

# First Light Herald



*Sharing the Tree of Life*

## GOD’S LOVE TOWARD US IN HARD TIMES

*1 John 4:8-9 He that loves not knows not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

Times are bad and they are getting progressively worse. Politically speaking, there is corruption everywhere, and at every level. Socially, folks are fearful of what they can’t see and the things they can see they deny. Religiously, the man-made church offers all the answers, but for a price. People are attempting to save the earth from...well...people. We know that pollution is overtaking the planet and that waste and over consumption is a serious problem the world’s answer is to reduce the number of people. The world scene is as bad as or worse than the situations here in the good old USA. What in the world are we going to do? Put more Christians in office? No, that won’t fix anything. Write more self-help books for the social order? No, that we know doesn’t fix anything. How about joining the group of people that “put the earth first”? Well, ok maybe you won’t be grouped with the people that need to be exterminated as the problem if you put the earth before the God that created it.



*West Texas Snowman*

Brothers and sisters in Christ there is an answer to all of this but it may not be what “you” want to hear or to do. You are not of this world, however, you are in this world and you are here for a purpose. Do you know what that purpose is? God did not bring anyone into the earth just to breathe the air. I am going to attempt to keep this short because it is the simplest work any person will ever do, so it shouldn’t take much to put it in letter form.

Jesus was talking with His Father one day and said that He knew He was done with what He was brought into the earth to do. If I asked, “What was He brought to the earth to do”? Almost everyone would reply, “To die for the sin of the world.” Now while that is true and He did accomplish that work it was secondary to why He was sent into the earth. Jesus was sent into the earth to manifest His Father’s name. Well what name would that be? The children of God

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GOD’S LOVE.....CONTINUED

already knew God by El Shaddai and El Elyon and JHVH (Jehovah) and Jehovah Tsidkenu and Rohi and Shammah and Adonai and many more. How about Rophe or Jireh, maybe Nissi or Shalom, no they already knew those names as well so what **name** could Jesus have been sent into this world to manifest? All the names I have just listed, (and there are many more) are descriptive names of God, but they all come out from the **name** Jesus was sent into the earth to manifest. In fact none of the names I listed could be at all without God being the **name** Jesus manifested to the world. Ok, Ok what is that **name** already? ...Abba ...Father...Daddy! Because of Jesus manifesting His Father as “The” Father to the world, (finishing His purpose) we can now receive God into our very bodies to live in us. We are given the Spirit of sonship where by we can call God Abba-Father. Abba means Father or Daddy but in the closest of terms in Hebrew and we can call Him Daddy because we are His children and the rest of the world can’t and won’t.



How is that the answer to all the worlds’ woes? Some folks call it escapism but I call it the way, truth and the life. There are not two ways to God as Daddy, there are no Buddhists that care to call all there many gods...daddy, there are no Muslims that would dare call there gods daddy and sad to say there are many Christians that dare not call God their Daddy. Because of that one simple truth, the world lives with fear and torment and all they lack is a revelation that God is Love and Jesus manifested His love toward us so that we could love one another, and so the world could know that God sent Him. When a person knows that God is his or her Daddy there is nothing in this world that causes fear to overpower that love. I will end this by saying just believe Jesus' prayer if you can’t believe you own, Jesus asked His Father (who is our Father as well now) to keep us safe while we were in the world but not of it. Do you believe Jesus got what He prayed?

LIVING LIFE

I don’t know about the rest of the world, but I’ve discovered something about myself. I haven’t been living the moments of my life but simply getting through them. Rather than enjoy whatever I’m doing at the moment I end up thinking about what is ahead and planning how to prepare for it. I go through periods of time where I find myself fretting and planning rather than living in the moment and enjoying whatever it is I’m doing.



I was eating the other day, or should I say wolfing my food. I noticed I didn’t even know what it was I was eating though I made the meal. I loved what I had cooked, but was almost unaware of the flavor. It was then I just stopped and made myself taste the food. I began to think about the recent past and how I’d skimmed over the surface of enjoying or experiencing what I’d done.

