

Spring 2015

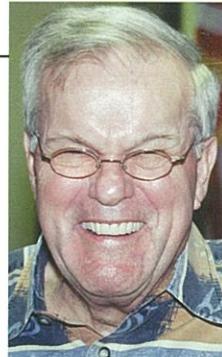
GRAPEVINE

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

“He is not here
—he is risen,
just as he said
he would”

(Matthew 28:6
Phillips).

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You Saved the Best for Last

At the wedding in Cana, the folks ran out of wine and the Lord performed a miracle in turning water into wine. I think it went down like this. The head waiter came to the bridegroom in John 2:10 and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when men have drunk freely, then that which is poorer; you have kept the good wine until now."

When we are walking with the Lord in fellowship with Him, life just gets better and better.

While Pearl was helping me dress the other day, I told her that with age comes high maintenance. High maintenance means we need help to finish.

Isaiah 41:10—"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

I remember well the experience of running marathon number four in Houston, Texas. I was at the 23 mile mark just about ready to fold, when Pat Hawkins jumped out of a group of bystanders to run the last three miles with me. He also handed me a large glass of orange juice. Needless to say, we finished.

In *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald Chambers writes, "The thing that really testifies for God and for the people of God, in the long run is steady perseverance." We must each accept the call of the Cross and exercise perseverance in the matters of faith.

The writer of the book of Hebrews addresses Jewish Christians thinking of returning to Judaism because of the

persecution and suffering that they are enduring as young believers. Two verses from Isaiah set the stage for our study.

1. Isaiah 46:4—"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."

2. Isaiah 50:7—"Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame."

The testimony of the psalmist is pretty clear in Psalm 73:23-25—"Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you."

Here are three of my favorite benedictions in scripture.

1. Numbers 6:24-26—"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

2. Jude 24-25—"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen"

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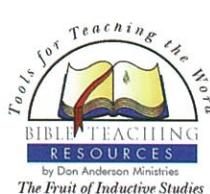
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From the Editor

Thoughts of the Resurrection need not be limited to Easter. The Resurrection should be our focus throughout the year. In light of all that God has done through Jesus Christ our Lord, we are offering various reflections on the supreme event in human history by the men and women currently involved in BTR's discipleship and mentoring ministry. You'll see that Pearl Anderson also chimes in on the issue with some gems from scripture. Don Anderson offers a glimpse of life these days and wisdom from the book of Hebrews for making the most of our days. Should you be in the Pacific Northwest, perhaps you'll think of joining Don and Pearl as they minister at The Firs senior adult retreat, September 8-13, 2015. Speaking of senior adults, we're going for bigger print in this *Grapevine*. Let us know what you think! May the blessings of our Lord abound to you. Thank you for your faithful and prayerful support.

M. Jane Rodgers



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In the Holy Land with Huckabee

My husband Mark and I were able to spend February 14-24 in Israel. We went with Mike Huckabee on his tour called The Holy Land Experience. As a result of our Holy Land Experience we will look at Scripture with a new lens and better understanding. Literally walking where Jesus walked changes you. Our love for Jesus is deeper having stood at Golgotha, the Garden of Gethsemane, and places where Jesus walked.

Our hearts are burdened for the relationship between America and Israel.

If our nation dishonors Israel we will be cursed.

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 12:1-3

God loves Israel. Since we love God we should love the people He loves.

For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in



*exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, **Isaiah 43:3-4***

We are commanded to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! “May they be secure who love you!”

Psalm 122:6

There is a rise in anti-Semitism throughout the world. We need to remember that Israel is the apple of God’s eye, and stand against any form of anti-Semitism. When we touch His people Israel we touch the apple of His eye. “For thus said the LORD of hosts... for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye... Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the

