

The Golden State Scroll



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*Equipping you to
change the world . . .*

In This Issue

<i>From the President.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Missing the "Golden Moments"....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>God's World View.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Worship (1).....</i>	<i>4</i>

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*And the things that thou hast
heard of me among many
witnesses, the same commit
thou to faithful men, who shall
be able to teach others also.
(2 Tim. 2:2)*

From the President

We have much to be thankful for during this holiday season. We have time, talents, and treasures in abundance. Let us take stock of what God has graciously given to us and express our thanks to the Father by making the best use of all He has bestowed upon us. This is a great time to inventory our blessings and not waste these precious kingdom resources.

All this reminds us of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. A prodigal is not one who has wandered from home, but rather one who wastefully squanders what he has. This prodigal prematurely took his share of his father's estate and carelessly consumed it all on immoral living. This led to poverty and the awakening of his conscience to repent and return his father's house.

But there is more than one way to squander the Father's blessings. There was, in fact, another prodigal—the *elder* son. While he worked hard, was always obedient, didn't take advantage of his father, and didn't leave home, he was still a prodigal. He was enraged at his father for hosting a feast to welcome home the younger son. He was jealous, bitter, resentful, and unforgiving, but that isn't what made him a prodigal.

At the appeal of his father to join the party, the elder son accused the father of never throwing a party for him for his faithful service. The father's reply reveals that the elder son's prodigal nature: "And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and *all that I have is thine*" (Lk. 15:31, emphasis added). In the distribution of the father's estate, it was customary to will 1/3 to the younger son and 2/3 to the elder. After the younger son took his share and left, the rest would fall to the elder. So while the elder son didn't squander *money*, he did squander *time* and *opportunity*. He maintained the *status quo*, lived a "get by" kind of life. He neither did too much nor too little. *Mediocrity* might be the best description.

Sadly, that is like many Christians today. We possess *all* the resources and assets of the Kingdom of God. All that the Father has is ours, now! We have the truth of the Word, the privilege of prayer, victory of the cross and the blood of Christ, resurrection power, the authority of the name of Jesus, protection by the armor of God, and the constant abiding presence of the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide. What an utter waste if we relegate all our divine inheritance into just showing up at church and paying our tithe! What a wasteful squandering of kingdom authority!

Continued on page 4 . . .

Missing the "Golden Moments" Chaplain (Capt.) Tim Gresham



Recently, as I walked across Camp Taji, Iraq, I couldn't help but notice how my feet easily kicked-up dust. It took little to no effort. One step, one poof of dust, many thoughts. Small minds are easily amused . . . so I've heard. It doesn't take much for my mind to move from thought to thought, and this occasion was no exception. I found myself contemplating the desert floor of Iraq. I wondered how much American blood, sweat, and tears have been spilled here, as well as in other places and conflicts of our past.

American blood is precious. It flows through the veins of every American soldier and with every heartbeat there seems to be a tenacious cry for freedom. In every conflict, from the American Revolution to our current war on terrorism, many Americans gave, and will give, the ultimate sacrifice to ensure freedom for future generations. We honor every one of them and will continue to memorialize them. That is as it should be.

Then there are those soldiers who have survived the conflicts of their generation and have brought home permanent reminders of their own sacrifice: missing limbs, blindness, loss of hearing, etc. Let's not forget the invisible wounds such as Post Traumatic Stress and the constant grief of buddies who have died. All these soldiers are heroes and are walking memorials as to the very real cost of freedom and liberty.

There is another type of hero, however, who generally does not make the history books. These heroes sacrifice something else. Interesting thing about time: once it passes you by, it can never be regained. And here at Camp Taji I have the privilege of working with men and women who have sacrificed those "Golden Moments" of life. I call them "golden" because they are precious moments of life that usually come only once. If they are missed, they are missed. Some of those golden moments might include missing the celebration of birthdays of loved ones back home. Another golden moment might be a deployed mother or father missing the graduation of a child from high school or college.