*1 Timothy {6:17} Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, **but in the living God**, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.*

We are living in difficult times. The bible calls them “perilous times” and that means if you’re even semi-conscious of your surroundings you could find yourself full of dread and fear.

## LIVING LIFE.....CONTINUED

*Philippians {4:7} And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. {4:8} Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things [are] honest, whatsoever things [are] just, whatsoever things [are] pure, whatsoever things [are] lovely, whatsoever things [are] of good report; if [there be] any virtue, and if [there be] any praise, think on these things.*

God created all things for His pleasure and it is His pleasure to give His children the kingdom. The world would have us believe that Christians are political and social misfits. We who trust in Yeshua/Jesus know that there is one standard for all men and it is GOD'S. You can't have multitudes of gods and ways of coming to salvation and have a stable universe. There is truly only ONE God and Father. I don't care how many people scream and rage on about our "narrow-mindedness" I'm not giving my opinion, but the laws of the Creator of the universe. He is the one who declared that sodomy is wrong and destructive. He is the one that told us adultery is a killer. He is the one who said gluttony in its many forms is death. He is the one who warned that jumping off the cliff is a sure way to meet your maker! He is the one who manifested His son to destroy the works of the adversary.

So while the heathen rage and imagine all sorts of vain things (see Psalms 2:1) I will obey and proclaim the word of the Lord. Loving sin and the pleasures of it is short lived. The end (promised by God) is surely death. You can't sin forever, it will kill you and it will separate you from a pure and holy God.

So I will go back to my subject; living in the moment. I am a housewife with a heart for God and His will. I am submitted to my husband of 31 years. I am very narrow when it comes to how I do things. If it doesn't line up with the word of God I'm not going to do it. So God tells me through the Apostle Paul to keep my mind on God and to enjoy life by focusing on the good. I'm not going to rush though life because the world tells me life as we know it is over. I don't believe that just because Wall Street is a mess that I'm going to starve and be naked.

*Psalms {37:25} I have been young, and [now] am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

I live under a better covenant than the one King David knew. It has better promises. I know that most of the reason I was rushing through life is because of dread and fear. Dread of what was coming and the spirit of fear hassling me to worry and fill my heart with garbage thoughts. When this happens I know that it is time to turn off the TV and radio and get in my bible. It's time to go sit on the porch and sing to the Lord. I'm going to spend less time preparing (in mind and action) for natural disasters and wars and more time praying and singing in the spirit. When I'm eating dinner I'm going to eat dinner. I'm going to touch my husband more. I'm going to listen more. I'm going to sink into bed and enjoy the warm comfort of it. I'm going to live life and quit rushing through it.

The Holy Spirit is called the Comforter. I'm pretty sure there is a reason for that and that reason is because we NEED comforted in this hard world, but will we allow him to comfort us? Not if we're so busy we don't notice he's talking to us.

Stop right where you are. Ask yourself, "Am I living life or merely going through the paces?" Are you enjoying your job like you did when you first started it? Have you grown so accustomed to your spouse that you quit looking for new things about him/her? How about your friends? Are they as precious to you today as they were when you first discovered each other? And your children, whether little or grown are you really listening to what they are saying or are you planning what your response is before they finish saying two words? More importantly, are you enjoying God and time with Him?

Life can pass us by without a whisper. We are warned that life is like grass that is here today and in the fire tomorrow. So stop and smell the flowers. Stop and taste your food. Stop and love yourself and the Lord. Stop and love the ones around you. Stop and live life.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There are so many things in the bible I just don't understand. I've learned to be patient because there are two things I do understand; there are things I should understand and there are things I don't need to understand.

We, by nature, have a tendency to want to be in complete control of our lives. There are some men (and women) who ignorantly think they do have such control. They usually base it on the fact they have power at their chosen occupations OR they have a great deal of money. Both factors are very temporal or temporary. You may see a U-Haul truck behind a hearse, but I'm pretty sure the person in the casket can't really take anything with him/her. King Tut had great riches in his tomb, but all that he took with him was his attitude (his soul). He is most likely in the holding place we call hell with no control over his situation, but with plenty of attitude.

