**“The Power Given to God’s People” The Bible Echo 8, 13.**

E. J. Waggoner

What greater encouragement can GOD give us than this, namely, that the power that works in us that which is well-pleasing in the sight of the Lord, is the power that made the heavens and the earth, and which upholds them! Need there be any discourage it? To carry out this thought, as set forth in the Scriptures, would require a volume; but we will read a few texts that will set us on the track of contemplating GOD’S power in creation, and rejoicing in it. {BEST July 1, 1893, par. 1}

The psalmist says: “GOD hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto GOD. Also unto Thee, O LORD, belongeth mercy.” Psalm 62:11, 12. Here we see the mercy of GOD coupled with his power. Now read through the whole of the fortieth chapter of Isaiah, and as you read the description of GOD’S wonderful power, bear in mind the first verse: “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your GOD.” And then at the close read: “He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; but they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” By what power?-By the power that created the earth from nothing, and which preserves it. What is the comfort of GOD’S people?-It is the knowledge that there GOD is mighty in power, even to creating and upholding the universe. {BEST July 1, 1893, par. 2}

Read also Colossians 1:9-18, and note how redemption and the creation of all the universe are linked together. We have redemption through the blood of CHRIST, because “ by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by Him, and for Him; and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church.” Surely the church ought to be strong, when it is connected with so powerful ahead. It is only as men to unbelief become disconnected with the head, that they are weak. {BEST July 1, 1893, par. 3}

Verse 11, of the passage referred to, reads thus: “Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness.” In the revision this is more literally rendered thus: “Strengthened [margin, *made powerful*] with all power, according to the might of his glory.” Now read Psalm 19:1: “The heavens declare the glory of GOD; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.” That is, the heavens declare the power of the glory of GOD, by which we are strengthened in the conflict with sin and Satan. {BEST July 1, 1893, par. 4}

Now turn to Psalm 111:2-4, and read: “The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is honourable and glorious; and his righteousness endureth for ever. He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.” Yes, the LORD is gracious and compassionate according to the power exhibited in the works of his hands. “He that trusteth in the LORD, and mercy shall compass him about.” And that mercy is equal to the power that made the heavens and the earth. Yea, it *is* that power; for GOD Himself, the mighty GOD, is love. {BEST July 1, 1893, par. 5}

But what shall we say more? Time would fail us to recount the power and the mercy of GOD. When we meditate on the law of GOD, as we are exhorted to do day and night, and find therein such wondrous things that are sold faints at the thought that all that righteousness must be exhibited in our lives, let us also lift up our eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath, and then with rejoicing say: “Our help is in the name of LORD, who made heaven and earth.” Psalm 124:8. Yea, let all who suffer according to the will of GOD, “commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator.” 1 Peter 4:19. Remember that He knew upholds all things by the word of his power, is “able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory, with exceeding joy.” Jude 24. {BEST July 1, 1893, par. 6}

*“Beneath his watchful eye
His saints securely dwell;
That hand which bears all nature up
Shall guard his children well.” {BEST July 1, 1893, par. 7}*

“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, *according to the power that worketh in us*, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20, 21. Surely, happy is that people, whose GOD is JEHOVAH.” {BEST July 1, 1893, par. 8}

**“The Resurrection of Christ” The Bible Echo 8, 13.**

E. J. Waggoner

Taken as a simple matter of history, there is nothing better attested than the fact of the resurrection of CHRIST. It was well known to all the people who lived at that time, and was a matter of common report. When the apostles spoke to the Jews, they talked of the resurrection of Jesus as something that did not need to be proved, but as that of which everybody was well informed. When Paul stood before Festus and King Agrippa, and spoke of the resurrection of Christ, Festus tried to make light of the matter, but the apostle replied that he was not mad, but spoke forth the words of truth and soberness, and then added: “For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely; for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.” Acts 26:26. {BEST July 15, 1893, par. 1}

The fact is that the Jews never disbelieved that Jesus had risen from the dead after the crucifixion. This is shown by their action after the resurrection. An angel had come down from heaven, and had rolled the stone away from the sepulchre. Before the dazzling light of his countenance, the guards had fallen to the earth as dead men. Then JESUS came forth, and met his disciples, who went to tell the rest of the brethren. “Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and showed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money to the soldiers, saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole Him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor’s ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.” Matthew 28:11-14. {BEST July 15, 1893, par. 2}

Who that knew anything about Roman discipline would ever believe such a story as that? What Roman soldier would ever dare acknowledge that he had slept on guard, if it were really so? The story was absurd, on the face of it; for although in spite of the sure death that always follows detection, a single soldier sometimes sleeps on guard, it is not possible that an entire guard should fall asleep at the same time. But the story which the Roman guard was bribed to tell was its own best refutation. For the very fact that they were not put to death, although they told that they had slept while on guard, and had allowed their charge to be stolen from them, is evidence that nobody really believed the story. The very means used to discredit the resurrection, established the truth of it. {BEST July 15, 1893, par. 3}

**IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION**

To bear witness of the resurrection of Christ was the one work of the apostles and their co-workers. This appears more fully than anywhere else in the account of Paul’s case, which Festus gave to Agrippa. After telling about the desire of the Jews to have judgment against Paul, and of his own demand that they appear against him in a regular manner, he said that when the accusers came, “They brought none accusation of such things as I supposed; but had certain questions against him of their own superstition, and of one JESUS, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive.” Acts 25:18, 19. That was the sum of the whole matter. The Jews said that Jesus was dead, and Paul affirmed that He was alive. To the mind of the heathen ruler it seemed a most foolish, trifling controversy. What difference did it make to him or to anybody else, whether Jesus were alive or dead? {BEST July 15, 1893, par. 4}

Ah, the heathen ruler did not know that that simple question was the greatest thing in the world; that on it hung everything, even the destiny of the whole world. For as the apostles and disciples preached, they did not speak of the resurrection of JESUS as a mere fact of history, but they dwelt upon the results of that event. That which angered the rulers of the Jews was that they “preached through JESUS the resurrection from the dead.” Acts 4:2. Without the resurrection of JESUS there could be no life for man. The Apostle Paul puts the matter thus: “Now if CHRIST be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? Now if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is CHRIST not risen; and if CHRIST be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of GOD; because we have testified of GOD that He raised up CHRIST; whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not CHRIST raised; and if CHRIST be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in CHRIST are perished. If in this life only we have hope in CHRIST, we are of all men most miserable. But now is CHRIST risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.” 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. All our hope comes from the resurrection of JESUS CHRIST. So the Apostle Peter blesses GOD that He has “begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of JESUS CHRIST from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3. {BEST July 15, 1893, par. 5}

Notice that in the discourse of Paul concerning the resurrection he says not only that if CHRIST be not risen those who have fallen asleep in Him are perished, but that “ye are yet in your sins.” The resurrection of JESUS assures the resurrection of men from the dead, only because it brings the forgiveness of sins. The hope of the resurrection is simply the hope that comes from righteousness received through faith in CHRIST, “who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” Romans 4:25. The Apostle Peter connects the “lively hope” to which GOD has begotten us by the resurrection of JESUS CHRIST from the dead, with the fact that we are “kept by the power of GOD through faith unto salvation.” {BEST July 15, 1893, par. 6}