



Blessed Encounters

That point to a REVIVAL and THE DAY OF THE LORD



"Be still before the LORD, all mankind,
because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling." "Zech 2: 13

(DRAFT)

SEEKING THE WORD

"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29: 13

This page began in consequence of three connected and significant **blessed encounters** that occurred a year apart in: 2017, 2018, and 2019¹ (*2020 and 2021 there were another 2*). These events were a sequel to a succession of testing circumstances over a two year period² at the church I attended until 2016.

By 2016, a trend of decline had become very apparent. In less than a decade, its congregation that had once filled it, was now much diminished and average age now much higher. Many an exploratory visitor that had come to worship there had left after one, two or three services. They had been made welcome, but not long enough to be caught up in the fellowship. They were looking for something that they couldn't find there. As for myself, an awakening sinner - though I often found the sermon interesting or entertaining, at its conclusion I would be wondering "What was that about"?

In January 2016, an event arose which reinforced my awareness of the significant disparity between what was called for in scripture; and what was being preached and experienced in the life of the church I was attending.³ In consequence, further challenging situations arose in defence of the word which were associated with earnest prayer and unexpected blessings.

"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you
to test you, as though something strange were happening to you." NIV 1 Pet 4:12.

One especially notable blessing for me was appreciation of the importance of **God's word** as expressed in scripture.⁴ This awareness led to my wife and I discovering a church where the scripture is taken seriously, and preaching is in accord with that. So we began to attend there in November 2016.⁵

.... We know that for those who love God all things work together for good,
for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

WALL OF FIRE - SUNDAY 2 APRIL 2017 9.30 SERVICE

*"Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD,
"and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? Jer 23:29*

By Sunday 2 April 2017 we had been happily worshipping for some five months, in that church where the living God through Christ is glorified and the Word is preached. In support of the preaching of **the Word**, my wife and I made a point of attending our former church on that Sunday. This was because we knew that lay preacher Ian R was to preach that day.

The first **blessed encounter** occurred during the 'Prayers of the People' given by a member of the congregation:

¹ There had been some other encounters (2014-2016) not directly associated with these significant and connected three. All of them conveyed a sense of great personal awareness of the closeness of the living **Lord God Almighty** – 2019 exceptionally so. (included 31 March 2021)

² Beginning October 2014

³ Over that previous ten years, service had occasionally been conducted by congregation laity and visiting preachers. I have no reason to wonder as to their keeping faith with God's word as conveyed in scripture. (15 Apr 2020)

⁴ The Lord caused the Israelites to wander in the wilderness for 40 years so as to instruct them in this regard. Deuteronomy 8:3 refers: "... man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD."

⁵ We had been members of our former church for 42 years.

As I closed my eyes and bowed my head, I was made aware of a vision in the top half of my mind's eye. A short thin lateral line of flame extended rapidly from a small flicker of light in the dark of night. It was burning from high on the left side of a black background of Australian bushland countryside.⁶ The horizon was far into the distance. Raising my head and opening my eyes, I found that this image was translucent. That is, it became an overlay on what I could see when I made a point of looking to the front of the church.

A shorter thin line of fire appeared diagonally across the lateral line of fire, near its left end. This formed a **fiery cross** (crucifix shaped) that lay at a thirty degree perspective to my vision.

The lateral line of fire then continued to extend, and a succession of short lines of fire appeared across it so as to create a chain of crosses. As it traversed the width of my scope of vision, just below it, another lateral chain of fiery crosses commenced its rapid pace to the right side of my vision. It accelerated as it did so. Then in quick succession; other chains of thin fiery crosses followed suit; each one, just below the one before it; the pace of movement continuously accelerating.

About halfway to the bottom edge of this dark bushland vision, chains of fire crosses then extended from each of the short crossing lines of fire, both up and down. In turn, new lines of fiery crosses shot out from them. A multiple chain reaction followed throughout. The whole "vision" that had been darkness was now completely overcome by this inundation of fiery crosses.⁷

As the last of the dark gave way to the light; the vision 'exploded' into a wall of high vertical flame.

Showing through this translucent **wall of flame** I could see (*in the lower left corner of the vision*) printed words on a white background, as though in a book. I didn't read the words but understood that they were from the scripture, and that '**the Word**' was included in that writing. Beyond the flame and the words I could see the pews and front of church.

I found that I was also hearing the prayer in the background. When I heard the word 'fire' mentioned (*at least I thought I did*) in the prayer, the vision had not long gone.

