

MSB 213

# MORE Seed and Bread

*BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM*  
**THE WORD OF TRUIH MINISTRY**

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## **INSTEAD OF THE THORN**

by David R. Hettema

It is the promise of God, who cannot lie, that he will one day intervene in the affairs of this earth and its inhabitants to take it over, and govern it. He will change a multitude of things that since the fall of man been a perpetual burden upon the physical earth and mankind.

Both man and the world he lives in need to be rescued, delivered and made safe. The salvation of the world (Gr. **kosmos**), this system or environment where man lives is assured by God, but the salvation of each individual man is determined by that individual's response to the light that God has given to him or her. This is plainly and simply recorded in John's gospel.

**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 (kosmos) through him might be saved.** John 3: 16-17

One does not live upon this globe very long until he becomes aware of the many things around us that are wrong and need correcting. We can see that this creation has been corrupted by sin and death, it desperately needs God's intervention. Only He can turn it around and restore it to the pristine Edenic conditions that Adam and Eve knew before sin entered the world. This, our God has promised to do.

God in Christ has accomplished all that was necessary to turn the world and humanity back to Himself. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ have made possible the salvation of both mankind and the world system in which he lives. A wonderful future for this earth has been secured. The realization of these blessings will not be known or experienced until God intervenes and governs this earth, but it is the promise of these coming events that gives cause for the truth seeker to search out the prophecies of the coming kingdom. He or she must study to garner this information from the Word of God, truths that reveal to us how things will be when God goes into action and the whole earth down to the smallest detail, will become subject to Him. Here, for example, is just one verse from the book of Isaiah that speaks of the coming changes: **Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.** Isa.55:13.

The Spirit of God gave the Prophet these words for our consideration. Note that twice in this portion the word instead is used, a word that simply means "in place of" or "in lieu of", but here it is used as a pivotal word, showing that what was a former condition has at some point turned around and now a changed condition exists. Where there once were thorns and briars, there will now be fir trees and myrtle trees. This is God's government in action.

There are many kingdom prophecies throughout the Scriptures where God uses pivotal words to point to that time, that instant in earth's future when He will take over by His Spirit and with great power miraculously change and set right the things that sin and death have brought upon His creation.

In some of these prophecies the Spirit of God uses the simple Hebrew word 'az (pronounced awz), which is translated "then," it is a demonstrative adverb that says, at that time or place. Note also in each of the following references a change has occurred following the pivotal word then, a new situation now exists, the manifest effects of God's government.

**Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God, will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and**

**the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. Isa 35:4-6.**

**Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rearward. Isa. 58:8.**

**Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. Isa.58:14.**

**Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Nations shall come unto thee. Isa. 60:5.**

There are other portions of Scripture in which certain phrases are used repeatedly to describe the conditions in the earth during the Kingdom of God. Some portions open with or contain the phrase, "In that time" or "In that day." One familiar example is found in Isaiah 11. **And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Nations seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. Isaiah 11: 10-12**

One of the most important and often used phrases concerning the restoration of the earth is the "I will," used by God concerning His great work of recreation in bringing this earth out from under the curses and the effects of sin and death. Here are some examples: **I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: That they may see, and know, and consider, and**

**understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it. Isa.41: 18-20.**

**Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field shall honor me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen. This people have I formed for myself; they shall show forth my praise. Isa.43:19-21.**

The Prophet Isaiah goes on to tell us that in that time, God's special attention will be directed upon what will be the most important city in the earth, Jerusalem. Isaiah speaks of this beloved city where Heaven's throne and government will touch the earth. It will also be the footstool of God where the peoples of the earth can come to seek wisdom from the God of all the earth. (See Isa. 2:2-4, and Isa.66: 1).

**For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody. Isa.51:3.**

**And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the nations that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it. Ezek. 36:35-36.**

Returning to the subject of the thorn, brought into the world as part of the curse when Adam and Eve failed. Thorns and thistles have become symbolic of the human struggle for existence ever since sin and death became the everyday companion of Adam's descendants. Thorns and thistles were not part of God's original creation, they came into being with the judgment in the garden of Eden, and they will be removed from the earth when God intervenes.

Consider the fact of the crown of thorns, forced onto the head of the condemned Jesus Christ. The thorn, brought into the earth due to Satan's intrigue, now brings him joy, when for a final insult men painfully crowned Satan's adversary and the evil one thought that he was victorious.

**And unto Adam God said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. Gen. 3: 17-19.**

Recently in a secular magazine there appeared an article concerning weeds, in it the writer is answering a question on "What is a weed?" Here is a quotation from the article; "Weeds are more than plants that thrive where they are not wanted. In mankind's continuing struggle for human life, weeds are a major natural competitor--they cause a third of all crop loss in the world. . . Most experts consider the grassy purple nutsedge to be the most devastating weed on the planet. Conquering it would be like curing a major global disease." (Parade Magazine, June 1996).

The conquering of this curse and many other greater penalties that plague mankind today will be accomplished in the day that God flows out to all the world with His Spirit. Then we will see His glorious benefits, in that day men of all nations will know God in Christ, the savior of the world, the redeemer of Israel who said this concerning His people, "**Upon the land of my people shall come up thorns and briers; yea, upon all the houses of joy in the joyous city: Isa. 32: 13.**

**Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest. Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isa.32:15-18.**

**END**

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