

BIBLE EXPLORATIONS

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...to know the love of Christ
which passeth knowledge
that ye might be filled with
all the fulness of God Eph 3:19

The Stayed Mind

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in The LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength." (Isa 26:3,4)

We find in this passage a principle that holds true throughout the ages of mankind. Although written to Israel, (particularly Judah), and in the context of a future time (vs 1), we find similar thoughts in Paul's letter to the Philippians. (Phil 4:6-9).

The original reads as follows: "The mind stayed on Thee, Thou will keep in peace, peace, for in Thee he trusts. Trust in Jehovah forever, for in Jah, Jehovah is a Rock everlasting."

The word "keep" is the Hebrew word *natsar*, which means to guard, protect and preserve. The nation of Israel has always been protected and preserved through the centuries. History reveals the many attempts to destroy this nation that have failed. In a song of Moses in Deut 32:10 we read how Israel (Jacob) had been kept (*natsar*) as the apple of Jehovah's eye. Note the five references to "Rock" in vss 4,15,18,30 and 31 similar to the "Rock everlasting" in Isaiah 26:4.

David knew this truth during his lifetime as he was often preserved from the enemy: **"Thou art my hiding place; Thou shalt preserve (*natsar*) me from trouble; Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance."** Ps 32:7. The same truth applies to the faithful for **"...the Lord preserveth (*natsar*) the faithful..."** Ps 31:23. (Note also the references to "rock" in vss 2 and 3.)

In Scripture, "rock" often represents a firm foundation, a foundation we only find in Christ.

Paul is proof of how the Lord protects and preserves His own for His purposes. **"But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, longsuffering ...persecutions, afflictions ...what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me."** (2Ti 3:10,11)

The Greek equivalent of *natsar* is used in Phil 4:7 where we are told that the **"...peace of God... shall keep (guard) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."** Here we read that it is God's peace that *keeps* our heart. Paul understood these words. His close relationship to his Saviour assured him peace in all circumstances. He could say, **"...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."** (Phil 4:11)

When we have a close relationship with our Lord and head, we have peace. It is that peace that *guards* our hearts and minds. This is important in this day and age when we are so easily distracted and influenced with careers, hobbies, television and other forms of media.

The solution to overcome these distractions is found in the previous verse **"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."** A stayed mind is a mind that prays. Paul spoke of constant prayer: **"continuing instant in prayer", "praying always withal prayer and supplication in the Spirit", "night and day praying exceed-**

ingly", "continue in prayer and watch", "pray without ceasing".

True prayer comes from listening to God through His Word. The more we hear or read the Word, the more we will converse with Him and the result is the peace that will *guard* our hearts and minds.

In the original, the one whose mind is stayed on Him will be kept in "peace, peace". (*Shalom, Shalom.*) The word *Shalom* is used twice in immediate succession. It is a figure of speech indicating the powerful way in which the words are intended. It indicates "much peace" or "perfect peace". It emphasizes the fact that keeping our mind on Him "assures" us of peace. Is this not what we are ultimately searching for. This peace can only be found in Christ.

The word "mind" is the Hebrew word *yatsar* and comes from the root word *yatsar*. *Yatsar* means to frame, to mold, to fashion or to form. It is used in Gen 2:8 of Adam **"whom He had formed (*yatsar*)"**. David wrote **"He knoweth our frame (*yahstar*); He remembereth that we are dust"**. (Ps 103:14). In Ps 139:15,16 we read **"My substance was not hid from Thee, When I was made in secret, And curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance yet being unperfect; And in Thy book all my members were written, Which in continuance were fashioned (*yatsar*); When as yet there was none of them."** In this passage the word applies to more than the mind. It is the whole being. What we allow our minds to dwell on affects all of
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The Deity Of Christ #9

Who created us? We think about Genesis and our beginnings. We think "God" created us, and He did. What had Christ to do with Creation? In an earlier article we have seen that the word Elohim was used with reference to this miraculous act. Can a human being understand the act of "creation"? Not really. Anything we "create", we make out of some matter or ideas that already exist. God did far more than this. Again, we cannot really comprehend it.