I have often puzzled over this. Zechariah 2:4-5 is never far from my thoughts in regard to this vision:

'Jerusalem will be a city without walls 5 And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,' declares the LORD, 'and I will be its glory within.'

I had also wondered if the 'Wall of Fire' vision pointed to a great revival - That there would be an outbreak of God's Holy Spirit, and that many people would repent of their sins, and accept God's crucified and resurrected son, Jesus, into their hearts. So that in accepting Jesus, they will receive the promise of eternal life. In this regard Jesus said:

**"I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."** (John 14:6)

⁶ As seen in the Great Dividing Range.

⁷ Thanks to Leigh H and Judith G whose enquiries led me in early January 2020 to clarify the telling of the progress of the 'lines of fire' event of the vision; and so, closer to doing this event justice. Also thanks to Rev. Romeo D. for his comments re the crucifix analogy of 9 Feb 2020

THE SPIDER — TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2018 7PM EASTER SERVICE

.... if you stop your sinning and begin to obey the LORD your God, he will
change his mind about this disaster that he has announced against you.... Jeremiah 26:13

Nearly a year later the **second blessed encounter** happened. My wife and I attended an evening Easter service (in support of the Word) in the chapel of the church where we had previously been members. Again, the service was conducted by lay preacher Ian R.⁸

During a prayer given by Ian, as my head was bent in prayer I realised that there was a vision in front of me. It was a translucent view 'from above' of ground covered in twigs, stones, and dried gum leaves, such as would be seen accumulating in the bush or forest. **In general it was a dry pale brown vista.**

Between me and the ground, quite some distance away from me, and well above the ground, was a small black spider. It was slowly traversing across the view on a single dark strand of what I presume was a cobweb. The spider seemed especially tiny against the background. I tried closing and opening my eyes, but the vision remained.

The vision seemed to last for length of the prayer. The spider had not got past a quarter of the way before the vision finished.

This "Spider" vision I found more puzzling than the 'Wall of Fire'.

Several times during October 2019 a recollection of the 'Spider' vision came to mind. Each time the view to the ground below the spider became increasingly distant, and insignificant; as though gaining height in an aircraft. In the direction the spider was proceeding on his single dark strand of web; the vista towards **the horizon was wide, brown and barren.**

Nevertheless, this vision continued to be a source of puzzlement until 15 January 2020, when thanks to Peter M, my attention was directed to Isaiah 59 and Job 8. In those chapters, spiders and their webs are associated with sin, and the consequences of sin. They relate to a people whose transgressions and iniquities are significant. In respect of the consequences these quotes seem particularly relevant:

"your iniquities have been barriers between you and your God," Isaiah 59:2

"Such are the paths of all who forget God; the hope of the godless shall perish." Job 8:13

As the Spider steadily nears its final destination, the **question arises**: "Will events, (*e.g. fire, smoke, flood, hail, pestilence / plague, wind, drought, earthquake, famine, ash cloud etc.*) over which the wisdom of man will not prevail, become progressively more unfortunate, frequent, and bleak?"

THE LORD'S FAVOUR - SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2019

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, ... whoever rejects the Son will not see life,
for God's wrath remains on them. John 3: 36

Again almost a year later, on Saturday 9 March 2019, the **third blessed encounter** eventuated, but in a very different form. It involved a 'chance' (?) encounter with someone who (indicative of many people) did not understand or want to know, that no one can earn their way to heaven by their good deeds or works outweighing their bad deeds (sins). In consequence of the conversation that ensued, it became ultimately apparent that he did not understand:

it is God's love for his creation (us) that caused Him to send his Son to be crucified as the perfect sacrifice in atonement for our sins (transgressions);

⁸ The good news in respect of our former church (*as of early Feb 2021*) is that there is now a much greater focus in preaching God's word - Praise be; to the Living Lord God Almighty in Jesus name! **Hallelujah!**

it is only by God's grace, made available to those who believe in his Son, that we are acceptable to Him;

Jesus resurrection represents the defeat of death and the promise of eternal life for those who believe in Him;

the only way to knowing and being one with God, is by knowing and having faith in his Son, Jesus - there is no other way;

to reject the Son, is to reject the Father.

