



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing  
**The Mission Trail**

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

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THE MISSION TRAIL

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## *The Second Coming of Christ - - Part Four*

Signs of the Times

Radio Broadcast for July 24, 1977

Good morning, friends, good morning! We are happy to be back today with more thoughts on the second coming of Christ! We are going to begin with the scripture right where we left off, verse seven, chapter 20 of the book of Revelations. And do remember now, that we are dealing with symbolic language so let us not jump at conclusions unless the other scriptures bear out the same thoughts:

"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them:

and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Rev. 20:6-15.

I have spoken previously on "the first resurrection" and it was pointed out that this applies to a spiritual awakening which takes place in the life of one who surrenders to Christ right here in this life. He becomes alive from a dead state of sin to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. It takes place before physical death.

But bear in mind, now that we are living in this age of deception when Satan has been loosed from his prison for a little season and is going about to deceive every soul possible. It is the trick of Beelzebub to deceive souls by causing them to overlook the fact that this first resurrection that made men blessed and holy is of a spiritual nature and to fix their hopes in two literal resurrections in the end. There will be but one literal resurrection then,

asis clearly shown by the account given of the judgment in this chapter, verses 11-15. The writer of the Revelation declared positively, "Behold, he cometh with clouds: and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him." Chap. 1:7. If this does not prove that there is but one literal resurrection when Christ comes, then how would you state such a fact if that is what you desired to do? Furthermore, Jesus himself, in the same chapter in which he described "The first resurrection," says most positively that all the literal dead shall be resurrected at the same time. "Marvel not at this," he says: "the hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28-29. This "hour" certainly can not signify more than a short period of time. In their efforts to prove two literal resurrections, those who teach a millennium usually quote: "The dead in Christ shall rise first." 1 Thess. 4:16. In doing so they wrest the scriptures from their real meaning, and that to their own destruction; for looking at this scripture one can see clearly that no such thing as two resurrections is even hinted at. Verses 15-17 simply teach that the righteous who are living on the earth at the time Christ appears will not ascend to heaven before the righteous dead are resurrected, but the dead will rise first, then they will all be caught up together at one and the same time. The wicked are not mentioned in this connection; for, Paul was writing this only for the comfort and edification of the church.

Now please remember that the power of Satan to deceive was the thing that

was bound by the gospel. This included pagan worship, heathen religion, witchcraft and the like. But after the long period of time these things were again loosed upon the believers of the truth.

The loosing of Satan, or the dragon, is a very important part to be considered. Before this matter can be rightly understood, however, we must take into account certain facts regarding his binding. It was not the dragon as a political power that Christianity attacked (it did not labor to that end), but it was its huge public system of false beliefs that was overthrown. This great system, as opposed to Christianity, can all be summed up under the one word, infidelity. Infidel signifies "a heathen; one who disbelieves in Christ, or the divine origin and authority of Christianity." This system was positively an antichristian power that wrought by every possible means to destroy the religion of Jesus and to blot out his very name. It failed in the attempt. It was bound. During the long reign of Popery, when the doctrine was "be-a-Catholic-or-die," infidelity could not publicly lift its head in the sense in which it was cast down by the early Christians. It had no power over the nations to deceive them by pagan religions or worship.

However, thousands were deceived by a false Christianity until almost all the world wondered after the beast, which is used to represent Catholicism. The release of the dragon, then, in order to be entirely satisfactory and consistent, must embrace the following points: First, it must at least include the development of a great public antichristian power whose avowed object is to destroy the whole fabric of Christianity. Second, being bound by divine power, his release must be the result of divine permission for a special purpose.

Third, the scene of his imprisonment must necessarily be the place of his release; namely, the earth, the territory of the Roman empire.

And that is just what happened. A system of infidelity spread throughout Europe under the labors of Voltaire and others. The very object of the leaders of this movement was the extermination of the Christian religion, and their watchword was "Crush the wretch," meaning Jesus Christ. The dragon was loose in all his terrible features. The Pagans upheld a false religion: but these modern worshippers of the dragon did likewise and publicly exalted the "goddess of reason" as an object of devotion, setting aside every tenth day for their hellish orgies in her honor.

