



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing

The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Willie C. Murphey • Frances E. Murphey •

"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

VOL. 13, NO. 7

THE MISSION TRAIL

JULY, 1977

The Second Coming of Christ - - Part Three

Signs of the Times

Radio Broadcast for June 26, 1977

A very cheerful good morning to every listener. It is indeed a pleasure to be back with a message from the Word of the Lord. I need your prayers. What a great responsibility to rightly divide the word of truth. Especially is this true when tracing the historical events and future prophecies concerning God's church through the book of Revelations. I am discussing the second coming of Christ.

First, let me say the book of Revelations is made up of symbolic language. However, we should be aware that symbolic language is not confined or restricted to the book of Revelations. Who can forget Joseph's dream of the eleven sheaves that made obeisance to his sheaf? Gen. 37:7, 8. His eleven brethren were angered, because its meaning was apparent--they should be humbled before him. Also the dream of the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars was understood to signify the subjection of the entire family unto him, which was actually fulfilled after Joseph's exaltation in Egypt.

Again, the four divisions of King Nebuchadnezzar's wonderful image was explained by Daniel as signifying four universal monarchies and the ten toes as signifying the ten minor kingdoms which grew out of the fourth; while the stone that was cut out of the mountain without human intervention he interpreted as signifying the divine kingdom of God. Daniel 2.

Even, as also in the book of Revela-

tions itself we have a number of symbols divinely interpreted. "The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches." "The seven candle-sticks which thou sawest are the seven churches." "The ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings." "The waters which thou sawest ... are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." "The woman which thou sawest is that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth."

And so it can be seen that the great underlying principle or law upon which symbolic language is based is analogy, or in other words, the similarity and likeness of certain things which are otherwise not alike! An object is chosen to represent not itself, but something of similar character. The dictionary defines "symbol" as "something that stands for or suggests something else by reason of relationship, association, convention, or accidental resemblance; especially: a visible sign of something invisible." Therefore, we might say the lion is a symbol of courage; the lamb is a symbol of meekness or

patience.

Thus, a beautiful virgin bride is chosen to represent the church of God; where as a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns is chosen to symbolize the Pagan Roman empire. Surely, we do not expect to find great dragons and pre-historic dinosaurs going to war with people, do we? Are these natural things the enemies of God's church? Certainly not, for the enemies of the truth are the spiritual forces under the control of Satan and he comes in different guises to deceive. The glorious body of God's reformers is set forth under the symbol of an angel from heaven, with his face as the sun, his feet as pillars of fire, and a rainbow upon his head. The anti-Christian, persecuting power of Rome is described as a ferocious wild beast, stamping everything beneath its feet and spreading desolation on every side.

Thus, even at this early point, it appears evident that the "mark of the beast" is not a literal mark or number, but a spiritual condition existing in the lives of those who conform to the false religious systems prevalent in the world. There are some limitations as to how far certain things or creatures can be symbolized, an example being that of God. "To who then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?" Isa. 40:18. Man can not represent him, neither can angels. He is described as "One sitting upon a throne." The same is true of Jesus, the Savior. He is described as "I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive forevermore." Again, "He hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

The souls of the martyrs are repre-

sented as crying unto God from the altar for the avenging of their blood on those who dwell on the earth. Where is there an object in all creation symbolic of a disembodied spirit? None is found. So they are described as "the souls of them that were slain." Rev. 6:9, 10, also 20:4.

Now, since we are dealing especially with events that will take place at the second coming of Christ, let us go to the book of Revelations and use these symbols to find the answers to some of those perplexing questions such as "the millennium" or the thousand years reign.

First, may I make another statement? You may remember that I said nowhere in the Bible could I find where "the rapture" is mentioned. The second coming of Christ is mentioned but not "the rapture." So far no one has supplied that information to me. Again, I fail to find "the millennium" mentioned as such anywhere in the Bible. These terms are often used by folks who are misinformed concerning the events which are to take place at the second coming of Christ. Some teach a "pre-millennium" and some a "post-millennium". But friends, does the Bible really teach a literal reign or kingdom of Christ which will be established upon this earth at his second coming? If so, where? And when? I see no time or need for a millennium and I also fail to find scriptures to substantiate such a claim. Perhaps this point is sure to bring a conflict of thought. And I can almost hear someone say: "Read the 20th chapter of Revelations." This is exactly what I am going to do. Let us study through verse 6 today:

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottom-

less pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." Rev. 20:1-6.

