



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



Vol. 19 Issue 365

Feb.17, 2012

Worship Music

[The Lost Get Found- Britt Nicole](#)

[Set The World On Fire- Britt Nicole](#)

[Beauty From Pain- Superchick](#)

[I Don't Regret-Barlow Girl](#)

[You Are Worthy Of My Praise-Barlow Girl](#)

[Life Is Like A Cup Of Coffee](#)

Radio Stations

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOV](#)

Bible Study Sites

[Chuck Smith Through The Bible](#)

[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

[Billy Graham](#)

[Charles Stanley](#)

[David Wilkerson](#)

[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women- Cathe Laurie](#)

Prayer

Lord, thank You for reminding me that I am not the first to walk by faith. Others have walked this walk before me, and they did it with power and with grace. If they were able to do it, I know I can do it too, but I must have Your assistance to make it all the way through. So today I look to You to give me everything I inwardly need to keep marching ahead in order to achieve the things You have ordained for me. I ask that each day I am filled with God's will for me and plans. Fill me with Your grace of enabling to go forth, to always do Your will and not my will. Give me peace, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Exodus 28: 1-43 (AMP)

1 FROM AMONG the Israelites take your brother Aaron and his sons with him, that he may minister to Me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons. 2 And you shall make for Aaron your brother sacred garments [appointed official dress set apart for special holy services] for honor and for beauty. 3 Tell all who are expert, whom I have endowed with skill and good judgment, that they shall make Aaron's garments to sanctify him for My priesthood. 4 They shall make these garments: a breastplate, an ephod [a distinctive vestment to which the breastplate was to be attached], a robe, long and sleeved tunic of checkerwork, a turban, and a sash or band. They shall make sacred garments for Aaron your brother and his sons to minister to Me in the priest's office. 5 They shall receive [from the people] and use gold, and blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff], and fine linen. 6 And they shall make the ephod of gold, of blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff], and fine twined linen, skillfully woven and worked. 7 It shall have two shoulder straps to join the two [back and front] edges, that it may be held together. 8 The skillfully woven girding band which is on the ephod shall be made of the same, of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff], and fine twined linen. 9 And you shall take two onyx or beryl stones and engrave on them the names of the twelve sons of Israel; 10 Six of their names on one stone and the six names of the rest on the other stone, arranged in order of their birth. 11 With the work of a stone engraver, like the engravings of a signet, you shall engrave the two stones according to the names of the sons of Israel. You shall have them set in sockets or rosettes of gold. 12 And you shall put the two stones upon the [two] shoulder straps of the ephod [of the high priest] as memorial stones for Israel; and Aaron shall bear their names upon his two shoulders as a memorial before the Lord. 13 And you shall make sockets or rosettes of gold for settings, 14 And two chains of pure gold, like cords shall you twist them, and fasten the corded chains to the settings. 15 You shall make a breastplate of judgment, in skilled work; like the workmanship of the ephod shall you make it, of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff], and of fine twined linen. 16 The breastplate shall be square and doubled; a span [nine inches] shall be its length and a span shall be its breadth. 17 You shall set in it four rows of stones: a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle shall be the first row; 18 The second row an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond [so called at that time]; 19 The third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; 20 And the fourth row a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper; they shall be set in gold filigree. 21 And the stones shall be twelve, according to the names of the sons of Israel, like the engravings of a signet, each with its name for the twelve tribes. 22 You shall make for the breastplate chains of pure gold twisted like cords. 23 You shall make on the breastplate two rings of gold and put [them] on the two edges of the breastplate. 24 And you shall put the two twisted, cordlike chains of gold in the two rings which are on the edges of the breastplate. 25 The other two ends of the two twisted, cordlike chains you shall fasten in the two sockets or rosettes in front, putting them on the shoulder straps of the ephod; 26 And make two rings of gold and put them at the two ends of the breastplate on its inside edge next to the ephod. 27 Two gold rings you shall make and attach them to the lower part of the two shoulder pieces of the ephod in front, close by where they join, above the skillfully woven girdle or band of the ephod. 28 And they shall bind the breastplate by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it may be above the skillfully woven girding band of the ephod, and that the breastplate may not become loose from the ephod. 29 So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart when he goes into the Holy Place, to bring them in continual remembrance before the Lord.