There is also another thought which should not be overlooked regarding the dragon--his partnership with Gog and Magog. The original meaning of these terms are somewhat conflicting as they are mentioned in Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39. But in the Revelations it is quite evident that they apply to Romanism and Protestantism, and under the leadership of this spirit of antichrist they are gathered together to battle against the saints of the most High. Revelations 16:13-16 describes this union. Listen:

"And I saw three inclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see

his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

Now, friends, for some of the most vital truths in the book of Revelations, regardless of what you may have been taught and whatever you may believe about these scriptures, please hear me out. This is a matter of life and death, and the soul you save may be your own! Do not look for these things to have a literal interpretation. They are spiritually discerned. The dragon represents atheism and infidelity, as well as pagan religions. It is a deceptive power and is fulfilled in communism. The beast represents a desire for power, and thousands of martyrs have been slain under its reign. This is fulfilled in Catholicism. The false prophet represents those who claim to serve Christ but in reality they serve their own interests. They make an image to the beast which is "man-rule," and therefore form many many sectarian movements which will not preach all the truth. Therefore they are rightly described as the "false prophet." These are fulfilled by many man-made sectarian churches which operate under "man-rule." But now, imagine all these powers getting together to wage war against God's true Church. This is indeed the battle of Armageddon. And it is being fulfilled before our very eyes.

But in order to form a confederation of powers each of which holds its own distinctive principles, it is necessary that each make certain concessions, in outward appearances at least, so that they can work together in harmony against a common foe. In this case it will be necessary that three points be conceded before the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet can agree. First, the

dragon must not appear in his true character as antichristian; he must be clothed in some different attire in order to "deceive." Second, Catholicism must stop her work of slaying those who disagree with her and cover up her true principles. Third, Protestantism must cease protesting against the abominations of Catholicism. We are living in the time when this confederation of the powers of wickedness is being effected; therefore, we must not expect to see the dragon as a terrible creature with heads and horns standing as the open adversary of God, but we must look for him dressed in a garb "to deceive."

Now, did you notice the warning that was given: "Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame"? Those garments are the garments of salvation, and they are obtained not by joining some man-made church or trusting in some organization however large. These clean garments come only from full salvation obtained by having your name written in the book of life. Is it there? Are you keeping your garments spotless? Will you be found naked?

Have you noticed the increase of certain things, such as astrology, fortune-telling, hypnosis and various other forms of mind-control like transcendental meditation? Many of these are done in the name of religion, but none of them bring salvation. Beware lest you be deceived, and led into darkness!

Friends, there is much more which could be said upon the second coming of Christ, but I believe this is sufficient for now. May you be found in Him blameless and spotless! And so until we meet again, this is Willie Murphey saying God bless and keep you always and a very cheerful goodbye!

## Testimonies

From Jamaica: "Dear Bro. and Sister Murphey, Greetings in Jesus name. Well, thank God I am able to greet you on this side of life once more. For months I have been wanting to write to you but was not able to do so. I had been so sick. I got your last letter. I also got letters from Bro. & Sister Marler, Bro. & Sis. Goldsberry and Sister Hazel Clark, but was not able to reply. Please convey my thanks to them and thanks to Sister Clark for the love offering. It was of much help to me. May the dear Lord bless her. Please request prayer for me from the print shop and camp meeting and you and sister Murphey please pray for me too. I am still leaning on Jesus my Lord and king. I mean to finish up my course with joy ... remember me always in prayer. If I pass on my niece will inform you. Yours as always,"

--Sister Olga Smalling

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From Jamaica: "Holy greetings to you and the saints in the name of our dear Saviour. I trust all are keeping well both in soul and body. Thank God we are still pressing on the upward way. As you have heard brother Smalling has departed from us. Before his death, brother Thomas had been carrying on and he is still at his post in that position. We ask a special prayer for him for God's guidance and help. Some of the young people have given their hearts to the Lord so we are expecting a baptism early. Some brethren from Rock River in Clarendon visit and help us at times. Since Bro. Smalling's death, we have started work on our chapel. We are building around the old one. The cost of every-thing is gone up so high now, but we are trusting the Lord to help us." --Bro. & Sis. Ferguson

