

December-January 22-23

# Glory Magazine

share good news

*Merry  
Christmas!*

## IN THIS ISSUE

ALL HONOR IS HIS

THE DESIGNER'S  
CHRISTMAS

EPHESUS  
A CHURCH FOUND  
WANTING

REVEALING  
GOD'S GLORY



## ALL HONOR IS HIS

Those who regularly read this magazine know that each issue is unique. No one confers with the other, solely relying on the Spirit to lead and guide us to what He would have us say. There are no hidden agendas. There are no workings behind the scenes to promote or market any specific issue. We each work separately with our Teacher, the Holy Spirit, allowing the information to flow from our minds to help renew us in the Word. And in doing so, relaying what He would have us write down and share with others to the best of our abilities.

He is the author, and we strive to not write in vain but discuss, inform, connect, and build upon His established foundation so that the Kingdom of God flows in black and white on the pages.

We take no credit, nor do we seek it. It is an honor, and privilege, to regularly speak to the Maker of all things and help in some small way to prepare the way for His soon and imminent return.

This Christmas issue is noteworthy. Though we are separate in our minds, writing styles, and locations, the Lord connects ideas. He is the Master of the Orchestra playing His song. It is played for all to hear if they have an ear for the Spirit of all Truth.

Repent. Come to a place of joy and liberty that only the Word of

God can provide and return to the First Love given to the world.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, Pure Love, which overcame the sin of the flesh, let us turn away from the idols, the noise, and the wicked plans of the world and embrace the One, the ONLY ONE, who is our champion and freed us from the bondage of death, hell, and the grave. Our Lord of lords, our King of kings, Jesus Christ, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. He who was has never left. He searches for those who raise His name above all others. He resides in His new temple, built by David upon the earth.

No man has seen God, yet He is closer to us than a friend. May this picture, taken by Al Tucker, remind us that an empty bench is filled with Life, just like the babe in swaddling clothes and the empty tomb. We will see what we choose to have faith in and what we choose to believe!

Hoping this Christmas will be the most memorable one yet, knowing all have heard of the Messiah, Emmanuel with us. Peace be with you all.

Blessings and honor,

*Angela Errett*

*A special Thank You to Al Tucker for all of his wonderful photos used in this issue.*

Join us online and sign up for e-mail notifications to always see our articles.

*Glory*  
Magazine



Angelic Designs LLC  
PUBLISHER  
DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Angela Errett  
EDITOR  
Bob Jacobus  
VOLUNTEER CONTENT EDITOR  
Alan Tucker  
VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTOR

*That I may publish with the voice  
of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy  
wondrous works. Psalm 26:7*

Glory Magazine exists to promote and increase the knowledge of The Kingdom as taught by the Lord Jesus Christ and through the leading of the Holy Spirit. We aim to use every effective means available to help others increase in that knowledge.

Glory Magazine reserves the right to edit, reject, or cancel any advertisement or material for any reason. Glory Magazine shall not be liable for any typographical errors or inaccurate information on any advertisement or material published and is limited to the actual area used by the item. Glory Magazine does not sell or share personal information other than what is required by law. Glory Magazine is a publication of Angelic Designs LLC.

For more information, or to discuss advertising availability contact us at:

Glory Magazine  
P.O. Box 963  
Buckhannon, WV 26201

ADVERTISING/GENERAL INQUIRY  
info@glorymagazinewv.com

SUBMISSIONS:  
submissions@glorymagazinewv.com

ONLINE AT:  
www.glorymagazinewv.com

Unless otherwise attributed, scripture quotations are taken from the KING JAMES VERSION of the Bible.

THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version®, Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Various photos used within provided by: Bigstock.com, Angelic Designs LLC, and submitted photos. All other art is copyrighted by its respective owners.

Cover: Douglas Falls, Tucker County, WV © Backyard Photography, Alan Tucker; Back Cover: Christmas Lights at WV Capitol © Backyard Photography, Alan Tucker.

© 2022 Angelic Designs LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part in any medium without written permission is prohibited.

To view online, donate, and join our e-mail list please visit:  
www.glorymagazinewv.com



The House of the Virgin Mary located on Mt. Koressos near ancient Ephesus in Turkey.

