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"ALL CHRISTIANS TO ACTION STATIONS!! "

Part 9: A glorious doxology

An outline study of Jude – an important little book for today, by Rev Ivan Foster.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen," Jude 24-25.

As this call to arms comes to an end, it is most significant that it concludes with one of the most noble, most glorious most relevant doxologies in the Bible. Here is a profoundly wonderful elevating of God and that in terms so marvellously relevant to the subject matter the apostle has been dealing with.

Here is a glorious note to conclude an urgent appeal to beware of the creeping destructiveness of apostasy: "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling." While Jude sought to arouse believers to the danger of those who would sow the seeds of detestable error which would lead to a turning from God and a falling away,

His final words extol the power of our God to keep His flock.

It is interesting to note that while this epistle sets forth the exceeding wickedness and craft of agents of the devil, who were engaged in seeking entrance amongst the people of God in order to work their corruption, "turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ," verse 4, the next book of the Bible, the Book of the Revelation, with its detailed description of the future manifestation of the Antichrist and his lawlessness, begins with a wonderful description of the Lord Jesus. "And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter," Revelation 1:12-19.

In Jude, we have at the close of the book a manifesting of the power of the One Who is able to sustain believers, in the face of the devil's ongoing and increasing attack, while in the Book of the Revelation there is given at the beginning of the book, a wonderful description of the Glorious One Who will defend His people in the face of the final dreadful assault by Antichristianity upon His kingdom by His personal and victorious intervention at His second advent.

1. GOD HAS POWER TO KEEP HIS PEOPLE FROM FALLING

1. It must be noted that we are ever in danger of falling. We fall into temptation and thereby fall into sin and error and were it not for the power of God we would fall away altogether!

We live in a world filled with the snares of the devil, set to trip us up, to catch us and bring us down. "Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and the gins of the workers of iniquity," Psalm 141:9. We may be sure of this fact in our Christian walk - there are many devices laid for our entrapment.

What a huntsman the devil is and his agents are well taught by him. "And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to



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be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar;" Genesis 10:8-10.

Nimrod is one of the earliest foreshadowings of the Antichrist and he is described as "a mighty hunter before the LORD." The word "before" means "in the face of." I think that we can understand Nimrod to be thus declared to be one who hunted "against" the Lord. He was a rebel, a defier of God and an opponent of His people.

Throughout the generations, God's people have been faced with such enemies and have often been defeated by them. The record of Israel's defeats at the hands of the Philistines and the many other enemies that faced her, is evidence of this. The best of God's saints have fallen before the enemy's attacks: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David - the list is long indeed!

2. Whatever enemies we may have surrounding us there is a terrible one within us! "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9.

Let us never forget our proneness to wander from the Lord and fall before the enemy's attacks.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

What an enemy our old nature is! I do believe that none can match its craft and cunning. It is "above all things" wicked!

"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would," Galatians 5:17. I am sure that Paul means that these two contrary natures hinder and oppose each other. Thus, while we are hindered from doing the wicked things that our old nature would desire to the full extent, we are also hindered and hampered in doing the holy things that our new nature would long after. Paul states this spiritual conundrum which has tried and perplexed the children of God since the fall in this fashion. "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin," Romans 7:15-25.

The freedom to live as we desire can come only from the slaying of the flesh! "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin," Romans 6:6. "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live," Romans 8:13. "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof," Romans 13:14. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but



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Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me," Galatians 2:20. "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world," Galatians 6:14.

May the Lord enable us to grasp and understand these great truths for they hold the secret of the victorious, triumphant overcomer's life!

3. Christ's high priestly ministry is dedicated to keep us from falling away totally and finally. In John 17:9-12 and 15, we read these words directed by the Saviour to His Father, which are indicative of what He is praying for His people even now. "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled . . . I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

The word "keep" occurs and reoccurs in this prayer. It means "attend to carefully, guard".

Such is the divine care that is afforded to God's people. Such care reminds us of the danger we are in and the threats we face from the enemy's craft and our carelessness and foolishness.

It also indicates to us that being under the caring eye of our heavenly Father and of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus, we will be kept from falling away and will be brought to Heaven's glory in God's time.

Whatever stumblings and fallings we may experience are permitted for our edification and benefit. "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word," Psalm 119:67. The Lord causes even the evil schemes of men and our sinful hearts ultimately to work holiness in us.

II. FURTHERMORE, GOD HAS POWER TO PRESENT US FAULTLESS BEFORE HIS PRESENCE

Bless God the outcome of our earthly pilgrimage is assured, hallelujah!

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord," Romans 8:28-39.

Our God is ABLE to save. "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them," Hebrews 7:25

Our God is ABLE to keep us. "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day," 2 Timothy 1:12.



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And now, says Jude, He is ABLE bring us home. "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy," verse 24.

1. The Christian's final condition, faultless. The word means "without blemish or spot or blame." How gloriously powerful is the cleansing blood of Christ that it leaves us without one stain! "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish," Ephesians 5:27. It is something every true believer longs after. 'Oh to be rid of my sin' has often been the sigh from the Christian's heart. Sadly, we must ever acknowledge that our state is that which is set forth by John. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us," 1 John 1:8.

But a glorious day is coming for when "He shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is," 1 John 3:2. Oh happy day indeed!

2. In that day we shall be 'presented'. "Presented . . . before the presence of his glory . ." What an immeasurable honour! We who are in truth fitted only for hell and damnation are to be presented before God. The word "presented" carries the meaning of "established." Those thus presented before God are there to stay. What an honour this is! The words of that godly woman, Hannah, Samuel's mother will see a glorious fulfilment one day. "The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them. He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail. The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed," 1 Samuel 2:7-10. "He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory." That, dear child of God, is your destiny!

3. This presentation will take place in an atmosphere of 'exceeding joy'. "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy."

It is that joy of which the gospel is the fountain. "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people," Luke 2:10.

It is that joy of which we get a taste when first we hear believingly the gospel and are saved. "For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy," Luke 1:44. The unborn John the Baptist manifested something of this joy in his mother's womb upon hearing the voice of Mary, the one who carried in her womb the Saviour of the world.

It is that joy of which the Holy Ghost enables us to partake. "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart," Acts 2:46. Happy indeed is the people who know the joy of the Holy Ghost.

But this refers also to the joy of Christ as His redeemed stand thus perfect in His presence. The "man of sorrows" will enter then into the full pleasure of that which it was His pleasure to pursue, even to the sufferings of the cross - the redemption of His people.

III. TO THIS ONLY WISE GOD OUR SAVIOUR BELONGS ALL HONOUR

"To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

Do we not long for the day when foolish, arrogant stupid man is made to acknowledge the wisdom of God! His wisdom in Creation, in Providence, in Redemption, in Judgment - in ALL THINGS!



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Do we not weary of the vain and boastful utterances of mere creatures of the dust who pronounce God and His ways folly, while their notions and empty speculations, void of all wisdom as they are, are poured forth as the pinnacle of revelation and knowledge. May the day of Attenborough, Dawkins and Hawking, with its arrogant defiance of God, soon end and the day of the manifested and acknowledged wisdom of God soon dawn.

To God alone belongs GLORY, MAJESTY, DOMINION and POWER.

Praise God there are those who at this time ascribe such honour to the Lord, but a day is coming when ALL creation will render such honour.

"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God," Romans 14:11-12.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father;" Philipians 2:5-11.

Dear Christian, rejoice that by the mercy of God YOU will be one of that illustrious eternal chorus!

The Lord bless you.

Ivan Foster.

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