## WHY DO THE HEATHEN RAGE?

#### **PSALM 2:1-4**

- » 1 † ¶ Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
- y 2 † The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,
- » 3 † Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.
- » 4 † He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

#### **PSALM 18:1**

- 1 † ¶ To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said, I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.
- » 2 † The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.
- » 3 † I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.
- y 4 † The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.
- >> 5 † The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.
- » 6 † In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.
- » 7 † Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth
- » 8 † There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.
- » 9 † He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet.

#### **PSALM 37:23**

- » 23 † The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.
- » 24 † Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.
- » 25 † I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

## **PSALM 27:1**

- \* 1 † ¶ A Psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- » 2 † When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.
- » 3 † Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.
- » 4 † One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.
- » 5 † For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.
- » 6 † And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.
- $\Rightarrow$  7 † ¶ Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.
- » 8 † When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.
- » 9 † Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- » 10 † When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.
- » 11 † Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.
- » 12 † Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

- » 13 † I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
- » 14 † Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

# **ISAIAH 59:18**

- » 18 † According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompence to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompence.
- » 19 † So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.
- » 20 † And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.
- » 21 † As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

# **MICAH 7:7**

- $\Rightarrow$  7 † ¶ Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.
- » 8 † Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.
- » 9 † I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.
- » 10 † Then she that is mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall cover her which said unto me, Where is the LORD thy God? mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets.

Unless we suffer with Him we cannot reign with Him. You have to suffer to reign. The reason for this is that character simply is never made without suffering. Character is a VICTORY, not a gift. A man without character can't reign because power apart from character is Satanic. But power with character is fit to rule. And since He wants us to share even His throne on the same basis that He overcame and is set down in His Father's throne, then we have to overcome to sit with Him. And the little temporary suffering we go through now is not worthy to be compared to the tremendous glory that will be revealed in us when He comes. Oh, what treasures are laid up for those who are willing to enter into His kingdom through much tribulation.

"Think it not strange concerning the fiery trials that are to try you."

That is what Peter said. Is it strange that God wants us to develop a Christ-like character that comes through suffering? No sir. And we all have trials. We are all tried and chastened as sons. Not one but goes through that. The church that is not suffering, and is not being tried, hasn't got it--it isn't of God.

Heb. 12:6,

"For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."

Now this special condition in Smyrna must be applied to every age. There is no age free from it. There is no true believer free from it. This is of God. This is the will of God. It is needful. We need the Lord to teach us the truth that we are to suffer and be Christ-like in doing it. "Love suffereth long and is kind."

Matthew 5:11-12,

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.

Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

The cloudy skies and storms of life are no signs of God's disapproval. Neither are bright skies and still waters signs of His love and approval. His approval of any of us is only IN THE BELOVED. His love is elective which He had for us before the foundation of the world. Does He love us? Ah yes. But how shall we know? We shall know because He SAID SO, and manifested that He did love us for He brought us to Himself and gave us of His Spirit, placing us as sons. And how shall I prove my love to Him? By believing what He said, and by conducting myself with joy amidst the trials that He in His wisdom allows to come to pass.

## **ACTS 4:18**

» 18 † And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

- » 19 † But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.
- » 20 † For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.
- » 21 † So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.
- » 22 † For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.
- » 23 † ¶ And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.
- » 24 † And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:
- » 25 † Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?
- » 26 † The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.
- >> 27 † For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,
- » 28 † For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.
- » 29 † And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,
- » 30 † By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.
- » 31 † And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.
- 2) « 360-2 † LAODICEAN.CHURCH.AGE CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.9 Revelation 3:21,

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne."

Now what are we to overcome? That is the normal question to ask here. But that is not the actual thought of this verse for it is not so much WHAT we are to overcome but HOW we are to overcome. Now this is logical, for does it matter much WHAT we are to overcome as long as we know HOW we can overcome?

A quick look at those Scriptures which involve the Lord Jesus overcoming will bring out the truth of this proposition. In Matthew 4, wherein Jesus is tempted of the devil, He overcame the personal temptations of Satan by the Word, and by the Word only. In each of the three major trials that corresponded exactly to the temptation of the Garden of Eden, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, Jesus overcame by the Word. Eve fell to the personal temptation of Satan by failing to use the Word. Adam fell in direct disobedience to the Word. But Jesus overcame by the Word. And right now, let me say that this is the only way to be an overcomer, also it is the only way that you can know if you are overcoming, because that Word CAN'T fail.

Now notice again how Jesus overcame the world systems of religion. When He was repeatedly badgered by the theologians of His day, He constantly applied the Word. He spake only what the Father gave Him to speak. There was not a time when the world was not utterly confused by His wisdom for it was the wisdom of God.

# 3) 53-1115A SPEAK.TO.THE.ROCK\_ OWENSBORO.KY SUNDAY\_

There's no such a thing as death to a Christian. There's not one Scripture in the Bible that tells you a Christian dies. Very much contrary, we're all alive. Jesus said, "He--he that believeth on Me has Everlasting Life." Is that right? How can it have an end if it's got everlasting. See? "He that heareth My Words and believeth on Him that sent Me has Everlasting Life and shall not come into condemnation, but passed from death to Life." That's true.

So we can't die, and we can't cease to exist. We'll always be. There was a time when you wasn't nothing or anything, but there never will be a time but what you'll be something and somewhere. You're going to be somewhere from this, all through ceaseless ages, all eternity you'll be somewhere.

« E-4 † So now, I just think about that sometime when trials get hard. And I hit snags in life like everybody, some hard trials we have to pull hard to get through it. But when I'm up against it, I just think of this: Well, what difference does it make? The Bible said, "All things work together for good to them that love Him." Is that right?

So maybe it's for my good. So I just go right ahead and take it anyhow. And if I--if it... There's nothing can bother you. Even death itself can't bother you. When death comes though, I'll... The old apostle when they was building a scaffold out there to cut his head off on, why, he said, "Death, where is thy sting? Grave, where is thy victory?" No sting to death no... "Why, where--where is your victory, grave?"

Grave said, "I'll have you after while. I'll get you."

He said, "What can you do to me?" That's it.