The House of the Virgin Mary: Olgaltcherino/Bigstock.com

## All Honor Is His

by Angela Errett

Giving God all the glory and honor

2

## The Designer's Christmas

by Bob Jacobus

The first Christmas party

4

## Ephesus, A Church Found Wanting

by Angela Errett

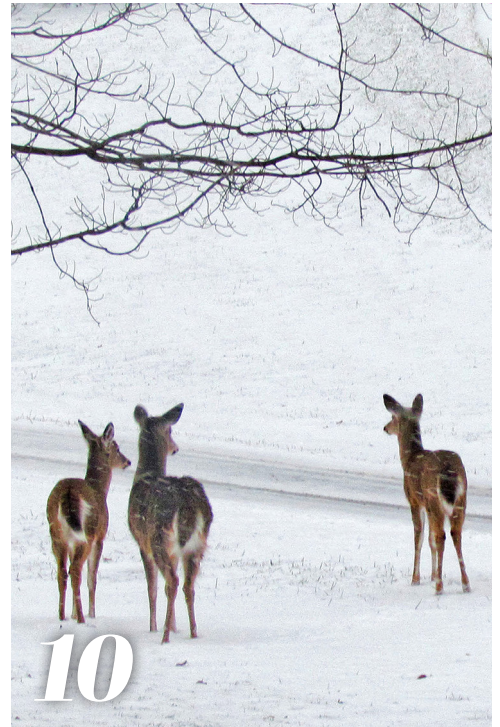
A journey to Ephesus, and what was permitted

10

## Revealing God's Glory

by Al Tucker

Celebrating the perfect gift



### JOIN THE COMMUNITY

Want to join the Glory Community and support *Glory Magazine*? We've got you covered! Contact us today and find out how you can be a part of the community. Visit us at [glorymagazinewv.com](http://glorymagazinewv.com) for online and magazine advertising information and to join our e-mail list.

A stylized illustration of a nativity scene. In the background, a large, glowing sun or moon is set against a dark, starry sky. In the foreground, three camels are silhouetted against the bright light, carrying riders. To the left, a silhouette of a building with a dome is visible. The overall color palette is dominated by warm, golden-brown and red tones.

# The Designer's Christmas

*The first Christmas party*, after becoming a committed believer, has had lasting impacts. The food, the decorations, the friendly people, and the common ground that united us filled my heart with joy and great gladness. The work and resources the host and hostess invested in the celebration still bear fruit today. True, no matter how great our gatherings celebrating the Lord's birth are, they do not compare with that first Christmas fellowship meeting. By the way, I was just tagging along with a pastor couple that had taken me under their wing.

One cannot adequately describe a great Christmas party with words. Even photographs do not do the event justice. A person needs to be there in the flesh to benefit fully. Tables full of food, meat, bread, cheeses, and delectable desserts fill both the nose and the eyes first, and later the stomach. The colors of the tablecloths are festive and matched by the fabrics that drape the furniture. A tree with lights and decorations, pine boughs spaced across the whole house; indeed, there was some design to this Christmas Party. *Thank You, Patsy!*

New friends were made, and old ties were renewed. The host and hostess were classmates of my father, and in a way, their old friendships were renewed vicariously at this celebration of Jesus. The people feasted on the wonderful victuals and in the fellowship of the great advent. A time was set aside to honor the Lord with worship and testimonies of His goodness. The picture here is about forty people lining the walls of a 20-foot by 20-foot living room facing toward the middle. Some testimonies flowed freely; others had to be encouraged.

I got encouraged with about a five-minute notice. Being a Bible College student, I was a target. What do I say? I was about a year and a half into my faith walk, past the honeymoon stage, and in the middle of God doing His strange work on me. For those who don't understand this, sometimes God will completely undo a person and rebuild from the ground up. It was a wonderful time, but it also was a terrible time. The





# ***Glory to God in the Highest, AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.***

***Luke 2:14 (KJV)***

people didn't need to hear that testimony on this day... God, what do I say? The Holy Spirit quickened within me a scripture.

I was introduced by the hostess and this was my testimony. "This past year, there have been some incredible highs and unbelievable lows. However, I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will come between us and the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (see Romans 8:38,39). The princes and princesses of the Kingdom of God echoed an Amen, and it was done.

If one is willing to embrace it, the whole party is by design. From the food, personal fellowship, and worship to the inspiring words from the Bible, it was orchestrated by the Holy Spirit. God was there, and He manifested Himself through all the trappings.