First notice the binding of the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan. This represents the deceitful power of the pagan and false religions which held sway over the nations at the coming of the pure gospel light when the Church sprang forth in all its glory in the morning time. The angel represents the ministers who were given power to rebuke and bind that deceptive power of Satan. Folks were either in or out. Some even durst not join themselves to the number of the true saints, for fear of them. And even though the church began to show a decline and falling away after a period of time still it was universally known there was one true God and witchcraft and spiritualism did not hold sway over the nations as they at one time had. Christianity prevailed.

The power of Satan was bound for a long period of time. And during this same time thousands of martyrs who would not recant, were slain under the reign of Catholicism which followed. It is written of them that "they lived and reigned with Christ." It was those who had "part in the first resurrection" that were exalted to this honored position with Christ. Those who teach a millennium usually assume that this refers to a literal resurrection at the second coming of Christ, but no such thing is hinted at. In this scripture not one word is said about literally resurrected saints reigning. John says, "I saw the souls of them which were beheaded for the witness of Jesus...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Nothing whatever is said about any reign on earth at all; but the description shows plainly that it was disembodied spirits that were reigning with Christ in Paradise during the period that followed the casting down of the dragon, which was in reality one of long apostasy and darkness on earth.

This same thought concerning the reign of the martyrs in Paradise while the powers of evil triumphed on earth, was to view in chapter 6:9-11: "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: and they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were should be fulfilled."

This company of souls that the apostle

saw reigning with Christ above were those who had had part "in the first resurrection," which had made them "blessed and holy." They were not on earth; they were disembodied spirits above, hence had not been literally resurrected. The scriptures clearly teach that mankind in their ordinary condition are "dead in trespasses and in sins," and that through salvation, which makes them "blessed and holy," they are "quickened" to a new life in Christ. Eph. 2:1. That this is scripturally the "first resurrection" is proven by the words of Jesus--"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24.

Our Father, we believe in thee through the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Now bless the message to the good of every listener. May each one be willing to accept the truth and have eternal life in Jesus name. Amen.

Friends, be sure to keep listening to the broadcast as we are not through with this second coming yet! Until we meet again, this is Willie Murphey saying may the Lord bless and keep you always and a very cheerful goodbye!

Testimonies

From Ark.: "I want to write a few words and tell you I still enjoy Mission Trail. . . . Please keep on sending it. I love your good sermons and the testimonies of the saints. I love every one of them. I am 82 now and much of the time I do not feel well and am alone except for my dear Savior who is my constant companion. I'm no longer able to drive my car so can't get out very much."

--Sis. Belva Howard

From Texas: "I love the Lord this morning! He's so good to me. Truly, amidst the struggles of this life we are living for God. We can rise above the strife and remain victorious. Praise the Lord! It has been a year this month since Ernest, my husband, passed away. How precious the Lord has been. I do appreciate the saints prayers for me and my family in our time of grief and loss. It was wonderful that you and Frances, Leslie and Sylvia Busbee came to sing and Leslie assisted you in the service. I am also thankful for your prayers and the dear saints everywhere who asked God to ease and heal my pain-filled body. Yes, I was so very ill last October and part of November. I could not keep any thing on my stomach either. God came to my rescue and raised me up out of that sickbed. Thank the dear Lord. I rarely have trouble with digestion or anything of that kind now. We serve a merciful and mighty God!"

--Sis. Velda Ellis

--o--

From Mo.: "We appreciate your changing messages from week to week; surely should be interesting to those who will hear! Wife and the boys are staying at Bro. Alsia Sorrells for several days. Surely he is having a long trial of affliction. We pray the Lord soon deliver him from this. This is two verses my grandmother has marked in her Bible which I have on my desk. She passed on Aug. 3, 1957. Malachi 3:16-17: "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."

--Bro. Leslie Adams

From Okla.: "Just a few lines to let you know we appreciate getting the Mission Trail and we also get to hear you over the Coffeyville station when we are home. We visit the isolated saints at times as well as different congregations. We missed seeing you at Guthrie a few Sundays ago..."

--Bro. Herbert Probst
--o--

From Va.: "Greetings in Jesus dear name. Many thanks for the Mission Trail paper. I look forward to receiving it and enjoy it so very much. I'm enclosing a little check to help a bit with your work. If you have any extra June papers on hand I'd love to have a few. I'd love to place one in every home if I could. May the Lord richly bless you and enable you to carry on this work is my prayer."

