



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting *every man* perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume XI
Issue 258

The SEQUEL Which Sustains

Matthew 26-27

by – Frank Neil Pohorlak

No trial has taken you except what is human. Now, faithful is God, Who will not be leaving you to be tried above what you are able, but, together with the trial, will be making THE SEQUEL also, to enable you to undergo it (I Corinthians 10:13).

God does not try us to break us down but to build us up. Hence He sends nothing insupportable. He does not, however, make “a way of *escape*,” as many of His saints have found by experience. If He did, why or how could *that* enable them to undergo it? They would not need to endure it if He took them out of it. He makes a **sequel**.

A.E. Knoch

Concordant Commentary

Everything that happens has a meaning only because all has its meaning in God. All works together for good only because it is God Who is working all together for good. We too often are taken up with the ill from which we have been saved, rather than being taken up with Him Who saves us. We too often are engrossed with the wrongs the world has to bear, rather than with the wrong God has to bear from the world.

We ought to trust God even when we cannot trace Him in the path He is pleased to pursue toward His goal. While God's strategy may not always be evident to us, His goal is always before our eyes. While we cannot always track His path in His process, His purpose is clearly revealed to believing hearts.

We ought not to neglect God's counsel in His Word. We must allow Him His Own way of unfolding His purpose and carrying it into effect. God through His Son loves us into a destiny we could never have achieved, for we are His achievement.

IS GOD'S GOAL OUR DELIGHT?

God's goal ought to be our delight, though we trace Him not in His process. God's will ought to be our will. God's righteousness, God's grace, God's love, God's purpose – all ought to be ours as we learn of Him Who made Christ to be to us all that we now need or shall ever need.

No matter what our position in life, our level of spiritual attainment or our growth in the grace and knowledge of God and His Christ, a prayerful, careful and attentive consideration of **the sequel which sustains** cannot help but glorify God, exalt Christ, edify us and entreat saint and sinner alike.

IT IS THE SEQUEL WHICH SUSTAINS

A MAN is suspended upon a cross on a hill called Golgotha outside of a city named Jerusalem. He
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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume XI, No. 258 – September 14, 2010

This weekly publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (1 Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Romans 11:13);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14);
 - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6);
 - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21).

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PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963

Office: (800) 784-6010

Local: (814) 701-0063

bsn@studyshef.com

www.BibleStudentsNotebook.com

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Editor

(clyde@studyshef.com)

André Sneider – Managing Editor

Rick Lemons – Associate Editor

Department Managers

Clyde L. Pilkington, III – Office

Nathan H. Pilkington – Shipping

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SEQUEL (continued from page 2405)

has been there for almost six hours. He suffers not only the agonies which attend crucifixion but also the mental anguish which comes from the scoffing of a cruel crowd.

Those going by blaspheme Him, wagging their heads and saying, “*You Who are demolishing the temple and building it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, descend from the cross!*” Likewise the chief priests also, with the scribes and elders, scoffing, say, “*Others He saves! Himself He cannot save! If He is king of Israel, let Him descend now from the cross, and we will believe on Him! He has confidence in God. Let Him rescue Him now, if He is wanting Him, for He said that, ‘God’s Son am I!’*” (Matthew 27:39-43).

The reader, who realizes that the Scriptures are inspired, is certainly aware of the significance of this scene and, had he been there, might have commented, “These people are fools! Of course this One is the Son of God. He is also the King of Israel. If He wanted to, He could call for twelve legions of messengers, and they would rush to His aid with speed swifter than light. But He did not come to save Himself. He came to save others. This was His commission from His God and Father. Besides, these do not know that He will rise from the dead on the third day, as He said. He has His confidence in God, but just because God does not choose to save Him *now* is no sign that God will not save Him from the hold of death after three days. His confidence is not misplaced. His God will perform all of His promises to His Son. Poor foolish people!”

Yet someone may retort, “What makes you so sure that He will rise from the dead on the third day? After all, He is on the cross and He *can’t* save Himself. How can a Man too helpless to save Himself save others?”