Finding peace with what you know is so important today because we are faced with so much darkness. Of course we find peace the same way today as the Patriarchs and saints of days past did, by keeping our mind on God. Again, this becomes a challenge if you're too wrapped up in the world. The world is a work making place. The very fallen nature of our surroundings cries out for help. One could get really carried away trying to eat healthy, keep green, or any of a multitude of busy making projects. That doesn't mean we should just be lawless, thoughtless consumers. Again we need to do the important thing in place of the thing that makes the most noise in our heads. We need to listen to the Holy Spirit of God and allow ourselves to DO whatever we're told to do. I've found that if I just tap into that still small voice and follow its leading I make far fewer mistakes.

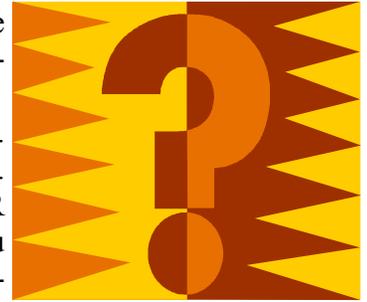
God really doesn't put more on us that we can bear, but we sure pile on the "want tos", the "have tos" and "must dos". Yeshua/Jesus told us the traditions of man make the word of God of no effect. Why isn't God's word working in our lives? Could it be we have traditionally thought we had to be the smartest cookie in the jar? We also traditionally believe that we must be right at all costs and prove it at an even higher cost. If my memory serves me right it was the knowledge of GOOD and evil that killed Adam. Knowing it all isn't such a good thing.

Life can be much easier than we make it out to be, but that means we have to STOP doing some of the things we think are so vital to living. It isn't easy to just stop in your tracks and ask yourself, "Did God tell me to do that or am I doing it out of habit?" or "Did God tell me to do that or am I doing it out of fear?" These are two questions I started asking myself. I found myself doing less and less and the pressure began to fall off my shoulders. Now mind you, friends and family will crater at your new found freedom, but there is one very important question you should ask yourself. "Who will I ultimately answer to? Will I answer to a human or to God?" Folks will live if they don't get their way. The more important thing is for God to get His.

Back to understanding. If I focus on only understanding what God wants me to know I don't have to prove a thing to anyone. If I only do the things God asks of me I have far fewer tasks to do and way less pressure. Honestly I fall more often than I'd like to admit, but hey I'm on my way. Even the failures are part of the process. A few stubbed knees and binged up elbows and I'm much slower to make the same mistakes a second or third time.

I know the world is an intimidating place. You are daily tempted to worry and fill your mind with as much information as possible in order to deal with the issues of the day, but let me encourage you to NOT worry and fret. God can see the end from the beginning. God knows your outcome. If you listen for HIS voice and begin stepping out of your boat of habit, you might just hear Him well enough to walk on top of the waters of adversity.

There's lots of stuff you could know. You could understand all the mysteries of the world and yet if you don't have the love that comes from intimacy with God you're merely a sounding brass or a blaring trumpet. Hey, you may impress yourself, but you don't do anyone else any good. In fact when you "know-it-all" you



## QUESTIONS.....CONTINUED

become down right obnoxious and annoying. BUT if you hear God and obey Him you end up giving a word in season that is just perfect and helpful.

I can talk all day about hearing God, but if you're even the least bit like me you'd like a little "how to" information. Let me give you this little bit of help. First you MUST be born again. That means you've made Yeshua/Jesus Lord of your life and accepted his finished work on Calvary as YOUR righteousness. Secondly, you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The bible calls it being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Being born again just isn't enough because that leaves the Holy Spirit on the outside where he merely "seals" you until the day of redemption. Being baptized means you want to be filled inside, outside and all around with God's Spirit. If you have these two areas covered you can now be led by the Holy Spirit.



