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Voice of Baptists

"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." *Isaiah 40:3*

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THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



by J. H. Smith
Nashville, Tenn.

The work of the Spirit has prominence throughout the Scriptures, both in the Old Testament and the New, and we only have to read and study to find this out. And His work is so great that even when we talk about Him or write about Him we can experience His wonderful presence. One of His great attributes is His omnipresence, He can be any and everywhere at the same time. The Psalmist said, "Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me." Psalm 139:7-10. The Holy Spirit is a person, not just an influence, but a real person. Jesus, the Son of God referred to the Spirit as a person, using the personal pronoun: "He shall teach you all things," John 14:26; "He shall testify of me," John 15:26; "And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of the judgement," John 16:8. He has all the wonderful attributes of the Father and the Son.

HE WAS PRESENT IN CREATION

The Bible tells us about Jesus, the Son, being present in creation (John 1:1-3, Hebrews 1:2), and this Book also teaches us about the Spirit being present at creation, and at work. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light; and there was light." Genesis 1:1-3. Notice, the Spirit moved upon the face of the waters, or in Hebrew, brooded upon the face of the waters. So all three persons of the Godhead were present when all things were created. When we speak of three persons, the Jews say we worship three Gods, and that they worship the One and true God. We do not worship three Gods; we worship One God, but the One God, or the Godhead consists of three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. When Jesus commanded the church to baptize, He said, "baptizing

(Continued on Page 4)



MARY Mother of Jesus

by Kenneth W. Massey

There are seven Marys mentioned in the Scriptures, but this one stands out head and shoulders above all the others. An angel of the Lord gives her the best introduction we could find - "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women" (Luke 1:28).

A chief principle lies in the fact that God sent the angel Gabriel looking for a certain kind of handmaiden - A VIRGIN. Those who choose to deny the necessity of a virgin for the birth of the Saviour just do not comprehend the depth of man's original sin and his total depravity. God had to by-pass the man in the birth of the Saviour because he held Adam responsible for the fall of man. Subsequently, all of Adam's male posterity was equally sinful and inappropriate to father a sinless child. So God is the Father of Jesus by the Holy Spirit's conception.

Now we see more clearly the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David that all the nations of the earth shall be blessed through their seed. Mary was a Jewish woman of the tribe of Judah. Remember Judah volunteering to be surety for his youngest brother Benjamin. In other words Judah told his father Jacob, "I'll die in Benjamin's place if it comes to that." That's exactly what Jesus Christ has done - **DIED IN OUR PLACE.**

David received these words, "The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon the throne" (Ps. 132:11). Mary was of the lineage of David. Joseph's lineage was also from

(Continued on next page)

CAMDEN BAPTIST MISSION

Bro. Roger Fowler is conducting mission services in Camden, Tennessee. For the time being services include Sunday School at 10:00 with worship service at 11:00 A.M.

All of the unchurched and unsaved in that area are extended a warm welcome to attend.

* * *

At a missionary meeting, when contributions for the great cause were asked for, the plates were heaped with money. Among them, however, was a card on which a young man had written, "Myself," and had signed his name. He had given more than all the rest.

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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MARY - MOTHER OF JESUS

(Continued from Page 1)

King David, but that's irrelevant since he had nothing to do with the Holy Child's birth. Thank God for this King of Kings who sits on His throne right now.

Mary was espoused to Joseph at the time of the angel's announcement. The angel also appeared to Joseph who was thinking of putting Mary away privately, and said, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 1:20). So they were married.

Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth and learned that she had conceived a son in her old age. How did both these mothers know for absolutely certain they would give birth to baby boys instead of girls? Because God was ordering the births of both John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. When Mary gave to Elizabeth her good news, John leaped in his mother's womb and she was filled with the Holy Ghost.

After giving birth to Jesus, Mary had other children (Mark 6:3). Mary was present at the crucifixion, and Jesus made arrangements from the cross for her to live with John the apostle for the rest of her days (John 19:25-27). Mary was the most honored of all women. She is never to be worshipped but respected for her faithfulness as the handmaid of God.