You may hasten to reply, “But don’t you understand? Are you, also, slow to understand? Is your heart tardy to believe *all* which the prophets speak? They wrote that He would suffer, but they also wrote that after His sufferings He would enter into His glory. Don’t you see that suffering comes before glory, that hurt comes before healing, that death comes before resurrection?” (c.f. Luke 24:25-27, 44-46; I Peter 1:10-12).

But the questioner persists, “You seem to forget,” he points out, “that those who accompanied Him in the days of His flesh did not really expect Him to rise from the dead. Even after He did rise and the report was made to His disciples, they themselves refused to believe. They were convinced only after many infallible proofs during forty days. If *they* were so difficult to convince, why should you expect us to accept His words at face value?”

OUR UNBELIEF DOES NOT NULLIFY GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

You hasten to point out that their disbelief does not nullify God’s declarations. They simply robbed themselves of the peace that reliance on His Word would have afforded them. He had been faithful to provide them with *the sequel* which would have enabled them to undergo this sad experience. Since they knew the eventual outcome, they ought not to have been dismayed by the process God was pleased to employ to bring about His desired end.

This is the crux of the matter with regard to our own everyday problems. It is because we are acquainted with His sequel that we should not judge the Lord by feeble sense, nor should we allow our faltering faith to obscure His faithfulness. *It is the sequel which sustains.*

Yet when trials come we are prone to wail and weep because we are not able to see. In a momentary lapse of faith we forget that light and darkness are alike to Him; that because it is dark and *we* cannot see does not mean that *He*, too, is in the dark and cannot see (Psalms 139:12).

SAINTS OUGHT TO KNOW THE SEQUEL

If we are aware of His purpose through Christ, we shall share His peace since He does not doubt for one moment that all will turn out exactly as He intends. Therefore, it behooves His saints to believe His Word which generates faith in His faithfulness.

This is the conquest which conquers: our faith in the faithfulness of Him Who cannot renounce Himself, Who cannot lie or disown Himself.

Let us examine a few of the lives of those who ►

did know something of *the sequel*, if only in an enigma. They walked in what light they had, and some of them shame those of us who have the whole counsel of God which He was pleased to complete through Paul (Colossians 1:25).

ABRAHAM

Abraham was sustained by *the sequel*. It is recorded (John 8:56) that Abraham rejoiced that he should see His day, saw it, and was glad. He demonstrated his faith when, at God's command, he journeyed three days to mount Moriah, willing to obey and slay the son through whom God had promised to bless all of the families of the earth (Genesis 12:3).

By faith Abraham, being tried, offered Isaac, as we read in Hebrews 11:17-19, and he who received the promises offered the only-begotten; he to whom it was spoken that "In Isaac shall your seed be called." Abraham knew that if he slew Isaac it would put an end to his being the channel through which the world could be blessed; but Abraham believed the God Who had promised this blessing. By faith he knew that God, in order to keep His promise, would have to raise Isaac from the dead if he slew him.

The messenger stayed the hand of Abraham with a word, but he would have plunged the knife into the quivering heart of his son if the word had not been given to desist. Thus reckoning that God is able to be rousing him from among the dead also, Abraham recovers Isaac in a parable.

In other words, the death-doomed boy was born anew to his father, since his sacrifice was practically accomplished so far as Abraham's faith was concerned. God had promised to bless, in his seed, all of the nations of the earth (Genesis 22:18), and He would keep His promise. It was this acquaintance with *the sequel* which sustained Abraham and enabled him to undergo the testing.

MOSES

Moses was sustained by *the sequel* mentioned in I Corinthians 10:13.

By faith Moses became great, disowned the term "son of Pharaoh's daughter," preferring rather to suffer evil with the people of God than to have the temporary enjoyment of sin. He deemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked away to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the fury of the king, for Moses was staunch, since he had seen the Invisible. By faith they crossed the Red Sea as through dry land, attempting which, the

Egyptians were swallowed up (Hebrews 11:24-29).

Moses endured because he was sustained by the promises of God. He had been through a forty-year course in Pharaoh's court to learn that *he was something*. Then came forty years in God's seminary in the backside of the desert to learn that *he was nothing*. After this came forty years of testing with a stubborn and stiff-necked people to learn that *God is everything*.

