



Chit-Chat

...A Publication of Ken Sumrall Ministries
4900 Forest Creek Drive, Pace, FL 32571

September~October 2010

BRINGING BACK THE GLORY! ©1977 by Ken Sumrall Excerpts from the “out of print” book, NEW WINE BOTTLES

“...the Lord our God made a breach upon us, for we sought Him not after the due order.” (1 Chronicles 15:13)
“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God” (Psalm 42:1)

David was longing in his heart for the return of the God’s glory. In the natural it would seem that he had all that one could desire—authority, prestige, wealth, health, victory over enemies, family, friends, etc. He had God’s blessings. What he “panted after” was God’s presence — the **Ark of the Covenant**.

The Ark — God’s Presence

To explain the importance of the Ark, let me present a brief history of its existence. Many years before David was born, God called Moses upon Mt. Sinai to show him the pattern for the tabernacle and its furniture. God said to Moses:

And let them (Israel) make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it. And they shall make an ark of shittim wood . . . And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold . . . And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat . . . (Exodus 25:8-10a, 21-22a)

The Ark was God’s throne on earth. Thus, we see its importance. God’s blessings can be sent from His heavenly throne and they were sent to David in abundance. Blessings are good, but God’s presence is better, yea, much better. There were other pieces of furniture made according to God’s pattern, but the Ark was the most holy piece. It was placed in the tabernacle behind a thick veil in the Most Holy Place. When Israel camped and the Ark was in its place, the glory (presence) rested upon the Ark—visible at night as a pillar of fire and visible in the day as a cloud. Israel was blest indeed when God’s presence was in the camp.

During the days of the judges of Israel, the priests of God became slack in their ministry, and individual Israelites “*did that which was right in his own eyes*” (Judges 21:25). Satan took advantage of Israel’s lack of commitment, immorality, and disunity to defeat her by surrounding countries. After each defeat people cried to God; and God in His mercy, delivered them. God’s presence remained — until:

Ichabod — Departed Glory

“.. *The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken*” (1 Samuel 4:21)

The Philistines were winning! The military leaders of Israel were alarmed! The people were frightened! Over four thousand of their choicest men lay dead on the battlefield! Desperate measures were called for:

Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies (1 Samuel 4:3).

When the Ark arrived on battlefield; the people shouted with joy. However, God was angry with Israel and did not manifest joy nor His power. Rather, He did nothing. The Philistines defeated Israel and captured the Ark.

Danger of God’s Presence

God allowed Himself to become a prisoner of war and passively submitted to be taken away to Ashdod, a city of the Philistines. The incidents that followed reveal God’s sense of humor.

After being placed in the temple of Philistia’s god, the Lord revealed the danger of His presence among sinners in the following order:

1. He pushed Dagon, the god of Philistia, on his face (1 Sam 5:3).
2. He pushed Dagon on his face second time, breaking off head and hands (1 Samuel 5:4)
3. He smote the people of Ashdod with hemorrhoids (1 Sam 5:6).
4. When the people of Gath of Philistia took the Ark to relieve Ashdod, they also were smitten with hemorrhoids (1 Sam 5:9).
5. The Philistines of Ekron accepted the Ark with horror saying: “*They have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people*” (1 Samuel 5:10).

The Philistines no longer wanted the presence of the God of Israel. They sent Him back to Israel with offerings of golden hemorrhoids (something interesting to see, no doubt) and golden mice. Thinking that any god should be moved with the best mode of transportation, they made a new cart and placed the Ark upon the cart. To assure themselves that the God of Israel wanted to go home they hitched cows, who had new born calves, to the cart. They believed that the cows would leave their calves and head toward Israel without any coercion if this was His will. To their amazement the cows left their calves, pulling the new cart toward Israel, lowing all the way.

As the Ark passed into Israel, the people of Bethshemesh rejoiced that the Ark of God had returned. They took the Ark and smashed the cart to pieces for wood on which to offer the cows as an offering to the Lord. Oh, how they rejoiced! In their happiness over the presence of God, they forgot the holiness of God and the awesomeness of His presence unless received in His divine order, according, to the Word of God given through Moses. The Ark was opened for 50,000 Israelites to gaze upon. All 50,000 died instantly! No blood had been sprinkled on the mercy seat by the high priest. Their glad hearts were suddenly made sad, lamenting as they cried: “. . . *Who is able to stand before this Holy Lord God?* . . .” (1 Samuel 6:20) In their dismay and fear, they sent the Ark away.



