

The Pastures, How Could We Have Missed it? Part-2

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- But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain **the Bible, and the Bible only**, as the **standard of all doctrines** and the **basis of all reforms**. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority--not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain "Thus saith the Lord" in its support. {GC 595.1}

- Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract **attention to man in the place of God**. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching **the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves**. Then, by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will. {GC 595.2}

Common Indicators of Idolatry

- Common Indicators of Idolatry, are manifested in the worship of”
 1. Man—A leader—Isa. 66: 16
 2. Real Estate (Temple Furniture, or Land)
 3. The creature more than the Creator
 4. Man’s ideas and sophistries

- “15 ¶ For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. 16 For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many. 17 They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind **one tree** in the midst, eating swine’s flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.” Isa. 66: 15-17

- “After God has done all He can do to direct the path of His servants, when there is "no more remedy," just then, Divine retribution is to be meted out. Those who continue to walk in their own way will then find themselves in the wide path where there is no Divine mercy, where the Avenger of justice takes His toll.
- They are those who sanctify and purify themselves in the garden behind **one tree (behind the leader)**; that is, they pretend to be very religious in their gathering places, **trusting that the minister will lead them through to the Kingdom.** They indulge in the use of forbidden meats and at the same time boastingly pretend to be sanctified and purified. To the Lord, however, they appear as white-washed sepulchres full of rotten flesh, as cups that are clean on the outside but filthy on the inside.”—Timely Greetings, Vol. 1, No. 45, p. 17

- “For the message in The Shepherd's Rod, we simply give the **credit to Whom it belongs**. And if there be any who desire us to give it to ourselves, they do so, not because they love us or want to exalt us above themselves, but evidently because they are unwittingly echoing the voice from beneath, which hates God and the revelation of His Word, and which ever speaks only to tempt men to exalt themselves instead of God, thereby blindly deceiving themselves and leading others away from the truth, all because they chafe at bringing themselves under the rule of Christ now when "He is taking the reins in His own hands."--Testimonies to Ministers, p. 300."-- Answerer Book 3, p. 33

- “The credit for the message in ‘The Shepherd’s Rod’ **Brother Houteff simply places it to Whom** [Jesus] it belongs, and **those who would like for Brother Houteff to place it on himself are not doing it because they love him** or because thy like to exalt him above themselves, but because they are sanctioning the claims of the voice from beneath which hates God and the revelation of the Word, tempting Brother Houteff to exalt himself instead of God, blindly deceiving themselves and leading others away from the truth, all because they hate to submit themselves under the rule of Christ **now** while He is ‘taking the reins in His own hands.’ –‘Testimonies to Ministers.’ 300. This class of workers Christ prophetically heard saying, ‘We will not have this man to reign over us’ (Lk. 19:14).” 2 SC 3,4:12.1.

Creature Worship = Man Worship

- “24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who **changed the truth of God into a lie**, and **worshipped** and served the **creature** more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. 26 For this cause God gave them up unto **vile affections**: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;” – Rom. 1: 24-28

- Satan, we are told, was not the only sinner in Heaven, for with him were cast out of Heaven a third of the angelic host (Rev. 12:4). These were cast out of Heaven because they gave heed to the words of Lucifer, to a man in Heaven, rather than giving heed to the word of God. This was the angels' downfall. Lucifer himself fell when he aspired to be as God.
- **These two sins -- trust in man, and desire to exalt self** -- are still the leading sin elements now here on earth. This was Eve's stumbling block and to many even today it is still the stumbling block.— Timely Greetings, Vol. 2, No. 28, p. 13, 14

What is The Midst of the Land

- “24 In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: 25 Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and **Israel mine inheritance.**” Isa. 19: 25, 25
- This purified class who stand steadfast during the shaking in **the midst of the land** (**the church** -- Isa. 19:24), is also brought into focus in Isaiah's prophecy, chapter 24, verse 14: "...they shall sing for the majesty of the Lord"; whereas in verse 16 is projected a subsequent purified class who are gathered "from the uttermost part of the earth," and from whom are "heard songs, even glory to the righteous." The shaking, in other words, garners first and second fruits of saints -- the **one from the church, "the midst of the land," and the other from the world, "the uttermost part of the earth."**--"Tract 9 , p. 17

