

# Adventures with the Cascades

(previously known as "Ebb & Flo")

At long last, the Cascades were on their way to Deeperville. What a liberating feeling this was! New sights, new sounds, and new prospects all lay before them, giving them the incentive to press on in the Spirit! By this time, they knew without a shadow of a doubt that their departure from Shallowville was ordained of God. Nothing could make them question that now!

When they first embarked upon their journey, they traveled in tandem with their dear friends and mentors in the present truth, Bro. A. Bundance and his wife, Gloria (as you may recall, it was the Bundances who first introduced Ebb & Flo to the message of Sonship). Throughout the summer months, they helped out in the tent meetings, and assisted in every way they could. It was a highly rewarding experience, to say the least! They'd learned so much from these humble servants of God, both in Spirit and in Word. And they'd met so many wonderful people along the way! But after the tent season was over, Bro. Bundance said that they were to split up for a while. They could meet up together again, once they all got to Deeperville. The Lord had some things He wanted to teach the Cascades, and He wanted to deal with them without the aid of flesh and blood!

Now it was just them and the Lord, with a wide open road stretched out before them. Since they had no alternative but to trust Him completely for their guidance, they decided that they might as well just lean back, and enjoy the ride. And enjoy it they had! They had been blessed by the scenery while driving through Profundity County. The mountains were exploding in full colors of autumn---brilliant crimsons and golds, like flames of fire leaping up against a canvas of blue. And the valley of visions was so lively and vibrant, they could barely contain themselves! Truly, those were "Kodak" moments! Suddenly, however, and without prior warning, their old pickup truck started sputterin' and backfirin'. "Wonder what that could be?" asked Flo. "Don't know 'xactly. Reckon it Could be a number of things," Ebb replied. "We'll have it checked out in the next town we come to." He no more but got those words out of his mouth, when they noticed a little sign along the side of the road, sayin', "Town of Peculiarity dead ahead". "What an odd name for a town," Flo said. "Ain't no tellin' what a body might find there." "Well, ya might as well brace yourself, 'cause we're about to find out," replied Ebb. "Like the sign says, it's dead ahead!"

Their first impression was that there was nothing really so peculiar about the town. By all appearances, it seemed normal enough (with the exception of the fact that there were no speed limits posted, no stop signs, and no law enforcement anywhere to be found).

Turning off of Main Street, and Driving down Novelty Boulevard, however, they were fascinated by all the different types of buildings on display. No two structures were alike! Finally, after a brief inquiry, Ebb & Flo stopped in at what appeared to be the only gas station and restaurant in town (a place called, "The Pluralization Station"). And not a minute too soon, either! The old truck was makin' such a bodacious racket, it sounded like it was 'bout to give up the ghost right then and there!.

Pulling around to the garage area, Ebb got out and explained the problem to the attendant. The attendant replied, "Why don't you folks go into the diner, an' stretch your legs for awhile. Maybe even grab ya a bite of lunch, while you're at it. I'll let ya know just as soon as we got'er figured out." "Good idea," said Flo. "That'll give us a chance to read some more on this book the Bundances left with us."

As they entered the lobby, they were impressed by the friendliness of the staff. Everyone was smiling and pleasant, with that warm, down home hospitality you'd naturally expect from a small town diner. They went out of their way to make Ebb & Flo feel welcome, like they were genuinely glad they were there!

Once the waitress seated them and went to get their drinks, Flo pulled their little book out of her handbag. Handing it over to Ebb, she said, "Hon, You've just gotta read this for yourself! While you were drivin' this morning, I was readin' a little ahead on my own, and I came across some things I knew was really gonna bless you. Why, it's a confirmation to everything we were talkin' about, when we were comin' through the valley of visions!" He had just begun to read a page she had highlighted for him, when a kindly gentleman approached their booth.

"Pardon me, but I couldn't help noticing the subject matter of your reading material. It appears that you might share some common interests with our townsfolk.

"Allow me to introduce myself. I am the proprietor of this establishment, Bro. Onemore Strangebird."

"Nice to meet you there, Bro. Strangebird. We're the Cascades. We were just passin' through this part of the country when our truck started actin' up. We're havin' it looked at right now."

