

2007 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa.61:1-2

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Where is Beulah Land?

via "Think on These Things"

We are supposed to "sing with the spirit and with the understanding" (**1 Cor 14:15**). So let me ask, what are we singing about when we sing *Beulah Land*?

If you answer heaven, I am not surprised. The way that the first verse of this song has been altered from its original tense certainly leaves this impression. But without trying to get into the mind of the writer, let us explore the scriptural meaning of the term *Beulah Land*.

The only place where I know that it occurs (and the reference given for it in our songbook) is **Isa 62:1-2**. This is clearly a Messianic prophecy which refers to our day and age. Beulah literally means "married" as spelled out by Isaiah. The figurative reference is to a land which is already cleared, plowed, seeded and ready to bear fruit.

Those who have worked desolate land understand the figure quite well. Jesus has already done the hard work. Our job is merely to harvest the crop (ref. **Matt 9:37**).

That the original writer of the song meant to accurately apply this figure to our current state in the church is readily apparent from the tense of the chorus. Speaking of Beulah land, he says "as on thy highest mount I stand" (present tense), while look-

ing toward heaven across the sea. In the second verse he proclaims: "this is heaven's borderland" (not heaven itself).

While there is nothing unscriptural about the first verse of the song as now written, it is clearly inconsistent with the rest of the song. The intent of the song was to voice our satisfaction with and thankfulness for the spiritual blessings which we have in Christ NOW (**Eph 1:3**). Those who were around thirty years ago remember the original words: "I've reached the land of corn and wine, and all its riches freely mine, Here shines undimmed one blissful day, for all my night has passed away."

I suppose our editors felt squeamish about such definitive statements of bliss, and thought they would best be relegated to heaven. While our current version is not technically wrong, it does rob us of some valuable lessons that we desperately need to learn. Among them:

1. The blessings we receive now for being Christians are worthy of acclaim: *"he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time ..."* (**Mark 10: 30**). The problem is that we do not have the proper spiritual attitude to realize the full impact of this statement.
2. The apostle Paul had the right attitude when he said: *"Nay, in all things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us"* (**Rom 8: 37**). Again Peter: *"Ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation ..."* (**1 Pet 2: 9**).
3. Perhaps if we understood these truths, we would have a better grasp of what it means to "live and reign with Christ for a thousand years" (Rev. 20: 4). Unfortunately, our premelinalist friends cannot fully appreciate the *now* in their preoccupation with what they assume will be a period of rapture.

Regardless of how you feel comfortable singing this great song, let us never forget what God does for Christians everyday in this world; for unless we understand this, we will never comprehend the meaning of heaven. Indeed, this realization is the highest mount of Beulah land.

---Via Think on these Things



SPECIAL THOUGHTS:

(author unknown)

Do you remember Bob Hayes, the man who was named "World's Fastest Human"?

He was a hero of 1964 Olympics, bringing home the Gold Medal in the 100\ meter run, and being clocked at incredible 8.5 seconds in the final 110 yards of 400 meter relay run.

After the Olympics, he became an all-pro wide receiver for the Dallas Cowboys. His college coach said that if there had ever been a kid he wished was his, it was Bob Hayes.

Then, in April 1979 Bob was convicted of selling narcotics to an undercover agent. He received two 5-year prison sentences. He went from the pinnacle of success to prison.

According to Hayes, and those who cared most about him, his downfall was caused by his inability to choose good friends. The people he hung around gave him a bad example and got him into trouble.

As a rule, we usually reflect the thoughts and lifestyles of the people we spend the most time with. Who are you spending time with?

TIME IS SO PRECIOUS

Ask nearly any "senior citizen" how important time is, and you'll learn that from all back grounds and all walks of life the same word will be used: it is **precious**. *"For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time then vanishes away."* (**James 4:14b**)

Even when God grants us extended time in this life, past the 80-year decade and even into our nineties, we realize the brevity and value of such a precious commodity. Yet we are speaking of this physical world, for life is greater than this place. Life is boundless and will stretch into the eternal plains of abundance, that is if our lives are in Christ.

It then affords us a moment to ponder the values of which our lives consist, including our **goals**, our **opportunities**, and our **priorities**. What is important that we may have passed over, or what we thought was important but in the end is not as we originally considered? Do we consume our lives with the pursuit of the material world or do we focus even the greater on that which is beyond the physical eye? Is it worthy of the precious time we have to consider the paths of life we have been traveling and the eternal destination that awaits?