From a position of ignorance or rejection of these truths, my acquaintance sought to prove that I was wrong in my faith. In response to prayer for guidance in dealing with this situation, I was blessed with the LORD's presence about me and welling up within me. With a great sense of joy, excitement, and enthusiasm I found myself saying repeatedly "the LORD is with me" While I could say "the LORD is with me", my acquaintance could not. This outcome underscored as to: on whom it is that the Lord's favour rests, and whom it does not. *John 3.36 and 14:6 quoted above refer.*

Like the two visions, this encounter was the subject of emails very soon after happening.⁹

REFLECTION

"The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." [1 John 2:17](#)

In November 2019, particularly mindful of the possibility that the first two blessings were not just for my benefit, I felt compelled to write an account of them in the hope of making it available to others. In doing so, perhaps gain a better understanding myself of the significance of these events.

It was not until the first few days of January 2020 that I realised **the 'chance encounter'** was connected to the two visions. Nor had I considered its wider implications.

Thus, here is my understanding so far, in brief:

'Wall of Fire' as a visual spectacle was unforgettably impressive. The control and unstoppable power and authority of the living LORD God Almighty were overwhelmingly apparent. There is a close connection with the verses in Zechariah, Chapt 2 with this vision - Zech 2:13 (*top of page*) and Zech 2: 4-5 are particularly relevant.¹⁰

The 'wall of fire' at the culmination of the vision recalls the LORD's declaration in Zech 2:4-5 that He 'will be a wall of fire around' Jerusalem. The vision began with the formation of a fiery cross, as a reminder of Jesus Christ crucified and risen. The massive number of the **chains of thin fiery crosses** that issued from that one cross converged to symbolise Jesus as the 'wall of fire' around the new Jerusalem (*as in Zech 2:4-5*). The large cross at the front of the church (*visible through this transparent vision*), is representative of the presence of Christ in the new Jerusalem as "its Glory within".¹¹ In this regard the LORD declares that He will

⁹I encountered Hassan in the park by the river. I could tell by Hassan's clothes that he was of another faith. Very quickly our relaxed conversation evolved into one of him acquainting me of a standard list of ill founded criticisms of Christianity by his faith. e.g. "*God wouldn't allow his son to be killed*". It was apparent that Hassan intended that our continued deliberations would reveal that one of us would be proven right in his faith (him) and the other (me) proved in error.

I prayed to the Lord for guidance. Then I was aware of myself responding to Hassan: "the Lord is with me". Next I was turning away to the left side, and automatically bowing my head reflectively. I felt the Lord's presence, about me and welling up within me. For a brief but significant moment I was overcome. Then I looked up and turned back to face Hassan, and with a sense great joy, excitement, and enthusiasm (and perhaps loudly) saying repeatedly: "the Lord is with me" - My right fist clenched in the air above and front of my right ear. While I could say "the Lord is with me"; Hassan, having witnessed my blessing, was now hard pressed to say much at all - This was not the outcome Hassan had expected.

(N.B. *These events are given in brief – others were present*).

I have continued to pray that Hassan, his family, and others like them come to know and accept Jesus as their saviour.

For insightful comment in respect of such encounters I can recommend the book 'Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus' by Nabeel Qureshi. This was a very helpful recommendation to me after the event, by Evan M. See also [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nabeel_Qureshi_\(author\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nabeel_Qureshi_(author)).

¹⁰ At the time of experiencing the vision I had only a vague recollection that the 'Wall of Fire' in the Old Testament. I needed to consult Google to find where. As for Zech 2.13 I found it in a list of verses on the net.

¹¹ Rev 22 "I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple." Also refers.

reside in this new Jerusalem, among his people who have come from many nations to be united in Him¹² – And that they ‘will know that the LORD Almighty has sent’ him. (*Zech 2: 11 refers*).

Perhaps also of significance in regard to this, is Matthew 3: 11-12 in respect of John the Baptist’s declaration about Jesus - Aside from baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire, there is **judgement**:

His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” Matt 3: 12 NIV ?

‘**The Spider**’ is about the steady inevitable progress to a bleak, desolate, barren, and unhappy destination that awaits unrepentant sinners.¹³

‘**The LORD’s Favour**’ was a reminder of the exclusiveness of being in Christ, and the reality of exclusion of those who choose to reject Him. (*Everyone and anyone are welcome to follow Jesus, if they choose.*)

Also conveyed, was a brief but exciting hint of what awaits those who put their faith in Jesus.