"Where you folks aheadin'?" interrupted a high-pitched little voice from across the aisle. "Deeperville," replied Flo. "We're meetin' some friends there, who've gone on ahead of us." "Well, you've come to the end of your journey. You've arrived!" "But," she said, with a bumfuzzled sound in her voice, "we thought the sign said 'Peculiarity.'" "Don't matter what it said. It ain't nothing but an illusion. In fact, everything you see 'round you is just an illusion. It don't really exist a'tall. That's just one of the things you'll learn 'round these here parts. Only those things which you want to believe are real. Everything else is just a figment of your imagination. You see, this is one of the ways in which you get in touch with your 'creator' side. You believe it, confess it, and it comes into reality. Hey! Hey! hey! Kinda like that hamburger commercial that says, 'have it your way!' You

can 'special order' anything to fit your desire." "Uh-huh. Right. And what did you say your name was?" asked Ebb. "Bro. Gullible. Bro. Waytoo Gullible." "Yeah. That's kind'a what we thought."

Just about that time, a funny little lady seated in the booth directly behind them turned and said, "Why, Hello, there, Honeys! My name's Imalittle Spacey. Not tryin' to eavesdrop, but I couldn't help overhearing your conversation. Who is it that you're supposed to meet in Deeperville?" "A wonderful couple in the Lord, Bro. A. Bundance and his wife Gloria. Do you know them?" "Ah, yes, honey. Know 'em well. Years ago, We used to meet with 'em over on the mountain of spices. That is, until we came into a greater revelation. Bro. Bundance just never could receive it, bless his little heart." "And what exactly was this revelation?" Ebb asked. "Why, I like to call it, 'Regenerative perfection'. It's the belief that if you didn't get it right in this life, then you can learn from those mistakes in the next. Furthermore, it helps you understand how you got the way you are in the first place. See, not everyone is aware of it, but our spirits have the ability to look into any of our past lives, all the way back to the state we were in before the foundation of the world. It's Kind of like having a 'rear-view mirror' in your spirit, if you know what I mean!" "Pardon me if I seem a little slow. But that sounds a lot like the Hindu teaching of transmigration, or reincarnation." "Well, I wouldn't want to call it that, honey." "You don't have to. As the old saying goes, 'a rose by any other name is still a rose.'"

"Sister Spacey," exclaimed Bro. Strangebird, "don't you think that's a little Too D-E-E-P for our new friends? After all, they have just gotten here, and they haven't even had a chance to look at the menu! Besides, we wouldn't want to frighten them away before they get to know us better, now, would we?" "Why, I Never...!" said she in a huff, as she jerked around in her seat. "I was only trying to be helpful...and just look what it gets me!"

While Sister Spacey was still muttering to herself, Bro. Strangebird apologized for the outburst. "I'm so terribly sorry for the interruption. Now, as I was about to say, we were planning a little meeting after lunch...a small, informal gathering of sorts... with a few friends who see things...uh, shall we say, a bit 'differently' from those who are still stuck in 'mud' of the 'old order'. We would be honored if you would join us."

"Well, seein' how we're kind'a stuck here ourselves until our truck gets fixed, I don't reckon there'd be any harm in our sittin' in. That's mighty neighborly of you to ask us".

As Bro. Strangebird walked away, Flo nudged Ebb in the side. "Are you sure this is what we ought'ta be doin'? I mean, I really don't think we're on the same page with these people," she whispered. "Whata ya mean, 'Same page'?!" he said. "I don't think we're even in the same book! But, somehow, I think God's got us here for a reason. So let's just see what He's got in store for us!"

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Once the lunch tables were cleared, the diner was rearranged to accommodate the service. The Chairs were lined up in rows, and the meeting came to order. After singing a few choruses, they opened the pulpit for ministry.

Bro. E. Zen Zion was the first to stand, and to approach the podium. Raising his hands high above his head, he said with all the emotion-packed enunciation and enthusiasm of a carnival barker, "Ain't we gla-a-a-d we're not all bound up in tradition like other folks? While others are still prayin' and readin' their Bibles, goin' through the dead motions of religion, we're mo-o-o-vin' on in the Spirit! Say amen!"

"Ah, yes, My brothahs and my sistahs! Once you come to realize your true identity, you don't need to pray anymore. I ask you, Does God need to pray? And if he did, who would he pray to? C'mon, now! You've gotta understand, you're all there is, baby! There ain't no God outside of you! So get used to the idea! You are the great 'I AM'! You are the everlasting Father! And the soonah you start actin' like it, the soonah we can get this show on the road! The whole Creation's waitin' to see it's Maker, so get ready to stand to your feet, and let 'em get a good look at'cha! Somebody bettah say amen, or I'm gonna explode!"