THE CREATOR: We know about the story of creation from the book of Genesis and elsewhere. What had the Old Testament account to do with Christ? Everything. It is clear from John 1:1-3 that the *aioms* (ages) were prepared by Him. Hebrews 11:3 says: **"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."**

This is true creation, something

out of nothing or out of his own essence, and only God is capable of this feat. We read in Colossians 1:15-17 that Christ was **"the image of the invisible God, the First-born* of every creature: For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."** *The term "first-born" as used in this context is the Greek word *prototokos*. This does not mean that Christ was the first being that God created. Rather, it is a reference to Elohim who took on creature form in order to create, just as He took human form in order to redeem.

Revelation is "the revelation of Jesus Christ" and so, when we read the following, we know to whom this reference is being made: **"Thou**

are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created." (Rev 4:11)

In yet other references about Christ, we know that **"without Him was not anything made that was made"** (Jn 1:3). Therefore, He was the Creator or Elohim. We read in Hebrews 1:10: **"And Thou Lord, in the beginning has laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of Thine hands:"** and in Hebrews 1:2: **"(God) hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed Heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds."**

In article #10, we will look briefly at immortality. We use the word "everlasting", but our minds cannot really conceive what this means. We live in a world bound by time and space. God is not bound by these. In fact, he created them!

L.A.

The Deity Of Christ #10

God created us mortal creatures. But He is immortal. What does "immortal" mean? Again, this is our human term to attempt to explain a quality of existence that we cannot even pretend to fathom.

GOD IS UNCHANGEABLE AND EVER-LASTING: In a statement about the unchangeable nature of God, and a prophecy about the Messiah, Psalms 102:25-27 is clearly reflected in Hebrews 1:10-12. The latter quote is about Christ, the former about Jehovah, showing that They are one and the same. **"Of old Thou hast laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of Thy hands. They shall perish, but Thou shalt endure: Yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; As a vesture shalt Thou change them, and they shall be changed: But Thou art the same, and Thy years shall have no end."** (Psalms)

"And (God addressing His Son) Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of Thine hands: They shall perish; but Thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail." (Hebrews)

In Psalms 93, the writer declares that Jehovah reigns, and that his **"throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting"**. (vs 2) In Malachi 3:6 we read Jehovah's declaration, **"I am the Lord, I change not"**. The same thought is also reflected in other passages such as Colossians 1:17 which declares of Christ that **"He is before all things, and by Him all things consist"**. The word "is" is a

deliberate reflection of timelessness and it reminds us of God's name for Himself, "I AM". In Hebrews 13:8, there is a clear declaration that Jesus Christ is **"the same, yesterday, and today, and forever."**

How fascinating that anyone can have these qualities that we cannot really understand! But then, that is why he is God. He is the Creator, we the creatures. In our next article, we will look at a quality of God that is shared with Christ, a quality that He had to temporarily discard so that we could see Him, His glory.

LA

24th Spring Bible Conference

The 24th Annual Phoenix Spring Bible Conference is scheduled for April 3-5. Look for more details in upcoming issues.

Resurrection #8

SOME QUESTIONABLE CASES

JONAH AND PAUL

“Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish’s belly, And said, ‘I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and He heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and Thou heardest my voice.’” (Jon 1:17-2:2)

The Lord had given Jonah a message of hope to preach to the Assyrians, who were enemies of his people, Israel. Jonah rebelled against such undeserved kindness to the Assyrians. He ignored God’s direction and fled aboard a ship.

When a violent storm arose and it was determined that Jonah was the reason for it, the sailors cast him into the sea. Jonah was swallowed by a great fish. He went into a place called hell (gravedom). Did he survive three days and nights, sealed in that watery grave without air? Or, did he die?

The answers to these questions are critical, for Matthew 12:40 tells us that, **“... as Jonas (Jonah) was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the son of Man be three days and nights in the heart of the earth.”** The words as and so describe two things which are alike. If Jonah did not die but was alive all the time in the belly of the fish, then it means Jesus did not die but was alive all the time in the tomb. If Jesus did not die and pay for the sins of the world, then the world has no savior. Then, every man must die for his own sin and remain in the grave, without hope of resurrection.

But thanks be to God! The Scriptures tell us often and plainly that Christ died and was resurrected the third day. Paul wrote the Corinthian saints saying, **“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures: And that He was**

buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” (1Cor 15:3)

The risen Christ Himself declared that He had died. To the Apostle John He said, **“I am He That liveth, and was dead...”** (Rev 1:18)

As Christ died, so Jonah died. But, did Jonah, awake to immortality as Christ did? 1 Timothy 6:15,16 states that He Who is Lord of Lords, Christ, **“...only hath immortality.”** Since Jonah did not have immortality, undoubtedly he died later.