- The shaking, in other words, garners first and second fruits of saints -- the one from the church, "the midst of the land," and the other from the world, "the uttermost part of the earth." And while those from the church "sing for the majesty of the Lord," those from the world sing "glory to the righteous."
- Thus we see plainly that the **redeemed from the church** -- the servants of God (the first fruits, or first-born -- the Biblical term for the priesthood or the ministry) -- stand firmly during the **shaking "in the midst of the land,"** with the result that they carry the truth to all nations during the "shaking" in the world, thereby taking salvation to many. Tract 9, p. 17, 18

- "In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even **a blessing in the midst of the land**: whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel Mine inheritance." Isa. 19:23-25.
- Thus in His infinite mercy would the Lord **lift "the burden of Nineveh" today**, even as He did in the ancient day. Indeed, it is for "**a blessing in the midst of the land**," even to all nations, that He is to effect **THE CHURCH'S LIBERATION FROM "ASSYRIAN" YOKE**. Tract 14, p. 16, 17

- The whole story of Jonah's experience, you see, is more than a record of what happened to him. It is a picture of the experience of **God's everliving church**.
- And not only is antitypical Assyria to be saved, but **"Egypt" also** is at last to be saved according to the "more sure word of prophecy."
- "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to **perish in the land of Assyria**, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem."
Isa. 27:13. –Symbolic Code, Vol. 11, No. 8, p. 12, 13

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- Yes, this is the great revival and reformation that we are now praying for, working for, longing for. It is the hope of the world; for in it is **the salvation of the world**. Let us with hearts enlightened with the sun of Truth, and embued with genuine Christian love for humanity, and fired with zeal borne of God's Spirit allow ourselves to be used of Him **to usher in salvation to the world**. So help us God, Oh, our God.—Symbolic Code, Vol. 11, No. 8, p. 13

The Midst Of The Land—Homeletic Application

- In order to fulfill the call we must build the "fort," cast the amount," set the "camp," and the "battering rams against it round about -- "This shall be a sign to the house of Israel." (Ezek. 4:3.) Hence, the first question to be asked is, Where shall we build? The answer comes from Him Who "is taking the reins in His own hands" (Testimonies to Ministers, 300): "In that day shall Israel be...even a blessing **in the midst of the land.**" (Isa. 19:24.)
- As no one puts a light in a corner but rather **in the center of the room**, so the wise "husbandman" built "a tower in the midst of" His "vineyard." We are living in that prophetic time when men were to run to and fro" (Dan. 12:4), and in which "a short work will the Lord make." (Rom. 9:28.)

The Midst Of The Land—Homeiletic Application, Cont'd.

- Consequently, the Lone Star state, being in the midst of the land for both Americas, North and South, is the place where we must set the "camp," so that the light may be equally diffused east and west, north and south. Moreover, the "camp" from where the "battering rams" are to be sent, naturally must be **centrally located** so that the distance between the "rams" and the "camp" may be cut down to one half, thus reducing the time and the cost for transportation and supplies as well as for mailing. We thank God for such a wise plan as this.
- Therefore, He has given us one of His beautiful lakeside hills adjacent to Waco, Texas, a city of about 60,000, yet far enough from it to be away from the world and its evil environment -- about 5 miles from the center of the city, and about 2 1/2 miles from the city limits. There lies 189 acres of land for our "camp."-- Vol. 1 Symbolic Code No. 10, pg. 1, 1935.

