

**"For God has allowed us to know the secret of His plan, and it is this: He purposes in His sovereign will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ, that everything that exists in Heaven or earth shall find its perfection and fulfillment in Him."**

**(Ephesians 1:9,10 Phillips Translations)**

## **Wait till the Waters Return**

by Ray Prinzing

"For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doeth HE devise means, that His banished be not expelled from Him." 2 Samuel 14:14.

The secrets of the Lord are many, and the mysteries of wisdom are most profound, so when the Spirit begins to illumine just a small part, and grant and understanding of another precept, it both enthralls and overwhelms - until we exclaim with Paul, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out." (Romans 11:33). Such again is our reaction as we consider this passage of scripture used as our text.

The context from whence it is taken deals with David's family problems. His son Absalom had caused the death of Amnon, another of David's sons, and then fled from his father, and dwelt in Geshur for three years. With the passing of time, David was comforted concerning his son which was dead, and now began to long to see that son who was in exile. When Joab, a captain of David's army, saw that David was turning again towards Absalom he sent for a wise woman from Tekoah, and arranged for her to speak unto David, and in the course of her communication she gave this statement used for our text. David understood the message, and sent for his own son that he be not banished from his kingdom any longer.

## **A View at God's Law of Circularity**

Beyond the personal meaning and message for David, we find that this scripture is one of the most precious promises of complete restoration and reconciliation. The verse begins, "We must needs die, and are as water spilt upon the ground, which cannot be gathered up..." The seeming finality of this first part of the verse is proven to be only relative and temporary by that which follows. It would appear that water pored out cannot be gathered up again - BUT GOD! No process is complete until the end returns to the beginning, when we relate God's purpose to our cycle of life, and the outworking of His plan of redemption. It would often seem that an end had come to the road, when it only takes a curve.

"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. - for all things originate with Him and come from Him; all things live through Him, and all things center in and tend to consummate and to end in Him." (Romans 11:36, Amplified)

This is God's great law of circularity. All things are out of God, pass through their processes according to the administration of Christ, and ultimately consummate in Him. He is both the Alpha and the Omega. We need not list a great number of verses which bear this out, but shall return to our metaphors of water and rivers. "All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again." (Ecclesiastes 1:7).

We speak of something that has passed on as "water under the bridge". But the sea is not the end, the full cycle is not complete until the water has returned to the place from whence it came. "For he maketh small the drops of water: they pour down rain ACCORDING TO THE VAPOUR

THEREOF: which the clouds do drop and distill upon man abundantly." (Job 36:27-28) We shall deal more with the thought of vaporizing in this message.

## **God Has the Means to recover the Banished**

Though the first glimpse at the problem appears to hold no hope, we must needs dire, - water spilt on the ground which cannot be gathered up, yet the verse goes on, HE DEVISETH MEANS THAT HIS BANISHED BE NOT EXPELLED. The word "devise" is from the Hebrew word "chashab" meaning TO THINK, PURPOSE. Then this word "means" comes from the same root which is built up to "machashebeth", or THOUGHT, CUNNING WORK. Thus using both words we have the Wisdom of God, thinking, purposing a process whereby HE will have the thought-out design, workable plan, which He shall be able to use to meet the need. When God has executed His thought, the banished are no longer banished. God has a marvellous CUNNING WORK, speaking of that skillful design which comes from His inner thought, which is creative, NEW, not something copied from former things. This word gives as "cunning work" is used many times in relation to the preparing of the Tabernacle in the wilderness, as God placed His Spirit upon the workmen, and they wrought cunning handiwork - the Spirit directing their thinking, they produced rare designs which were not reproductions of other things, but creatively expressed the mind of God for that work. We see this about us continually; there are those with the ability to express creativity in their work, to produce a design from within which is totally new. But others always need a pattern, something to copy from, which another has designed. The world pays for these "originals". And while the reproductions are nice, no one tried to compare them to the original creation.

Thus we are thrilled to find this meaning contained in our text-- GOD HATH DEVISED A MEANS, new, original, it is a cunning work of sovereign grace to bring His banished back again.

"For I know the thoughts (mean) that I think (devise) toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." (Jeremiah 29:11)

"I have shewed these NE THINGS from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them. They are CREATED NOW, and not from the beginning; even before the day when thou heardest them not; LEST THOUGH SHOULDEST SAY, BEHOLD, I KNEW THEM." (ISAIAH 48:6-7).