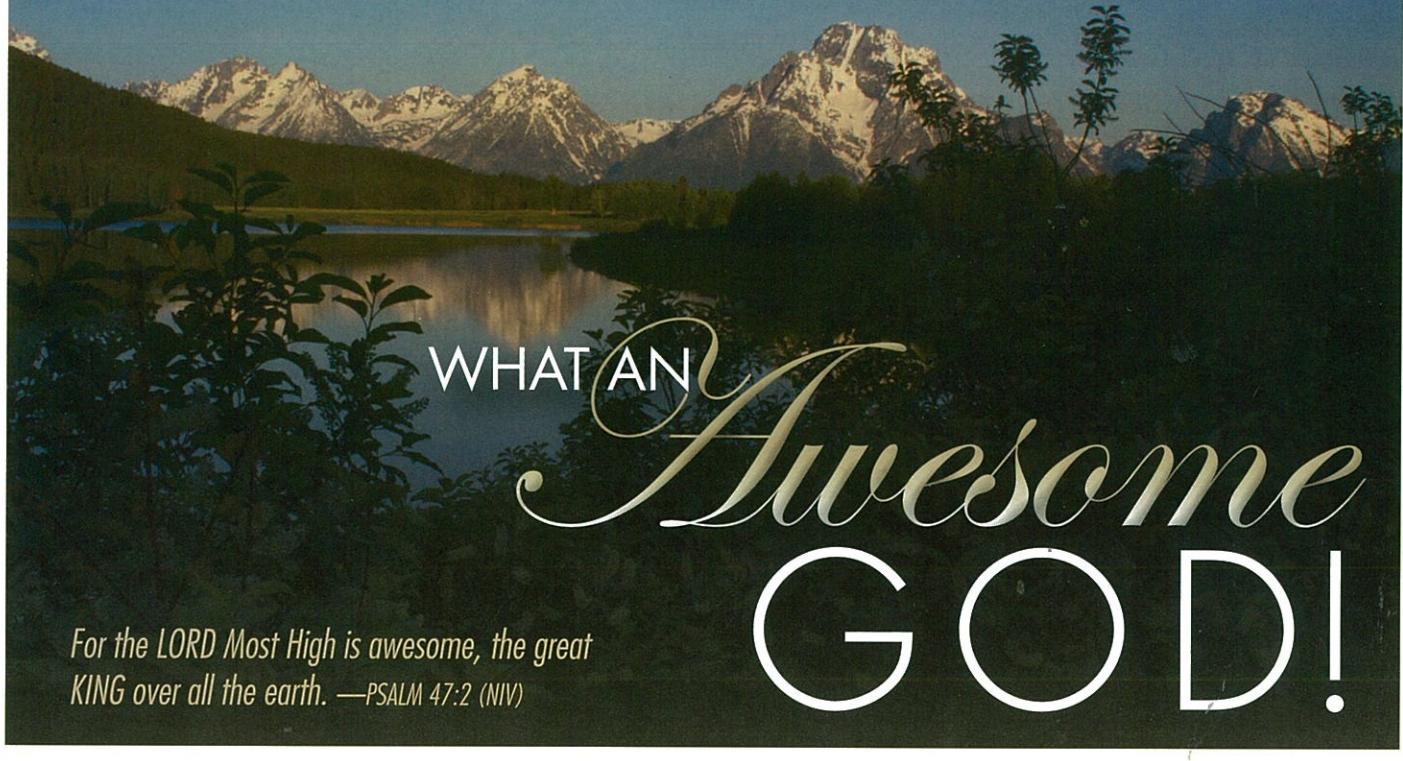
Lord.” Zechariah 2:8-10

Some in America are dishonoring Israel. We need to stand in the gap for our nation.

And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land that I should not destroy it, but I found none.

Ezekiel 22:30

A new photo book by **JAKE BILLINGSLEY** with Scripture added by **DON ANDERSON**
— Available for order from Bible Teaching Resources —



WHAT AN *Awesome* GOD!

For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great KING over all the earth. —PSALM 47:2 (NIV)

What a joy it is to talk to you about *An Awesome God*, the forthcoming book featuring the photography of Jake Billingsley. Jake and Jeni Billingsley came into our lives several years ago and are what we call, “eternal friends.” Jake has ample credentials for this project.

Jake and Jeni both have a dynamic relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. And Jake is a great photographer. He has captured so many wonderful creation scenes with his camera that I challenged him to think about doing a book together. My part is to supply the written commentary for worship and praise; each picture is highlighted with a verse of Scripture.