Popular Davidian Understandings

- Those of us here in the east who are standing in the advancing light of Present Truth are of good courage, and our confidence in God and in the sure triumph of the Third Angel's Message was never stronger than today. We are heart and soul with our brethren at **Mt. Carmel -- "in the midst of the land"** -- and our one desire is to witness for the Master on all occasions, the which we, believe can best be done by learning more perfectly the meaning of that wonderful statement found on page 189 of "Testimonies for the Church," Vol. 9, p. 189."—Vol. 2 Symbolic Code No. 12, pg. 3 (E.T. Wilson, 1936)

- In our studies on Isaiah 19 we found that there are to be five cities in "Egypt" that will speak the language of Canaan, and that there is to be a highway between "Assyria" and "Egypt" and Israel is to be a third with them, **even a blessing in the midst of the land**. It is the great trumpet of the twenty-seventh chapter that will save them. It may be that there will be many from "Assyria" and "Egypt" that will join the 144,000 and go to **worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem**.— Symbolic Code, Vol. 11, No. 7, p. 22, 23

Midst of Carmel

- You are aware, we are sure, that even common sense itself teaches that those prophecies of the Bible are not there for ornaments but rather because of their most important latter-day messages, "meat in due season" (Matt. 24:45), planned to be unsealed and brought to our attention at the time appointed. God's Own command now is: "Hear ye the rod, and Who hath appointed it." **Mic. 6:9.**
- Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of shine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel." **Mic. 7:14.**— Jezreel Letter, No. 4, p. 1

Carmel Is Laodicea

- And now louder and louder sounds **the voice of Carmel**, through the series of *The Shepherd's Rod* publications, "the Lord's voice...unto the city, and," says the Divine Author, "the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the Rod, and Who hath appointed it." Mic. 6:9.
- "Feed thy people," He commands, "with thy rod, the flock of thine **heritage**, which **dwell** solitarily in the wood, **in the midst of Carmel.**" Mic. 7:14.
- Thus to rescue **the honest in Laodicea** [**Carmel**] from spiritual starvation and death, to revitalize, restore, and rearm them for the final conflict, **the Lord has sent the Rod.**—*The Answerer*, Book 3, p. 62

Who is Telling Elijah “How” To Teach His Message?

- During the study, the leaders of the Bashan Association were unhappy with the insertion of the word “Carmel,” (previous slide, in blue), and complained that it is tantamount to “telling Elijah ‘how to teach his message.’” Yet, while the context of the passage supports the conclusion, we now show a page from *Shepherd’s Rod*, Vol. 1, pocket edition, p. 75 (picture to the right, published at Bashan Hill, in 1988), for comparison.

“Set the camp also against it”; that is, make a temporary lodging place for your workers, headquarters from which to carry on the work, and make preparation to remain there until you have conquered the city. This is the devout purpose in building Mt. Carmel Center [now, Bashan Hill]; this is its given goal.

Also, “set battering rams [margin—chief leaders] against” the city “round about.” This instrument with which they batter, of course, is clear, cutting, and convincing Bible truth. And this is the very obvious necessity for having in every branch of the work capable men to wisely lead.

[74-75]

We call attention to the first paragraph above, and find it impossible to harmonize the statement in square brackets, “**now, Bashan Hill,**” with the inspired thought being conveyed concerning “Carmel.” The above page is in a book whose *editorship* is credited to V.T. Houteff, many years after his death!

Who Are God's Heritage?

- “13 ¶ If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: 14 Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with **the heritage of Jacob** thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” Isa. 58: 13, 14

- “1 ¶ The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:2 **Feed the flock** of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over **God’s heritage**, but being ensamples to **the flock**. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” 1 Peter 5: 1-4

- “7 O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness; Selah: 8 The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel. 9 Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine **inheritance**, when it was weary. 10 Thy congregation hath dwelt therein: thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor.” Psalms 68: 7-9
- “3 And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south. 4 They wandered in the wilderness **in a solitary way**; they found no city to dwell in.” Ps 107: 3, 4

- “19 The portion of Jacob is not like them; for he is the former of all things: and **Israel is the rod of his inheritance**: the LORD of hosts is his name. 20 Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms;” Jer. 51: 19, 20.
- “3 LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? 4 How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves? 5 They break in pieces thy people, O LORD, and afflict thine heritage.” Ps. 94: 3-5