Why did God wait three days and nights to revive Jonah? Jesus answered this, saying, **“For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.”** (Lk 11:30) Jonah’s deliverance from death after three days and nights, was a picture of Jesus’ greater deliverance to come.

Jonah was revived to perform the task which God had given him. He then preached God’s grace to the Assyrians. In the same way, the Apostle Paul was revived from death many times to carry on the ministries which God gave to him.

In describing his early ministry, Paul said he was, **“...in deaths oft.”** (2Cor 11:23) And in addition, Luke the physician, and Paul’s companion, wrote that Paul was concluded dead after he was stoned at Lystra. (Surely the doctor recognized death.) Paul’s body was dragged outside the city and left. But the next day Paul was alive and able to walk to the next city and preach. (Ac 14:19,20) Again God had revived one of His servants to finish His work.

Paul completed his ministries when he made known the great secret which God revealed to him for Gentiles. After he announced that Christ was made HEAD over spiritual beings above the heavens, and over the Church which is His Body on earth, Paul knew that his death was near. (2Tim 4:6-8)

Some have misquoted Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 5:8 and then

built doctrines based on their own words. What Paul said was that he was, **“...willing** (it would please him) **rather to be absent from the body** (dead), **and to be present with the Lord.”** He said it would be good to be rid of our earthly house (body) and be clothed with our house from heaven.

Paul did not say, as some contend, that “to be absent from the body IS to be present with the Lord.” Paul did not say that the instant one dies, he is with the Lord in Heaven. Paul gave no hint of expecting, at death, to enter an unseen world. He never said that a human would live as a spirit without a body. Paul spoke of dead believers sleeping, awaiting their resurrection. (1Ths 4:14)

Jonah and Paul were revived to complete the works which God had prepared for them. Others also were revived for a time and for a purpose of God. But, as all the heroes of faith died, so they died and still await their resurrections. (Heb 11:13)

JH

ERRATA:

In our last issue under "Wise Sayings", page 2, we regretfully misquoted C.H. Mackintosh. It should have read:

"To be occupied with my guilt in the presence of God is *not* humility as regards myself, but unbelief as regards the Sacrifice." C.H. Mackintosh.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Zip Codes

The Postal Service will soon be requiring 9 digit zip codes. Please check your mailing label. If the zip does not include the last four digits, please drop us a card with the correct code so that we may update our mailing list.

Bible Correspondance Courses

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The Stayed Mind ...cont'd

our members or being. Paul writes in 1 Cor 9:27; "**But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway** (disapproved)." He was concerned about his whole being.

Paul later wrote to these same Corinthians and spoke of the warfare of the mind. "**For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ:**" (2 Cor 10:4,5.) The stayed mind casts down imaginations and has control of every thought.

In Phil 2:2-5 Paul speaks of being likeminded, of one mind, of lowliness of mind and of having the mind of Christ Jesus. What we do with our mind affects our whole being

and emotional state. His charge in the Ephesian letter was to walk with all lowliness (humility) of mind. The result of this kind of walk is associated with the bond of peace, the Shalom. (Eph 4:2,3)

The word "stayed" is the Hebrew word *kamak* and means to rest, lay hold on, or established. It is used in two types of contexts. Those which pertain to the ceremonial law and worship, and those which speak in the practical sense. In Exodus through Deuteronomy the word is used in the "laying a hand" on the animal to be sacrificed. In the ceremonial sense, we see an example in Lev. 1:4, "**And he shall put (kamak) his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.**" Here, the individual was to willingly bring a sacrifice for a burnt offering to atone for his sins. By putting (kamak) his hand on the head of the sacrificed animal, the offerer *rested* in God's word that

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his sins would be covered. (See also Ex 29:10,19; Lev 3:2,8,13; 4:4,29,33; and 16:21.)

In Ps 112, the psalmist lists the benefits of the man who fears the Lord and delights in His word. The practical usage of the word *kamak*, is found in vs. 8, "**His heart is established (kamak), he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.**

Simply speaking, the amount of time we spend in the word and prayer is directly related to the level of peace we have in our lives.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ...and the God of peace shall be with you." (Phil 4:7,9)

BPB