At the last, when he was denied the privilege of walking over into the promised land

because he permitted the people to provoke him, Moses relied on God's faithfulness. His purpose was dim in those days, it was to be seen only in faint outline. Yet Moses had confidence in God, His promises, His purpose. It was this acquaintance with *the sequel* which sustained Moses and enabled him to undergo the testings.

AND WHAT STILL MAY WE SAY?

Time and paper and strength would fail us were we to rehearse the story of other faithfuls named in Hebrews 11, such as Enoch, Noah, Gideon, Barak, Samson, David, besides Samuel and the prophets,

Moses had been through a forty-year course in Pharaoh's court to learn that he was something.

Then came forty years in God's seminary in the backside of the desert to learn that he was nothing.

After this came forty years of testing with a stubborn and stiff-necked people to learn that God is everything.

who, through faith, subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, happened on promises, barred the mouth of lions, quenched the power of fire, fled the edge of the sword, were invigorated in infirmity, became strong in battle, routed the camp of aliens; women obtained their dead by resurrection, yet others were flogged, not anticipating deliverance, but expecting instead a better resurrection.

Still others got a trial of scourgings and scourgings, of bonds and jail. Others were stoned, sawn asunder, tried; they died, murdered by the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, in want, afflicted, maltreated, straying in wildernesses, mountains, caves and holes (Hebrews 11:32-40).

What sustained them through these trials more severe than mortals could bear in their own strength? Why, they were of that tiny minority who know God. They knew what He had promised, and though there was no performance in their lifetime, they were looking forward to a fulfillment in the future. It was this acquaintance with *the sequel* which sustained all of them and enabled them all to stand in the time of testing.

Since *the sequel* has such transcendent power and might and energy and strength, should we not be searching the Scriptures until the knowledge of *His sequel* is our most prized possession, and its use a most distinguishing characteristic of our faith?

God has not hidden His purpose from His own, but has clearly revealed it in His Word. It is there for the diligent student to find and for his faith to appropriate. His Word is replete with simple statements saturated with stupendous facts.

How sublimely simple are the words “out of,” “through” and “for,” yet they are words fraught with

power, in accord with the might of God’s glory (c.f. Colossians 1:11). They emphasize that,

*All is **out of Him**, and **through Him**, and **for Him**; to Him be glory for the eons! Amen!* (Romans 11:36).

*Should we not be searching the Scriptures until the knowledge of **His sequel** is our most prized possession and its use a most distinguishing characteristic of our faith?*

There is more wisdom to be found in this simple sentence than in all of the learned books on the shelves of all the libraries in the world.

“OUT OF,” “THROUGH,” “FOR”

These prepositions indicate, briefly, that God ushered evil into His world and that He will escort it out of His world when it has accomplished the purpose for which He brought it into being (Isaiah 45:7); that He will justify His dealings with His creatures, and that all shall acquiesce in all He did with them and to them, and through them to others; that He accepts the responsibility for all that has come to pass in the past, or comes to pass in the present and the future.

Yes, He brings it all to pass! He is the Placer, the Disposer and Subjector. He does what He wills and none can stay His hand. In the consummation, no one will question His right to do as He wills with His Own creation. Because He is the Supreme, He can do all of this, and be righteous when He does it.

*All is **out of Him**, and **through Him**, and **for Him**; to Him be glory for the eons! Amen!* (Romans 11:36).

There is more wisdom to be found in this simple sentence than in all the learned books on the shelves of all the libraries in the world.

Did He not remind Moses that He made the dumb, the deaf, the seeing, the blind (Exodus 4:11)? Again, did He not affirm to Moses that He

kills and makes alive; that He wounds and heals: neither is there any that can deliver out of His hand (Deuteronomy 32:39)? He alone is God, and beside Him there is none else. No one can withstand His intention.

HE WILLS TO SAVE ALL

For this is ideal and welcome in the sight of our Savior, God, Who wills that all mankind be saved and come into a realization of the truth. For there is one God, and one Mediator of God and mankind, the Man, Christ Jesus, Who is giving Himself a correspondent Ransom for all ... Faithful is the saying and worthy of all welcome (for, for this are we toiling and being reproached), that we rely on the living God, Who is the Savior of all mankind, especially of believers (I Timothy 2:3-6; 4:9-10).

