

THE ELECT RACE

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What man appears to be as seen in his earthly state is far from what the Creator designed he should be. And, "It doth not yet appear what we shall be."

Man, as created, was pronounced by his Creator "very good." He was innocent, pure and perfect, yet inexperienced and untaught, untrained and undeveloped. Teaching and character-building lay before him. The Infinite Jehovah sat and taught him in the cool of the day. The artful tempter insinuated a turn which necessitated great suffering, sacrifice, and prolonged efforts to recover man and bring him up to the Divine design. After centuries and even millenniums of planning and labor, the Great Creator is now bringing nearer to completion His plans by which He will bring forth a race of men after His original blueprint plans. Hallelujah!

Jehovah could have made man a highly perfected and glorious creature without the fall, though He has not told us how. Nor would there have been the exhibition of the "exceeding sinfulness of sin." Through the circumstances, vicissitudes and outcome of the fall has been exhibited various aspects of holiness and sin. So we need not to be concerned with what might have been without the fall. It is a fearful fact. But see what God will do for man through the fall. Get a picture of redeemed and perfected man and woman with His method to bring to pass.

The present seal of the Holy Spirit is but the earnest of our inheritance, "until the redemption of the purchased possession," the coming of the "Eternal inheritance" "of the saints in light." Eph. 1:13; Heb. 9:15; Col. 1:12.

Jehovah has been very dissatisfied that so few men have attained to His ideals, but some have approximated, at least. When it came to courage and integrity of conviction, they were ready to sacrifice all. They could say with Paul, "Neither count I my life dear." Or Luther: "Here I stand! God help me! I can do no other." Or the three Hebrews: "We are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so our God is able to deliver us...But if not, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image." Acts 20:24; Dan. 3:16; 6:10.

As to obedience: How few to whom God could say as to Abraham, "Now I know that thou fearest God." Gen. 22:12). Strict and implicit obedience without variation or modification of the expressed will of God, is the Divine standard for the chosen men of His elect company. Jehovah sets a high premium on these who thus qualify.

Loyalty and no compromise is a trait highly prized by the Lord. Many of God's men have suffered death rather than compromise; as Stephen stoned, John Baptist beheaded. David became very angry at the man in Nathan's story; but Nathan said, "Thou art the man." And proceeded to recite to David what God had done for him, and his sin against God. Nathan risked his life to be faithful to God. 2 Sam. 12:7.

Paul and Silas in the stocks were valiant warriors for Jesus Christ and His Gospel. Paul braved seeming disaster and vanquished the enemy till he could say, "Thanks be unto God who always causeth us to triumph in Christ." 2 Cor. 2:14.

Prophetic men of revelation.—The Lord has always set great store by men of this class. He says, "Children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do." 1 Chr. 12:32.

Since the prophetic Word of God is the universal means by which the Lord makes known His will and purposes, and is the way by which He works out His plans, therefore it is clear that those who become coworkers with Him must receive and operate in that prophetic Word if they work in fellowship with Him. He also maintains a powerful providential care over this class. He says, "He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, He reproveth kings for their sakes: saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm." "He that toucheth you toucheth the apple of His eye." Ps. 105:14; Zech. 2:8

In the gift realm the Lord holds a liberal attitude. "He giveth to all men liberally." "My God shall supply all your need." "In everything ye are enriched by Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge." "So that ye come behind in no gift." And since there is so great Divine liberality, the Lord designs that each one be fully equipped to perform his appointed task. A supplying of every deficiency of nature, and plenty for the most extraordinary occasions. 1 Cor. 1:7.

Reasons for lack or being stinted must lie in the lack of sight of privilege, or else the exercise of faith to enter and appropriate is poor, or else misuse of that already given. God's design is to supply abundantly, enough and to spare.

In the realm of grace: "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love." "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one for another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing." Eph. 4:2; 1 Peter 3:8.

If it is to prayer one be called, then the gift of travail or intercession will be divinely imparted. If Gospel proclaiming be the call, then the gift of the prophetic Word of God should be implanted. If it be teaching, then the gift of wisdom should be conveyed. If it be some body ministry, then there may be granted some gift of character, insight or understanding of another's need, soulish, heart, or mental: healing gifts, or power to impart spiritual blessings through the spoken Word, or other ministering ability. There is abundance available for every occasion and emergency.

God's original plan requires men to be full grown sons of God, men fully developed and qualified. "Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man." (Jer. 5:1). A full grown man. A man of perfect stature, of manly physique, broad, well-poised soulish stature, and of large caliber of spirit; fully equipped and controlled by the Divine Spirit. Such men, obedient, loyal and led; courageous, valiant, brave; prophetic, gifted and graced; trustworthy, dependable and faithful; tried, tested and proven. The past makes evident just what they will do under the extremes of trying circumstances. This meets Jehovah's ideal and blue print and purposed result of creation and re-creation.

Just these prepared, perfected and glorious men and women God is bringing through step after step, to be the Consort of the Great King. Their course of training is here and now going on in the School of Christ, under the teachings of the Holy Spirit. The various grades of schooling and stages of development they are to pass through: in the Ecclesia, in Joel's Army, in Daniel's Stone Kingdom, and the various groups of sons of God—the elect, and overcomers.

Down through the ages, whenever God has found a man who would pay heed to His visitations, He sought to develop that individual to the extent that the person could comprehend the Divine dealings. Some were thus carried out experimentally Godward quite beyond the masses. A few attained far beyond their fellows. But now in the period of Bride preparation, the Lord is proposing to bring forth a company of men and women who fully attain to His standard, which He has long cherished in His heart.

This Divine ideal has been obscured, warped and degraded, by tradition, human interpretation, and man-made substitutes. But, now, once, "in the end of the age," God will have a company after His own pattern, which is not a fancy but God's ideal of perfection.

This writing was by the Spirit before the scribe while on the bus from Florida to New Jersey, and restored to memory as it was written. It is a divine attempt to break in upon the slow going and foolish restrictions imposed upon God's