The book opens with us singing, “This Is My Father’s World.” Sixty pictures later, it ends with, “Fairest Lord Jesus.”

Mary Ann Lackland of Fluency has done a fantastic job in preparing the book and laying out the graphics for each picture. The book begins and ends with the source of all creation and includes all the ingredients for a worshipful experience with the creator God who is an AWESOME GOD.

“How awesome is the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth!” (Psalm 47:2 NIV).

An Awesome God is available now for pre-order through Bible Teaching Resources.

By Don Anderson

Reflections on the Resurrection

The following meditations are offered to our readers by the folks involved in BTR's discipleship / mentoring program. Enjoy and be blessed!

Heidi & Richard McKellar

Thoughts of the Resurrection bring to mind 1 Corinthians 15.

1 Corinthians 15:55-58: "Listen, and I will tell you a secret. We shall not all die, but suddenly, in the twinkling of an eye, every one of us will be changed as the trumpet sounds! The trumpet will sound and the dead shall be raised beyond the reach of corruption, and we who are still alive shall suddenly be utterly changed. For this perishable nature of ours must be wrapped in imperishability, these bodies which are mortal must be wrapped in immortality. So when the perishable is lost in the imperishable, the mortal lost in the immortal, this saying will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. For where now, O death, is your power to hurt us? Where now, O grave, is the victory you hoped to win? It is sin which gives death its power, and it is the Law which gives sin its strength. All thanks to God, then, who gives us the victory over these things through our Lord Jesus Christ! And so, brothers of mine, stand firm! Let nothing move you as you busy yourselves in the Lord's work. Be sure that nothing you do for him is ever lost or ever wasted."

While we trudge forward through days that may be marred by suffering, misery, and grief, we find God in the weakest of moments. Jesus came and lived a perfect life.

He died on the cross for the sins of the whole world. The Father accepted the sacrifice and raised Him from the dead. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Doug & Kynell Brown

He is risen, He is risen indeed... I was moved to by Luke 24:13-35 and reminded of the amazing gift of not only His sacrifice, but His promise to fulfill prophecy. Christ met with the two on the road to Emmaus, but they did not recognize him until He showed them who He was. And then He came to the disciples in Luke 24:36-49. It gives me joy to realize, although we all may have times of sadness or concern, He will be there even if we don't recognize him right away. I am reminded that we need to listen for the whispers of God who sent His Son, to teach us, to save us and to pay the debt for our sins.

Jake & Jeni Billingsley

He Lives!!!

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!" Luke 24:6 (Phillips)

Brian & Denise Mahoney

Brian lost his last surviving aunt today who was also his special godmother who had a very important place in shaping his young life. Though we are very sad with her passing we are also encouraged. As a non-believer

most of her life, Rita was granted four lovely Christian women to care for her in her last months and days. One precious woman in particular (Cheryl) prayed with Rita daily and always talked about Jesus. Their report at her passing was that she gave her life to Christ before her earthly end. Praise the God who says: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

Scott & Jeannie Borgmann

One of my favorite verses to dwell on as we consider the resurrection is Colossians 2:12-15. The statement of "being buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working with God, who raised him from the dead" gives me the assurance that I have been reborn and I can put off the old self, Ephesians 4:22-24. I want to thank you God for your love which is so evident in the sacrifice and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Travis & Andre Markle