Well, that got the crowd off to a roarin' start! It triggered an overwhelming avalanche of "amens" around the room! As the Cascades cautiously eyed the place, they noticed different individuals poised on the edge of their seats, like antsy runners in a fifty-yard dash, ready to make a run for the front. Why, before the first speaker even got sat down good, a couple of 'em took off runnin' at the same time! It was Bro. Kookand Krackpot who reached the microphone first. "I hear folks who don't know no better talkin' about wantin' to go to heaven and see 'Grandma.' Well, if grandma is in Christ, and Christ is in you, then Grandma is in you, too! Why, for that matter, She's in all of us! Somebody look over at your neighbor and say, 'Hello, grandma'!!! Or, better yet, why don't some of you just start talkin' to yourself! It's all the same!!!" Ebb and Flo just looked at each other, and shook their heads.

While Bro. Krackpot was busy greetin' "grandma," Bro. Dazedand Looney seized his moment. "God woke me up this morning, an' said that the thing that keeps 'the Christ consciousness' from comin' to us more than it does is that *we think too much*. Yessiree, That's right! We think too much! He even gave me a couple of scriptures to prove it. Matt. 24:44 says, "Be ye also ready: for *in such an hour as ye think not*, the Son of Man cometh." Did ya get that? And over there in Matt. 6:25, Jesus did say, 'Take no thought', now, didn't he! So the thing we gotta do is 'think not'! We gotta stop thinkin' so much, an' just open up our minds for a visitation! Whooh, yea, man! You'll be amazed at what'll happen when ya do! Can ya say, 'amen' to that?"

Through the course of the afternoon, they heard from all kinds of folks, on all kinds of different topics. They heard the testimony of three old spinster sisters, Ibel, Eve, & Annie Thing, who claimed to be speakin' from the 'woman side' of God. (They were promotin'

a sort of "spiritual feminism," sayin' that the elect overcomers of revelation, the rulers of the age to come, would all be women). Sister Iva Nothergospel got up and "blessed" the congregation with her "expanded" concept of the body of Christ (according to this doctrine, all of creation is co-existential with the Creator, and was originally made from the same "stuff" God himself is made. Therefore, every living thing, i.e. beasts, birds and bugs, must of necessity be "cells" in that great mystical Body, a part of "God immanen." You can naturally imagine where those thoughts led! She concluded her remarks with an impassioned appeal for vegetarianism, a prayer for the release of our persecuted "brethren" in the poultry plants and slaughter houses around the world, and a plea to stop using pesticides as a means of "crucifying our Lord.") It seemed like every speaker that got up tried to come up with something a little wackier than the one before them. It was almost like they were competing to see who could produce the greatest shock-effect! There were some, who, like Bro. Y. B. Normal, were heavily into angelology, enumerating the names and responsibilities of the various angels, or 'spirit-guides,' that had come to 'em most recently. Then, there was one old brother by the name of Bro. U. B. Bizarre, who would jump up right behind every one of 'em, and refute the idea of the existence of angels altogether. There were some who taught that there is no such thing as the devil, sayin' that it's all in your mind, and others who taught that the old serpent really lives in your belly (the Buddhists call this, "kundalini")! There was talk of UFO's & Pyramids, possessing immortality now, "Kingdom celibacy," food fads, "energy balls," transcendental meditation, and the mysterious purpose of the pineal gland. And, of course, there was the ever-present visionaries and dream-weavers, who seemed to be able to manufacture some deep "spiritual" interpretation for every dream they had (even the ones they experienced after a trip to "Big Bubba's Brown Bean Emporium")! On and on they went, with this ridiculous Babylonian gibberish! The absurdities came from every imaginable perspective! But the one line which was repeatedly parroted throughout the meetin' was, "You can Throw away your Bibles now, 'cause you're the Living word made flesh! Everything you say is 'thus saith the Lord'!" This was almost like their mantra!