--Sis. Lillian Bohannon
--o--

From Okla.: "I am so thankful for the good meeting we enjoyed, during our camp meeting. I had quite an experience one morning as I came along coming to meeting. Something drew my attention to look at the right front door glass and there was some thing hanging on the outside of the glass, which was closed. It frightened me and cold chills went over my body. I said, what is it, Lord? From the appearance and the way it called my attention I knew it was of the Lord. I was real tired that morning and as I drove along I asked the Lord to keep me alert and protect me on the road. I said, Is that my guardian angel going along to protect me. I began to thank and praise God for His goodness to me and the glory of the Lord came down and filled the car and blessed my soul. It was a precious experience. ...he stayed right there all the way to the chapel and I can't praise God enough for His protection and care over me as I drive..."

--Sis. Emma Dilley

From Calif.: "I am still enjoying the Mission Trail, still saved and trusting God; the only one to put your trust in. I am glad I am saved and do want so much to live like I should. We sure do have the old devil to fight, but we don't have to do it alone. Time is too short to fail to live for God, and it is a wonderful way to live. He has done so much for me and for all of his children."

--Sis. Ada Leach

--o--

From Pa.: "Greetings in the most wonderful Lord! How could we live without Him? I am glad I can call on Him at any hour of the day or night. He always hears and answers. Praise His Name! We have been having much needed rain. Our grass in the yard is brown instead of green, wanting moisture. We are eating lettuce, onions and radishes out of the garden. Your season is earlier than ours, so you have lots of garden products...I am glad for the article on Rev. you put in the last Mission Trail. Will look forward to the monthly articles, for it seems I need to learn more about God's word. I am reading the Bible thru again. In Genesis now where Joseph is put ruler over the grain and food, after he interpreted the king's dream. Each time I go thru it, I see more than before, so it is really an interesting book and I truly love God's word. Please pray for my unsaved loved ones that they may get ready before it is too late."

--Sis. Eva Cox

--o--

From Minn.: "This finds me well in soul and body, walking with the Lord who has done so much for me and all of God's people. The love of God passeth all understanding. God is love so He has made a way to reconcile us to Himself by sending His only begotten son to seek and to save that which was lost, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."--Bro. Andrew Senti

Oregon--"I just received word of the death of Sis. Betty Davis of Plains, Mont. June 12. She and Bro. Chas. Davis and daughter Edith came to camp meeting and assembly meetings at Jefferson from 1955, as long as they were able to come and several of the saints would stop to visit them when traveling from back east to Jefferson and were always welcomed in their home. At the time of Bro. Davis' death in 1961, Bro. & Sis. Gibson had stopped with the Davises for a few days and Bro. Davis passed away while they were there so Bro. Gibson stayed and held the funeral service. I know many of the saints will remember them. Have had a good meeting here. Tomorrow is the last day." --Sis. Hilda Nielsen

--o--

From Okla.: "Greetings in Christ Jesus, who is our righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. It is a busy time now. But it is good to be faithful in the duties of life for the Lord. Thankful I could be in meeting some. It was good. I enjoy to think of the good things I have heard to encourage me to fight the good fight of faith. Jesus says in St. Mark 11:22--"Have faith in God." Love your prayers and am praying for you." --Sis. Eva Penner

--o--

From Kansas: "Enjoyed your message this morning and the Mission Trail this week. Keep up the good work and may the blessing of God rest upon both of you as you labor for him. Hope you had a good camp meeting and that souls got everlasting good from it. I hate to see people start and not go deep enough to stay with it."--Sis. Mamie Norcutt

--o--

From New Mexico: "God is ever a help in time of need, thank and praise him for every time he does answer prayer. We could do nothing without the dear Lord." --Sis. Ruth Doolittle

From Calif.: "We are well and enjoying the blessings of the Lord. He is so good to us, can't thank him enough. My husband and I are both keeping well now and we are very grateful, but most of all we are glad to be saved and encouraged to press on for him..."

--Sis. Mable Carter

--o--

We extend our sympathy and love to Mabel Writesman whose husband, Lloyd Writesman, died June 12, 1977.

--o--

From Ga.: "How I love the Lord this morning. Well, the Lord blessed me to come home once again. The trip here was good, no trouble at all during the seven hour drive. Praise the Lord for His goodness. Since being here I don't feel well, but I am not alarmed. I am anchored in Jesus, ready to live and ready to die. I am His and He is mine." --Sis. P. R. Bowers

--o--

From Colo.: "We are thankful for the goodness of the Lord to us widows. Sis. Tombleson is doing real well now. Sis. Young isn't too well but keeps going and able to care for herself, so we all have lots to be thankful for. We all love the Lord and want to be ready when he calls for us." --Sis. Addie McEndree

--o--

From Calif.: "I am not very well as I am having lots of pain. Guess it's arthritis. At times it's very painful, guess it's the dampness we have here. I just had my 73rd birthday so guess I can't expect to be well all the time. Still remember me." --Sis. Edna Murry