The creative acts of God are not ended - He is our own "FAITHFUL CREATOR" even today, working that which ages have held in mystery, and we need to "commit the keeping of our souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator." (1 Peter 4:19). Yes, HE is even now unfolding step by step the means which HE hath devised to reconcile us to Himself. What He accomplished in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, is now being wrought out in His apprehended firstfruits. Redemption cannot be separated from the creative act of God. While the ultimate purpose remains, ad divine principles are unchanged, yet their inworkings are unique within each individual. A sovereign work by a sovereign Creator.

God hath contained in Himself a work which even yet is kept from manifestation. The purpose of the ages lies within the mind of God, and HE knows what the ending of it shall be, but the expression thereof comes only according to His divine schedule.

As our human spirit becomes one in the Spirit of God, and "he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit," we read in 1 Corinthians 6:17, we already are finding inherent knowledge contained in the Spirit causes us to sense many things which we cannot draw out and form into words for expression. "Ye have an unction (or an ANOINTING) from the Holy One, and ye know all things." (1 John 2:20). his knowledge is resident in the Holy Spirit dwelling within. but we are not able to solidify it into phraseology for expression until its time.

God does not move in vain repetition. While there are cycles followed by cycles, and He hath said, "While the earth remaineth, need time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." (Genesis 8:22), yet each cycle is to further the work of God, steadily progressing toward the goal.

Returning to a verse previously quote, Jeremiah 29:11, we find that the means which God hath devised actually are THOUGHTS OF PEACE, to give you an expected end, or literally, TO GIVE YOU AN END, AND AN EXPECTATION. He is bringing an end to all of self, flesh, sin, etc. so that He might unfold a glorious expectation, restoring all creation back into Himself.

## **A Brief Considering of the Banishment**

"Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against Thee." (Psalm 5:10).

Rebellion, exercise of self-will in contra-distinction to obedience to the will of God, is what causes us this estrangement. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have TURNED EVERY ONE TO HIS OWN WAY..." (Isaiah 53:6) "They have turned their back unto Me, and not their face..." (Jeremiah 2:27). Therefore "ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes." (Psalm 82:7).

Having wilfully turned every one to our own way, fallen into the throes of self-will, that which happened to "the anointed cherub" is happened to mankind, "I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee (cause to perish, be lost)... I will cast thee to the ground..." (Ezekiel 28:16,17).

When self-will motivates us, God must needs banish from His kingdom - while "thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, and that My fear is not in thee, saith the Lord God of hosts." as we read in Jeremiah 2:19.

Nor is the "banishing process" complete yet, as far as some are concerned, for "they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and then which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire..." (Matthew 13:41-42).

As God purges every realm, there will be an eradication of all self-will, and even in His coming kingdom manifestation this process will be seen. Now it seems the general teaching that has prevailed through tradition, is that those who are banished, driven out as profane, are eternally doomed, water spilt upon the ground, which shall never be gathered up again. In fact, there is a sadistic spirit in many which causes them to resist or even fight the blessed truth that God shall restore.

But all praise be to our God, HE hath thought thoughts which are far higher than man's, as it is written, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55: 8,9).

What are His thoughts? HE HATH DEVISED MEANS WHEREBY THE WATERS SHALL RETURN AGAIN. "Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you." (Habakkuk 1:5). Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, what God hath yet purposed to do.

## Promises of A Return and Ingathering

The very word "return" places it in line with all the other wonderful words pre-fixed with a "re-", such as REstore, REconcile, REgeneration, REfreshing, REnewal, etc. That which was in harmony with God was turned away from Him, but there shall be a re-turning until we are once again not only facing but also joined to Him.

"The Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee. If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from hence will He fetch thee." (Deuteronomy 30:3-4).

While we are aware that this scripture pertains to the nation of Israel, and their dispersion - we have quite a description of exilement and banishment. Though man is driven out into space, unto "the outmost parts" of heaven, from thence God shall fetch them back again - for "Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there. If I take the winds of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me." (Psalm 139:7-10). Praise the Lord for ever!