From Ill: "I still think of the good campmeeting. I enjoyed it very much and thankful for all the saints. They mean so much to me. I was glad Mary, Wayne, Jason, Delmer, Linda, Bunnie and Chris came by and spent the night with me...we had a good prayer meeting. I am so thankful for Christian young people. Sister Grace came over too...how I thank God for truth and for saving me. I know he saved me and filled me with his spirit...I don't guess I'll get to go to Myrtle campmeeting as my children are coming home the 1st of August." --Sister Mildred Snell

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From Calif.: "We had a few nights meeting with Bro. Merrill Smith and each one was good for our souls. My prayer is that each one of us will be drawn closer to the Lord each day. Time is running out and we need to be about our father's business holding up the standard of truth as a bright light to draw others to our Lord. What we do we must do quickly."

--Sis. Letha Reece

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From Texas: "I've been very interested in the May and June "Mission Trail" subject of our Lord's second coming. I hope it has been a blessing and help to those who needed reassurance or were confused. I truly thank the Lord how he gives us scriptures in time of need. Previously, before you published these articles, the subject came up and I was able to quote some passages from God's Word. Oh, God's Word is precious! I love the Lord this morning."

--Sis. Velda Ellis

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From Okla.: "Greeting you in the Holy name of Jesus, a name above all names. I need you all prayers as Sis. Jordan says oft times, the devil is straight out after the people of God."

--Sis. Mary Anna Brown

From Oregon: "I do thank the dear Lord for how He does give me strength day by day. Yes, He is so precious to me, and all the dear saints, the ones I know. How dear they have been to me all down through the years...I am your co-worker in God's vineyard, old, yes, but still going forth in the strength of the Lord."

--Sis. Beatrice Spaur

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From Kansas: "I've been hearing your radio program occasionally over the Coffeyville station. But I've been also reading the messages concerning the second coming of our Lord, and I really appreciate them. I heard this same truth over 50 years ago, preached from the pulpit. Your written messages are surely welcome...I am not well Bro. Willie, so I welcome the prayers of God's children everywhere."

--Bro. Homer Fee

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From Minn.: "I received your encouraging letter of June 13 and thank you for the encouragement that it contained. This finds me well in soul and body for which I thank the Lord. As one brother wrote God is not dead. I talked to Him this morning. I can talk to the Lord in plain English. I do not have to pray to Him in unknown tongues. He hears every word I say and He knows and cares for all his blood bought saints...God bless you all and keep you in health and strength so the gospel can go forth over land and sea."

--Bro. Andrew Senti

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From Calif.: "We are much encouraged in Him, the God of love and power. When we think of His being able to do all things it rejoices our hearts and faith swells up in our little hearts. We shall soon see Him as He is. Oh! may we be like Him. Then we will be caught up to ever "be with the Lord."

--Bro. H. P. Huskey

From S. Car: "This finds me still pressing on to make heaven. We are now in a world of trouble but thank God, He is able to keep His children from all evil if we keep our trust in Him. Praise the Lord. Brother Willie, I got the Mission Trail paper today. It sure was good and your message on the coming of the Lord was very plain, and I believe every bit of it. The world today is in trouble over false doctrine so I am glad that God has a few that are teaching the full Bible truth and standing for the one church of God... Your brother in the full truth. Pray much for me." --Bro. Eddie Driggers

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From Okla.: "Oh, the love of God is so precious to us. Thank you for the Mission Trail. I love to get it. I love the word of God as it is given over the broadcast. The apostle Paul says in 2 Thess. 2:13-14--"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." Yes, what a blessedness to the people of God." --Sis. Eva Penner

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From Okla.: "I am still going by God's help. I trust you both feel fine and happy in Lord. I have been sick at different times. If it wasn't for the good Lord I wouldn't be going... I hear you every Sunday morning. Just keep up good work. One day Jesus is coming. ... we are living in Revelations right now. People had better wake up. Just as soon as all God's word reaches all nations, then the end will come... I am ready for that great day, although I'd like to see more saved before Jesus comes. Keep up good work for God."

--Sis. Della Harrison

From Mo.: "We send greeting of love to you in Jesus name, trusting you all are well. May the dear Lord bless each and every one is my prayer. We need your prayer for us. We are not well in body. My husband doesn't rest well at night, and his legs and feet are swollen. Earnestly pray if it is the Lord's will, to heal my husband. He is trusting in the Lord for his healing. The dear Lord has been good to us. We are thankful that he watches over us and cares for us down through the years. We are still encouraged in the Lord. We do enjoy The Mission Trail paper. Keep sending to us."