--o--

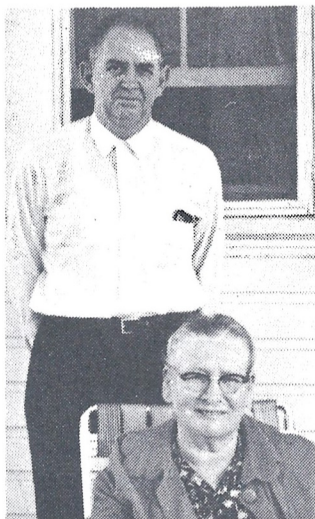
From Calif.: "Thank you for The Mission Trail. It is really a blessing. May the dear Lord bless you and keep you inspired in the great harvest for souls. The little offering is to help in getting the paper out."

--Sis. Ruth Turner

at press time

we understand:

Sis. Malvina Nichols, age 72, departed this life to be with the Lord June 14th.



Bro. & Sis. G. A. Nichols

A few days before she passed Bro. Nichols expressed in writing: "We are still pressing on toward Heaven by His grace and power. Sometime our road seems long and rough but by His mercy and grace we mean to be true to the charge he has given us." We know they will miss her so greatly. Do re-

member: Bro. G. A. Nichols, R. 1, Box 175A, Loranger, La. 70446.

--o--

We, the family of Malvina McNeil Nichols wish to express our thanks and gratitude to all the saints and friends for their love, prayers, phone calls, letters, and cards of comfort and encouragement throughout the 13 years our companion and mother was ill, and at the time of her death, June 14. We also thank each one for their kindness, abundance of food and beautiful flower offerings.

--Bro. G. A. Nichols and family

--o--

Congratulations to Spencer and Veva Myers who have reached their golden wedding anniversary. Jimmy and Betty Howell had a reception for them June 12. May the Lord give them many more!

Sis. Etta Williamson, age 88, a pioneer saint, departed this life June 15, 1977.

It seems as the passing of an era with her home-going. She had lived her entire lifetime within a few miles of where she was born near Loranger, La. Bro. Oscar, her husband had passed on to be with the Lord Jan. 27, 1967. Their stand for the truth was known both among their neighbors and also far and wide. Two of their children are ministers and continue to preach the Church of God truths. In this way their works continue to follow them after they have finished their earthly pilgrimage and await the coming of the Lord. Both are buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery near the Church of God chapel, Loranger, La.



Sis. Etta Williamson with her daughter Sis. Laverne Manuel

Both are buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery near the Church of God chapel, Loranger, La.

--o--

NATIONAL CAMP MEETING TO BE held near Neosho, Mo. July 22-31. Plan to be there!

--o--

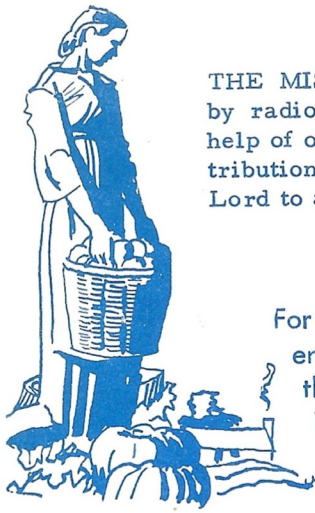
JUNE MARRIAGES:

Johnnie Ray and Lois Whittenborn, June 18, in Guthrie, Okla.

Dennis Wilson and Vicki Taylor, June 12, in Webb City, Mo.

Gary Eck and Ladonna McIntosh, June 25, in Neosho, Mo.

We wish them all much happiness!



THE MISSION TRAIL, originating in Guthrie, Okla., is broadcast by radio and published in printed form by Willie Murphey with the help of others. Its principal support comes from the free will contributions of its listeners and readers. Those who are led by the Lord to assist may do so by sending their offering to:
THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044



For some it will come true: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. Let us hasten with the message which Jesus gave: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Broadcast Schedule

Listen for THE MISSION TRAIL weekly on one of the following stations:

RADIO STATION	LOCATION	DIAL SETTING	TIME
KGGF	Coffeyville, Kansas	690 kc.	Sunday, 8:00 a. m.
KCKW	Jena, Louisiana	1480 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a. m.
WFPR	Hammond, Louisiana	1400 kc.	Sunday, 7:45 a. m.
KBOA	Kennett, Missouri	830 kc.	Sunday, 8:30 a. m.

The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Return Postage Guaranteed

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
7.5 ¢ PAID
Guthrie, Okla.
Permit No. 133