The men of Kirjathjearim fetched it up to the house of Abinadab, where it stayed throughout the reign of Samuel and even that of King Saul. Matthew Henry states: "They were content with the altars without the Ark; so easily can formal professors rest satisfied in a round of external performances, without any tokens of God's presence or acceptance." (See commentary on I Samuel 7) Nobody seemed very concerned about the absence of the Ark until David was established as king. God found "a man after His Own heart" (Acts 13:22) who would not rest until the Ark was restored. He had heard that the house of Abinadab was blessed by God's presence in the Ark.

The Right Thing But The Wrong Way

Determined to have the Ark in Jerusalem, he said to the people: "And let us bring again the ark of God to us." (I Chronicles 13:3a) God had been with David in a measure. The Spirit of God came upon him many times from his youth, but nothing would satisfy David except the fullness of God's power and presence.

The people agreed with David. Excitement rose. Plans were made. A new cart was built (Where do you suppose they got that idea?) David's best men, Uzza and Ahio, drove the cart. "And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets" (I Chronicles 13:8). What a day! Sincere? Yes! Longing for God's presence? Yes! But evidently, nobody thought to read the Word regarding the carrying of the Ark. If they did, the thinking was that God would be pleased to restore His presence man's way. Not so! If God's fullness is to be restored, the pattern shown in the Word of God must be followed.

The oxen stumbled—the Ark was shaking. When Uzza put forth his hand to steady it, God smote him and he died. David was visibly shaken and displeased with God. Why would God do such a thing? Did He not appreciate their sincerity? Weren't they doing their best to restore His presence? In his anger and fear, David exclaimed: "...How shall I bring the ark of God home to me?" (I Chronicles 13:12) A good question! How shall we bring back God's presence to the Church? Will any way be satisfactory? Are not all believers priests before the Lord? Is not the veil rent now? Is not the coming of the glory of God an individual matter? Or, is their a scriptural pattern for order in the Church as there was for the Ark of the Covenant?

God's Pattern According To The Word

David left the Ark at the house of Obededom and returned to Jerusalem without it. The Scriptures imply in I Chronicles 14 that David tried to drown the longing for Ark by keeping busy. He occupied himself building himself a house and in battling the Philistines. Being a Bible-believer, he continued searching for an answer to the right way to bring the Ark back. Eureka! He sought and he found God's pattern. "Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the Lord chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto Him for ever." (I Chronicles 15:2)

No longer was he afraid of God's presence. He had read the Word and found God's divine order. Immediately he prepared a tabernacle, gathered Israel, and announced the good news regarding the written ways of God:

And said unto them (the elders of the Levites), ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. For because ye did it not at the first, the Lord our God made a breach upon us, for that we ...sought Him not after the due...order (I Chronicles 15:12,13).

The **leaders** obeyed. **Restoration came!** David was so happy that he danced before the Lord and set praisers continually before the tabernacle to worship the Lord Whose Glory had returned.

Early Church Glory

What has this restoration to do with the present-day Charismatic restoration? In many ways the tabernacle of David is the greatest Old Testament type of the Church of the Lord Jesus. There was no veil in David's tabernacle as had been in Moses' tabernacle. The Ark, or throne of God, was available for all to see, and all Israel worshipped God before the Ark until the temple was built. James refers to the restoration of David's tabernacle in Acts 15:13-17a:

And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His Name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord,

The strong implication is that the prophets had the Church age in mind — a worship of God in the church with no veil to hide His presence. The early Church experienced it. **Later, the glory departed from the Church.**

Bringing Back the Glory

From the time of Martin Luther until the present day, gradual restoration of the glory to the Church has taken place. As with Israel throughout Samuel's and Saul's reign, the restoration has been slow. Many new carts have been tried. God has blessed, but many of us feel as David did. We want more than blessings — we want God's manifested presence. The Charismatic Renewal is certainly an attempt by God to answer the longings and cries of His people for complete restoration of the early Church power, love, unity, and joy. If we "**hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches**" concerning **divine order** in the Body of Christ as **it is written in God's Book, the glory of the Lord (with all of its manifestations presented in the book of Acts) will return to the Church.**

If we do not heed, if we do not establish churches according to biblical pattern, we may have reached a plateau in this revival. If we attempt to restore God's glorious presence in our own ways, the results could be as disastrous as the "**breach of Uzza**" to those who are driving the new man-made carts.

Without question, none of us have the whole truth regarding divine order in Church government. It behooves us, therefore, to walk carefully, searching the Scriptures, **communicating** with one another regularly for confirmation of our interpretations of God's Word regarding divine order. Though we will never attain to governmental perfection prior to the Lord's return, and though we need not seek for identical methods in every detail of administration, I believe it is important that the **New Testament principles of apostolic government** be restored and practiced in order for the glory of God to fully return to the Body of Christ.