* * *

Luke 2:49,50: "For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation."

- Mary

ABRAHAM

Father of a Multitude

by Kenneth W. Massey

Abraham or Abram was the son of Terah and founder of the great Hebrew nation. His family, a branch of the descendants of Shem, was settled in Ur of the Chaldees, beyond the Euphrates. Terah had two other sons, Nahor and Haran. Haran preceded his father in death, leaving a son named Lot. Terah took with him Abram, Sara and his grandson Lot and emigrated to Haran in Mesopotamia where he died.

On the death of his father, Abram at age 75 was called upon by God to leave his country and his brethren to enter a new land to be shown him by God. Abram's father was an idolatrous man. Joshua tells us that he "served other gods" (Josh. 24:2).

Abraham married his half-sister. She was the daughter of his father, but not of his mother. This was disclosed in Gerar when King Abimelech admired the beauty of Sara and desired that she become a member of the royal harem. God revealed to the King in a dream that she was another man's wife.

Abraham, Sara and Lot departed from Haran on their way to Canaan, but first went down into Egypt. Sara's beauty again caused trouble in Egypt. God sent plagues upon Pharaoh because Sara had been taken into his house. So finally, Pharaoh told Abraham to take Sara and get out of Egypt. This he did coming to the well-watered plains of Jordan. Strife had risen between the herdsmen of Lot and Abraham so they agreed to part ways promising there would be no strife between them. Abraham gave Lot first choice and he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, making that his choice.

It was at this time that God gave to Abraham and his seed the land of Palestine or Israel. God promised to bless all nations through the seed of Abraham. This blessing would be the Christ child whose lineage would go back through Mary even to this father of the Hebrews, Abraham. When God taught Abraham about this promised seed, he believed in the Lord (on the Lord) and he counted it to him for righteousness (Gen. 15:6).

Abraham was a man pious in worship. The sinfulness of Sodom was terrible, growing worse and worse until finally God decided to destroy it. Angels on their way to destroy Sodom came by Abraham's place. Abraham was able to

beg them to spare the righteous before sending destruction. So Lot, his wife and two daughters came out of Sodom.

God in due time sent the promised son to Abraham and Sara. Abraham had bore a son by Hagar, but this was a son of allegory and not of divine promise. This plainly illustrates the difference in works of men and the grace of God. God's grace had permitted Sara at age 90 to bear a son. God's same grace brought His Son into the world through the virgin Mary.

Perhaps the greatest display of faith ever seen in the Bible is viewed each time we follow Abraham to Mt. Moriah for the offering of his only son Isaac upon the altar. Remember that the resurrection had not been preached much less demonstrated. And God had promised that all nations would be blessed through Abraham's seed. But Isaac must die. **WHAT FAITH!** He believed God would raise up Isaac from the dead to keep His promise.

No wonder this man may be called the "friend of God," a man mighty in prayer, faithful in tithes, courageous, and incorruptible.

Sara died at the age of 127 and was buried in Hebron. Abraham paid four thousand shekels for the land that would become the burying place for he and his family.

Abraham married again. Her name was Keturah and she bore six sons to Abraham. He lived to be 175 years old. "Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people." Gen. 25:8.

This subject was one of the most unselfish men I have ever studied. He was a wonderful servant to the Lord.

Three Kinds of People

It was suggested to me by a member that there are three kinds of people in the world: the believer, the unbeliever, and the make-believer. And he is correct. The "believer" is one who daily governs his life by faith in God through Jesus Christ. The "unbeliever" is one who has never heard the Gospel, or he has heard it and does not believe it. The "make-believer" is one who is attracted both ways. He sees that faith works for some people, so he pretends to have faith. Yet, when he is around worldly people, the power of the flesh takes over and he goes in with the crowd. It is my opinion that I couldn't become a believer, I'd rather be an unbeliever than to be a make-believer. Dante has said, "Hell's hottest is reserved for the middle-of-the-roader." **MAY BE.**

APPRECIATION SERVICE

On Monday, December 19, 1983, Elder F. W. Lambert, will celebrate his eightieth birthday. He preached his first sermon on April 11, 1927, at Siloam Missionary Baptist Church, where he still holds his membership today, and was ordained to the full work of the ministry on the first Sunday in December, 1927.