30 In the breastplate of judgment you shall put the Urim and the Thummim [unspecified articles used when the high priest asked God's counsel for all Israel]; they shall be upon Aaron's heart when he goes in before the Lord, and Aaron shall bear the judgment (rights, judicial decisions) of the Israelites upon his heart before the Lord continually. 31 Make the robe [to be worn beneath] the ephod all of blue. 32 There shall be a hole in the center of it [to slip over the head], with a binding of woven work around the hole, like the opening in a coat of mail or a garment, that it may not fray or tear. 33 And you shall make pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff] around about its skirts, with gold bells between them; 34 A gold bell and a pomegranate, a gold bell and a pomegranate, round about on the skirts of the robe. 35 Aaron shall wear the robe when he ministers, and its sound shall be heard when he goes [alone] into the Holy of Holies before the Lord and when he comes out, lest he die there. 36 And you shall make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLY TO THE LORD. 37 You shall fasten it on the front of the turban with a blue cord. 38 It shall be upon Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may take upon himself and bear [any] iniquity [connected with] the holy things which the Israelites shall give and dedicate; and it shall always be upon his forehead, that they may be accepted before the Lord [in the priest's person]. 39 And you shall weave the long and sleeved tunic of checkerwork of fine linen or silk and make a turban of fine linen or silk; and you shall make a girdle, the work of the embroiderer. 40 For Aaron's sons you shall make long and sleeved tunics and belts or sashes and caps, for glory and honor and beauty. 41 And you shall put them on Aaron your brother and his sons with him, and shall anoint them and ordain and sanctify them [set them apart for God], that they may serve Me as priests. 42 You shall make for them [white] linen trunks to cover their naked flesh, reaching from the waist to the thighs. 43 And they shall be on Aaron and his sons when they go into the Tent of Meeting or when they come near to the altar to minister in the Holy Place, lest they bring iniquity upon themselves and die; it shall be a statute forever to Aaron and to his descendants after him.

Exodus 25–31. Directions for the Tabernacle

God Himself gave the pattern in great detail (25:9). It is recorded twice: first in these chapters, where God explains how it is to be made; then in chapters 35–40 , where the details are repeated to indicate that this is exactly how it had been built—according to God's instructions. This repetition strikes us as redundant, but to the Hebrew ear it reflected the importance and solemnity of the building process. (See also Numbers 7 , where the same list of gifts is repeated 12 times!)

The tabernacle was a "likeness" of something, a "copy and shadow" of heavenly things (Hebrews 8:5). It had special meaning to the Hebrew nation; yet it was a "pattern of things to come" (see Hebrews 9–10).

The tabernacle and, later, the temple, which was built by King Solomon based on the pattern of the tabernacle, were the center of Jewish national life. Of direct divine origin, the tabernacle was an immensely important representation of certain ideas God wished to impress on mankind, foreshadowing many teachings of the Christian faith.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History and Commentaries; pages 149-150)

The Priestly Garments; V 3 God was going to fill men with the spirit of wisdom, giving them the skill to make these robes. V 4 A miter is a crown. A girdle is a sash. V 6 The ephod was a coat worn over the shoulders and down. V 16 A span is the length between your thumb and little finger. V 29 As Aaron comes into the presence of God, he bears the names of the tribes of Israel on his shoulders and on his heart. V 30 Some believe that the Urim and the Thummim were actually two stones—one black and one white—that were used in the inquiring of the Lord. The priest would reach in and pull out one of the stones. If he pulled out the white stone, it was God saying "yes." If he pulled out the black stone, it was God say "no." VV 33-35 When the priest was ministering in the area of God's presence, things had to be just right or it could mean death for the high priest. The purpose of the little golden bells around the hem was to let the people know he was alive. If they didn't hear the bells, they would pull on the rope tied to his foot and drag him out. VV 39-40 The priests were very ostentatious and awesome in these robes. The robes were made entirely of linen. No woolen garment could be worn by a priest. Wool cause perspiration and God didn't want priest laboring for Him. God wants our service to be inspired service rather than perspired service. If you have the inspiration, it doesn't take the perspiration. If you don't have the inspiration, even the perspiration's not going to do it.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005, Chuck Smith; commentaries; page 38)

