

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:  
THE BAPTIST HERITAGE, 2200 West Michigan Avenue, Pensacola, FL 32526-2379

THE BAPTIST HERITAGE  
2200 West Michigan Avenue  
Pensacola, Florida 32526-2379

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE  
PAID AT  
PENSACOLA,  
FLORIDA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

a good place to visit  
but  
a better place to belong

# THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

VOLUME XXV ISSUE 4

APRIL 20, 2001

## Waiting for my Change

I call your attention to the doctrine of the “Unchangeableness of God,” His eternal perfection, His unalterable essence, His perpetual sameness—what the theologians title “The Immutability of God.” “The same” is the term found in both the Old Testament and the New Testament to describe God: “Thou art the same” (Psalm 102:27, Hebrews 1:12). God remains eternally the same. God has not changed; He is the same as He was. God does not change; He was the same as He is. God will not change; He shall be the same as He was and is. God cannot change; He is the same as He was and shall be.

Change, by its very nature, is an alteration resulting in either gain or loss. Change is improvement or change is deterioration, else it is not

(Continued on page 3)



# this and that

Editors

Jerald L. Manley

Dorothy Gundersen

Gary Roland

Jody Wolf

Recent news articles summarized:

- Foot and mouth disease spreading around the world.
- Worker in England has foot and mouth disease from contact with infected cattle.
- Aids epidemic in Africa and will be same in Asia within five years.
- United States orders forty million doses of smallpox vaccinations at cost of \$343 million due to fears of terrorist attack..

*This publication is mailed to you on purpose. Someone who knows you believed that you would profit by receiving and reading it. If you do not agree, we will remove your name from the next possible mailing. We have no desire to intrude or offend.*

- Human cloning in the planning stage in Europe; the expectation is to have first clone in two years.
- Genetic engineering now possible to help evolution produce proper human.
- Netherlands legislature votes to permit euthanasia.
- Drought worsens in Africa nations.
- Iraq moves troops to Syrian border twice in March.
- Middle East on brink of to-

(Continued on page 19)



# this and that

(Continued from page 2)

tal warfare.

- Timothy McVeigh T-shirts go on sale.
- Boy savagely slain by homosexuals.

Hopefully, these are the final days of this age. The headlines of the future will be even sicker and I do not wish to read them. These particular items were taken from UPI, AP, Reuters and newspapers—via the links on The Drudge Report. We are approaching sin's final hours of reign; one day soon the King will take His throne. His coming will establish righteousness and bind Satan for 1000 years, finishing the reign of sin. Sin when it is finished is not a pretty sight. No wonder in the time before the Lord returns, men's hearts will fail them for fear. What we face today is 'bad'; what will be faced is far worse. Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.

—Pastor Manley

## THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

(428-290)

is published monthly by  
**THE HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 of PENSACOLA,  
 2200 West Michigan Avenue,  
 Pensacola, Florida 32526-2379.  
**PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID**  
**AT PENSACOLA, FLORIDA.**

**THE BAPTIST HERITAGE** is sent without charge to the members of the church and, by request, to interested friends of this church.

There are no subscription charges and no paid advertisements are accepted.

This is **VOLUME XXV** and  
**ISSUE NUMBER 4** for APRIL 20, 2001.

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

*(Continued from page 17)*

doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure

Are you waiting for the UNCHANGEABLE GOD to change you? If you are saved, your change is on the way. It is scheduled and will come at the appointed time without delay.

The unbeliever does not have the promise of a change waiting for him/her at the resurrection. In the book of The Revelation, John describes the resurrected believers as having robes of "fine linen, white and clean" (19:14). "The fine linen is the righteousness of saints" (19:8). The unbeliever is not so described because the unbeliever has for his/her righteousness, filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). The unbeliever will not be raised in incorruption but in corruption: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still" (22:11).

Which resurrection shall it be for you?