In November, 1929, he was called to pastor Union Camp Church, Macon County, Tennessee. By 1932, Brother Lambert was pastoring churches full time, having the care of as many as five churches at the same time until he retired from his pastoral work at Pleasant Hill Church (Sumner County) in September, 1981, a total of 52 years.

As most of you know, Brother Lambert has been in declining health for the past two years, although he was still preaching almost every Sunday until recently. In mid-October, while working on his farm, he fell and sustained a back injury. However, at this writing he is able to drive his car and move about with the aid of his cane.

Elder Paul Bryson, pastor of Old Union Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky and Elder Kenneth Massey, pastor of Independent Baptist Church in Huntingdon, Tennessee, their lives having both been touched by this true servant of God, decided to set aside a day for all of his many friends to pay a special tribute to Brother Lambert and his devoted wife of over sixty years, "Miss" Tennie.

Brother Bryson asked that I get a committee together and plan a day of festivities for this, our elder brother. I have asked Brother Wilburn Harrison, a member of Pleasant Hill Church, where Brother Lambert last pastored, as well as being a life-long friend, and Elder Wesley Briley, Brother Lambert's pastor at Siloam, to assist me in this endeavor.

Brother Lambert's membership has been, and still is, at Siloam since 1921. He was saved there. Preached his first sermon there. His earthly remains will be laid to rest there . . . where he has already had erected a beautiful monument. His funeral will be preached there . . . so it is only befitting that this special service be held there. Some think the building at

Siloam will not accommodate the large crowd we expect to attend, and we had at least two more buildings offered to us. But, in discussing this with Brother Lambert, he insists it be held at Siloam. So, if you know Brother Lambert, you also

(Continued on Page 4)

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM ALL THE STAFF WRITERS



J. H. Smith



K. W. Massey



Stephen Skinner



F. W. Lambert



J. A. Reynolds



H. D. Carver



K. D. Frieze



W. T. Russell

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all! We are thankful to God for the opportunity you have given us at "Voice of Baptists" to extend our service for God and His glory through this medium.

It will always be our sincere desire to explain God's word in a truthful and simple manner for a better application to our lives and our lives to His field of labor.

Your prayers and financial assistance have been so faithful. I hope we will ever be worthy of your many kindnesses and much encouragement.

Let me take a minute to apologize for the delay you experience in receiving the paper. It is mostly my fault, but sometimes the mail gets bogged down at one point or another. Please forgive our inefficiency in the past as we endeavor to be more punctual in the future.

The paper has been a real blessing to me as I have read those good articles contributed by the staff writers and others.

It will be our aim in 1984 to be just a small star in guiding someone to seek for the place of refuge, Christ Jesus and to lead wise builders on the Rock to greater construction for Him.

"When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."
Matt. 2:9-10

WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Continued from Page 1)

them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19.

HE WORKS IN RE-CREATION

When Adam sinned he fell from that state of holiness that he was created in, and in order for Adam, and all of his descendants, to be restored to that right standing with God there must be a re-creation, or regeneration, or, be born again. The Bible speaks of being created in Christ Jesus, Ephesians 2:10: "For we are His workmanship, **created** in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." And in II Corinthians 5:17 it says: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." In the revised version it is: "A New creation."

In the work of re-creation, or regeneration, the Holy Spirit is prominent and does His mighty work. The apostle Paul writing to the Corinthians to let them know that some of them had been some rather dirty characters; see II Corinthians 6:9,10. "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." 6:11. This work, he says, was done in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit. The blood of Christ is the cleansing element in this work, and the Spirit does the applying of the remedy, the blood. He cleans up the old, dirty house, and renews by the washing or regeneration. He makes the house a fit place for Him to dwell in. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." Titus 3:5.

