

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
is
a better place to belong

THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

VOLUME XXV ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 20, 2001

A Special Message For Someone

This is a special message for someone, could that person be you? Please read to find out.

2 Kings 3

Now Jehoram the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. 2 And he wrought evil in the sight of the LORD; but not like his father, and like his mother: for he put away the image of Baal that his father had made. 3 Nevertheless he cleaved unto the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom. 4 And Mesha king of Moab was a sheepmaster, and rendered unto the king of Israel an hundred thousand lambs, and an hundred thousand rams, with the wool. 5 But it came to pass, when

(Continued on page 3)



this and that

Editors
 Jerald L. Manley
 Gary Roland
 Dorothy Gundersen
 Jody Wolf

This is an edition with intent. It is written and mailed with the desire to cause some reader to stop and consider eternity. It is my prayer that in His Own way, the Lord of the Harvest will use this as a tool to open the spiritual eyes of one who is facing eternity without the knowledge of forgiven sin. He has chosen to do so in the past and I trust that He will again.

As the official founder of the optimistic pessimist organization for pessimistic optimists, I note that the world is steadily moving toward the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to catch away His Own from this world and to bring this old world into judgment. I am optimistic in that His coming is nearer now than it was when I first believed. I am pessimistic in that the conditions in this world will steadily decline until the man of sin is revealed. When we pray for the Lord Jesus to return we are praying

This publication is mailed to you on purpose. Someone who knows you felt that you would profit by receiving it 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.

(Continued on page 19)



this and that

(Continued from page 2)

for the time of the Tribulation to come. No election will bring in the kingdom. No politician will solve the problems of the nation or the world. It is foolish for believers ever to stake their hopes on any man, movement, or political party. I have recently been reading some material on the rise of Hitler and the place the "Christian (self described) churches" of Germany. The parallels between the rise of liberalism (called modernism in those days), the merging of patriotism and "Christianity," and the growing dependency on the government for "all things" and the climate in this nation is alarming. In a future article, I will attempt to expose some of these parallels. Hitler, who personally considered himself destined to bring in a millennium, is an example of the anti-Christ and the study will be profitable.

—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 2 for **FEBRUARY 20, 2001.**

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 17)

lieved in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

I have been there at such an hour with the sincere and I have been there with those I felt were insincere. I have witnessed the pious come to such an hour and I have observed the wicked come to the same hour. I have seen God's grace extended to both. I have also stood at the side of other beds, too many other beds, where the person refused to let me pray. I have been ordered from the room and told not to return. So, not all find God before eternity and I do not wish to imply otherwise. Do not wait until the final breath. Choose to receive the salvation that is in Christ today, even right now.

—Pastor Manley

Permission to reprint is always granted.
Acknowledgment is appreciated.

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 1)

Ahab was dead, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel. 6 And king Jehoram went out of Samaria the same time, and numbered all Israel. 7 And he went and sent to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, The king of Moab hath rebelled against me: wilt thou go with me against Moab to battle? And he said, I will go up: I am as thou art, my people as thy people, and my horses as thy horses. 8 And he said, Which way shall we go up? And he answered, The way through the wilderness of Edom. 9 So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom: and they fetched a compass of seven days' journey: and there was no water for the host, and for the cattle that followed them. 10 And the king of Israel said, Alas! that the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab! 11 But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the

(Continued on page 4)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 3)

LORD, that we may inquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah. 12 And Jehoshaphat said, The word of the LORD is with him. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him. 13 And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab. 14 And Elisha said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee. 15 But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of

(Continued on page 5)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 16)

for platitudes and catchy sayings. You will not be listening for a positive mental attitude. You will not seek to discover twelve steps to anywhere. You will not crave a dissertation. You will little care what the Greek or Hebrew have to say. What you need to hear and what you will want to hear will be a word from the Lord. There are no more comforting sounds to hear than those four simple words: "Thus saith the Lord." May when that hour comes for you—may God be pleased that it may come even at this moment—remember the words of the Lord Jesus

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not be-

(Continued on page 18)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 15)

wanted to give God one more opportunity.

