

The Gospel Beat

Volume III

February 2015

BEHOLD I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK



“If Anyone Hears My Voice And Opens The Door, I Will Come In To Him And Dine With Him, And He With Me.”

Rev. 3:20

INSIDE THE GOSPEL BEAT

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(Jesus Saves)



“*Jesus Saves*” is popular slogan seen on bumper stickers, signs at athletic events, and even banners being pulled across the sky by small airplanes. Sadly, few who see the phrase “*Jesus Saves*” truly and fully understand what it means. There is a tremendous amount of power and truth packed into those two words.

But Who is Jesus? Most people understand that *Jesus* was a man who lived in Israel 2,000 years ago. Almost every religion in the world views *Jesus* as a good teacher and/or a prophet. While those things are definitely true of *Jesus*, they do not portray who *Jesus* truly is, nor do they explain how or why *Jesus* saves. *Jesus* is *God* in human form (**John 1:1,14**). *Jesus* is *God*, come to earth, as a true human being (**1 John 4:2**). *God* became a human being in the person of *Jesus* in order to save us.

Why do We need to be Saved? The **Bible** states that every human being who ever lived has sinned (**Eccl. 7:20; Romans 3:23**). To sin is to do something, whether in thought, word, or deed, that is against *God’s* holy character. Because of our sin, we all deserve judgment from *God* (**John 3:18,36**). *God* is perfectly just, so *He* cannot allow sin and evil to go unpunished. Since *God* is infinite and eternal, and since all sin is against *God* (**Psalm 51:4**), only infinite and eternal punishment is sufficient. Eternal death is the only just punishment for sin. That is why we need to be saved.

How Does He Save? Because we have sinned against an infinite *God*, either a finite person (**us**) must pay for our sins in a infinite amount of time, or an infinite person (*Jesus*) must pay for our sins one time. There is no other option. *Jesus* saved us by dying in our place. In the person of *Jesus Christ*, *God* sacrificed *Himself* on our behalf, paying the infinite and eternal penalty that only *He* could pay (**2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 2:2**). *Jesus* took the punishment that we deserve in order to save us from a horrible eternal destiny, the just result of our sin. Because of *His* great love for us, *Jesus* laid down *His* life (**John 15:13**), paying the penalty that we had earned, but could not pay. *Jesus* then raised from the dead, demonstrating that *His* death was indeed enough to pay the penalty for our sin (**1 Corinthians 15**).

Whom Does He Save? *Jesus* saves all who will receive *His* gift of salvation. *Jesus* saves all those who fully trust in *His* giving of *Himself* as payment for our sin (**John 3:16; Acts 16:31**). While *Jesus’* sacrifice was sufficient to pay the sins of all mankind, *Jesus* only saves those who personally receive *His* most precious of gifts (**John 1:12**).

If you now understand what it means that *Jesus* saves, and you trust in *Him* as your **personal savior**, make sure you understand and believe the following ,and as a act of **faith**, tell the following to *God*: “*God I know that I am a sinner, and because of my sin I deserve to be separated from you. Even though I don’t deserve it, thank you for loving me and providing the sacrifice for my sins through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and I trust in Him alone to save me. Thank you, Jesus, for saving me.!*”

Favor

Favor is something granted out of goodwill. It satisfies a need or desire that we cannot satisfy ourselves. It is a state of being approved. It is based on **God's Grace** which is **His Excessive Kindness** and unfair partiality for the righteous. It is **God's Support** for His children.

The **Lord** is helping us with **His Favor**. Those who do not really take the time to get to know the **Lord** will not experience the intimacy required to trust **Him**. If you do not trust the **Lord**, you cannot experience **His Favor**, because it requires accepting what we cannot produce ourselves.

Due to the overwhelming abundance, it will take our lifetime to expose the **Goodness of God** given to **His People** who choose righteousness as their dwelling place. You cannot have God's Favor and live according to this world. It is an inheritance reserved strictly for **His Children**. **He** holds it tightly in **His** hand, and it is only acceptable through **righteousness, obedience, and trust**. It can only be discovered by those who seek **His Kingdom**.