Pastor Jerald Manley

Reprint permission always granted;  
acknowledgment appreciated.

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

*(Continued from page 1)*

change. Unchangeableness conveys the inability to gain or to lose, the incapacity to improve or to deteriorate, the incapability of alteration. God can neither gain nor lose; He cannot improve nor could He deteriorate; He is absolute perfection. He cannot be altered; He is unalterable essence. God must be today what He was yesterday and what He will be tomorrow; He is perpetually the same. He is immutable. He will not change; He cannot be changed. He is unassailable, invincible, and even unchallengeable. He is the final, the ultimate, absolute permanence. This immutability touches every aspect of His being and nature.

He is perpetually the same in each of His attributes, such as in holiness, in goodness, in grace, in mercy, in love, in wrath.

His power is today what it was yesterday and what it will be tomorrow. Omnipotence can be neither diminished nor enhanced.

His knowledge was, before creation, what it is today, and what it will be at the Great White Throne Judgment. Omniscience can neither be abridged nor expanded.

His will, often described as the decrees of God, was, is, and ever shall be the same. He was sovereign when He created all that

*(Continued on page 4)*

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 3)

is and He shall remain sovereign when all that is is folded up and changed.

I cannot explain all of that—I could not ever explain even most of that—yet, explained or not, those statements represent the unavoidable, the undeniable, the inescapable, the indisputable teachings of the Scriptures. God is the Eternal I AM. As the Supreme Being, He is answerable to no other; and as the Sovereign Almighty, He has the power and authority to accomplish His will. He never had an equal; He has no equal now; He shall never have an equal.

Isaiah 40:25 To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

Isaiah 43:10 Ye *are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I *am* he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

His testimony is “I am the LORD I change not” (Malachi 3:6). While there is nothing whatsoever wrong with the wording in the English, it is interesting to note that the Hebrew wording is simply JEHOVAH shanah (shaw-naw’), which is, “I AM THAT I AM, I CHANGE NOT.”

This is the great personal name, the covenant

(Continued on page 5)

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 16)

one generation to the next. For instance, Enoch knew of the second coming of Christ and prophesied concerning it—so there was much truth conveyed by faithful witnesses. In fact, it is astounding to observe the quantity of so-called ‘New Testament’ truth found boldly proclaimed in the book of Job. Not the least of which is this precious truth.

Job 14:14 If a man die, shall he live *again*? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Job was waiting for his appointment, looking for “my change” at his resurrection. Paul anticipated this same change.

Philippians 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

This change is the wondrous change of which John wrote. The change that motivates the believer to live a life that is clean before the Lord, a life of purity.

1 John 3

1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it

(Continued on page 18)

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 15)

able, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Return to Psalm 102 and make a note in the margin to connect that Psalm with this passage in 1 Corinthians and also with Psalm 17:15, which is David's testimony of what he expected in the way of a change at his resurrection.

As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

David expected and looked forward to a change into the likeness of His Saviour. So did Old Testament Job. Remember Job lived before Abraham. He had none of the words God gave Moses to record. No one had yet been commissioned to write a single word of the Bible. The only record to which we know that Job had access was the record of the stars (Genesis 1:14-15 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. In that context, it is most intriguing to realize how much astronomy is mentioned in the book of Job. "The heavens" do indeed "declare the glory of God."). Job had the stars and whatever measure of truth was transmitted by

(Continued on page 17)

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 4)

name, the ineffable name. The term "ineffable" is a 'good measure' word that is pressed down, and shaken together, and running over" with meaning. This word is so wealthy in implication that it is beyond the ability of any collection of words to explain fully. This single word holds all of the following words and more within itself: indescribable, inexpressible, overwhelming, indefinable, unutterable, unspeakable, deep, absolute—that is quite a word. Even so, the use of that powerful word, even that inexhaustibly prolific word, is the confession that we simply cannot completely define the meaning nor adequately describe the fullness of the great name JEHOVAH.