Friend I'd hope we all might step back and gaze for a moment on the beautiful sunset, on the tender heart of our spouse, on the innocent smile of our children or grandchildren. For when we do, we gaze upon the glory of God. *"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork."* (Psalm 19:1). Is the God behind such creation and such glory worth spending our precious commodity of time seeking after? Friends God has revealed Himself to the world through His Son Jesus the Christ. Won't we pick up His testimony (the scriptures) and seek after Him who can lead us in to that eternal life. (**Oak Hill bulletin**)

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

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The Brad Shuck Family
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Nancy Valine
Shirley Watkins
Ellie Williams
Gordon & Glenda Wilson
Bob Hauck & Jessica Perkins (new mem.)

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Karen Daly
Aaron Robertson
Gordon Wilson

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson
David Lovett
Aaron Robertson
Trent Walsh

CHRIST'S POWER TO SAVE

1 Cor 1:18-31

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Different kinds of power attract us, sometimes it even intrigues and excites us!
 - 1. Powerful objects excite us by their abilities to do great tasks uniquely.
 - 2. Train engines, ocean liners, a mighty army, & great powers in financially & politically.
- B. The history of humanity records a struggle between powers, esp. in the spiritual realm.
 - 1. This gigantic struggle began in Eden and is perpetuated in the lives of each of us!
 - 2. The struggles are between things that are RIGHT vs. things that are WRONG.
 - 3. There's no power inherent in man save us or give relief from the power of sin!

I. CONSIDER THE GREATNESS OF THE POWER OF SATAN

- A. To deny it is to deny history's recorded events ~ consider the following ~
 - 1. In the garden, Gen 3; The flood, Gen 6; Satan's efforts in Sodom, Gen 19;
 - 2. From the Hebrew slavery to the Babylonian captivity Psa 9:17.
- B. Satan's power is portrayed in the SINS/ & the SICKNESSES/ SUFFERINGS/ & SORROWS!
- C. His power is shown anew every time we are reminded by the reality of death.

II. CHRIST ALONE HAS THE POWER TO SAVE FROM SINS. Jas 4:12

- A. FIRST, recognize that Jesus declared HIS power to save in these Words in Acts 26:16-18
- B. The power Jesus possessed was demonstrated during His ministry, as in Mark 2:1-12
- C. But later, His Power was again doubted when He was put to death! Luke 24:21
 - 1. The enemy challenged Him on the Cross! Matt 27:39-40
 - 2. IT WAS BECAUSE OF (for) the sins of mankind, Jesus was killed and humiliated!
- D. His GODLY Power/approval was established in His resurrection. Rom 1:4; 2 Cor 13:4;
- E. God-given authority was claimed for the Apostles by promise & in fact! Jn 17:8; Acts 1:8.

III. HOW IS JESUS' POWER TO SAVE MADE KNOWN IN THIS GENERATION?

- A. NOT in the *signs and wonders* the Holy Spirit demonstrated in the first century!
 - 1. The purposes for these demonstrations of heavenly power were fulfilled when the gospel was preached on Pentecost.
 - 2. Salvation's message was authenticated by those Spirit-filled apostles of Christ!
 - 3. In fact, the Lord told the apostles *they'd do greater things!* John 14:12
- B. **Authentication** of the apostles teaching is no longer needed! eded to establish it's heavenly authorization!
 - 1. The gospel we preach was verified by miracles! Rom 1:16-17; Heb 4:12.
 - 2. It isn't necessary to keep proving what has already been verified as TRUTH!
- C. Acceptance of the gospel is what leads to our salvation! Acts 8:12; 18:8
- D. Obedience to His gospel is the power for our forgiveness of sins. Acts 2:38; Heb 5:8-9;
- E. Faithful service in gospel assures inheritance of eternal life. 2 Pet 1:5-11
- F. Christ must reign till He has conquered Satan. 1 John 3:8; 1 Cor 15:25
- G. When He comes opportunities to be saved will be gone forever! Rev 20:12; 2 Cor 5:20.

CONCLUSION:

- A. MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE TODAY! Don't miss the joy of *living for Him!*
- B. Don't deny yourself the HOPE FOR ETERNAL LIFE!
- D. We must never trifle with our most precious possession ~ our SOUL!