God's Favor is part of the **Gift of Salvation**. We are saved by **Faith** and not anything we could do for ourselves. We cannot earn it (**Galatians 4:10**). **God** planned to save us when **He** made us. **He** created us to do good works, but not as a means to an end. We can do all these things freely because **God** is our **Source** of provision and care.

When you accepted **Jesus** as your **Lord** and **Savior** and decided to love and trust **Him**, **God's** hand opened and **His Favor** became immediately accessible to your life. Sadly, many do not understand the **Way of God**. They do not read the **Word of God**, so they do not understand the **Will of God**.

Favor is available in your life today just because **God** loves you. **Jesus** died for you, and **His Spirit** lives in you. This leaves only one question, why? "**He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. God has now revealed to us His mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill His own good pleasure**" (**Ephesians 1:8-9**). Just because **He** wanted to! It brings **God** pleasure to bless us!

Favor is a sign of **God's Approval**. Those who live to please **God** and not people will have **Favor**. It is an automatic response on His part, as we learn to love and trust **Him** more. There is no longer a need to stress and worry about making everyone else happy. We don't the approval, affirmation or affection of

People because it is all part of **God's** Favor to those **He** calls approved. ***“Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive His approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).***

Imagine what our life would be like if instead of having a long list of goals, priorities and responsibilities driving our days, we chose simply to live lives approved by **God**. Finding the Favor of **God** is not a complicated process but a committed one.

The Favor of **God** is the excessive kindness and unfair partiality. It is an accompaniment of **His** Grace. We cannot accept the **Grace of God** and not **His Favor** too. **Faith** is the foundation of accepting the total package of salvation. We reap the rewards of salvation by turning over every aspect of our life to **God** through the **Blood of Jesus Christ**.

Even though favor makes us **God's** favorites, it does always immediately change our circumstances in life. Why? **God** is making them all work together for our good so what you view as a problem is **God's** process of working **His** Favor through your life.

Trust in the **Lord** with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek **His** will in all you do, and **He** will show you which path to take.

Submitted by Angie Thomas

(When God Is Willing)

Drat, I've been bitten again! exclaimed Daniel. Mark unwrapped a tattered blanket, sat up and looked over Daniel's shoulder. "Rats", They get bolder every night. "Some nights I dream that I wake up, and I don't have fingers and toes left at all."

Mark rummaged through in a reed basket. "Here I still have a few bandages." Thanks. Well, at least it doesn't hurt. That was the trouble. It never hurt. "The only thing worse than pain was no pain," muttered Daniel.

He took the cloth and started to a nearby stream that he and the others lepers used for drinking and bathing. Bending over, he clumsily tried to wash away the dried blood on his forearm.

The stream pooled near his feet, and though the water made a distorted mirror, the sight of his own face still made him cringe. "You never really get used to being a leper," he thought.

Mark limped over to get help. "Remember what life was like before leprosy?" Daniel asked his friend. "Only every day," Mark replied. "Me too."

Daniel had been a carpenter, a man who could make wood come alive with his sure, strong hands. He had felt pride when a well-made yoke fit an ox's neck perfectly. Best of all, he had enjoyed the shriek of delight from his daughter, Rachel, over the newest toy he had invented. He had loved his wife, his child, and his work. Life had been good.

Then his life changed. The first time the hammer slipped from his hand, he thought he was just tired, but slowly he realized that he couldn't feel the object he was holding. His fingers were numb. He couldn't tell heat from cold. Finally, when his skin became ulcerated, he had to leave home, his family. He had to go before he passed the disease on to the people he loved. To his wife and to Rachael.