- “8 How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied? 9 For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, **the people shall dwell alone**, and shall **not be reckoned among the nations.**” Num. 23: 8, 9

- “14 ¶ Feed thy people with thy rod, **the flock** of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.” Micah 7: 14.
- "God has promised that **where the shepherds are not true** He will take charge of **the flock himself**.... In this time, the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy, will then go out in darkness.... Those who have been timid and self-distrustful, will declare themselves openly for Christ and His truth. The most weak and hesitating in the church will be as David -- willing to do and dare”— (Testimonies, Vol. 5, pp. 80, 81)

- Furthermore, Jerusalem, let it be remembered, is the capital city of Judah. Thus the present siege against **the "city" (the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination)** is to be a sign to the Sunday-keepers; that is, it is designed to awaken them to a realization of how the Lord is to be worshiped, and where saving truth is to be found; of the commencement of "the great and dreadful day of the Lord," and of His judgment, also to bring them to a realization that if it first "begin at the house of God," then "what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" 1 Pet. 4: 17.

- No longer now need the faithful truth-seeker wander from church to church, groping his way through the dense and endless **forest of the world's religious literature** in search of the right church with the right doctrine. Both now stand clearly identified, challenging him who would bear the vessels of the Lord, to be clean, to touch not that which is baked on "dung" fire -- that which is inspired not by the Spirit of Truth -- and to be ever acutely mindful that no newly-revealed truth was given to the church during the forty years from 1890 to 1930, and that therefore every claimant to a heaven-sent message during that period was a false one. --Shepherd's Rod Tract 1, pp. 86, 87

- But having the long fast now broken with fresh truth, abundant and undefiled by man's wisdom, the hungry are now feeding at the bountiful table of **the Rod** (Mic. 7:14), at which **you, dear reader, now sit** and are joyously bidden to stay on for the rest of the feast.
- Will you not do this? If you will, then just make it known, and the whole bounteous, unmatched, life-saving feast will be placed quickly before you without measure and with out price!--Shepherd's Rod Tract 1, p. 87

When Does Carmel Wither?

- “2 And he said, The LORD will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither.” Amos 1: 2
- It might be interesting to Elder G. to know that **the naming of our "camp" "Mt. Carmel Center"** came about in **the same way as the naming of our publications "The Shepherd's Rod,"** for we did not know before hand that **it** was in prophecy until after our attention was called to **Mic. 7:14** and **Amos 1:2.** In the prophecy of Amos we read:
- "The Lord will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither." --Vol. 1 Symbolic Code No. 14, pg. 5, 6

- With a **few comments** on the above scripture, **any Bible student** will recognize at a glance that it applies at the time of the end, as explained by the gospel prophet:
- "And It shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills;...for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:2, 3), which in the language of Amos is, "Utter His voice from Jerusalem. Looking to this same time Joel puts it as follows:
- "And the Lord shall utter His voice before His army: for His camp is very great: for He is strong that executeth His word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" (Joel 2:11.)-- Vol. 1 Symbolic Code No. 14, pg. 6

- As Amos says, "The habitations of the shepherds shall mourn," it is obvious that **Amos' prophecy is yet future**, for the word "habitations" (places) is in the plural form which; cannot be applied to one shepherd's habitation (denomination) but to all that be in existence at that time. The term "shepherds" means, as understood, the same as "the ancient men which were before the house" -- the ministers. -- "Testimonies for the Church," Vol. 5, p. 211.
- Note that the shepherds are not themselves to mourn but their "habitations (their houses); that is, the membership of their churches, which fact reveals that **it will be thus at the time when the sleeping multitudes in the churches awake from their spiritual insensibility and find that the shepherds whom they have implicitly trusted for their salvation had deceived all those who followed them.** -- Vol. 1 Symbolic Code No. 14, pg. 6