I AM THAT I AM  
 I WAS THAT I AM      I AM THAT I WAS  
 I AM THAT I AM  
 I WILL BE THAT I AM      I AM THAT I WILL BE  
 I AM THAT I AM

The very name I AM THAT I AM affirms:  
 SELF-EXISTENCE—UNCONDITIONAL CONTINUANCE  
 SUPREMACY—INCOMPARABLE PREEMINENCE

(Continued on page 6)

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 5)

SOVEREIGNTY--AUTONOMOUS DOMINION  
INFINITE--UNBOUNDED BOUNDLESSNESS  
PERFECTION—ABSOLUTE COMPLETION  
ETERNALITY—TIMELESS PERPETUITY.

This name designates SELF-BEING. This name declares SELF-SUSTAINING. This name denotes (and requires) SELF-REVEALING.

JEHOVAH God is, in the words of the Holy Spirit, recorded by Paul, “the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see.” It is only as we begin to glimpse the reality of Who God is that we realize how entirely dependent we are upon Him to reveal Himself to us and how extremely precious His word should be for us. God is beyond our capacity to discover; if we are ever to know Him, He must identify Himself to us; and, He has in His word. Those who reject the “once,” and for always, “delivered” self-revelation of God exchange the certainty of the absolute for the insecurity of speculation. They exchange the authority of God-spoken words for a dependency upon the wildness and wickedness of depraved human nature that conjures up a god to meet the specifications derived from their own hearts. History’s record and contemporary observation bear witness regarding

(Continued on page 7)

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 14)

tering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

God shall not change nor shall He be changed—but the child of God shall change for every one that is in Christ shall be changed.

1 Corinthians 15

49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmove-

(Continued on page 16)

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 13)

than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? 6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. 7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. 8 But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. 9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, *even thy God*, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. 10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: 11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; 12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. 13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14 Are they not all minis-

(Continued on page 15)

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 6)

the nature of the gods humanity has created. Those gods conceived by humankind are without exception: capricious, vindictive, demanding, harsh, even cruel, distant, uninterested, self-centered, and never satisfied.

In contrast, the one who accepts the revelation of Scripture finds a God Who has MAJESTY, AUTHORITY, POWER, FAITHFULNESS, DEPENDABILITY, CONTINUITY, CONSISTENCY, UNITY, STABILITY, and PERMANENCE.

The unchangeableness of God is a doctrine providing comfort and hope.

The unchangeableness of God is a doctrine producing purity and holiness.

The unchangeableness of God is a doctrine provoking courage and faith.

The unchangeableness of God is a doctrine presenting mercy and grace.

This doctrine is not a theoretical theological concept assigned to the back shelf of life; this is doctrine most practical, suitable for everyday living.

It is the doctrine of safe anchorage offered for the storms of life.

It is the doctrine of perseverance designed for the battles of life.

It is the doctrine of patience provided for the cares of life.

(Continued on page 8)

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 7)

It is the doctrine of strength given for the burdens of life.

It is the doctrine of light intended for the shadows of night.

It is the doctrine of hope extended for the end of life.

The God of Heaven, JEHOVAH, is unchangeable, unalterable, unmovable, unaffected, unbothered, unvarying, unceasing, untouched, unending, and undying.

It is to this last unchangeableness that Scripture gives particular attention. Notice how God specifically contrasts His unchangeableness with the temporality, the impermanency, the fragile frailty of His creation in Psalm 102. The historical setting for this Psalm is important to observe. Read the title of the Psalm.

A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed, and poureth out his complaint before the LORD.

(If your Bible does not have this title for this Psalm, I encourage you to purchase a Cambridge Bible that does. You are missing many blessings.)

David is so burdened and so under siege that he despairs of life. He believes that he is in danger of dying and pours out his 'complaint' to the LORD. Life to David is a vain existence of vicissitudes, of vacillations, of vexings. He looks around and sees

(Continued on page 9)

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 12)

them, and they shall be changed: 27 But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. 28 The children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee.