Here is how you are led once you've become a believer and baptized. If you feel a "scratching" sensation inside when you're about to make a decision; STOP what you're doing. The Holy Spirit has given you a "NO". If you sense a "green light" or "ok" inside then go ahead because he's given you a "YES". Now mind you, if what you're doing is just plain against the will of God don't expect an OK. It does take some time in the word to learn what is and what is NOT against the will of God, but most times a little common sense and you won't find yourself struggling. I don't hear God speak out loud all the time. I have only heard with natural ears His voice a couple of times. These times were emergency situations where I absolutely didn't know what to do. The first time I was going the opposite direction from where God wanted and needed intervention. I was NOT born again so I couldn't hear the still small voice. The second time was life and death and I personally asked God for emergency help. The rest of the time I either have a scratching "NO" or a peaceful "yes" when I'm about to make a decision. A great deal of time in the word and praying in the spirit also goes a long way to helping me to know what I need to know for everyday life. I get to reap the harvest of my diligent search for God's will and ways. Folks who can't pray in the spirit have no idea what they are missing UNTIL they submit to it and surrender their wills to letting God have the ultimate control over their lives. I know how stubborn I was before I was filled. I also know how stupid I realized I was without God running the show. This knowledge came only after I put down my old denominational thinking and began thinking in line with the bible.

I don't understand the entire bible and God doesn't expect me to. He does, however, expect me to walk in what I do understand. That's where I am today, doing the last thing He revealed to me to do. Where are you? If you aren't hearing God could it be you didn't do the last thing He asked you to do? It isn't too late. Stop and ask for His help. God will equip you not only to do His will, but to want to do His will! Let Him know you're afraid to do what He's asked. Let Him know you don't believe you can do it, but you want to. That's a start. Then let Him give you the first step towards obedience. He equips us when He asks us. Really!

*Philippians {2:13} For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure.*

## OFFENDED?

What is offense? It has many meanings, but the one I will focus on is "to be insulted." One of the greatest examples of someone who was offended and the consequences is John the Baptist. Yes folks, you read that right. John the Baptist got offended at Yeshua/Jesus. Let's read and recall the story.

*Matthew {11:2} Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, {11:3} And said unto him, "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" {11:4} Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: {11:5} The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor*

## OFFENDED.....CONTINUED

*have the gospel preached to them. {11:6} And blessed is [he,] whosoever shall not be offended in me.*

Yeshua/Jesus is doing the work the Father sent Him to do. John is also doing the work he was sent to do. John ends up in prison BECAUSE he was doing the work he was sent to do. John was heir to the Levitical priesthood because of his father Zacharias. When John baptized Yeshua in the river Jordan the priesthood changed from the Levitical to the Melchizadek priesthood. The priestly mantle passed from John to Yeshua/Jesus. John had already proclaimed, "I must decrease and he must increase." He prophesied this while under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. BUT in John's heart it was quite another thing as he is suffering at the hands of Herod. He hears all the things Yeshua is doing and the great miracles and yet he questions whether Yeshua is the Messiah or not.



There are those who say the Israelites were looking for two messiahs, but the key to our understanding this passage is what the Lord said in verse six: "And blessed is whosoever shall not be OFFENDED in me." John was offended that the Lord didn't run and free him from prison. Offense is a dangerous thing. I honestly believe it is what got John killed. Offense will starve the word that was sown your heart. John was the one who proclaimed from the river Jordan, *John {1:29} The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world"*.

We all have hard things come to us. The Lord told us this world was full of tribulation and in it we would have trouble. He also warned us in the parable of the sower that offense will cause the word to shrivel up and die in our hearts! BUT he also told us to be of good cheer for HE had overcome the world. Love and the forgiveness of God overcomes the worst situation we face.