The CFN Apostolic Council will meet Sept 28-29 at Liberty Church North.

One thing that can keep us going in the coming hard times is an understanding of God's glory. Now, this may sound like a high, lofty concept to you, one that's best left to theologians. But I'm convinced the subject of God's glory has very real, practical value for every true believer. By grasping it, we unlock the door to an overcoming life!

The glory of God is a revelation of our Lord's nature and being. You may recall from the Old Testament that Moses got a literal glimpse of God's glory. Before then, the Lord had sent out Moses with no explanation of himself other than the words, "I AM." But Moses wanted to know something more of God. So he pleaded with him, "Lord, show me your glory."

God responded by taking Moses aside and putting him in the cleft of a rock. Then, Scripture says, he revealed himself to Moses in all his glory (see Exodus 34:6-7). The way God wants us to know his glory is through the revelation of his great love toward humankind. And that's just what he revealed to Moses.

I believe this passage is absolutely essential to our understanding of who our Lord is. Often when we think about the glory of God, we think of his majesty and splendor, his power and dominion, or some manifestation in his people.

All such things can be a result of seeing God's glory. But this isn't the glory he wants us to know him by. The Lord is forever waiting to show us his love, to forgive us, to shower us with his mercy and to restore us to himself.

The revelation of God's glory has powerful effects on those who receive it and pray for an understanding of it. Up to this point, Moses had viewed the Lord as a God of law and wrath. He trembled with terror in the Lord's presence, petitioning him, crying out to him, pleading with him on behalf of Israel. This had been the basis of his face-to-face relationship with the Lord.

Yet now, at the first sight of God's glory, Moses was no longer fearful of the Lord. Instead, he was moved to worship: "Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped" (Exodus 34:8). He saw that God wasn't just the thunder, lightning and piercing trumpet that had made him shrivel in fear. On the contrary, God was love and his nature was one of kindness and tender mercy!

Do you see the incredible truth Scripture is showing us here? True worship arises from hearts that are overcome by a vision of God's unmerited love for us. It's based on the revelation that God gives us of himself, of his goodness, his mercy, his readiness to forgive. So, if we're to praise God both in spirit and in truth, our worship must be based on this awesome truth about him.

Once we receive a revelation of God's glory, our worship can't help but change. Why? Seeing his glory changes the way we live! It affects our countenance and behavior, changing us from "glory to glory," making us more like him. Each new revelation of his love and mercy brings supernatural change.

AWAKENING OUR CONSCIENCE

Many of God's people are meeting to pray for a national awakening. This revival of righteousness will bring also an awakening of the conscience and restore a desire for a purity which is bathed in God's love. I am not into hype nor promoting false hope, but I agree with many of God's ministers that we are going to experience an unprecedented harvest of souls prior to the coming of our Lord. The prophesy of Joel regarding an outpouring of the Holy Spirit had its first fulfillment on the day of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2. However, it is indicated in the prophecy that it would take place just before the end of the age. Read it again and judge for yourself. That being true, we can look for such an outpouring of the Spirit that all people will see the true manifestations of Spirit and have a chance to be saved. Not all will be saved as all did not respond positively on the day of Pentecost. But thousands did hear and get saved. Church history tells us that within a few years, the Church in Jerusalem had 100,000 members and the first century church literally turned the world upside down and changed society of their day. (They demonstrated the power of the Kingdom message which convicted and brought conversion to millions in the known world.

In summary, let me say that God speaks in a still small voice to our conscience when we do wrong and when we are approving wrong behavior. But our conscience nor the knowledge of right and wrong can give us the power to do right. Paul discovered that even when his conscience told him he was doing wrong, he had no power in himself to do right. He exclaimed: "*O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of death. I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord*" (Romans 7:24). Space does not permit me to point out the way to victory told us in Romans 8. I do urge readers to meditate on God's victory plan written in that chapter. Otherwise, the devil can use your sensitive conscience to keep you in condemnation, fear and defeat. God alone can give you the power to live according to a Bible-trained conscience. And only God can keep us living in love so as not to cause those with weak consciences to stumble. (1Cor 8: 1-13)

The conscience can be a wonderful friend or a terrible enemy. Ask Judas what caused him to commit suicide. Then ask Peter how his conscience caused him to keep tender and be restored to intimacy with the Lord. Judas tried to atone for his own sins by punishing himself. Peter discovered the way of grace and forgiveness. I trust you who are reading this column have made your conscience your friend who can tenderly prompt you to walk in by the spirit and not by the flesh or body appetites.