Now, ten years later, he struggled to walk on deformed stumps. His eyebrows were gone, his ears hardened, and part of his nose was missing. His hands were crippled claws, and the leprosy had stolen the ends of his fingers. Worse still, it had stolen his hope.

It wasn't that that he didn't believe in **God**. He did. But, if the people he passed on the roads couldn't bear to look at him, were afraid to touch him, he could hardly expect **God** to view him with pity or love.

"I have heard of the new healer," said Mark. "Some even say that he might be the **Messiah**." "**The Messiah!**" exclaimed Daniel. "Do you believe that?"

Mark merely laughed. "I know. How many have you seen this year running through Israel claiming to have great powers, claiming they can save us from the Romans? He's probably just another fake, a waste of time. Nothing to get excited about."

Daniel knew that Mark was probably right. Healers and messiahs were so common in Palestine that the people rarely raised a fuss about them anymore. Could it be possible that this man was different?

Yet it was hard to get the thought of healing out of his mind. Mark had been at the camp just long enough to lose hope, but not enough to be desperate. Daniel's time was running out. He had already lived longer than most lepers.

Daniel tried to push the thought from his mind, but it kept coming back over and over throughout the day. It was silly to keep thinking about it. Suppose he went. What would happen? He would just come back disappointed, more bitter, and a laughingstock. Better to just forget it.

But he couldn't. Pictures of his wife and Rachael played back through his head. If there were a chance, the slightest chance that he could see them, touch them again, he wanted it. And so, the next morning, the lepers woke to find Daniel's mat missing. He had taken his basket of food and left.

It was April. The sun was warm and the grass was green. Daniel enjoyed the springtime as he walked, but the path was hard. His feet moved slowly and he tired easily. He had to watch for people. As a leper, he was required to get off the road, wave his arms, and scream, "unclean! Unclean!" as people approached.

Always there were horrified faces, people who picked up their pace to scurry around him, or turn in another direction without going near him. Sometimes he hid in the bushes or behind walls to hear snatches of conversations as people passed.

It was surprising how many people were talking about this healer. "I heard he turned water into wine." "I heard he healed a blind man." "Some of his sayings are hard. Sometimes he doesn't even sound Jewish. He certainly doesn't sound like a rabbi!" "Some people want to make him king. King! A king in Israel after all this time." "Can you imagine there being someone with the power to drive the Romans out? A miraculous king!"

"Of course, he does do some strange things. They say he even talks to Samaritans." Daniel was slowly able to put bits and pieces together. The healer was preaching in Galilee. He was staying at one of the towns there. Daniel headed that way, hurrying as fast as his feet would allow, afraid that he would get there only to find the healer had moved on.

It took Daniel close to a week to make the two-day journey, but he finally arrived at the city gates. Now came the dangerous part. Lepers were not allowed inside the city.

Daniel had a plan. He wrapped his scarf to hide as much of his head and face as possible and grabbed his tunic in the front with both hands so that the stubs that passed for fingers were hidden in the folds of cloth. He waited until just before the guards closed the gates when it was going on evening, and the light wasn't as good. Then, looking down at his feet and turning his head away from the crowd, he managed to get through.

Daniel headed for the shadows and stayed close to the houses and shops until he finally came upon a pile of garbage on a back street. He snuggled down behind the pile, covered himself, and waited for dawn. He listened to the sounds of people talking, of shops closing, of children running home for dinner. After chewing a handful of bread, he tried to sleep so that he might wake up early and go deeper into the city and find the rabbi.

Daniel awoke long after sunrise. He felt a surge of panic as he struggled to his feet. As the sun climbed higher in the sky, he knew the shadows wouldn't hide him for long. Eventually, he would be noticed. His walk, his torn clothing, and his face would give him away.

He would be thrown out of the city without ever seeing the new messiah. And if by some miracle he did find the healer, would the man help him or turn him away,

“Oh, God,” prayed Daniel for the first time in a long while, “please, please have mercy on me! Give me one chance! Help me find the holy man!”