1 Corinthians 15:9—10

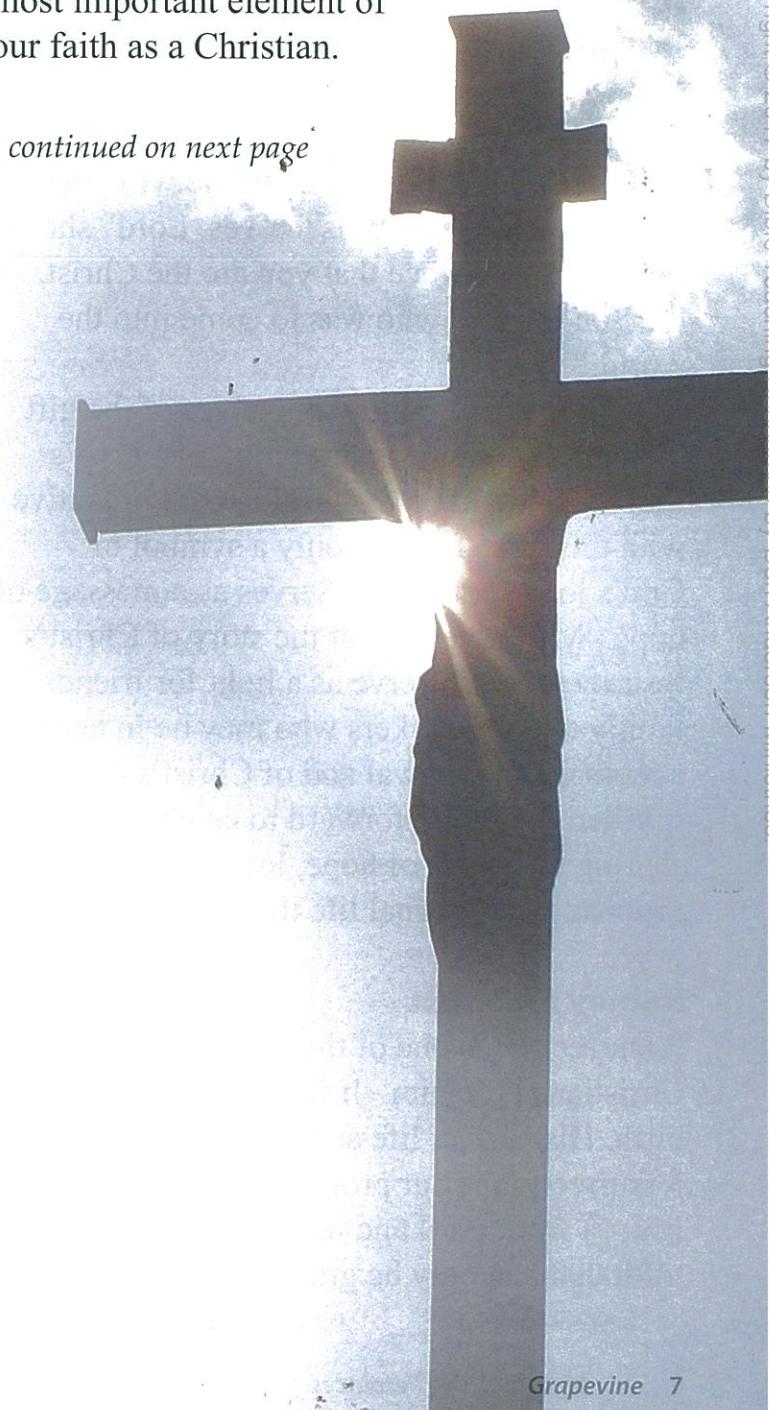
For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

During this time of resurrection and renewal, Paul led the way. We can all recommit and renew ourselves to become committed followers from wherever we are in our faith journey.

Rich Knarr

"Let's get down to brass tacks." I've always liked that saying, meaning let's cut to the chase and get down to the essential facts of the matter. To me, Paul is saying "let's get down to brass tacks" in 1 Corinthians 15 when speaking about the resurrection. He says in verse 14, "If Christ has not been raised from the dead, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." Hope in Christ hinges on the belief that the resurrection occurred. To me it is the single most important element of our faith as a Christian.

continued on next page



Susan Knarr

In John 11:25, Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.” The resurrection, to me, is the difference between life and death, hope and despair, meaning and futility, heaven and hell. Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God [through Christ] is eternal life.”

Joe Freeman

John 11:25—27 —Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord” she told Him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”

We are to remind ourselves of the gift that we have in the resurrection of Christ’s life. We should be thankful but yet proactive with this gift. It is not only a symbol of God’s love for us but it serves as a message of hope. My prayer is that the story of Christ’s resurrection will serve as a light for friends, family and co-workers who may be in need of a message of renewal and of Christ’s promises fulfilled. We look forward to celebrating and sharing this story of hope, love and Christ’s promise of an eternal life through Him.

