His glory. Eternally!

THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

Ezekiel begins in heavenly places in chapter one, but by chapter two, things are back on earth again, and the prophet is given his assignment to speak to the Israelites about their sin and rebellion against Him, and how it will go with them. And it will not go well. God’s judgments are terrible, and the wrath of God against surrounding nations is also detailed. Ezekiel himself must suffer as an example to his people. It’s not a pleasant story to contemplate, and it goes on until chapter 40. But God does promise to restore them when they are cleansed from their sin. Then when we get to chapter 40, detailed descriptions of the Temple and related subjects are given for the rest of the book. (Yawn--) This book is long and maybe somewhat depressing to read, but it may well be given as an example and a warning to us in this era of history.

There is a lesson for us in Ezekiel 33:12: “The righteousness of the righteous (Living Bible---‘good works’) shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression; as for the wickedness (Living Bible---‘evil ways’) of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby---in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth.” It takes repentance and trust in Jesus to live eternally, for He is the only One who never sinned, and only by His righteousness will we have this eternal life.

SHOWERS OF BLESSING

These words are the title of an old favorite song which also contains the phrase “Oh for the showers we plead.” The thought comes from Ezekiel 34:26. which is a promise made by God to His people who were much in need of it: “And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.” the Living Bible adds the words, “For I will not shut off the rains, but send them in their seasons.” Couldn’t we here and now use some of that sort of blessing! Let’s all unite in prayer that God will give us the rain we are so in need of. What a blessing that would be.

PRAYER FOR NEW BELIEVERS

The Every Home For Christ paper, Daily Prayer Watch, lists three basic prayer subjects needed by new believers as we pray for their growth in the faith. Number one is that they be strengthened in God's word. Nothing else can be of such great help to teach what God wants us to know in the beginning of our journey of faith. Number two is that we should pray for them to walk in faithfulness with the Lord. The Bible will help them to know what that entails. Number three is that they will become bold witnesses for Christ.

Put them all together, and you have the basic components of the Christian life. These are not necessarily easy or natural for a new believer. A lot of prayer goes into the making of a strong Christian, and that person needs the prayers of others. There are many who do not receive this invaluable support, and who do not grow much as a result. Let's remember in prayer the new converts so that they will grow and become prayer warriors themselves! And it wouldn't hurt to start the process by spending plenty of time in our Bibles and walking faithfully with the Lord so that we will be strong witnesses ourselves. Then there will be more new converts to pray for.

CHURCH FAMILY DEATHS AND OPERATIONS

In the recent past, some of our church people have been through a number of operations or deaths. This is perhaps a partial list of operations, and maybe not necessarily in the order when they happened in all cases: Operations --- Randy and Robin Fields, Marlin and Diana Balsiger, Dean Walker and Jacqui Lange and Carol Baker. All have recovered, and are back in church, for which we thank the Lord. (There may have been others I am not aware of.) And those who have died are Oscar Castrojohn, Chuck Heaps, Eric Whiteside, Pam Foss, and Johnny Anderson. Let's all be in prayer for those who are in bad health or whose loved ones are grieving their passing. And get on the prayer chain!

QUOTATIONS

Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana. Groucho Marx

Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try. Unknown

Don't carry your mistakes around. Instead use them as stepping stones. Unknown

There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so. William Shakespeare

The only job where you start at the top is digging a hole. Unknown

People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care. Internet

HEADLINES:

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash No! Really?

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jay-walkers. Now that's taking things too far!

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant. See if that works any better than a fair trial.

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile. You think?

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges. You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half. Ouch!

War Dims Hope for Peace. I can see how it might have that effect.

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures. Who would have thought?