He stumbled through the narrow side streets trying to avoid as many people as possible. Everything was normal. People called to their children, bartered their wares, did their daily chores. No clues existed anywhere that pointed to the presence of anyone special in the city.

It was then that he heard the noise, laughter, talking, children’s high-pitched voices. Afraid he would miss it, Daniel moved toward the sound, making his toeless feet go faster and faster. Finally, he turned a corner and the crowd came into view. He began to push through, and in his hurry, with no feelings in his hands, he shoved too hard.

Pushed out of the way, a man turned in time to see Daniel’s face. “Leper, leper!” he cried, and grabbing the nearest rock, he threw it at Daniel in an effort to drive him away. “Leper!” screamed a woman who caught a glimpse of his deformed body.

The crowd parted in front of him as the people grabbed their children and pulled back so they wouldn’t come in contact with the ugliness before them. Hands reached for stones and then froze. Daniel suddenly felt more alone than he had at the leper camp. He wanted to tell them he was the same as they were inside, but he knew they wouldn’t listen. His head slowly turning, Daniel stared into dozens of eyes filled with horror and disgust with one exception.

At the far end of the crowd, one set of eyes held his gaze as others faded. One set was welcoming. One set was accepting. One set never looked away. **“He** knows thought Daniel, wonderingly. **He** knows what it’s like to be homesick. To be cut off from your family. **He** knows the loneliness, to be unwanted, to be forgotten. To cry inside when your eyes can no longer produce tears. **He** knows, and **He** understands!”

Daniel hobbled down the path through the crowd toward those extraordinary eyes, fell to his knees, bowed his head, and said, **“Sir,** if you are willing, you can heal me.” He looked up at the eyes and then watched as **Jesus** reached out **His** hand and touched him. The crowd started to murmur in the background, but the only thing Daniel knew was the sight of the hand and the feeling that a huge, aching hole inside of him was gone. The healer leaned over, smiled widely and said, **“I am willing. Be clean.”**

Immediately Daniel felt the hand gripping his, the texture of the worn cloth, the ground pushing up against his knees. His hands hesitantly and then hurriedly explored his body. His fingers were long and tapered again. His toes wiggled and his feet arched normally. He had eyebrows and ears and, **thank God,** a nose; as his hands moved over his face, he felt tears, real salt tears of thankfulness and joy. He could go home. His hands would hold wood again. His arms would hold Rachael. His heart would hold hope. **God** was good. **He** was willing. He tried to speak, but he saw that **Jesus** had already heard. The **Healer** knew what was in his heart.

Jesus, who could heal with a **word** or a **look,** had touched Daniel’s heart. He was healed from the inside out.

Biblical Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 For the commandment is a ____; and the law is light (Prov 6:23)

5 Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of ____ (Luke 2:36)

10 and like a loud ____ of thunder (Rev 14:2)

14 stood around ____ they had made to keep warm (1,4) (John 18:18)

16 and your moon will ____ no more (Isa 60:20)

17 Nebuchadnezzar in his ____ and fury commanded (Daniel 3:13)

18 buddies, pals (like David and Jonathan)

19 From the ____ of the earth I call to you (Ps 61:2)

20 Every grain offering baked in an ____ or cooked (Lev 7:9)

21 With a loud cry, Jesus ____ his last (Mark 15:37)

23 Jesus said to them, "Does this ____ you? (John 6:61)

25 who ____ your wood and carry your water (Deut 29:11)