Here's a truth that needs to become firmly embedded in our hearts; "The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever; the thoughts of His heart to all generations." (Psalm 33:11). Whatever God hath purposed in His heart no man shall disannul. Thank God for the immutability of His counsel. The means He hath devised are unalterable.

We would also give emphasis to this phrase - "to all generations." While we thrill to the truths of a seed "shall serve Him, and shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation." (Psalm 22:30), and that "ye are a chosen generation... that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light." (1 Peter 2:9), knowing that these are to be His firstfruits, yet, thank God, there shall be the fulfillment of His thoughts to ALL generations. His thoughts that are of peace, and filled with expectation for victory.

"Many, O Lord my God, are Thy wonderful works, which Thou hast done, AND THY THOUGHTS TO US-WARD: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto Thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered." (Psalm 40:5).

"Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion. BUT THEY KNOW NOT THE THOUGHTS OF THE LORD, NEITHER UNDERSTAND THEY HIS COUNSEL." (Micah 4:11,12).

How often this is repeated - when one is in the midst of the purifying process, and being stripped of all of self's many accretions, to they "esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted." (Isaiah 53:4), not knowing GOD'S thoughts, and that HE has devised the means whereby His banished shall be banished no longer. Nor can man begin to comprehend how another could "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ" for His body's sake, resulting in victory for many.

"Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up. After two days will He revive us: in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight." (Hosea 6:1-2).

Banished, poured out, spilt on the ground, torn, smitten, yes-- all of this has befallen the sons of men, but this isn't the end. HE WILL HEAL, BIND UP, RAISE US UP UNTIL ONCE AGAIN WE

SHALL LIVE IN HIS SIGHT. O, how little is known of His thoughts to us-ward, but we thank God that HE is beginning to show forth His love.

"The Lord doth build up Jerusalem: He gathered together the outcasts (banished ones) of Israel. He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. He telleth the number of the stars: He calleth them all by names. (Psalm 147:2-4).

What a tremendous scope is veiled in this scripture in Psalm 147, for though He speaks of gathering together the OUTCASTS OF ISRAEL, He goes on to link this reconciliation to the very stars, which He hath numbered. In its limited aspect we know this can refer to Israel also, for Abraham's seed is to be as the stars of heaven, and as the sand of the seashore. But there is another realm of "stars" spoken of in Jud 13, "wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for the age." THESE HAVE BEEN BANISHED, and for a decreed length of time are wandering in darkness, cut off from the light of His kingdom - yet HE TELLETH THE NUMBER OF THE STARS, He has not forgotten even one, He shall devise means whereby restoration shall find each one. Surely His ways are past finding out.

While many of the scriptures used to relate to Israel, and their return, the process begun in these shall reach out to all, even as we read, "Mine house shall reach out to all, even as we read, "Mine house shall be called an house of prayer FOR ALL PEOPLE. The Lord God which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, YET WILL I GATHER OTHERS TO HIM, BESIDE THOSE THAT ARE GATHERED UNTO HIM." (ISAIAH 56:7-8).

That redemption being wrought now for, and in the holy firstfruits, shall also be brought to the latter-born, "every man in his own order" (1 Corinthians 15:23), until all have been returned to the source of their beginning.

The church, i.e. called-out, the election of grace out of Israel are not the only ones to be saved, and it is written, "so all Israel shall be saved," (Romans 11:26), but we go on to find that it is also written how "God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all." (Romans 11:32), Israel and all nations.

## **Scattered Sheep Shall Return To Their Fold**

How often we have groaned over poor sheep that have no pasture, no shepherd, no fold. As fugitives, outcasts, let to wander and fall by the wayside, beatened, torn, and bruised by the hirelings. Thank God, there is coming another day wherein THE WATERS SHALL RETURN, these that have been banished and dispersed shall be gathered again. "Ye have scattered My flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them... I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord." (Jeremiah 23:2,4).

Let it be clearly stated, this entire process of being scattered and regathered is of GOD'S working. We need to observe and learn, but not interfere with His plan. True, if there be a spirit of love and compassion within us, we yearn for these sheep that are going through this wilderness experience, but we must know that GOD shall use it all to bring forth His purpose for good. There is a pouring out, as water spilt on the ground - which prefigures all the terms and phrases one can use to describe the stripping, humiliation process - this has to be, for God would bring us to an end of all our self-will, an end to the minding of the flesh, to end all the bondage of the false shepherds, etc. while HE also devises means to restore back into Himself a purified people.