In our very own Dragon Battalion, we have many of these heroes. One such hero is SPC Andrea McAlister from Headquarters Company. She is one of our outstanding S-1 clerks. She and her husband, Calahan, recently celebrated their first wedding anniversary on August 1st, although apart, and might have to celebrate their second anniversary

apart as well. But in spite of that missed "Golden Moment," she is all smiles.

Another unsung hero is PV2 Patrick McGill from Salisbury, Maryland. He is one of Echo Company's awesome ammo specialists. Recently his grandmother passed away on August 18th. His "Golden Moment" came and went on August 23rd when his family laid Delores Ross to rest. They must grieve without him. His heart longs to go home and support a grieving family who will bury his grandmother, but he has found something within himself to remain content as he mourns in his own way. Perhaps his family will be consoled at the funeral home when his name comes up among the family and they whisper, "PJ wanted to be here but he's serving our country in Iraq."



One more unsung hero (above) is SPC Aaron Brown an Apache helicopter mechanic from Knoxville, Illinois. He and his wife, SPC Stephanie Brown from McDade, Texas, who serves with 215th SFB 1st CAV, had their first child. Aaron's "Golden Moment" was the birth of Roweena Brown. After two days of labor, she was born August 4th. She

Continued on page 3 . . .

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... Continued from page 2

weighed 7-½ pounds at 20-½ inches long. Way to go, Stephanie! You are a true warrior! After speaking with Aaron it was very evident that he ached to be with his wife during delivery, but he was needed here. Being a father myself I know he is dreaming of the day he goes home to hold his new baby girl.

So now as my easily-amused-mind considers the desert floor of Camp Taji under my boots, I lift up a prayer of thanksgiving for that soldier who may have wept in this very spot and for heroes like these who silently go through their "Golden Moments." Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). It is to SPC Brown, PV2 McGill, SPC McAlister, and countless others like them that I express my deepest gratitude for your sacrifice and the sacrifice of your loved ones back home. You are truly ensuring future generations the privilege of not missing their own "Golden Moments." 

Chaplain (Capt.) Tim Gresham is a GSST Doctor of Ministry student. He is a career Army officer, stationed at Ft Hood, Texas.

God's Worldview

By Rev. Gary Nantt

"God has called me to minister in my hometown, not around the world." Seminary classmates as well as some pastor acquaintances of mine have used that statement to excuse them from opening the church they serve to receive a mission presentation. They feel they must "clean up their own backyard" before reaching out to the world. Unfortunately, for those in the USA especially, the world is in their backyard, yet they persist in reaching only their specific ethnic group.

Is God interested in only one's backyard? Does He have a vision for the world, His own worldview? In this series of articles, let us examine God's revelation to answer that question, as well as other issues it raises.


The best place to begin studying the development of revelation regarding God's worldview is Genesis 1:1. At first glance, one might correctly say that this is talking about the existence (or pre-existence) of God. The verse does not end with, "In

the beginning, God" (NASV). It goes on to show that He created the heavens and the earth. If He did not have a universal plan, he would not have wanted to create the universe as vast as it is.

God's interest was not solely to produce inanimate objects. His creation was for the benefit of man. This is evident in the words "it was good," which appear at the end of the third, fourth, and the fifth day (Gen. 1:18, 21, 25). Even more significantly, after the creation of man, "God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was *very good*" (v. 31, emphasis added). God did not, in fact, perform any other creative work after making man. God's vision, therefore, was the existence of man—with all other created things in place for man—in the image of God.

God also demonstrates this vision for the existence of man in Genesis 2. While He used solely his spoken word to create the entire universe, He made a special effort in the making of Adam and Eve.

God's vision was for close communion with His image (Gen. 3:8, 9), but man broke that relationship. God then expanded the revelation of his relationship with mankind in the promise of The Seed (v. 15). The Seed is the one who destroys Satan. The Seed is the one to restore the relationship between God and man. The Seed is the one to give mankind access to eternal life.