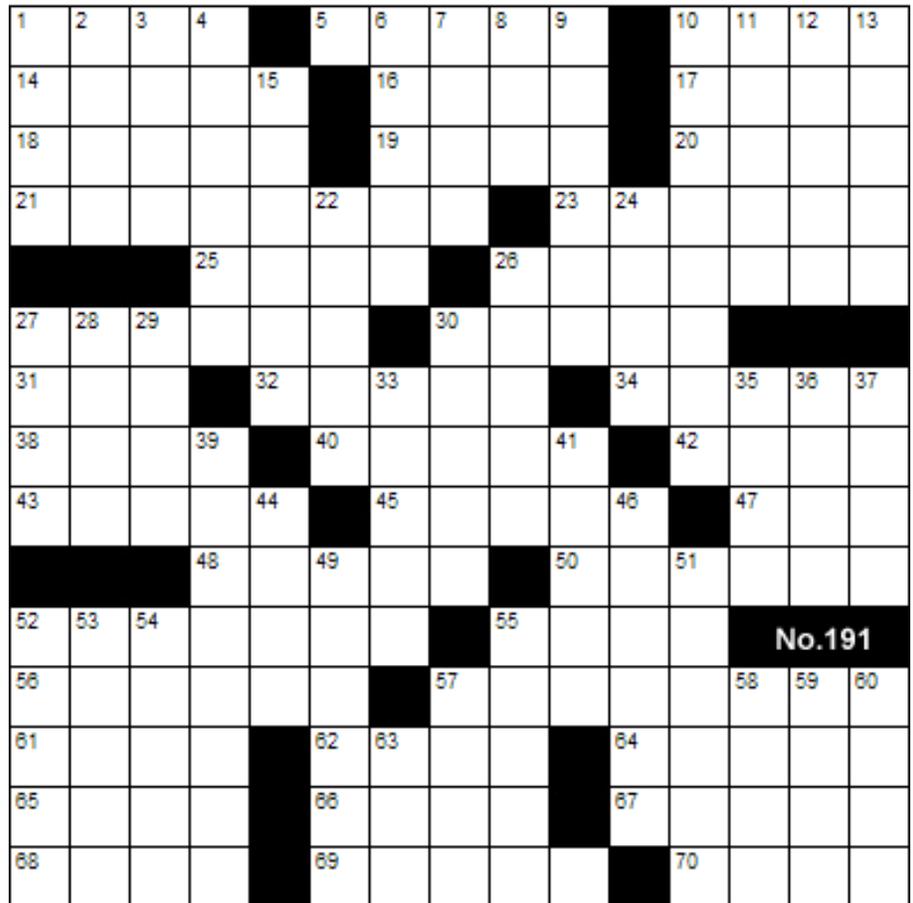
26 saw what took place, they beat their ____ and went away (Luke 23:48)

27 They settled in ____ and named it Dan (Josh 19:47)

30 ____ himself masquerades as an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14)

31 He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or ____ (Isa 44:14)

32 Then one ____ content, untouched by trouble (Prov 19:23)



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34 the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran (Gen 11:26)

38 not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all ____ (Acts 19:26)

40 Epicurean and ____ philosophers began to dispute with him (Acts 17:18)

42 How ____ you turn my Father's house into a market! (John 2:16)

43 this leaning wall, this tottering ____ (Ps 62:3)

45 so that they will not ____ guilt and die (Ex 28:43)

47 Who art thou? And he said, ____ thy son (1,2) (Gen 27:32) KJV

48 Then open the door, and flee, and ____ not (2 Kings 9:; who has blessed us 3) KJV

50 Jesus Christin the heavenly ____ (Eph 1:3)

52 The ____ conceal him in their shadow (Job 40:22)

55 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and ____ (Ps 137:1)

56 I have set the LORD ____ before me (Ps 16:8)

57 weep and howl for your ____ that shall come (James 5:1) KJV

61 which is gone down in the sun ____ of Ahaz (Isa 38:8) KJV

62 The body is a ____, though it is made up of many parts (1 Cor 12:12)

64 A ____ is hidden for him on the ground (Job 18:10)

65 Do not those who plot ____ go astray? (Prov 14:22)

66 I have neither ____ on usury, nor men have lent to me (Jer 15:10)

67 Its ____ length will be 25,000 cubits (Ezek 48:13)

68 an outstanding miracle, and we cannot ____ it (Acts 4:16)