Rainey Freeman

Resurrection is one of the beliefs that Christians proclaim. It follows Christ’s virgin birth, His perfect life and atoning death. The Resurrection is our promise of an eternal life—a wonderful and unexplainable truth that can only be grasped through faith.

1 Corinthians 15:14: “And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”

1 Corinthians 15:17: “if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”

1 Corinthians 15:54: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

The Resurrection is our victory where we are made alive in Christ through faith.

Walter & Ashley Wilhelm

Philippians 3:10-11 (NIV)

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection of the dead.”

I want to experience the power of Christ’s resurrection in my life so that I will live in greater hope that when I die; I will be raised like him.

1 Corinthians 15:12—14

“But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”

Christ’s resurrection means that my faith is not in vain. Once again, the Lord is showing us His promise that if He was raised from the dead, we shall be also. Amen!



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Speakers:

Don Anderson: Former Camp Firwood Director, Bible Teacher and founder of Bible Teaching Resources of Tyler, Texas.

Greg Kinloch: Former Executive Director of The Firs. Travels regularly to teach and preach in Myanmar with East West Ministries.

Tad Aldrich: Pastor, Teacher, and Missionary in Italy with Cadence International

Bible Teaching Resources **FAX**

RECIPE CORNER

Donna's Delights

Doritos Chicken Casserole

From Donna Skorheim

3 cups cooked chicken, cut in bite-sized pieces
8 oz. sour cream
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 can cream of chicken soup
2 cups salsa
1 can corn (optional)
2 cups Velveeta cheese, shredded
1 medium bag plain Doritos

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9 x 13 pan with Pam. Mix all the ingredients together. Bake for 25-30 minutes.



MEMORIALS & GIFTS

In memory of Jeannette Reid

By Herb & Lila Graves

In memory of Doris & Clemo Clements

Don & Pearl Anderson

In memory of Doris Clements

By Watson & Johnece Hardeman
By Bennie & Sue Hughes

In memory of Marilyn & Chuck

Loaring-Clark, Jett Graham and Robert S. Graham
By James & Pamela Graham

In memory of Ethel Knarr

By Merry Holotik Chenoweth
By Helen Weiser

In memory of Lonnie Holotik, Sr.

By Merry Holotik Chenoweth

In memory of Clarence Weiser & Samuel C. Weiser

By Helen Weiser

In memory of Clif & Frances Witt

By Michael & Barbara Witt

In memory of James Saxton

By Tom & Frankie Locke

In memory of Watson Hardeman

By Watson & Johnece Hardeman

In honor of Elizabeth Butler

In memory of George G. Butler

By Jay & Ann Thompson

In honor of Leta Arrington

In memory of Jerry Arrington

By Billy & Peggy Kyser

In memory of Doty Stovall

By Joe Stovall

In memory of John W. Harden

By John & Donna McKinnon

In memory of Arlene Hinton

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Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

Our Wounded Warrior

But he was wounded and crushed for our sins.
He was beaten that we might have peace.
He was whipped, and we were healed!
Isaiah 53:5 (NLT)

From the perspective of heaven, those scars represent the most horrible event that has ever happened in the history of the universe. Even that event, though, turned into a memory. Because of Easter, we can hope that the tears we shed, the struggles we endure, the emotional pain, the heartache over lost friends and loved ones, all these will become memories, like Jesus' scars. Scars never completely go away, but neither do they hurt any longer. Someday we will have re-created bodies, and a re-created heaven and earth (Rev. 21:4). We will have a new start, an Easter start.

—Philip Yancey

Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "put your finger here and see my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my

side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" "My lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. John 20:26—28 (NLT)

From now on, don't let anyone trouble me with these things. For I bear on my body the scars that show I belong to Jesus.
Galatians 6:17 (NLT)

He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them.

2 Corinthians 5:15 (NLT)

Silence: The Father and Son's Love

The love of Christ and His choice to die on the cross for sinners overwhelms us. On one Good Friday, our daughter Donna contemplated the lyrics of the song, "He Could Have Called 10,000 Angels." She realized how this song speaks of God the Father's great love for us. He could have sent 10,000 angels to stop His Son's agony and suffering. When we read the verses above, we understand that angels are servants sent from God. How difficult it must have been for God the Father not to send His angels to stop the suffering of His Son. For the same reason, His Son did not call for these angels. It was all for Love!