Finally, Bro. Strangebird cut into the service. "May I have your attention, please? we have some visitors with us today, Brother & Sister Cascade. Please give them a warm welcome! I wonder if they have anything they'd like to share with us?" As the applause died down, Ebb reluctantly rose to his feet. "I hope I'm not out of line by sayin' this. And I ain't meanin' to step on anybody's toes. But if I was preachin' what ya'll are preachin', I'd throw My bible away, too, 'cause what we've heard today ain't nowhere to be found in it!

"Now, don't get me wrong. We recognize your sincerity. We believe that many of you have a genuine love for God. In the short time we've been here, we've met some mighty precious folks in this town. But somewhere along the line, you've gotten off track!

"If Paul would instruct Timothy not to go beyond that which is written, then that seems like pretty good advice for the rest of us to follow, too. You see, the Scriptures serve as "guardrails" of sorts, to keep us from winding up in a ditch. And as we've come to find out, there's some mighty "deep" ones to watch out for these days! Y'know what I mean?

"Now, it occurs to me that the primary problem here is that you've left your first love, the Lord Jesus Christ. Somehow, He's faded from your focal point, while you've become preoccupied with these wild and foolish notions! Beloved, this should never have happened!

"It also seems that there's a general misunderstanding concerning the significance of the Feast of Tabernacles...and in particular, what the Day of Atonement is meant to represent to us. True, it does speak of the 'at-one-ment'... or, the bringing about of a state of oneness between God and man. But that oneness does not, by any stretch of the imagination, suggest that we ever have been, or ever will become God! Perish the thought! No, it simply means that we've been restored into right relationship with God through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son. It means that He has been teachin' us how to be led of the Spirit in all things, to acknowledge Him in all our ways, that He might direct our steps in perfect synchronization with His Own. And it also means that when He has brought us to full maturity in spirit, and positionally placed us as His sons, there will appear on the scene a totally new creation, unlike anything that has ever been witnessed before, save for Jesus, who is called the Christ. The relationship He had with the Father is exactly what He had in mind for us, when He prayed, 'Father, make them one, even as we are one.' He in us, and us in Him, that we might become God's very own 'combine,' so to speak, His 'international harvester,' His 'new sharp threshing instrument, having teeth' (Isa. 45:15), specifically designed for the purpose of reaping the harvest of all the earth! Now, that's what The feast of Tabernacles is all about, in an abbreviated sense. And that's somethin' worth shoutin' about, if you ask me! The bringin' forth and maturin' of a firstfruits company, that they might, in turn, bring in the harvest of all men, and every nation under heaven! O beloved, Let us pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest, that this glorious vision might be hastened in it's fulfillment!

"We've heard it said that there's something greater for us to attain than 'Christ in you, the hope of glory.' According to those who've said it, that would still constitute a duality (Christ, and you); and all duality is to be eliminated. But my response to that would be that they obviously don't understand what is meant by the term, 'unity!' You see, the Scriptures specifically teach that before the fall ever occurred, Adam walked with God. It doesn't say that he walked by himself, as the Person of God, and it doesn't say that he talked to himself. It says that he walked with God. And Amos 3:3 asks the question, 'Can TWO walk together, except they be agreed?' (Obviously, the answer to that is No!) Common sense tells you that it takes two to walk together, does it not? And it takes two to make a conversation. So, while there were actually two walking together in the garden, Adam walked in such absolute step and harmony and agreement with God, they were considered to be one in Spirit. And that's exactly what Jesus came to demonstrate for us, during His earthly sojourn! He walked with God as the son of God, revealing all that lies in store for us, when we come into the fullness of our spiritual inheritance!

"Beloved, it's an established fact, according to Scripture, that we shall become one with God. This is what Jesus prayed, and we have no reason to doubt whether his prayers will be answered. But trying to read more into 'one-ness' than what was originally meant can be both dangerous for the reader, and demeaning to the Creator. The Most High God,

being the Builder and Maker of this new creation Man (of whom we are a part) will always have the preeminence!

"Now, I don't want to belabor the point. But for a person to desire something more for himself than what our precious Lord Jesus demonstrated to us in the simple account of the gospels reveals one of two things to me. Either that person has never really comprehended the glory and honor that is to be bestowed upon those who attain unto manifested sonship, or that there's something very dark and insidious behind that desire. I'd like to believe that the former is the case with you folks, and not the latter.