69 as its wick trimmers and ____ (Ex 37:23)

70 But ____ shook the snake off into the fire (Acts 28:5)

DOWN

1 Worthy is the ____, who was slain (Rev 5:12)

2 Bring my sons from ____ and my daughters (Isa 43:6)

3 till thou hast paid the very last _____. (Luke 12:59) KJV

4 I must ____ the good news of the kingdom of God (Luke 4:43)

6 A whirlwind will ____ them away (Hos 4:19)

7 Whatsoever thy ____ findeth to do, do it with thy might (Eccles 9:10) KJV

8 he that endureth to the ____ shall be saved (Matt 10:22) KJV

9 he did not ____ to sorcery as at other times (Num 24:1)

10 I will no longer let my holy name be ____ (Ezek 39:7)

11 from foundation to ____, were made of blocks of high-grade stone (1 Kings 7:9)

12 Zerah son of Judah, was the king's ____ in all affairs (Neh 11:24)

13 who ____ his money without usury (Ps 15:5)

15 the king was attracted to ____ more than to any of the other (Est 2:17)

22 Then the disciples went back to their ____ (John 20:10)

24 How could your servant, a mere dog, accomplish such a ____? (2 Kings 8:13)

26 you died with Christ to the ____ principles of this world (Col 2:20)

27 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one ____ (Mark 8:14)

28 be in rest and at ____, and none shall make him afraid (Jer 46:27)

29 flesh upon you, and cover you with ____ (Ezek 37:6)

30 I will take the ____ heart out of their flesh (Ezek 11:19) KJV

33 An angry man ____ up dissension (Prov 29:22)

35 He wrote also letters to ____ on the LORD God (2 Chron 32:17) KJV

36 there before me was ____ with two horns (1,3) (Dan 8:3)

37 upon the ____ of the robe pomegranates of blue (Ex 39:24) KJV

39 that was intended to bring life ____ brought death (Rom 7:10)

41 I cast out devils, and I do ____ today and tomorrow (Luke 13:32) KJV

44 For my yoke is ____ and my burden is light (Matt 11:30)

46 Peter replied, ____ and be baptized, every one of you (Acts 2:38)

49 What has happened to us is a ____ of our evil deeds (Ezra 9:13)

51 Philistines were gathered together into ____ (1,5) (2 Sam 23:11) KJV

52 and ____ every man his ass, and returned (Gen 44:13) KJV

53 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear ____ berries? (James 3:12)

54 shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him ____ (Matt 5:41) KJV

55 and find out knowledge of ____ inventions (Prov 8:12) (KJV)

57 Sir, your ____ has earned ten more (Luke 19:16)

58 tenth letter of Greek alphabet

59 Isaac loved ____, because he did eat of his venison (Gen 25:28)

60 Go, ____ everything you have and give to the poor (Mark 10:21)

63 Abner, the son of ____, Saul's uncle (1 Sam 14:50)

Open Door Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship

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Gail Roberts - House, Pastor

Sunday Worship Service 9:30AM

Monday II Samuel 6:14 Liturgical Dance Ministry 6:00pm

1st Tuesday Leadership Council Meeting 6:30pm

Wednesday Intercessory Prayer 6:00pm
Hour of Power Word Study 6:30pm
Music Ministry Rehearsal 7:30pm

Thursday TGIF Prayer 5:45am
Call 712-432-3066 Access Code 665579

2nd Thursday Deacon Ministry 6:00pm

2nd Saturday Food Ministry Meeting 12:30pm

2nd & 4th Saturday Food Distribution 11:00am

3rd Saturday Men Ministry 9:00am

3rd Saturday Women Ministry 10:00am

3rd Sunday Men Ministry Meeting 11:30am

1st Saturday Shepherd's Care Ministry 12:00pm

4th Thursday Youth and Adult Ministry 7:00pm

4th Saturday Ushers Ministry Meeting 12:30pm

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