*Matthew {13:21} Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.*

The children of Israel were offended at the truth all through their time in the wilderness. The word is full of examples in the old and new covenant of men and women who got offended at the message and messenger of God's word. Hard things come to every human on the planet. Hard things come to every believer as well. The only difference between the two groups is God. God sees His own children through the hard times, but only if we hold fast to the word. The word is our foundation, it is our bedrock. Be aware that the adversary comes with hard times and tough situations for the purpose of stealing the word from our hearts. Even if the messenger is killed, the message will continue to go our UNTIL the Lord returns. The next time you read the word, hear the word, speak the word be warned that the enemy always sends tribulation (trouble) and persecution to kill the word and steal it. Don't let him. No matter how difficult it may seem your safety line IS the word and being forewarned that the adversary is quite good at getting us offended at just about anything will help you hold fast to it. If we look back to John, we remember his prophesy and then we see him questioning if the Lord is even the Messiah. Clearly he's allowed offense to cloud his mind.

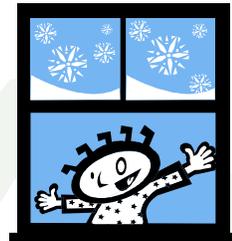
The messenger may make you angry, but really pay attention. Is what you're hearing based on the word and nothing else? Is what you're reading accurate according to the bible? Have you been diverted by offense? Remember unforgiveness ties the hands of God. God can forgive unforgiveness, but only if we surrender it to Him. There is nothing anyone can do or say that is worth getting locked out from the love of God. Love never fails and forgiveness is our best defense against offense!

## PSALMS 3

A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.



{3:1} LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many [are] they that rise up against me.  
 {3:2} Many [there be] which say of my soul, [There is] no help for him in God. Selah.  
 {3:3} But thou, O LORD, [art] a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.  
 {3:4} I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.  
 {3:5} I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.  
 {3:6} I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set [themselves] against me round about.  
 {3:7} Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies [upon] the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.  
 {3:8} Salvation [belongeth] unto the LORD: thy blessing [is] upon thy people. Selah.



## A LITTLE WISDOM

Proverbs {12:1} Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof [is] brutish. {12:2} A good [man] obtaineth favour of the LORD: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn. {12:3} A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved. {12:4} A virtuous woman [is] a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed [is] as rottenness in his bones. {12:5} The thoughts of the righteous [are] right: [but] the counsels of the wicked [are] deceit. {12:6} The words of the wicked [are] to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them. {12:7} The wicked are overthrown, and [are] not: but the house of the righteous shall stand. {12:8} A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised. {12:9} [He that is] despised, and hath a servant, [is] better than he that honoureth himself, and lacketh bread. {12:10} A righteous [man] regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked [are] cruel. {12:11} He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain [persons is] void of understanding. {12:12} The wicked desireth the net of evil [men:] but the root of the righteous yieldeth [fruit. ] {12:13} The wicked is snared by the transgression of [his] lips: but the just shall come out of trouble. {12:14} A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of [his] mouth: and the recompense of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him. {12:15} The way of a fool [is] right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel [is] wise. {12:16} A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent [man] covereth shame. {12:17} [He that] speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit. {12:18} There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise [is] health. {12:19} The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue [is] but for a moment. {12:20} Deceit [is] in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace [is] joy. {12:21} There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief. {12:22} Lying lips [are] abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly [are] his delight. {12:23} A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness. {12:24} The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute. {12:25} Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad. {12:26} The righteous [is] more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them. {12:27} The slothful [man] roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man [is] precious. {12:28} In the way of righteousness [is] life; and [in] the pathway [thereof there is] no death.

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## Jeff Welter's January 2009 Schedule

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sabbath
		Hobbs meeting info: Peggy 575- 631-1809	31 <b>Our 31st Anniversary!</b>	1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Meeting in Gardendale at 14630 N. Holly- hock #35 7PM	8	9 Hobbs 7PM Isaiah's Kitchen for directions call Peggy	10 Roswell 2401 N. Grand 2-4PM McCutcheon's
11	12	13	14 Meeting in Gardendale at 14630 N. Holly- hock #35 7PM	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Meeting in Gardendale at 14630 N. Holly- hock #35 7PM	22 Hobbs 7PM Isaiah's Kitchen for directions call Peggy	23	24
25	26	27	28 Meeting in Gardendale at 14630 N. Holly- hock #35 7PM	29	30	31