This is another sequel which sustains. No one can withstand His intention.

HE WILLS TO JUSTIFY ALL

Consequently, then, as it was through one offense for all mankind for condemnation, thus also it is through one just award for all mankind for life's justifying. For even as, through the disobedience of the one man, the many [descendants] were constituted sinners, thus also, through the obedience of the One, the [same] many shall be constituted righteous (Romans 5:18-19).

This is still another sequel which sustains. No one can withstand His intention.

HE WILLS TO VIVIFY ALL

For since, in fact, through a man came death, through a Man, also, comes resurrection of the dead. For even as, in Adam, all are dying, thus also, in Christ, shall all be vivified. Yet each in his own class: the Firstfruit, Christ; thereupon those who are Christ's in His presence; thereafter the consummation, whenever He may be giving up the kingdom to His God

and Father ... The last enemy being abolished is death (I Corinthians 15:21-24, 26).

This is a further sequel which sustains. No one can withstand His intention.

HE WILLS TO RECONCILE ALL

Who is the Image of the invisible God, Firstborn of every creature, for **in** Him is all created, that in the heavens and that on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones, or lordships, or sovereignties, or authorities, all is created **through** Him and **for** Him, and He is before all, and all has its cohesion in Him. And **He** is the Head of the Body, the

ecclesia, Who is Sovereign, Firstborn from among the dead, that in all **He** may be becoming first, for **in** Him the entire complement delights to dwell, and **through** Him to reconcile all **to** Him, (making peace through the blood of His cross), **through** Him, whether those on the earth or those in the heavens (Colossians 1:15-20).

This is a foremost sequel which sustains. No one can withstand His intention.

God's ways are equal: storm or calm.

Seasons of peril and of rest.

The hurtling dart. the healing balm.

Are all appointed as is best.

In judgments of t misunderstood.

In ways mysterious and obscure.

He brings from evil. lasting good.

And makes the final gladness

sure.

Author Unknown

HE WILLS TO BE ALL IN ALL

Whenever He should be nullifying all sovereignty and all authority and power. For He must be reigning until He should be placing all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy being abolished is death. For He subjects all under His feet. Now whenever He may be saying that all is subject, it is evident that it is outside of Him Who subjects all to Him. Now, whenever all may be subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also shall be subjected to Him Who subjects all to Him, that God may be All

(see **SEQUEL**, last page)

Playing Your Part in God's Symphony

by – Frank N. Pohorlak

*He hears music (Greek: *sumphonia*) Luke 15:25*

*What agreement (Greek: *sumphonesis*) II Corinthians 6:15*

Did you know that you are an orchestra member in God's symphony (*sumphonesis*: TOGETHER-SOUNDING)? Do you know your part? How are you performing it? What makes a symphony?

There are many factors which enter into preparing a symphony orchestra to perform accurately and play artistically pleasing music. While overseas during World War II in the European Theater of Operations, I heard the London Symphony Orchestra play in Salisbury Cathedral, with Yehudi Menuhin as violin soloist, and noted the following interesting points.

First, the members must all be in their places ahead of time. Not a single member may be absent or a single instrument missing, for all are necessary.

Second, each member must tune his instrument to agree with the A 440 played by the oboe. With all members present and all instruments tuned, do we have a symphony? Suppose each person decided which selection of music he was going to play. There would be frightful discord. No, each music stand has a copy of the piece selected to be played at a given time.

Now we have all members present, all instruments tuned, and all with the same piece of music on each stand. Do these alone make a symphony? No, for even a genius could not play the violin part on the double bass or the French horn part on the harp. Each instrument was made to play with a certain tone and quality, hence each stand must have the music portion written for the instrument which was designed to play a certain way. Do all of these make a symphony?

Suppose all are present, all instruments tuned, each stand with the proper piece of music, and then each member decided how he would interpret the music. Some would play loud and some soft, some would play fast and some slow.

No, each member subordinates his ideas to those of the composer and places himself under the direction of the conductor. Thus we see that a symphony orchestra is a group of persons, each by talent, training and practice an expert on his instrument, each with his correct score, each

in tune, each playing under the leadership of a single head, the conductor of the orchestra.