Summed up - There were three blessed occasions over three years, & involving the ‘Three in One’. Each occasion speaks loudly of the closeness of God. Combined, they point to two possible destinations available to us at the end of life’s journey on earth; the new Jerusalem, or the bleak and unhappy one. Thus, we have a choice – One that is determined by our acceptance or rejection of Jesus.

**It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in man. Psalm 118: 8**

There may well be several messages conveyed by the ‘Wall of Fire’ and ‘The Spider’ events.¹⁴ For me, these two visions have evoked connections with **God’s word** expressed in Isaiah 24; in particular:

“⁴ The earth dries up and withers,
the world languishes and withers,
the heavens languish with the earth.”

⁵ The earth is defiled by its people;
they have disobeyed the laws,
violated the statutes
and broken the everlasting covenant.

⁶ Therefore a curse consumes the earth;
its people must bear their guilt.

¹⁴ ...from the west they acclaim the LORD’s majesty.

¹⁶ From the ends of the earth we hear singing:
“Glory to the Righteous One.”¹⁵

²³ The moon will be embarrassed,
the sun ashamed;
for the LORD Almighty will reign
on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem ..,”

(*Isaiah 24*)¹⁶

For some understanding as to the prospects the above associations of encounters and scripture being realised, it is worthwhile reflecting on Judah’s rejection of the LORD their God. Because of their

¹² Rev 21:3 “.... God’s dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.” Also refers.

¹³ As Humanity increasingly rejects God, the nearer the spider draws to its destination. (1 Sep 20)

¹⁴ Leigh H has suggested that Ezekiel 20: 45-48 might be relevant, in particular “.. prophesy against the forest of the southland” about a fire that “will consume all your trees, both green and dry ...”. ‘Southland’ is one of several interpretations of ‘**נֶגֶב**’ / negeb {neh'-gheb, from an unused root meaning *to be parched*): The Negev, south country, southern, southeast, southward and south, are some others. ‘Southland’ expressed in Latin is ‘Terra Australis’.

14 Feb 2020

¹⁵ Isaiah 2:14-16 included in part end Dec 2020.

¹⁶ <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+24&version=NIV>

idolatry, disobedience, and unwillingness to change their ways, they were invaded and taken into captivity by Babylon (597-582 until 539B.C.).¹⁷

The scriptures view **idolatry** as our: wanting, relying on, or looking to, anything for greater fulfillment than God. Aside from ‘greed’,¹⁸ today this can apply to such things or activities as: a car, house, physical fitness, sport, job, social club, a yacht, good works, book collection, mobile phone, fellowship, family, computer, Twitter, a building, Facebook, etc. - The list is long and diverse! Idolatry causes us to turn away from God’s love for us¹⁹, as the people of Judah did long ago, to their cost. The following verse relates:

..... **the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.” Deut. 4: 24**

Of course, any conduct that is in breach of his authority such as ‘*disobedience*’ and ‘*unwillingness to change our ways*’ is in effect a rejection of God’s love:²⁰

- **For a nation**, a state, or a territory, a breach of His authority can be the **implementation of legislation** that is at odds with his clearly expressed intentions and commands given in scripture. (e.g. Genesis 2:24)²¹
- **Any person, organisation, or government** is in breech of God’s authority, if they intentionally **deny** (*or seek to deny*) **anyone** an appropriate opportunity to hear or read what the scriptures has to say about **Jesus** – In particular, the significance for them of His **crucifixion and resurrection**.
- Someone professing to be a **Minister of the Word** will be in breach if they actively misrepresent God’s word or otherwise ‘preach another Gospel’ (*Gal 1:8 refers*)²².

To not want to know about Jesus is to reject God’s love. As evident in the ‘**The LORD’s Favour**’ above, the consequences of accepting or rejecting Jesus are real.

“Enter through the narrow gate,
for wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.
But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” Matt 7: 3-14

FIRE AND FACES - SATURDAY 22 MARCH 2020

On Saturday, 8 January 2021, while consulting the notes of events on my mobile phone, I discovered that the last entry²³ had more significance than I realised at the time of recording. It was a **fourth blessed encounter** that had occurred at 3.30pm on Saturday, 22 March 2020, a year after ‘the Lord’s Favour’ encounter :

“I lay down for a brief nap, having set the timer for 25 minutes. As I put my head down on the pillow I was confronted by a vision of a **wall of fierce flame**. My thoughts were: “This again”? “I want to go to sleep”!