The first Christmas party was by divine design, and God manifested Himself in all the accoutrements of that special gathering. The birth of Christ was by design! Born in a manger, a picture of humility. Born in a manger, what a perfect place for the Lamb of God. In the town of Bethlehem, home of King David, he was promised his descendant, the Son of David, would be the Messiah. Angels and stars lighted the sky, and everyday people, yes shepherds, were in attendance. As a baby, innocent and helpless, God entered the world in the most vulnerable form of life one could. His Glory was evident from the rough feed-trough cradle and resonates through history today. It stands to reason, the Messiah, born a Jew, would be the most famous Jew of all time. It is so with Jesus. He was mercy in the flesh, mankind's everlasting hope. The price of redemption was pumped by that tiny heart, and the ransom of mankind from the slavery of sin flowed through this little baby's body. Christmas is no accident; it is by design.

The thing is, the host was God. The baby, the Son of God, is God too. He emptied Himself and started from the ground up, just like those born again into the living hope. He knew our parents; the manger event of children often renews their divine fellowship, yes, friendship with the host, even God the Father. Peace, grace, and glory belong to the day of His birth and reverberate through history every time it is commemorated. Now then, let that peace, grace, and glory fill your hearts and souls as you remember the birth and bask in the manifested presence in Christmas. And the princes and princesses belonging to the Kingdom of God sound the resounding, Amen.



by Angela Errett

Ruins of Temple of Artemis: Olgalucherno/Bigstock.com

# Ephesus

## A CHURCH FOUND WANTING



SEEK GOOD,  
NOT EVIL,  
THAT YOU  
MAY LIVE.  
***Then The  
Lord God  
Almighty***  
WILL BE WITH  
YOU, JUST AS  
YOU SAY HE IS.  
*Amos 5:14 (NIV)*

Let's start a journey on an old Roman road. This road was a major Roman mail route located in ancient Asia Minor—in modern-day Turkey—and part of the eastern regions of the world known as the Orient. The Latin word orient means “east” and literally means “rising,” as in the place where the sun rises.

Around this road, you could take a walk (a rather long one) and visit each of the seven churches listed in the book of Revelation in the order recorded in the scripture. You would come to each church as you walked clockwise from the west near the Aegean Sea, north along the coast, beginning at Ephesus, then to Smyrna, Pergamos, then east and back

to the south to Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and finally Laodicea.

Ephesus is the first church listed, so it must be of great significance in the story of the world and the Church as the Body of Christ. Jesus reveals Himself four times to the apostle John as, “I am Alpha and Omega,” only in the book of Revelation (see Revelation 1:8, 1:11, 21:6, 22:13). He is the beginning and the ending. He is the only Lord, which is, which was, and is to come. When the Lord addresses John, He declares He is the Almighty and directs him to write what the Lord reveals to him. Interestingly, the Lord chooses these seven specific churches in Asia Minor and separates them individually.





Left: The ancient ruins of the Temple of the Goddess Artemis (Diana) in Ephesus, with a stork nest atop the pillar on the right. Right: The Amphitheater in the ancient city of Ephesus.



Amphitheater ruins in ancient city Ephesus, Turkey; bloodua/Bigstock.com

The Strong's concordance and Thayer's New Testament Greek-English Lexicon suggest the word *Ephesus* from the Greek word *ephesos* is derived from a "foreign origin" and only describes it as a city in Asia Minor, the capital of Ionia under the Romans. Its literal meaning is "permitted." The church of Ephesus, being first, could be revealing what has been permitted in the not yet perfected body. *So, what has been permitted by the first church? What have they allowed?*

Ephesus is listed as a city in Asia Minor. It was the capital of Ionia under Rome's authority in Anatolia, the large plateau between the Mediterranean seas and the Black Sea. In the city's earlier days, there was a familiar tribe that was said to have occupied the area. Many have watched movies and cartoons depicting this area's founders from myths and stories passed down through generations. According to legends, a tribe of great and powerful female warriors known as the Amazons founded the city. It was known as the "city of the Mother Goddess" due to the worship of Artemis. She is also known as the pagan goddess Diana. Ancient etymology links Diana to words such as *day*, *sky*, *heaven*,

and *dia*, meaning "god-like." In Roman mythology, titles such as Diana Lucifer, or Diana light-bearer, are associated with her.