The Leadership Lessons of Jesus: A Timeless Model for Today's Leaders
by Bob Briner & Ray Pritchard

I loved reading *When the Lambs Roar* and this fun book highlights the principles of Jesus in leadership. It is a good read. I love what the authors write about parachurch ministries, calling the early Promise Keepers movement a positive force because churches viewed it as non-threatening and ultimately beneficial for their young men and for the kingdom of God. The same attitude must prevail as God uses Young Life to win young people, Bible Study Fellowship to disciple ladies, or Cru (Campus Crusade) to reach college students. When leaders focus on God's kingdom and make sure this is the focus of everyone else, good things happen.

Miracles
by Eric Metaxas

Eric's book *Miracles* is a treasure. He speaks early in the book of the miracle of creation. He quotes John Lennox on page 33—"The more we get to know about our universe, the more the hypothesis that there is a creator God, who destined the universe for a purpose, gains in credibility as the best explanation of why we are here."

The Third Target

by Joel C. Rosenberg

I've read all of Joel Rosenberg's books and have never been disappointed. This one is an exciting cliff-hanger, relevant to what is going on in Jordan and with the overall ISIS threat. Joel confesses on page 427 of the book:

When I started writing *The Third Target*, I had never heard of ISIS. I knew I wanted to write a series about the threat Radical Islam poses not only to the U. S., Israel, and the West but also to our moderate Arab/Muslim allies in the Middle East and to Arab Christians in the region. I knew I wanted my main character to be a *New York Times* foreign correspondent who sees a grave new threat coming up over the horizon. I also knew I wanted to write about a serious and believable enemy. I just didn't know which one it should be.

Rosenberg leaves everything hanging as you finish *The Third Target*, suggesting that this is part of a series, and so we are going to have to be patient to wait to read the rest of the story in future installments.

3. Hebrews 13:20-21—“Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen”

The writer of the book of Hebrews certainly wants to be involved in the successful finish of the race for the Hebrew Christians. He includes himself in the race by using the phrase, “let us,” no fewer than 13 times in the epistle.

1. “Therefore, **let us** fear lest, a promise that is still open of entering into His rest, anyone of you should seem to have failed to reach it” (4:1).

2. “**Let us** therefore be diligent to enter into that rest, lest anyone fall in the same example of disobedience” (4:11)

3. “**Let us** be holding fast our confession” (4:14).

4. “**Let us** therefore be drawing near with confidence to the throne of grace” (4:16).

5. “**Let us** be pressing on to maturity” (6:1).

6. “**Let us** keep on drawing near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith” (10:22).

7. “**Let us** constantly be holding fast the confession of our hope” (20:23).

8. “**Let us** be considering how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds” (10:24).

9. “**Let us** also lay aside every encumbrance” (12:1).

10. “**Let us** be running with perseverance the race lying before us” (12:1).

11. “**Let us** be having grace showing

gratitude by means of which we have we may be serving God” (12:28).

12. “Hence, **let us** be going out to him outside the camp bearing His reproach” (13:13).

13. “**Let us** continually be offering up a sacrifice of praise to God” (13:15).

If we hang in there and endure the discipline and the difficulty, what will be the results? What good will come out of it? What fruit will be borne?

James 5:11—“As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”

Isaiah 41:3—“For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, DO NOT FEAR; I will help you.”

Let’s meditate together now on the writer’s benediction in Hebrews 13:21-22—“Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord.”

“Now the God of peace”—what a wonderful title for our heavenly Father. He has everything under control. He is the God of peace because He provides the foundation for peace on both horizontal and vertical levels. Yes, He is the God of peace and I’m experiencing His peace this day knowing what He has done in the past to provide my eternal salvation. I know what He is doing in the present will make me more like His Son. I know with a certainty that no matter what the future holds, He holds the future and I will soon be living in a glorified body in His presence forever.

I am so glad that I am in His intensive care. He monitors my every move.

mailbag

Don and Pearl:
I want to thank you...for
your devotional books
you send. They have
been a big part of my
spiritual growth over the
years.