"I'd like to mention one more thing before I sit down. To say that the problem with mankind is simply a case of 'mistaken identity,' and that the solution to that problem is merely to awaken to one's true 'godhood' (by annihilating all sense of self-consciousness and personality), is to say that everything Jesus and His disciples taught concerning the need for repentance of sin, redemption, and the new birth is outdated, antiquated, and obsolete. In fact, it would mean that it was never even true in the first place. It would mean that Jesus really never understood the problem, and so, He was not qualified to provide the answer! It would be to say that He was completely out of touch with the issue!

"You see, this so-called 'solution' that you're suggesting is not a new idea at all. In fact, it had been promoted some six hundred years before Jesus even came on the scene, through the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama (better known as Buddha). The doctrine was known as 'Anatta', which simply means, 'no self'. The discipline by which this goal is said to be attainable is called Samadhi. And 'the ultimate state of enlightenment,' or the Buddhist's 'heaven,' is called Nirvana. According to Siddhartha, Nirvana can be achieved when all sense of personal identity has been extinguished, and nothing but a 'God-consciousness' remains. This, by his estimation, would be the equivalent to the Christian's salvation. No need for a sacrifice, and no need for a Savior. Just accept the fact that you are God, and beside you, there is no other. That's all there is to it! Now, you would think that if there was any truth to that, Jesus would have given His full endorsement to it during the days of His flesh. And you would have expected Him to have adopted those teachings, since it was already in circulation at the time. It surely would have been a lot less painful for Him than the route that He took! But instead, He said that all who had come before Him were thieves and robbers...and That included Buddha! Think about that, the next time you're tempted to promote any of his ideas! By entertaining them, you make your mind a den of thieves!

"Friends, You can stare at your navel all day long, tryin' to go 'within' yourself. You can rack your brain, tryin' to remember your past, in order to find healing and 'wellness' for your 'inner child.' You can chant the 'sacred name' from dusk til dawn, hoping to annihilate all sense of self-consciousness. Or you can even enter into some mindless, zombie-like state of transcendental meditation, in an effort to become one with 'the Force.' But I can assure you, brethren, none of these things will get you one bit closer to the Kingdom of God! The Christ of the gospels is the pattern Son; and it's time we got

back to measurin' the pattern! Who He is, and the life which He exemplified, is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And no man will ever come to the Father except by Him!

"I realize that some of you might think that I've made an idol out of Jesus. In fact, You may even accuse me of worshipin' a Man. But I'm not ashamed to say that I love Him, that He's everything to me. He raised me up when I could not save myself, when I was dead in sin. And regardless if you would admit it now or not, He did the same for you. Today, He stands in heaven for us, as the representative for all mankind. And His bodily presence assures us that the time will come when these vile bodies of ours, these bodies of humiliation, shall be made like unto His glorious body, to the praise of the glory of His grace! Therefore, I'd urge any of you who has left his first love to return unto Him, for He loves you like no other! Let us readjust our sights on HIM, "looking away unto Jesus," as the Scriptures say, who Alone is the Author and finisher of our faith! Halleluuuuuu-jah!"

A few brave souls dared to give him an ovation. Some quietly wept. The rest sat in stunned speechlessness, as if they'd been doused with a bucket of cold water. Finally, Bro. Overly Tolerant spoke up. "C-c-c-careful, now, sonny. Let's not get judgmental. After all, that's only your opinion... and there's enough of them in this room to go around! Since there's no absolute standard for truth, it's entirely possible that all of us could be right. Can't we all just get along?" Bro. Mainly Lawless seconded the motion.

Just as Ebb was about to respond, the mechanic walked through the door. "Your truck's ready," he announced. "Your problem was just a little water in the gas line. We got it all taken care of now, though, an' you're ready to roll". "Thank God," said Flo. "No," exclaimed Bro. Krackpot, with that strange little look in his eyes, "Thank YOU!"

As they headed down the road, they discussed the day's events. "Well, the town sure lived up to it's name. 'Peculiar' describes it perfectly."

"Ain't that the truth. Sad thing is, most of 'em are such nice folks. You know, they could be a real blessin', if they were to get turned around. One thing's for sure, though. You and I'll never forget this place. And we'll sure enough never forget that 'sweet-potato' gospel." "Huh? 'Sweet-potato' gospel? What in tarnation are you talkin' about?" "You know, the teachin' we heard back there that I Yam that I Yam"! "Ebb Cascade," she said, "you're off your nut!"