- Thus shall the top of Carmel wither, and those who do not take heed to the word, "To day if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart," at length will be alarmed that their opportunity for accepting the truth has slipped away. Then in their hasty, frenzied effort to acquaint themselves with present truth which went forth from the top of Carmel, to their surprise they shall find that **Carmel has finished its work, its inhabitants removed, and probation closed**, at which time **the inhabitants of "Carmel" can but repeat, "the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we have nothing for thee."**-- Vol. 1 Symbolic Code No. 14, pg. 6

- Then it shall come to pass that "They shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and **shall not find it**. In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst. Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord." (Amos 8:12, 13, 11.) Oh, **what a disappointment that will be!** -- Vol. 1 Symbolic Code No. 14, pg. 6

Who Are Bashan And Gilead?

- “1 ¶ Hear ye now what the LORD saith; Arise, contend thou before **the mountains**, and let **the hills** hear thy voice. 2 Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD’S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with **his people**, and he will **plead with Israel**... 9 The LORD’S voice crieth unto **the city**, and the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it.” Micah 6: 1, 2, 9.
- “Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of **Carmel**: let them feed in **Bashan** and **Gilead**, as in the days of old.” Micah 7: 14

- "Let them hear thy voice." The thought that can be derived is this: **Our leading men** are either taking too long a time, or perhaps never intend to do anything with the new light presented to them in "The Shepherd's Rod," therefore, wait no longer, "Arise now, contend before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice" (**make it public**). This being so, we were compelled to **publish the book** and give it out without delay.—Shepherd's Rod book, Vol. 1, p. 242

- But what are the mountains to hear? What will He contend about? The answer is given in the second verse. "Hear ye, O mountains, the Lord's controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: For the Lord hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel." Note they are to hear that the Lord has a controversy with **His people**, and He will plead with **Israel** (the 144,000, **Israel the true**). But **how are they to hear? What are the means to carry that voice to the mountains and hills?** The answer to this is found in the ninth verse.— Shepherd's Rod book, Vol. 1, p. 242

- Again, note "The men of wisdom shall see thy name." The wisdom mentioned is not that which the world can give, but a heavenly one... **The same thought is brought over in the seventh chapter, verse 14.** "Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine **heritage**, which **dwell** solitarily in the wood, in the midst of **Carmel**: Let them feed in **Bashan** and **Gilead**, as in the days of old." — Shepherd's Rod book, Vol. 1, pp. 243
- "24 In that day shall Israel be the third with **Egypt** and with **Assyria**, even a blessing in the midst of the land: 25 Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and **Israel mine inheritance.**" Isa. 19: 25, 25

Other Sheep to be fed

- “16 And **other sheep** I have, which are not of **this fold** [Carmel]: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be **one** fold, and **one** shepherd.” John 10: 16
- “2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. 3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and **let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob**; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.” Isa. 2: 2, 3

- "Feed thy people with thy rod:" The verb "feed" is to be understood as **spiritual food**, and that **food (truth)** is found in the "Rod," therefore we again have the command to **give out the book** ("Feed thy [God's] people)." Carmel, Bashan, and Gilead are used as **symbols of good spiritual pasture**. These **places** are where **Israel had their victories**. Mount Carmel is where **Elijah** had his experience with the **backslidden Israel** in the days of Ahab. It was in Carmel where he (Elijah) brought the fire from heaven which consumed the sacrifice upon the altar, after which he **slew the prophets of Baal**. — Shepherd's Rod book, Vol. 1, pp. 243

- “Though we cannot comprehend such infinite wisdom, it gives us better understanding of **God's love for sinners**, and our misconception of so-called human knowledge of things. To the eternal "I AM," who inhabits eternity, before whom the darkness is light, and the remotest boundaries in space His footstool, who sees the end from the beginning, and to whom a thousand years are but as yesterday, all things are open and naked unto Him... The wisdom and knowledge of the infinite is beyond comprehension by the finite. The wonders we behold and the events which make the history of our world are but duplicates from the blueprints in heaven.” — Shepherd's Rod book, Vol. 1, pp. 230, 231