RESTORING THE NATIONAL CONSCIENCE

God bless America. "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.*" Though we have never been a truly righteous nation, this nation has been governed by Christian principles written in God's Holy Word. That is up until recent years. It seems to me that Hollywood and the national media have usurped the right to be the national conscience. Those who try to call attention to the evils of gay behavior (sodomy), abortion and sex without commitment are tagged as "the religious right" which is intended to intimidate and stigmatize God's messengers. How many in our nation are smitten in conscience when they commit these acts which the Bible clearly condemns? Have we become worse than pagans in our approval of these evils? What has happened to our conscience? I am not trying to be a crusader. I am simply speaking from a heart that--like Lot of old-- is "vexed (and grieved) with the filthy conduct of the wicked" (2 Peter 2:7). I am also praying with many others that God will see many who have humbled themselves prayed and turned from wicked ways and will hear from Heaven and heal our land.

Win Your Lost Loved Ones to Jesus.

It is hard to believe that a man could love someone so much, he would be willing to go to Hell for him/her. We know that Jesus did so and because of Him we are saved from the wrath to come. "...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come (1 Thess 1:9-10). Paul felt very strongly about his own kin and said: "I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh (Rom 9:1-3).



Papa Ken's mother and siblings

The week after I was born again at Richards Memorial Methodist Church in Pensacola, I took a trip on my motorcycle to Mississippi to talk to my brother, Freddy, about Jesus. I did not tell him about Hell. He had heard about that place all his life in the Baptist Church. I simply told him how Jesus saved me and gave me eternal life. He believed and wept his way into the Kingdom of God. Freddy died from cancer five years ago. While he was on his death bed, his daughter, Jean, asked him if he knew for sure he was saved. He told her about the time I came up from Pensacola and led him into a born again experience with the Lord. At his funeral, Jean thanked me for leading her daddy to the Lord. I fully expect to see him in Heaven when I get there. Actually all five my brothers and my two sisters are born again believers and have an eternal home in Heaven.

WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION?

Please feel free to send any questions you may have to me and I will attempt to answer them "scripturally" in this section of the chit-chat. Here are some that were sent.

Is "speaking in tongues" a known language? If so, what does I Corinthians 14:2 mean? If not, explain the experience of the disciples in Acts 2 where they were understood. If they are not understood, what is the purpose for "speaking in tongues" or gibberish?

I Corinthians 14:2 states: "He that speaketh in an 'unknown' tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries." Acts 2:11 states, "We do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God."

I believe the manifestations of tongues in both places was essentially the same—adoration and praise. Tongues, in these cases, were not for instruction nor teaching, but speaking in praise to God. Seldom is the person speaking in tongues understood. For that reason, the King James translators called the speech "unknown" tongues of languages. However, for some unexplained reason, on the day of Pentecost, God gave the speaker languages that were understood by listeners. Tongues of praise, prayer and prophecy can be interpreted (not translated) through the manifestation of the gift of interpretation, but the interpreter does not understand the words being spoken. He interprets by the Spirit.

Some feel that the purpose of "tongues" on the day of Pentecost was to preach the gospel to those of different nations. However, there was no language barrier among those who heard the disciples on the day of Pentecost. They were all Jews who had come to live in Jerusalem (verse 5, the word "dwelling" is "Katoikountes" which means they had come to live in Jerusalem). They all had at least one language in common. Peter needed no interpreter when he preached to them (verses 14-47). "Tongues" by the Holy Spirit were not given primarily to communicate the gospel.

I am a member of a church, but still I feel there is something missing in my heart. I read the Bible daily and spend lots of time in prayer. What else can I do?

Your letter is one among many that I have received from ministers, laymen, and young and old of various denominations, concerning "something missing" in their Christian experience. **Praise the Lord!** "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6). Hundreds in Pensacola area are receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit as promised in Matthew 3:11 and Acts 1:4, 5. The Spirit of God is moving in a tremendous way in our land in answer to thirsting hearts of God's people. **There is a tidal wave of God's love on the way.** God says: "Open thy open mouth wide and I will fill it" (Psalm 81:10). Jesus said: "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink" (John 7:37). Just keep **drinking, believing, and praising** until you are intoxicated with "all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19, 20).

NOTE: KSM is a non-profit ministry—wholly supported by your contributions. You are not required to give in order to receive this newsletter. If you wish to give, please print and cut out the form below to send with your contribution. Thanks so much for all you have done to keep this ministry going.



Bro. Ken, I want to help you with your ministry.

Enclosed is:

\$ _____ for your missionary travels.

\$ _____ for regular expenses.

\$ _____ for the poor and homeless.

\$ _____ for your personal needs.

Make all checks payable to KSM

4900 Forest Creek Dr

Pace, FL 32571

All gifts tax deductible

Name: _____

Address: _____