It is not for us today to prematurely try to raise up a new fold, and fence in new pastures. Smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered, for, I saw all Israel as sheep having no

shepherd. Ah, for this many did weep, but wait - wait till the waters return - God has reserved an hour for the ingathering, and He shall "give you pastors according to Mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." (Jeremiah 3:15).

Young's literal translation renders the latter part of our text verse this way, "God... hath devised devises in that that the outcast is not outcast by Him." While all outward appearances indicate banishment, yet actually THE OUTCAST IS NOT OUTCAST BY HIM. He hath not forgotten His creation, the outcasting is part of His plan, and He also hath devised devises which shall reconcile all things into Himself. IT WAS GOD working through instruments which caused the casting out, for HE alone maintains the responsibility for His creation. All is under HIS control, and the end is secure in victory. He also is preparing His instruments of righteousness which He shall use to gather together all the exiled.

Man, in many of his mis-guided efforts, has assumed he is responsible for the salvation of the world. But we are persuaded that GOD PROVIDES THE SAVIOUR, and those who shall become "saviours in The Saviour." The final destiny of man does not rest in my feeble hand, vitally depending on my limited finances and abilities. O, perhaps some man's program will collapse if all earthly support is withdrawn, for it is founded on man, and his limited resource. BUT GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL PREVAIL, FOR HE IS BOTH THE AUTHOR AND THE FINISHER THEREOF.

## **The Return of the Soul into Rest**

"Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee." (Psalm 116:7).

There is rest for the soul. "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS." (Matthew 11:29).

As the mind is changed, renewed, brought into submission to the truth, with all the rebellion of self-will removed, and once again we are united into the mind of the Spirit, there is rest. Already we have found that in the measure the Spirit controls our mind, there is a corresponding measure of rest. What was it that introduced the agitation and unrest? The turning of our mind away from the mind of God. But in the RE-turning so that we "turn our face, not our back", as we change from the minding of the flesh into the minding of the Spirit, harmony is restored.

What hell is endured when a mind is "set in rebellion" against God, persistently warring for its own way. And what peace and rest are enjoyed when the mind is turned again to the realm of the Spirit of God, yielded to the truth. Self-will and bitterness against the ways of God will produce a private hell for each individual, when they struggle to rest to resist the wooing of His Spirit. While submission to the will of God, with the mind renewed into the knowledge of Christ, will lead into new avenues of rest and harmony we never dreamed possible. It matters not how turbulent the outward atmosphere is so long as your mind is committed to God - peace rules.

Our nation is plagued today with conditions which war so heavily against the mind, until many are falling as casualties of the battle. Our institutions are crowded beyond their capacity with those "pressured minds" which have no rest. To visit these places is to also return home weeping because there is no power within to restore. We have rejoiced and praised the Lord during those deliverance meetings when physical bodies were healed, and miracles were taking place. But as we began to think of the multitudes in "mental" distress it took us to our knees to weep some more. But now, deep within our heart, we hear the Spirit softly whisper - WAIT TILL THE WATERS RETURN. There is an hour that HE shall execute the means whereby every soul shall again know His rest. Methinks that the Spirit is placing a vision deep within our hearts, a sense of divine purpose, that HE hath devised means whereby the banished shall be banished no more, restoration shall be known.

Thank God, those minds which have known the devastation and marring of the adversary, they shall also know the sweetness of the Spirit in healing power. The road to collapse has been rough, and sorrow has filled the way with its pain and shame. But there is another "path", IT IS THE WAY OF RETURN, secure in the mercies of God.

## How Do the Waters Return?

Ah, we are familiar with the process leading downward, and we have seen the contrast between the lovely clear streams of the mountain, and the sluggish, filth-laden rivers that are deep in the valley. The way has taken its course ever downward, accumulating debris and dirt until the whole is so polluted we turn away from such a sight, and yearn again for the purity of the streams of the highlands. Can there be restoration for this? When water is spilt upon the ground, can it be gathered up? Yes, praise God, He hath devised the means.