I was a baby Christian living in Austin when my friend and dentist...took me to one of your lessons at Austin Jet, owned by another friend.... I attended for several years when you came until moving to Las Vegas in 1992, where I joined a great start up Bible teaching church, Summerlin Baptist.

I got involved in a golf ministry (Links Players.com) and have two small group Bible studies that play golf afterwards each week. The former pastor of that church is in one group.

God has slowly worked on me and last year I took an online seminary course, History of Christian Theology, and this year began reading The One Year Bible. (Actually God wasn't working slowly, I'm just a slow study!) My morning devotion and prayer now includes yours, an email devotional from Links Players, the Bible reading, and prayer accompanied with a journal. In the journal I write down the blessings of the previous 24 hours and prayers for the day. All of this awesome blessing started with your *A Great While Before Day!*

Tom
Las Vegas, NV

Dear Don & Pearl,
We really enjoyed seeing ya'll last Monday (12/29/14) on the way to Atlanta, Georgia and the Chick-Fil-A (Peach Bowl). TCU was fantastic!! (42—3)

You are fantastic as well!! Your ministry/marriage/Christlike walk with the Lord have been an inspiration to our family & me. Thanks again for your love/support/and friendship all these years!!

Love ya!!
Ken

Dear Don & Pearl,
As I submit this donation to your wonderful ministry, I wanted to tell you how very much you have meant to me since I first heard you teach years ago in Waco, Texas. My husband and I learned so much and enjoyed hearing your practical way of teaching. When we were transferred from Waco we lost the opportunity for Bible study with you for many years as we were moved around about every 18 months to 2 years. Fortunately a few years back I remembered your ministry and requested to be put on your mailing list and have been receiving your newsletter and wonderful devotional book called *A Great While Before Day*. I cannot tell you how very much both those two publications mean to me, most especially the devotional book. It is part of my "quiet time" with my Lord every morning and the first I read. I love your practical comments and insight into the scriptures as well as the way your quote others who add to my understanding. BUT, one of the most meaningful parts of each day's devotion/study is the song you always add. I've grown up with a lot of those hymns but the words bless me. It's like I see them in a different way now. I sing all by myself as my way of worshipping my Heavenly Father. I had to write to tell you how very meaningful and precious your devotionals are to me and to thank you and Pearl for your total ministry.

Much love,
Bonnie J. Frazier

1 Thessalonians 5:23—"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

A Puritan prayer in *The Valley of Vision* states it well: "I have cast my anchor in the port of peace knowing that present and future are in nail-pierced hands."

"Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead"—here is the only mention of the resurrection in the epistle to the Hebrews. The resurrection is the Father's stamp of approval on the work of the Son. He saves the best until last.

Look what He did for us. Yes, He is the God of peace who brought up from the dead the Lord Jesus Christ. And thus by that act He provides redemption, reconciliation, and a relationship. He provides redemption, having made peace through the blood of His cross, Colossians 1:20. He paid the price for peace.

Romans 5:1—"Therefore having been made right with God, we have peace."

Isaiah 32:17—"and the work of righteousness shall be peace."

The God of peace is also the great Shepherd of the sheep.

John 10:11—"I am the good Shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

Revelation 7:17—"for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."

Jeremiah 32:40—"I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me."

The old covenant, the Mosaic covenant, was merely temporary. This one is an eternal covenant.

The two things that these Hebrew Christians needed in order to face the final laps of their race in victory were armor and grace. We might say they needed supply and correction.

It is the prayer of the author that the God of peace will equip them to do His will. Equip you in every good thing—that is with all the resources necessary to accomplish the task and to win the victory.

Now may the God of peace equip you with every good thing to do His will: His person, His presence, His power, His program, His purpose, His provision, protection, and peace.

The prayer of the author is beautiful—to whom that is Jesus Christ, be the glory forever and ever. Amen. It's as if the author starts singing the doxology.

Philippians 2:12, 13—So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Doing in us that which is pleasing in His sight, takes us back to Hebrews 11:5-6—"By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

I find myself singing a verse of the wonderful old hymn: "Have thine own way, have thine own way. Thou are the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thou will, while I am waiting, yielded and still." Won't you join me? The best is yet to be.