HE COMES IN TO ABIDE

We are made sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus and being born of the Spirit. "For ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26. In Galatians 4:6 the apostle says: "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba Father." So we have this Almighty person to live within us, and He does great things for us, many things which we cannot do ourselves. The eighth chapter of Romans tells us more, I believe, than any other chapter in the New Testament about the work He does for the children of God.

Number one: "The Spirit itself, or Himself, beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God," Romans 8:16. This is the means by which we know that we are the sons of God.

Number two: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God." Romans 8:14. This tells us that the Spirit of God leads His children, and this is evidence, too, that we are the sons of God. No preacher, priest, or any other person has to tell us that we are saved and are children of God. The Holy Spirit does this, and the person who doesn't have Him is not a child of God. "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His," Romans 8:9. **Number three:** He helps our infirmities, and the Lord knows that we have plenty of them. He goes on to say that we don't know what we should pray for as we ought, "but the Spirit maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered," Romans 8:26. When we go to pray and find ourselves out of fellowship with the Lord, and the Spirit is not at work making intercession for us, praying is an impossible task. You may speak some words, say a prayer, but that is not praying. The Holy Spirit is the enabling force, and worship can be so boring without the manifesting of His power, without His comfort, His light and direction.

HE IS THE CHURCH'S DIRECTOR

A true church of Jesus Christ is a dwelling place of God through the Spirit. Paul wrote to the Ephesian Church as to how they were built together and why: "In whom, the Lord, ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit," Ephesians 2:22. The Spirit is the church's source of power, and when He is pushed aside and the church does things its own way it loses its power. Jesus said to His church, "But ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me, in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.

He, the Spirit, is the unseen One, but the most important one in the church. He wants to be recognized and looked up to, and He is grieved when we ignore His presence and leadership. He creates unity when His direction is followed, but confusion can follow when He is not consulted. It is true that we have the Word of God, but we can't even understand the Word and know how to apply the Word without the Holy Spirit's help. Jesus said, "He will guide you into all truth," John 16:13.

I believe one of the biggest reasons for the lack of power in churches today is due to not listening to the Spirit. He does, and wants, to speak to the churches. He spoke to the church at Antioch, and He said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them," Acts 13:2. In calling preachers,

pastors, evangelists, etc. the Holy Spirit must be consulted. But I am afraid that the spirit of, "I'm of Paul, and I am of Apollos, I of Cephas, and I of Christ" prevails in many instances. This is no, good, and the apostle Paul reproved the church at Corinth for that kind of a spirit. It is wrong to obligate ourselves to any preacher and favor him instead of listening to the Holy Spirit. Churches must listen to His still small voice, and preachers must teach their people to do that very thing.

APPRECIATION SERVICE

(Continued from Page 3)

know that he can be very persuasive. So, it will be held at Siloam.

The date we have chosen is Saturday, December 17, 1983, beginning at 1:30 P.M. We urge everyone to attend. We have arranged an afternoon of singing and preaching that we feel everyone will enjoy along with paying your respects to Brother Lambert.

Brother Lambert is fond of all of God's preachers . . . that are still proclaiming the truth and we would like to have a place for all of them on this day's event. But, as you know, time will not permit. The program will be arranged by the committee. (This way, no one blame Bro. Lambert if they happen not to be included). However, everyone will be a part of this day in a special way to Brother Lambert, by just being there.

During the day, an offering will be taken up, and a mission fund will be established to be known as "The F. W. Lambert Memorial Mission Fund." The money collected will be placed in a special fund, where brethren will be selected to distribute the funds to future ministers, feeling God's call to the mission field.

We would like for this fund to continue and enlarge with special offerings from our churches and a collection to be taken at each year's setting of our Associations.

If you know Brother Lambert, you know the deep feeling he has for God's preachers, especially those that are called to the mission field. So, what better way could we pay tribute to Brother Lambert than to have this fund to be named in his honor. May God bless you all and we hope to see you on Saturday, December 17, 1983 at Siloam.

Your brethren in Christ
 Wilburn Harr,
 Wesley Briley
 Jake H. Lambert