

## The Word Speaks

One day, our Lord Jesus Christ is returning to take away with Him, those who have redemption through His death and salvation through His resurrection Life! That will be our final release from the curse of decay, dying and death!

What an amazing event ...to put it mildly. I hope I'm alive when that happens! I don't "like the idea" of dying and death any more than anyone, I'm sure! However, the Holy Spirit declares through the Apostle Paul to Believers in Greece that it will be such a great event for which we need to daily prepare in keen anticipation! It will be a sudden leaving behind of all that is mortal and corruptible ...and instantly becoming immortal in body as in soul!  
Amazing! For sure!

In recent travels in Asia, proclaiming Christ in teaching the Word, the Lord impressed me to notice that everywhere one goes in this world there are people grieving in one way or another ...inwardly and outwardly ... for one reason or another. For some there are incredibly "legitimate" reasons! News in the papers; in email; in advertising; on TV, in magazines, bookstalls and posters ...to real life on the streets and alleys, in cars, buses, trains, planes and rickshaws. In cities and villages ...on major "highways" ...people, people everywhere and the suffering and grieving which is seen being only a fraction of what is in the hearts of each one of the millions!

My "own world" at this time ...not without it's own share of worries, anxieties and fears that can paralyze a person, distract one's attention and keep us from the Peace of God we know about and which comes through believing in Him, entrusting or casting the entire weight of our person on HIM since we are already HIS personal concern!

Worrying, fretting, whether for others or myself is put into the shadows in the light of seeing such an abundance of suffering and apparently insurmountable pain from fear and anxiety. My life then seems so comfortable and one of relative ease -yet there are periods of time through which each of us walk, which are overwhelming. How should we respond to God in this. He says He cares. He says He loves us. He says He is Sufficient and more than "just enough"!

In the Scriptures we discover very differing responses of God to man's anxieties, fears and cares.

In the next few articles I am going to share in brevity a series of reflections in the Scriptures of **how God responds to many of man's fears, anxieties and paralyzing fears** of what may seem to some as "natural events" of life!

I'll start this series in this issue of **The Word Speaks** with focus on just a few windows on **Abraham's life ...and his family**. Future issues will focus on other men and women in Scripture.

**How about these:**

**Abraham, a man known in scripture with the reputation of one who trusted God and believed in the resurrection and the Promise of Life.**

**\* Abraham is deeply concerned** about God's promise of a child so implements a rational plan with his wife and household maid.

**God refuses to accept** Abe's compromise and eventually produces what He alone could do ...a son of His choosing and in His timing: **Isaac**.

**Sarah lives in daily contention** with her maid and compromised offspring (Ishmael) along with the son of God's provision (Isaac). She commands Abraham to drive out this her maid and the son of her own compromise. It's just far too much to

endure! It's gone too far and **the development of this "good idea" of Abraham's must come to an end ...NOW!**

**Abraham suffered deep distress grief** but does what Sarah commands! Out they go to the dessert ...**maid and son!**

**God personally meets** the maid with her suffering son, **consoles** the Mom, **provides** for her son, **prosper**s him, and **assured** her of His **promise of maintained security** and prosperity to her son!

Think on God's response to what was man's "good idea" and also which was not His desire at all!

**Abraham (later) is frightened, day and night,** living in **constant fear** of losing his own life for the sake of his beautiful wife!

He then comes up with a sound **compromise of lies and pretense** with complete cooperation from Sarah!

There's apparent success to his scheme ...at least initially ...

God in His sovereignty allows the deal to go forward but then... refuses to let him get away with it and reveals the secret scheme to Abraham's much feared enemy king, **yet delivers Abe from losing his life in spite of his "half-lie" as he considered it to be!**

**Clever plan but not a righteous plan.**

God rescues Abraham even in the fear, the lies, the pretense, the obvious constant anxiety of conscience.

How marvelous is our God Who has mercy and more mercy and loving forbearance through all our weakness in fears whether from our own doing or from "legitimate" threats to life! We do not have to get it all figured out!

**Trust Him. He IS reliable!**