On making a tired effort to look: “I can’t see through it!”; “There might be something back there?” Then I noted the trees amongst the flame, as varyingly partial obscured silhouettes being consumed by the flame.

Then between me and conflagration, there passed **many a disembodied face**, at a brisk pace.” From right to left.²⁴ “Some single. And some were in small disordered groupings. There were males and females of diverse appearance.

¹⁷ Books of the Bible: Daniel, Jeremiah, 2 Chronicles, 2 Kings. refer

¹⁸ Colossians 3:5 refers. 17 Mar 2020.

¹⁹ Jonah 2: 8 “Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them...”

²⁰ Aside from rejecting God’s love it implies a serious disregard for His other significant qualities. That is, his being: good, holy, gracious, mysterious, righteous, eternal, immutable (changeless), omniscient (all wise), forgiving, caring, all-powerful, all-knowing, patient, faithful, just

²¹ “...a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.”

²² This sentence added 13 June 2020 is inspired in part by earlier encounters alluded to at the beginning. **Note:** The equivalent of ‘Minister of the Word’ in German is ‘Diener des WORTES’ (**‘Servant of the Word’**)

²³ The only entry since March 2019

²⁴ This sentence from memory included 11 Jan 2021

As the vision disappeared, I fell asleep. I awoke refreshed, fifteen minutes after having set the timer, and thoroughly perplexed by the brief vision that had preceded my sleep.

Next morning (23 Mar 20) whilst having a shower, Ezekiel 20: 45-48 came to mind":

45 The word of the LORD came to me: 46 "Son of man,... prophesy against the forest of **the southland**. 47 Say to the southern forest:"

'Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

I am about to set fire to you, and it will consume all your trees, both green and dry. The **blazing flame** will not be quenched, and **every face** from south to north will be scorched by it. 48 Everyone will see that I the LORD have kindled it; it will not be quenched."

I have found this connection with Ezekiel puzzling. Ezekiel 20 is very much about Israel long ago, and clearly so up to verse 44. The original focus of Ezekiel 20: 45-48 was probably the people (trees) of Judah (Southland) to the South of Israel? Nevertheless, the reality of events of 22-23 March 2020 suggests to me that vision is intended to convey Ezekiel 20:45-48²⁵ in context with and emphasis to prophesy given in Isaiah 24 verses 6 and 2:

6 Therefore a curse consumes the earth;
its people must bear their guilt.
Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up,
and very few are left.

2 it will be the same
for priest as for people,
for the master as for his servant,
for the mistress as for her servant,
for seller as for buyer,
for borrower as for lender,
for debtor as for creditor.

LOST AND REGAINED

FRIDAY 19 MARCH 2021 – THURSDAY 1 APRIL 2021

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight.

Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13

The afternoon of 19 March 2021, proved to be **the beginning of the fifth blessing**. I had gone to do some gardening work at the Manse of our new Church. In the rush to fit in with other arrangements I had taken my favourite (*and expensive*) reading glasses with me. Normally, I would have taken cheap magnifying glasses.

The soon to be occupied manse was in need of basic gardening attention. Most of my prayerful gardening effort that day involved gathering up piles of pruning of various plants into a bigger heap, and also into a 'Green' waste bin for Council collection. This took about an hour.

On returning home I realised that my glasses must be still back in the grounds of the Manse. I drove back soon after, to prayerfully search for them. I searched grounds, the contents of the large Green Waste Bin, and the considerably large heap of plant cuttings and assorted fallen branches from the four large Gum trees there. Nothing! They were **lost!**

On about four occasions, during this period, I went back to do further tidying of long grass and bushes with an electric line trimmer. Each time I was on the lookout for my reading glasses. Also, each Sunday, I searched for them after the Church service.

²⁵In regard to the 'forest fire' and 'drying' conveyed by the visions Leigh H originally suggested (14 Feb 2020) that Ezekiel 20: 45-48 might be relevant, in particular "... prophesy against the forest of the Southland" about a fire that "will consume all your trees, both green and dry ...". 'Southland' is one of several interpretations of 'שָׂפָךְ' / negeb {neh'-gheb, from an unused root meaning 'to be parched'}: The Negev, south country, southern, southeast, southward and south, are some others. 'Southland' expressed in Latin is 'Terra Australis'.

Late Thursday morning 1 April, a member of congregation (*faithful and effective in presenting the word*) phoned to ascertain if the glasses he had **found** were mine. Soon after, having affirmed the glasses were in fact mine, the messenger showed me where he had found them. It was ground that I had inspected, weeded, raked, and gone over with an electric line trimmer! It had also been mowed by someone on Monday that week. Very curious?