--Bro. and Sis. Elmer Blacksher

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From Mo.: "How are you all by now? Fine I hope. I'm very well and still living for the Lord. The Lord is merciful to us all." --Lily Mae Glass

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#### GOD'S UNIVERSAL LOVE

I love to think of heaven bright,  
Of Father and of Son,  
Of holy angels gathered round  
In worship at the throne.

I love to think of the redeemed  
On yonder shining shore,  
Whose hearts unite in songs of praise  
As one, forevermore.

I love to think of heaven's love,  
So full, so pure, so free;  
That fount of love, so limitless,  
That fills the Godhead, Three.

I see that stream of love divine  
Poured forth from Calvary,  
Its tender love enrapt my heart--  
Oh, cleansing stream for me!

I love to think of that great day  
When saints in him shall rise,  
Made glorious then in bodies new,  
To join him in the skies.

# at press time

we understand:



Sis. Susie Hiebert Berg

Sis. Susie Hiebert Berg, born Aug. 22, 1885 passed away July 11, 1977 at the age of 91. She was indeed a pioneer of the "early day" variety, having gone through many hardships. However, her cheerful spirit made it a pleasure to visit with her.

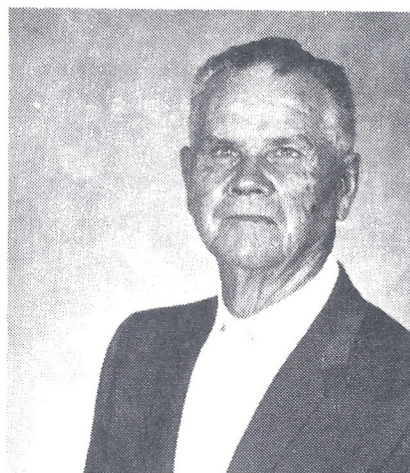
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From W. Va.: "Will you all please agree in prayer for my hand and thumb. I nearly mashed my thumb off in my car door. They sewed it up at the hospital but for some reason it's not right. It's not a raw sore, but I can hardly use it at all. I think I must have cut a nerve."

--Sis. Gladys Morgan

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Bro. Edwin Eck had a very similar experience and mashed his thumb very severely while working. Pray that it may heal properly.



Bro. Angus Flynn

Another dear saint has been called from the Loranger, La. congregation. The funeral for Bro. Angus Flynn was held Sunday, July 10. Remember his loved ones in this time of sorrow, especially his companion: Sis. Myrtis Flynn, R. 1, Box 172A, Loranger, La. 70446.

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Special prayer is requested of all the saints for Sis. Aquila Benson of Guthrie, who is very sorely afflicted. She is waiting on the Lord for her healing.

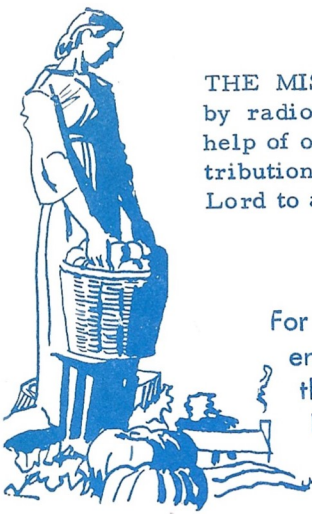
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From N. Mex.: "We are very concerned about Truman, my husband. He is in the hospital again. I desire your prayers for him both soul and body. We do want the will of God for he knows best. He is very sick. I do thank you so very much for your prayers before now."

--Sis. Ruth Doolittle

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Missouri State Campmeeting will be held near Myrtle beginning August 3 and continuing through August 10.



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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
<b>KGGF</b>	Coffeyville, Kansas	690 kc.	Sunday, 8:00 a. m.
<b>KCKW</b>	Jena, Louisiana	1480 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a. m.
<b>WFPR</b>	Hammond, Louisiana	1400 kc.	Sunday, 7:45 a. m.
<b>KBOA</b>	Kennett, Missouri	830 kc.	Sunday, 8:30 a. m.

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