The unchangeableness of God was the comfort, the encouragement, the stirring that David needed to survive another day. The doctrine of the unchangeableness of God enabled him to endure the depression that burdened him. You will never find anything that is more realistic, more practical, more rational, or more useful to your life than sound doctrine. This particular doctrine is the same message that the Apostle Paul, moved by the Holy Ghost, brings to our attention.

Hebrews 1

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; 4 Being made so much better

(Continued on page 14)



## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 11)

for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. *14* For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof. *15* So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth thy glory. *16* When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. *17* He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. *18* This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD. *19* For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth; *20* To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death; *21* To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem; *22* When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD. *23* He weakened my strength in the way; he shortened my days. *24* I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: thy years are throughout all generations. *25* Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. *26* They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change

(Continued on page 13)

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 8)

enemies and troubles. He looks up and sees clouds and darkness. He looks within and finds despair and loneliness. David is overwhelmed.

*1* Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my cry come unto thee. *2* Hide not thy face from me in the day *when* I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: in the day *when* I call answer me speedily. *3* For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned as an hearth. *4* My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread. *5* By reason of the voice of my groaning my bones cleave to my skin. *6* I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert. *7* I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top. *8* Mine enemies reproach me all the day; *and* they that are mad against me are sworn against me. *9* For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping, *10* Because of thine indignation and thy wrath: for thou hast lifted me up, and cast me down. *11* My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass.

David is as low in spirit as it is possible to go and maintain reasoning capacity. He has descended to the depths of blaming God for his ill treatment in life: "Because of thine indignation and thy wrath:

(Continued on page 10)

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 9)

for thou hast lifted me up, and cast me down.” He is asking, “Why do this to me, Lord?” He is taking pity on himself for the condition of his life. David is depressed, not discouraged, down in the dumps, or having an off day. He does not have the “mopes.” David is depressed. It is of considerable comfort to me to know that David knew the battle against depression. This Psalm provides great assistance to one under the bondage of depression. There is a principle given that shows how to live through, if not to rise above, depression. The situation is not changed. David has the same number of enemies at the end of the Psalm as he did at the beginning. The bad did not disappear in a cloud of good. The wrong was not suddenly made right. The darkness did not become light. David will face the same issues, the same battles, and the same loneliness after the Psalm as he did before the Psalm.

One does not rise from a depressive state by pulling up his/her own bootstraps. A reliance on one’s own bootstraps is a sure step into deeper depression. Thinking positively will not remove the negatives. One does not overcome depression; one is enabled to endure it. Notice how something known, but unapplied, is brought to the mind of David that gives him the hope to continue even though nothing of his circumstances has been the least altered.

(Continued on page 11)

## WAITING FOR MY CHANGE

(Continued from page 10)

David had hidden the word of God in his heart, and now the Spirit of God brings that truth to David’s attention. The application of doctrine is the one enabling strength in the struggle against depression. I do not speak of a cure, a remedy, or a palliative. I speak of assistance to endure.

12 But thou, O LORD, shalt endure for ever;  
From where did this declaration arise? David had read the books of Moses and the Spirit of the Lord called his attention to the eternal endurance of God.

Deuteronomy 33: 27 The eternal God is *thy* refuge, and underneath *are* the everlasting arms: . . . 32:18 Of the Rock *that* begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.

David realizes, “I may be weakened, even dying. I may be only temporarily in this world, but the God of Heaven endures forever. My confidence is not in my perpetuity, but in the endurance of JEHOVAH. He is my Rock. I can rest in His everlasting arms. They never grow weary. They never lack the strength required for the task. My God is unchangeable.”

12 But thou, O LORD, shalt endure for ever;  
and thy remembrance unto all generations. 13  
Thou shalt arise, *and* have mercy upon Zion:

(Continued on page 12)