A Great Cloud of Witnesses

Hebrews 12:1

Do you see the word "cloud" in the verse above? It is taken from the Greek word nephos. It describes clouds— just like the clouds you see in the sky. When most people read this verse, they imagine big, fluffy white clouds with Old Testament saints scattered mystically throughout the glorious white billows. But is this really the picture that Hebrews 12:1 means to convey to us?

The Greek word nephos, translated "clouds," has an additional meaning that is very exciting when understood in this context. In ancient, classical Greek times, the word "clouds" was used to describe the highest seats in the bleachers of a stadium. The seats at the very top of the stadium were called the clouds because they were so high up in the air. If you had gone to a sports competition with a ticket for one of these seats, your usher might have said, "Your seat is in the clouds today." This meant you'd be seated in the highest row available in the bleachers. We have seen before that the phrase "compassed about" is taken from the word peikeimenai, which is a compound of the words peri and keimai. The word peri means around, as to be completely encircled by something. The second part of the word, keimai, means to lie down. When these two words are compounded into one word, they mean to lie around, as if something has been piled high and is lying all around you on every side. This portrays the idea of being completely encircled by something that is stacked high on every side.

Thus, this verse carries the following idea: "Wherefore seeing we have lying all around us on every side...." or "Wherefore seeing these biblical examples who are piled up and lying all around us...." But to make this point even stronger, the Holy Spirit uses the word "clouds." Why is this so vital?

In Hebrews 12:1, the Holy Spirit is emphasizing:

"You're not alone! The grandstands of Heaven all the way up to the 'clouds,' the highest seats in the bleachers, are piled high with people who stood the test of time and eventually saw their faith manifested...."

Let me stress again that the Greek word nephos ("clouds") depicted the highest seats in a sports stadium. This is a powerful image because it jogs our memory to the fact that our walk of faith will remove us from the spectator sections and will put us right in the middle of the fight!

The devil hates it when people take a stand of faith or when they do something that benefits the Kingdom of God and drives back darkness. Like an opponent would do in a natural fight, Satan may try to wrestle you, pin you down, or even try to knock you out of the race altogether.

So when you have become illuminated with direction for your life, business, family, or ministry, you need to know that the contest has just begun. You are on the field. All eyes are on you. The fight of faith is on! But if you'll look up into the bleachers of Heaven for just a moment, you'll see that they are stacked all the way to the "clouds" with people just like you!

Just as you are taking steps of obedience now, the bleachers of Heaven are filled with people who have already faced the enemy and won their fight. They faced the impossible; they accomplished the unthinkable; and they stand as proof that you can make it too. They're all cheering you on to victory! Just listen with the ears of faith, and you'll hear them saying, "Go for it! You can do it! Your faith will carry you through!"

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

How has your life changed since God spoke to you and gave you a specific assignment?

What should you do to stir yourself up and get encouraged when you are in the middle of a battle?

Who are your favorite Old Testament characters? Can you say why they are your favorites or why you find yourself relating to them so much?

When you have become illuminated with direction for your life, business, family, or ministry, you need to know that the contest has just begun. You are on the field. All eyes are on you. The fight of faith is on! But if you'll look up into the bleachers of Heaven for just a moment, you'll see that they are stacked all the way to the "clouds" with people just like you!

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pgs 130-131)
(Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Devotionals; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)



Moses.....