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Now, The Moral of the story is this...

Dear friends, Tykie and I hope that you've enjoyed our little story. We've certainly enjoyed sharing it with you! It would be more comical to us, however, if it were purely fictitious. Unfortunately, this isn't the case. You see, the ideas purported in the city of "Peculiarity" didn't originate from my imagination, as a product of my "creative juices."



They're things that we've actually heard people say. We simply gave them an "environment" where they could come alive!

We realize that some folks may be offended by the names of our characters. But we promise you, these are not their real names! Seriously, though, folks... it's not our intention to offend anyone. And while we do view the ideas mentioned in our story as being outrageous and absurd (not to mention offensive to God, and insulting to our intelligence), we're not saying that everyone who endorses them are necessarily kooks and crackpots! Some have simply repeated things which they may have heard someone else say (perhaps, because of it's seeming novelty). Others simply may not have taken the time to think these concepts through to their logical (or, should we say, "illogical") conclusions. (In any event, however, we would offer this admonition. If you believe something long enough, you'll eventually begin to resemble it! So take heed, lest you find yourselves depicted in these pages!)

However, we'd have you to understand the purpose of this story. By writing it, we're not in any way suggesting that we need to live in fear of New Age beliefs, "whistling in the dark," as it were, always going about frightened that something is going to reach out and grab us. Nor do we need to go around in a constant state of suspicion, always thinking that everyone is trying to "slip one over on us." But we do need to be aware of what they are, and recognize the dangers that they pose. They have the potential of beguiling us of our reward, by subtly taking our eyes off of Jesus! And that, dear friends, is something dangerous!

I recently came across something in my studies, which had previous escaped my attention. I was reading a book by the late Alfred Edersheim, entitled, "The Temple: Its Ministry and Services," when the Lord quickened this thing to me. If you're familiar with the book, then you know how Edersheim spoke of the general activities involved with the Temple, as well as the special ceremonies which took place during the feast days. Edersheim, in my estimation, was one of the foremost authorities on these subjects. Well, I was reading what he had to say about the post-Mosaic ceremony known as "The Pouring Out of Water," which occurred on the last great day of the Feast of Tabernacles. If you recall, it was on this day that the priest drew water in a golden pitcher from the Pool of Siloam (which, by interpretation, means, "Sent"), and made his way toward the altar. I won't go into all the details here, but his intention, once he reached the altar, was to pour that water into a small silver basin which would channel it alongside the altar to it's base. The outpouring of this water was in allusion to Isa. 12:3, which says, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation," and signified the highly anticipated outpouring of the Spirit, of which the Jews were in expectation. At the height of the ceremony, however, after the water had been poured out, and a sacred moment of silence ensued, who should lift His voice in the temple, but the One to whom the service really referred! It was Jesus who stood to His feet and cried, saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (Jn. 7:37-38). What a tremendous impact this must have had! There would have been no better time for Him to have said it; for this would have been the only time when everyone in the courtyard would have been quiet

enough to have heard Him clearly. And, based on what He said, the implication would have been unmistakable! He was identifying Himself as the true "Pool of Siloam," the Sent One of God, through whom all blessings flow! And He would pour out His Spirit, just as He'd said through the prophet Joel, upon ALL FLESH, ultimately resulting in the conversion of all men! Praise God for the vast and far-reaching scope of the vision!

As important as this is, and applicable in it's time, the thing that the Lord wanted to point out to me was the fact that it was but the second of a two-part ceremony. The first part actually occurred on the first day of the feast, and was known as, "the Joy of the Pouring Out of Water," or "the Illumination." While it didn't employ the use of water, the idea of outflowing was nevertheless present. And there was a definite correlation between this ceremony, and the times in which we live. Allow me to explain why this is so.

At the close of the evening sacrifice on the first day, the worshipers assembled themselves in the Court of the Women, where great preparations had been made. Four golden candelabras had been set up, each having four golden bowls upon them. Once lit, there was not a courtyard in all of Jerusalem that was not flooded with light! It seemed to just "spill over the walls" of what was referred to that night as "the House of Water Pouring." The Chassidim and "the Men of Deed" danced before the people with flaming torches in hand, leading them in songs of praise, while the Levites stood upon the fifteen steps leading down from the court of Israel, according to the fifteen songs of Degrees in the Book of Psalms.