What can we learn from this? God is the Composer. Christ Jesus is the Conductor. The Sacred Scriptures are the Score. The earth is the stage on which, in part, God's symphony is being played. His creatures are the instrumentalists. Our daily lives and how we respond to His trials and His testings are the performance.

In this symphony each has a part, from the simplest of saints to the most scholarly of savants. Would there be a symphony if we all played violins? Or French horns? Or oboes? Of course not! If all played harps where would the cellos be? If all played violas where would the bassoons be?

All the members make one orchestra and each member is important, no matter how small his part, no matter what his size, shape, color, age, education, style and quality of clothes. Talent does not lie in looks, in the latest hair-do, or the up-to-the-minute fashions of this world system. Your value lies in knowing your part and your instrument, and in playing your assigned score under the direction of the Conductor, so that the combined efforts of all believers will make music to the glory of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

What a glorious day that will be when our Conductor, Christ, comes for us and gives us a new body like unto His Own, glorious and perfectly tuned. Then we shall be able to read the Score plainly and to fully understand it. Then He shall always have the first place with us and then He shall be “*All in all*,” or everything to everyone.

Hence,

Let the Word of Christ be making its home in you richly, in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing yourselves; in psalms, in hymns, in spiritual songs, singing, with grace in your hearts to God. And everything, whatsoever you may be doing, in word or in act, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father, through Him (Colossians 3:16-17).

From the Editor

THIS ISSUE

In this issue we are running two in a series of articles first published in the *Unsearchable Riches Magazine* in the 1960s.

The author, Dr. Frank Neil Pohorlak, of Inglewood California, ministered at *Grace Fellowship* in Los Angeles, taught a weekday network radio program *Crossroads Counselor*, served as Contributing Editor of the *Unsearchable Riches Magazine*, and was a featured Concordant conference speaker. He was among those who assisted A.E. Knoch with various phases of the preparation work on the *Concordant Version*, and actually worked at the *Concordant Publishing Concern* for some time.

During his ministry with *Concordant* he served in various positions, such as Research Consultant for the New Testament, Editor of the Old Testament, and one of those correcting and revising the *Keyword Concordance*.¹ He also authored the scholarly defense, *Proponents for a Literal Translation of the New Testament*.²

1. *Resources for the above information:*

Unsearchable Riches volume 57 (1966), p. 35.

Unsearchable Riches volume 63 (1972), p. 17.

Treasures of Truth, Installment Three (1971).

Unsearchable Riches volume 54 (1963), p. 196; volume 63, p. 157.

Other Co-laborers in Christ, Ernest Knoch (1965), Available online at: www.concordant.org.

Unsearchable Riches volume 57 (1966), page 35; volume 59 (1968), page 49; volume 60 (1969), page 98.

2. The text of this work is available online at: www.concordant.org.

SEQUEL (continued from page 2410)

in all (I Corinthians 15:24-28).

Here, too, we find a *sequel* which sustains. No one can withstand His intention.

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE SEQUEL

All of the Scriptures quoted contribute to *the sequel* which enables us to undergo all testings and all trials. We have confidence in our God and His promises which foreshadow the magnificent process He uses to arrive at His goal of conforming us to the image of His Son. He will yet accomplish this on which He has set His heart, for He has an eonian purpose which embraces His entire creation – to be *All* in all of His creatures. It is this truth which, when believed, will enable us to undergo all that He sees

It's A Boy!

I'm a grandpa – *again* – for the third time! It's a boy this time. Our son Jason and his wife Britney have given us our latest addition to the family. Percival Guy Pilkington was born on August 14th. He weighed 5 lbs., 13 ounces, and was 20 inches long. What a joy he is!

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fit to send for our good and His glory.

Because we do not as yet see all of these fulfilled does not mean that He will not perform in the eons to come all that He has promised. Keep your eyes on the Promiser, not on the promises alone. We do not stand on the promises so much as we stand on the Promiser of the promises. Keep your eyes on the goal, not merely on the process. Keep your eyes on the God of that goal, not on the god of this eon. Let *the sequel* sustain you.

Faithful is God, Who will not be leaving you to be tried above what you are able, but, together with the trial, will be making the sequel also, to enable you to undergo it (I Corinthians 10:13).