I can see a mother who was dying and wondered who would care for her children and wanted to hear from God before she died. I have been so many times when the doctor said, "there is no hope" and have watched the family cry out for a word from God.

I have been there when someone needed to get in touch with God and had no other hope in this world. I have seen blood-bought heaven-bound children of the Heavenly Father stagger under the load of the burdens and cry out for a word from the Lord.

It may be in a hospital; it may be in a funeral home; it may be on a highway; it may be in a home; it may be just about anywhere; but the day is coming.

"Elisha, we are in a mess. We are facing disaster and have no hope. At sunrise, the battle begins and we have no water. Elisha, what are we to do? Is there a word from the LORD?"

Listen, when such a time comes, you will not care for fancy terms and pleasant sounds.

You will not be looking

Reprint permission always granted;
acknowledgment appreciated.

(Continued on page 17)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 4)

the LORD came upon him. 16 And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches. 17 For thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts. 18 And this is but a light thing in the sight of the LORD: he will deliver the Moabites also into your hand.

It came to these three kings just as it comes to the life of every person. It may be unexpected and undesired and unwanted; but it comes. Certainly, some deny that it has ever occurred in their lives and even insist that it will never occur to them; but it shall without exception. As far as those who claim to have avoided this, either (1) they are unwilling to admit the fact of what has already transpired, or (2) they are still alive, and while the time has not arrived yet in their life, there is no escape; it will come.

The time does come when even the strongest and most self-reliant of rugged individuals

(Continued on page 6)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 5)

will discover that the battles of life cannot be met alone. The moment comes to everyone when the shocking realization settles in that he or she is not invincible, is not all sufficient, and is not above death. Within the human heart is a near-universal desire to believe that man is the sole master of his fate. William Ernest Henley, near the turn of the century, wrote INVICTUS, which expresses the mental concept of many contemporary individuals:

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
for my unconquerable soul.
In the fell clutch of circumstance,
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance,
My head is bloody, but unbowed.
Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the horror of the Shade,
And yet the menace of the years
finds, and shall find me unafraid.
It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments, the scroll,
I am the master of my fate;
I am the captain of my soul.

(Continued on page 7)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 14)

been to the synagogue and several churches and could not find anyone to pray for him. He said that he was about to go bankrupt and other than suicide saw no relief and asked if I would pray for a sinful Jew. Those were his words. I called upon the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and prayed for that weary son of Abraham.

A young woman who had fallen so low to despair of living called the office several years ago. She said that she had called several churches and could not find anyone who would pray for her. She told me she had taken an overdose of sleeping pills and wanted some preacher to pray for her before she died. She said "I do not want to die until somebody prays for me." I did and saw her saved and baptized; thankfully, I also watched her as she lived a productive Christian testimony.

I think of a young man who showed up in the office and said that he was going to try one more time to get in touch with God before he killed himself.

I well recollect a young couple that stopped by the office on the way to the lawyer to start divorce proceedings and said they

(Continued on page 16)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 13)

your great advantage, because such a day will come to you, if it has not already. I tell you plainly that the day when you find yourself on the borders of Moab, facing a major battle with the coming of dawn, and discover that your water supply is gone and observe that your allies are discouraged, then you will need exactly what these three kings needed. They went to a prophet and sought a word from the Lord. They needed to hear from God. Friend, there will come a day in your life when you will need to hear from God. Others have.

Several years ago, a fellow called and asked if I could meet him at church. I had met him only once about three years before. He was facing a family situation where it really seemed that there was no hope. Details are unnecessary; suffice it to say that a son was facing the loss of everything including his freedom if a certain course of action was taken. The man had no hope except, he said, "I want to get in touch with God and I do not know how. I need someone who knows how to pray for me and my son."

I recall a local businessman, a Jewish fellow, who came to the office and said that he had

(Continued on page 15)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 6)

Amazingly, this poem is to be found in many, if not most, anthologies of religious poetry; but, it is not in any way, shape, or form to be considered as an expression of faith or a declaration of courage. Rather, the poem is the blatant denial of the existence of a personal (that is: a living, intelligent, involved Being) God and the bold declaration that if such a God should exist, then He should just sit on the sidelines and watch Mr. Henley.