In subsequent articles, we will see how revelation develops the vision of God for the world of mankind. We will see the manner in which God thought about the individual and the nations. We, eventually, will see that *God's* worldview should be *ours*, too. 

Rev. Gary Nantt (PCA) is the Western Regional Director (Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico) of Border Evangelism And Mercy Ministries.

God hath in Himself all power to defend you, all wisdom to direct you, all mercy to pardon you, all grace to enrich you, all righteousness to clothe you, all goodness to supply you, and all happiness to crown you.

Thomas Brooks

From the President . . . Continued from page 1

While we are here, we have kingdom work to do, in kingdom authority. We are here to work the works of God while it is yet day, not bide our time until we can get rescued out of here. Let us take a careful accounting of all we have in Christ, and make the best use of the every asset and resource for His glory. And let our service for His sake be our greatest expression of appreciation for all He has lavished upon us.

Dr. Ed Han

O Come Let Us Worship

Part 1 of 10

Worship (1)

זָכַר [and] שָׁחָה

The Hebrew *zākar* occurs about 238 times in the Old Testament, fifty-seven of which are in the Psalms. It is usually translated in the Authorized Version as “remember,” “remembered,” or “remembrance,” but a few other translations include: “mention, think, and mindful.” It means not only to remember but also “to think of or pay attention to.”

The fact that *zākar* appears so often demonstrates that *remembrance* in ancient Israel was a major part of proper worship. Psalm 22:27, for example, declares: “All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.” Psalm 45:17 also declares, “I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever,” as does Psalm 63:5–6: “My mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.” We simply cannot worship unless we are remembering. Building on this, let us go deeper into this critical subject.


Our English word *worship* appears some sixty-four times in the AV, all of which (except 1 Kings 12:30, Jer. 44:19, and eleven verses in Daniel) are a translation of the Hebrew *shāchāh*, which itself appears about 190 times. Its primary meaning is “to bow down,” as seen in its first occurrence in Genesis 18:2, when Abraham “bowed himself toward the

ground” in reverence to the three messengers who came to announce that Sarah would have a son.

It is quite possible that *shāchāh* derives from the Akkadian *shihū*, to wallow or descend, since *shāchāh* also speaks of prostrating oneself before the object of worship. Lot, for example, “bowed [*shāchāh*] himself with his face toward the ground” in reverence to the two angels who came to Sodom (Gen. 19:1), and Ruth “fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground” before Boaz (Ruth 2:10). *shāchāh*, therefore, indicates reverence not only for God but also for a monarch or superior.

When used in worship for God, of course, *shāchāh* takes on new depth. After all, even the earth itself worships God (Ps. 66:4). Only God deserves worship (Ps. 29:2; Rev. 4:11), so God should be the only one in view in worship. It is a sad fact that “worship,” as carried on in many churches today, is based almost exclusively on man-centered methods and on the feelings of the worshipper. Many people’s “worship” consists of what music they like and what they are going to get out of the church service. But that is far from the biblical view of worship. Worship is contemplation, meditation, and consideration of *God*, not man. It is coming before Him in reverence, emptying ourselves of “self” and what pleases us, and giving praise and glory to Him alone.

We should be reminded of how the Israelites “made them a molten calf, and . . . worshipped it” (Exod. 32:8) and be challenged to rid our lives of any “golden calves” that might be there. As God’s Law declares, “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to [any graven image]” (Exod. 20:4, 5), a principle often repeated in the New Testament (1 Cor. 10:14; Col. 3:5; 1 John 5:21; cf. Acts 19:26–35).

Scriptures for Study: What is one way we worship God, according to Psalms 29:2 and 96:9? What is one reason we worship no other God, according to Exodus 34:14? 

Excerpted from our editor’s upcoming devotional book, *A Hebrew Word for the Day* (AMG Publishers), due for release in Spring 2010.

***Be not only attentive in hearing,
but retentive after hearing.***

Thomas Watson