At the top of the steps stood two priests with trumpets in their hands. At the time of the cock-crowing, they sounded three blasts upon their trumpets, and descended five steps. On the tenth step, they blew yet another threefold blast, and continued downward. Finally, as they entered the court itself, they sounded another three-fold blast, which was sustained, while they advanced across the court toward the gate which opens from the way of the east ("the Gate Beautiful"). Once they reached the Eastern Gate, they turned around to face the Holy Place (which was west of them), and said, "Our fathers, who were in this place, they turned their back upon the Sanctuary of Jehovah, and their faces toward the east, and they worshiped toward the rising sun; but as for us, our eyes are toward the Lord." No doubt, this was in reference to the 8th chapter of Ezekiel, where the Lord took the prophet into the sanctuary by way of vision. As he journeyed inward, he beheld greater and greater abominations taking place, until finally, he came to the inner court. It was there that he witnessed twenty-five men between the porch and the altar, with their backs to the temple, and their faces toward the east. By this, the Lord told Ezekiel, the house of Israel had provoked Him to anger. They had put the branch to the nose (an oriental sign of disrespect)!

Now, again, I won't try to go into all the symbolism involved here, but a few things do require comment. First of all, it's my conviction that "the Joy of the Pouring Out of Water" accurately describes where we currently are in a prophetic sense. We've come to a unique time of illumination as we enter into the Great Feast. The light of truth is spilling over every wall, and into every court in the city! The Lord is opening the eyes of our understanding into matters we have not seen before, in order to bring us unto full

maturity. And, considering the fact that all of this being acted out in "the court of the women," strongly suggests that it has to do with the renewing of our minds, or the salvation of our souls, at that! What a wonderful thing we're experiencing!

Before we progress too far into Tabernacles, however, there is one matter that must be settled. And that has to do with the direction some have been heading.

That the two priests (the number of witness) blew nine blasts upon their trumpets (and trumpets always signify the declaration of a message) witnesses to the fact that we can expect a concluding message to come at the close of the inaugural day. The number nine, figuratively speaking, suggests finality or judgment; hence, we have a word of judgment that shall finalize the phase through which we've come. In light of what we've considered above, therefore, what would you say is the message that must needs be proclaimed at this time? Turn your hearts and minds toward the Lord, and turn them away from the East! Turn your backs upon every teaching that's associated with it, and realize that it has nothing to offer but dishonor to your heavenly Father! In fact, it's the ultimate form of disrespect! It's like thumbing your nose at God!

Beloved, it's absolutely impossible for us to enter into the fullness of the Spirit while looking toward the East. That is to say, as long as we are looking into Eastern philosophies and religions for our answers, or even trying to incorporate slight aspects of them into the message of the Kingdom, there can be no apprehending that for which also we have been apprehended of Christ Jesus! I hope you can hear what the Lord is saying!

As it was in Ezekiel's day, we believe that the Lord is placing a mark upon those who sigh and cry for the abominations committed in the house of God (for it's precisely because of these abominations that the glory has lifted). This mark will also serve as a seal in our foreheads, signifying that we have received, and are walking in the mind of Christ. Allow us to say that those who stand with the Lamb on Mt. Zion will not be double-minded, having a mixture of Eastern concepts and ideas in their thinking. They will have a pure word, undefiled by men. And they will be uniquely equipped to execute the plan of God during the Day of the Lord!

We thank God that we're beginning to hear a very clear and certain sound of the trumpet made by priests who are able to make the distinction between the holy and the profane for the people. And we pray that this little story might likewise serve as a trumpet sound to our brethren, who've been tempted to look toward the East for their understanding. Tabernacles is a time of repentance, of afflicting our souls before the Lord. It's a time of turning from that which has caused the glory to depart from Israel, and a time of returning to the altar. It's there that we behold the Sacrifice, and there that we behold the Savior.

It's been said that there is a fine line between truth and error. We believe that the line becomes even finer, the deeper we go in God. But we would encourage each and every one of you to search out the difference, and settle it in your heart. Draw a certain line of demarcation between the two, so that no one mistakes where you are coming from, and

no one can possibly be misled thereby. Only then can we proceed in Spirit, and get on with the business of God! Whoso hath ears, let him hear! Selah!

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