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
for my unconquerable soul.

Is it not interesting that Mr. Henley openly confesses that he lived in darkness? He did live in darkness; it was the black night of the darkness of sin—especially, the darkness of a particular sin, the sin of rejecting the revelation of God. His life in and of darkness resulted from his failure not the failure of revelation. God has revealed Himself and may be found.

Acts 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not

(Continued on page 8)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 7)

far from every one of us:

Even Henley had an encounter with deity, for the Lord Jesus Christ is the light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world (John 1:9), because Jesus Christ is the Light of men (John 1:4). Henley, just as multitudes of others, both before him and since, rejected the light and chose instead to live in the darkness that, in fact, he loved (John 3:19).

*In the fell clutch of circumstance,
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance,
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

Men delight to suggest that mere chance controls being, that circumstances dictate existence, that incidental, fortuitous, unplanned, random, accidental fate is the very best that we can hope for in life. But, we do not exist through the whim of accidental happenstance nor are we forced to live in the cruel grasp of fickle circumstance while we grovel in the bondage of chance. There is a God in Heaven and He is alive and well. God is on the Throne of Eternity and He actively exercises his rule in the affairs of men.

Pharaoh received a lesson in this truth in

(Continued on page 9)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 12)

knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind,

Such a time will not come when the sky is clear and bright blue, when the wind is still, when the sea is calm and peaceful; rather it will sweep down suddenly and unannounced much as winter storm: the skies will be black and troubled, the wind will howl, the seas will rage. And in the turmoil of life, the person will be confronted with his or her frailty and feebleness! Such a time is not the worst of times. In fact, if such a time will jar a person's complacency and jolt the indifference, such a time can be used to bring a person to Christ.

These three kings had arrived at that place. You have been there or you will be there. If this message can be used to bring you for such a place this morning, then that will be to

(Continued on page 14)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 11)

is a near-universal desire to believe that man is the sole master of his fate; but that is a desire that needs to be constantly reinforced, because the heart of man also cries out that God exists.

Romans 1 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they

(Continued on page 13)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 8)

ten installments and he still failed to accept it.

Exodus 9:29 And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth is the Lord's.

Nebuchadnezzar had to go through a refresher, reminder course to learn the truth.

Daniel 4:25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

The apostle Paul preached it rather plainly.

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose

(Continued on page 10)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 9)

of him who worketh all things after
the counsel of his own will:

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the horror of the Shade,
And yet the menace of the years
finds, and shall find me unafraid.

Unsaved men and women like to say that
the only thing that gives them any trouble them
about death is that death is entering into the
unknown. Ah, but, there is much more to death
than just dying. Someone said to me recently,
"the bad thing about death is that it is so final."
Friend, the truth is that death is not at all final.
Death is merely the ending of earthly existence
and the beginning of the entrance into eternity.

And yet the menace of the years
finds, and shall find me unafraid.

It is easy to speak boldly outside the lion's
cage; but when the door of the cage is opened
and the person is thrust inside, the boldness will
vanish and flee away. I do not doubt that it is
possible for a person to come to this under-
standing and brashly brush it aside and march
willfully on as though it were not true. Henley
may have walked right up to the door of death

(Continued on page 11)

A Special Message For Someone

(Continued from page 10)

without demonstrating any fear of facing the
living Holy God into whose hands it is a fearful
thing to fall (Hebrews 10:31). But once through
that entrance, he was taught an inescapable, ir-
revocable lesson in truth and reality. He, unless
he turned to Christ after the poem was written,
left the world and arrived in hell. And, in hell he,
just as the rich man in Luke 15, lift up his eyes,
being in torments.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed
unto men once to die, but after this
the judgment:

It matters not how strait the gate,
how charged with punishments, the scoll,
I am the master of my fate;
I am the captain of my soul.

Oh, but it does matter! And all of the
brave talk of facing death unafraid is just so
much whistling in the dark. I say again, the time
does comes when even the strongest and most
self-reliant of rugged individuals discover that
the battles of life cannot be met alone. The time
comes to everyone when the shocking realiza-
tion settles in that he or she is not invincible
and is not all sufficient. Within the human heart

(Continued on page 12)