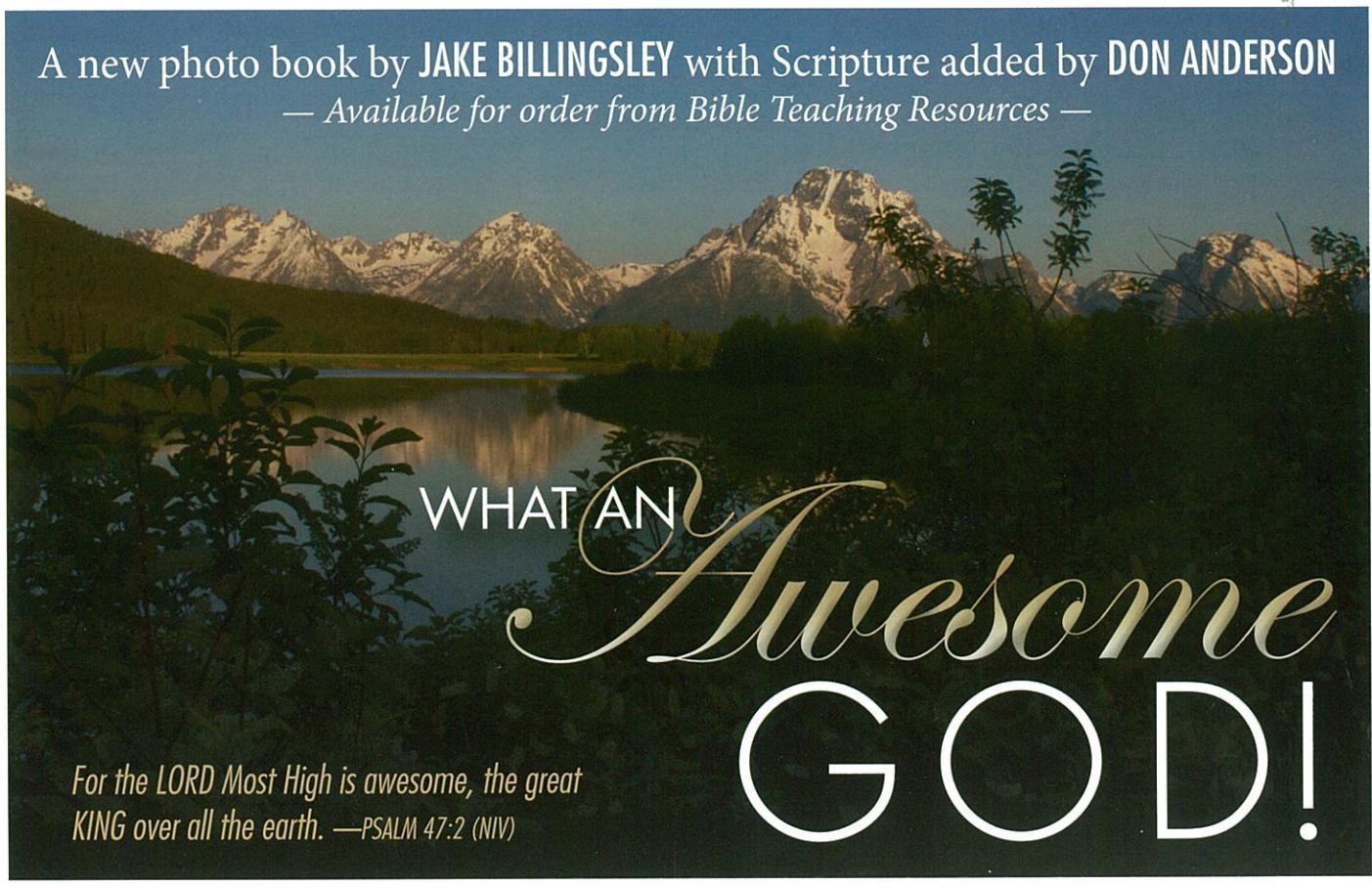
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WHAT AN *Awesome* GOD!

*For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great
KING over all the earth. —PSALM 47:2 (NIV)*