When man has expended himself, become so profane and corrupt with the accumulation of filth from self and its perverted action - then GOD's SOVEREIGN GRACE will reveal the HE has provided the way for restoration, a process which shall remove man from the filth, and will thoroughly cleanse and purify until the shame is remembered no more, and God receives man back into Himself.

Consider the shameful state of this water, poured out in purity on the mountain, but now down in the valley it ends in a polluted swamp, unclean, undesirable, a vivid example of the downward way. Then the rays of the sun begin to reach down and draw upward, vaporizing that which had become so utterly polluted. Then with the gentle moving of the wind these "vapors" are slowly returned back to the mountain and distilled into drops of rain, pure water again. All the filthy debris is left behind in the valley; only the water is lifted up into the heavens, and returned to its beginning.

Perhaps we can change this word "vaporize" to the word "spiritize", for that is what God is doing with men. He reaches down through the SON OF HIS LOVE, and draws us upward, into realms of the Spirit. The works of flesh are left behind; the filth of the carnal mind is gradually stripped off, while the upward pull continues to draw us into Himself. Corruption cannot inherit God's rare realm of incorruption, it is left behind, that we might be swallowed up - into that which is from above.

It is also noted that heat is used in this vaporizing process, the sun's rays become very warm, though drawing the moisture upward all the while. There is quite a fire involved as God purges, but through it all that which was so congealed begins to liquify, becoming more fluid all the time, until finally it becomes as vapor. Perhaps our flesh has resisted the move, we have found it going to mean separations, and we tried to cling to some of these natural things, but THE SON OF LOVE will continue to draw, until we release our grip on all the natural, and abandon ourselves to His upward pull.

Once our gathering was unto the world, with its filth, its lust and self-seeking. But as HE looses us, drawing upward, we find there is a NEW GATHERING IN SPIRIT to form the beautiful clouds of heaven, henceforth to be borne aloft and moved by the wind (spirit) whither-so-ever HE wills. Thank God, in the fulness of time HE shall gather together in One all things in Christ. Beloved friend, don't ever look upon a stagnant pool, and say, That is the end. Don't ever look upon a life that is polluted with sin, and say, That is the end. When water is poured out onto the ground, mixed with the dirt, absorbed into the earth, don't say, That is the end. GOD HATH DEVISED MEANS and He can vaporize, lift that water up out of the earth and receive it pure again. Until the end returns to the beginning, we find the cycle is not complete. All that came forth OUT OF HIM SHALL RETURN BACK INTO HIM, He hath decreed it.

What God works in us as individuals, He also shall work in all the earth, reconciling the world unto Himself. God is going to shake both heaven and earth, until the elements shall be loosened, dissolved, melt with fervent heat, not to destroy, but to restore. The judgments of God shall rock our globe, but the SON OF LOVE shall draw ALL unto Himself. We shudder at the extent chaos and corruption have engulfed mankind, and all of man's attempt at reforms and "clean-up campaigns" have accomplished little. Great revivals are held with few results. And while we have no condemnation for any of these efforts, but are thankful for whatever is gleaned in results, yet we are aware of the fact only GOD'S SOVEREIGN INTERVENTION CAN BRING TRUE RESTORATION. It brings forth praise from the depths of our heart as we consider that GOD hath devised the means - and now we turn our eyes to look upward, and wait till the waters return. Methinks I see the rising of a little cloud, perhaps only the size of a man's hand, but the vapors are ascending, and a tremendous spiritual movement is soon to be realized. To God be all glory and praise.

## **Joy and Blessing Accompany the Return**

"In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." (Isaiah 30:15)

"Lo, all these things worketh God oftentimes with man, TO BRING BACK HIS SOUL FROM THE PIT, to be enlightened with the light of the living... his flesh shall be fresher than a child's; HE SHALL RETURN TO THE DAYS OF HIS YOUTH." (Job 33:29, 30, 25). We marvel at the works of the Lord, the things which HE uses to bring us back from the pit. The chastenings, the strippings, all of the fiery trial - these are in HIS hand, directed by His love, to help effect our return. We have held the most negative attitudes towards His dealing - when He began to separate the world from us, and us from the world, we grumbled and felt we were being ill-treated, but now we can see it was all a part of His divine inworking to loose us from this world's system, that we might return to Him. Strange as it may see, there is a pride in man that glories in the flesh and hesitates to leave this realm. But God has a way of bringing us to the end of our selves until we abhor the conditions of self-will and flesh-desires, and in humiliation we welcome HIS lifting up, delivering us from the bondage of vanity, and returning us to the youth of the spirit.

"Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of holiness (separation) from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth." (Psalm 110:3)

The Amplified translation renders this, "in holy array out of the womb of the morning; to You will spring forth Your YOUNG MEN WHO ARE AS THE DEW." How precious! As God effects our RETURN it will be into the vitality of youth. The life of the ages shall be our portion. It is the blessed "afterward" to the time of separation, and we begin to see the very beauty of holiness. This word "holiness", coming from the root word also used in the words SEPARATION AND SANCTIFICATION, has not always held for us the thought of BEAUTY, for the process has dealt a death-blow to the self-life. But as we are restored to the purity of the Spirit, vaporized, gathered into HIM, then we are awed by the beauty and glory, yes, and we thank God for all the process He has used.

"They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble..." (Jeremiah 31:9). What a blessed return as GOD LEADS THEM by the rivers of water. Dare we say that there are two kinds of rivers? One, that flowing of water which works its way downward to the sea; and second, that more mystical river of vapor being carried in clouds by the wind, borne back to the mountain top. We have flowed with the downward trend, but now, thank God, there is another flowing - upward, back into HIM.

Someone wrote a chorus which quite expresses this...

"Flowing, flowing, flowing into God,  
Flowing, flowing, flowing into God,  
It takes a breaking, it takes a melting,  
it takes a breaking, it takes a melting,  
FLOWING INTO GOD."

It is this river that now thrills our hearts, for this is the waters' return. What had been poured out, spilt on the ground, seemingly hopelessly lost, God devised the means for its gathering up and return. What first appeared to be but a fragmentary mist is now becoming a real cloud - a cloud of witnesses to be the living manifestation of the redemption wrought by our Lord.

"And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."  
(Isaiah 35:10).

What joy, what rejoicing as that which was lost is not only found, but healed of all its bruises and wounds - returned to its youth, restored to its purity, so that forgotten will be the sorrow of the casting off, while God wipes all tears from the eye, and sighing is ended. Nor is there any fear that the whole cycle shall ever repeat itself, for the work of His resurrection power is such that it is written, "NO MORE TO RETURN TO CORRUPTION." (Acts 13:34. Praise God, He who hath begun in us a work which is good, shall also bring it to a successful conclusion. God shall be all in all. There shall be a return for every man, God hath devised the means whereby His banished shall not be expelled from Him. Indeed, He hath long patience to wait till every drop of water shall return, His purpose cannot fail.

"Turn Thou us unto Thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old."  
(Lamentations 5:21).

## Wait Till The Waters Return

By Ray Prinzing

Wait till the waters return again,  
In patience abide the time,  
Till He gathers His clouds, filled with rain,  
Accenting the perfect rhyme.

The water that's spilt upon the ground,  
And mixed with the earth's decay,  
Encounters God's processes profound,  
His grace for the soul astray.

The rivers that flow from mountainside,  
From the womb of hidden springs,  
In their natal hour sing with pride,  
In the joy innocence brings.

But follow along its downward course,  
In the valleys below,  
While the flesh and sin, diverting its force,  
With filth the waters do slow.

Until it gathers a stagnant pool,  
A saddened and bitter state,  
And loathes itself for playing the fool,  
In sorrow bemoans its fate.

But God, omnipotent, knows the way  
To purge out the dross and shame,  
And vaporizes by love's pure ray -  
The water to thus reclaim.

So wait till the waters return again,  
O'erflowing they soul with praise  
For all that was lost He shall regain,  
To its former state shall raise.

The curses of sin shall be no more,  
His righteousness shall prevail,  
The truth has conquered as He foreswore,  
His glory to now unveil.

As it is always written in Ray's publications:

*NOT TO BE SOLD - this book is given free, as a ministry of love. That which is contained therein cannot be valued in terms of material goods, but is shared with others because it has become life and light to us. May it be received in the same spirit of love in which it is shared. If there be any thoughts expressed that seem to be the result of only natural thinking, we trust that a little breath of kindness will blow the chaff away, that the kernel of truth might remain to bless.*