Isa. 33: Context

- “6 And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure. 7 Behold, their valiant ones shall cry without: the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly. 8 The highways lie waste, the wayfaring man ceaseth: he hath broken the covenant, he hath despised the cities, he regardeth no man. 9 The earth mourneth and languisheth: **Lebanon** is ashamed and hewn down: **Sharon** is like a **wilderness**; and **Bashan** and **Carmel** shake off their fruits. 10 **Now** will I rise, saith the LORD; **now** will I be exalted; **now** will I lift up myself. 11 Ye shall conceive chaff, ye shall bring forth stubble: your breath, as fire, shall devour you. 12 And **the people shall be as the burnings of lime**: as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire.” Isa. 33: 6-12

- “Taking into consideration what follows in this chapter and in the next two chapters (for **chapters 34 and 35 are a part of the subject that is in chapter 33**), it becomes clear that the one upon whom 'woe' is pronounced is the church preceding 'the great and dreadful day of the Lord,' the day in which the sinners of Zion perish, the day in which the repentant ones are given their reward, -- 'the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion.' Isa. 34:8.”-- *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 1, No. 34, p.10
- Clearly, the content of Isa. 33 is also included in chapter's 34, and 35, therefore the existence of the “nouns” in these chapters are synonymous. For example, “Carmel” in 33:9, must be equivalent to “Carmel” in 35: 2, etc.

- Isa. 33:5 -- "The Lord is exalted; for He dwelleth on high: He hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness."
- When these things take place, then Zion (the church purified) will be filled with judgment and righteousness. Moreover, God's faithful ones have this assurance:
- Isa. 33:6 -- "And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is His treasure."
- But concerning their unrepented mighty ones, Inspiration declares: [**Continued**]--Timely Greetings, Vol. 1, No. 34, pp. 11, 12

- Isa. 33:7 -- "Behold, their valiant ones shall cry without: the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly."
- Here we see that those who are proclaiming peace rather than the day of God, shall "weep bitterly."
- Isa. 33:8 -- "The highways lie waste, the wayfaring man ceaseth: he hath broken the covenant, he hath despised the cities, he regardeth no man."
- In the language of today this verse would read: The missionary routes lie waste; the missionary himself ceaseth; he has broken his contract; he has despised the cities; he regards no man.--Timely Greetings, Vol. 1, No. 34, p. 12

- Isa. 33:9 -- "**The earth** mourneth and languisheth: **Lebanon** is ashamed and hewn down: **Sharon** is like a wilderness; and **Bashan** and **Carmel** shake off their fruits."
- The **nouns** in this verse being profoundly figurative, and the time of fulfillment **yet future**, we are unprepared to make any comments.
- Isa. 33:10 -- "Now will I rise, saith the Lord; now will I be exalted; now will I lift up Myself."
- At the time the conditions here described materialize, **then it is that the Lord will arise and be exalted and lifted up**. But to those that are at fault He forewarns: [Contunued]-- Timely Greetings, Vol. 1, No. 34, pp. 12, 13

- Isa. 33:11 -- "Ye shall conceive chaff, ye shall bring forth stubble: your breath, as fire, shall devour you."
- Turning to the sinners and hypocrites among His people, those upon whom the woe of verse one is actually pronounced, God reveals that the fruit of their doings shall be chaff and stubble, that their own breath shall devour them as if it were fire. Moreover, concerning their followers He adds:
- Isa. 33:12 -- "And the people shall be as the burnings of lime: as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire."--Timely Greetings, Vol. 1, No. 34, pp. 13

- Having commenced His purifying work in Zion, He declares:
- Isa. 33:13, 14 -- "Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge My might. The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?"
- When the righteous Judge rises to sift the people, then the hypocrites will not be boasting that they "are just as good Christians as any." Neither will they say anymore, "We do not need more Truth." Instead, fearfulness and surprise will overtake them. The greatest and most honorable question will then be, "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?"--Timely Greetings, Vol. 1, No. 34, pp. 13