My reading glasses were returned to me in excellent condition - No scratches on the lenses! Naturally, I gave prayerful thanks. **I had regained what I had lost!** It was the day before Good Friday. Any thought that had lately begun about a need to visit an optometrist, vanished.

The next morning, **Good Friday**, coincidentally, the theme of the message given by the visiting preacher Bruce T. was very much focused on **God's promise of eternal life 'lost and regained'**. Thus, the blessing of reading glasses '**lost and regained**' readily evoked a connection to **the celebration of Easter**:

- The commemoration of **God's saving grace** made available to us by His son's sacrifice on the cross.
- This **greatest blessing of all**, whereby every believer in the crucified and resurrected Jesus regains God's promise of eternal life that was **lost** to humanity - because of Adam's sin, and humanity's continuing inclination to sin.

¹Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.

²For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Praise the LORD! Psalm 117

WHEN?

11I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it. Isaiah 46

The association of blessed encounters and scripture since 2017 point to 'The Day of the Lord'.

'Fire and Faces' and 'Lost and Regained' (*above*) expand the understanding of the first three blessings, and are a reminder of the **reality** and the **inevitability** of the outcomes they convey.

As for an indication of when the association of encounters scripture and might be fulfilled; the fact of these encounters happening give reason for thinking that **the time is now very much closer than it used to be**. Current increasingly problematic worldwide events give cause to reflect on that perception.²⁶

However, Matthew 24:36 states: "...about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." In any case, we should live our lives so as to "**produce fruit in keeping with repentance**". (Matt 3:8).

BURNING BUSH

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD. Zechariah 4:6 ²⁷

Mindful of the ultimate significance of the encounters deliberated above, and the fact of their occurrence, I have continued to hope, with a considerable degree of optimism, that the 'Wall of Fire' vision contained an additional message:

That the '**chains of thin fiery crosses**' point to a revival of Christian faith in Australia (perhaps like the one that broke out in The Hebrides Revival of 1949),²⁸ and that it would spread to other parts of the world.

²⁶ Humanity seems to be increasingly seeking refuge in its own wisdom, instead of in God through Christ.

²⁷ Last night the quotation from Zechariah, and this morning the tile 'Burning Bush' came strongly to me in this regard. (27 May 2020)

²⁸ The Hebrides Revival of 1949 - The Lewis Awakening see video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGOWYCX5VtQ>

I note that **Isaiah 24:14-16** (*quoted in part above*) foretells of a world wide revival.²⁹ In any case, I cannot help but pray in support for such a **revival**, and what can flow from it:³⁰

- That a great many more people will choose to accept the risen **Jesus as their Saviour and Lord**;
- That they will receive God's grace, **the promise of eternal life**; and
- That having received **the Holy Spirit**, they will want to change their ways and seek, know, and live by **God's word**.

A MATTER OF CHOICE

Who is the man who fears the LORD? God will teach him the path he should choose. Psalm 25:12

The Gospel of John 1:1-5 testifies this about Jesus:

In the beginning was **the Word**, and
the Word was with God, and
the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that has been made.
In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Each and every person who hears the good news about God's grace, the promise of **eternal life**, made available to them through the sacrifice of his Son, is confronted with **a choice**. It is a choice between the light and the darkness – A choice between life and death. To do nothing is the same as choosing the darkness, and death. They can accept or reject Jesus as their Saviour - Their choice.³¹

However:

**Salvation is found in no one else,
for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.** Acts 4:12

"...Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.³²
They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit."

Jeremiah 17:7-8

John Griffiths

(a penitent sinner)

Originated November 2019

Revised 21 June 2021

Web Page <http://www.davidbrown1801nsw.info/Blessings.htm> refers



Blessed Encounters



²⁹ The Isaiah 24:14-16 reference included 30 Dec 2020.

³⁰ The "Hebrides" example shows that serious, regular, persistent and concentrated prayer by the community of believers, regardless of age, can make a significant difference.

³¹ Insight courtesy of Rev. Hugh P. 19 Jan 2020

³² Video 'Seeing or Believing' provides insights by Charlie Skrine, St Helens, Bishopsgate UK <https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/talk/55147/video/> as does the series 'Seeing is Believing' <https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/series/4945/> of which it is part.