Diana Prince, or Princess Diana of Themyscira, is the name of Wonder Woman, the DC Comics' super-heroine created during World War II by American psychologist William Moulton Marston. The character comes from the mythical Amazonian "island in the middle of a large ocean," Themyscira, known as Paradise Island. Keep in mind Anatolia is the large plateau between the Mediterranean seas and the Black Sea. The island was said to be located in northern Turkey, which empties into the Black Sea. We see the first appearance of Artemis (Artemis Grace) as the super-heroine in the *Wonder Woman* vol. 2 #90 issue from September 1994 and she briefly held the title. How fascinating is it that history from one of the largest and wealthiest cities of the ancient eastern Mediterranean is said in Greek mythology to be founded by the Amazons and has been glorified in American pop culture? And there is proof that idol worship of their pagan goddess of the eastern lands, Artemis, or Diana, remains in the ancient city's ruins to this day.

Did you know the Apostle Paul wrote of what the Ephesians were doing and about the pagan goddess Diana in the Bible? You can read the complete account in the book of Acts, chapter nineteen. Here is a synopsis.

Paul comes to Ephesus and finds disciples; however, being unaware, they had not received the Holy Ghost. Paul lays hands on them, and they are filled with the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues and prophesying. He then goes into the synagogue and boldly proclaims the Kingdom of God, yet they do not believe him. Paul continued this for two years, so both Jews and Greeks who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus. Still, the Jewish people accused him of preaching a false doctrine, even though God gave him extraordinarily effective miracles, cleansing the sick from evil spirits simply by using handkerchiefs or aprons he touched.

Certain Jews began to immolate Paul, trying to cast out evil spirits in the name of the Lord Jesus, whom Paul preached. However, the seven sons of Sceva, a Jew and chief of the priests, were unsuccessfully doing this. The evil spirit knew of Jesus and Paul but did not know them. The evil spirit leaped from the



possessed man upon them, overtook them, and they fled naked and traumatized. Everyone heard about it in Ephesus, which caused fear of the Lord Paul spoke of, bringing many to believe. They confessed and announced what they had been doing. Many were working, being busybodies, habitually working around the truth, caught in a cycle, and using the magic arts. They brought their books and

burned them in front of everyone. The word of God vigorously grew and strengthened afterward.

### ✿ THE GODDESS DIANA ✿

Paul remained in Asia for a season as tumult arose about “that way” with respect to his teachings and how the Kingdom of God operated. A riot ensued after Demetrius, who made silver shrines of the goddess

Diana, called the craftsmen and workers of the trade together. He made them aware of the impending loss of business and how it could also discredit the “great goddess Diana,” robbing them of their wealth and the goddess of her divine majesty. They were incensed and began crying out: “Great is Diana of the Ephesians.” With this, the whole city was filled with confusion and was put into an uproar. *(Please note that Diana is used in the King James Version of the Bible, and Artemis is used in the New International Version. Talk about confusion.)*

The crowd snatched Paul’s companions, Gaius and Aristarchus, and hurried them into the theater, where they told Paul not to go. The disciples would not let Paul appear before the crowd to speak. Again, confusion abounded, with one person yelling one thing and others something else. There were even people present who didn’t even know why. Out of the throng of people, the Jews forced Alexander to the front, and he tried to quiet the crowd to make his defense before the people, but they knew he was a Jew from Judah (Ioudaios). For two hours and with one voice, they shouted, “Great is Diana of Ephesians.”

The city clerk was present and addressed the crowd saying, “Fellow Ephesians, doesn’t all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from *heaven*? Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to calm down and not do anything rash. You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess. If, then,

## ✿ The Lady of Ephesus

*Right:* Greek goddess Artemis was the virgin goddess of the hunt, vegetation, wild animals, wilderness, moon, chastity, and childbirth. She was often depicted with a bow and arrow in the Greek religion. However, the Artemis statue taken from the temple of the goddess, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, depicts her adorned with many breasts or large beads. Her legs are bound as a pillar with her feet exposed. *Below:* A scale reconstructed model showing what the third Temple of Artemis may have looked like resides in Istanbul, Turkey.





Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. They can press charges. If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly. As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of what happened today. In that case, we would not be able to account for this commotion since there is no reason for it.' After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly”(Acts 19:35-41 NIV).

(Note: *Jupiter* is translated in this NIV version as *heaven*. In the King James Bible its the Greek word *diopetes* which means “fallen from Dios or Zeus,” i.e. from heaven; also a silicate mineral meteorite.)

The location of Ephesus has been moved around by previous rulers and from flooding. Yet, it has remained in the same general location. It was re-founded after the migration of the Greek

Ionians and is mainly known as a Grecian city. It eventually became a very wealthy city along the Mediterranean trade route. It was also known for its association with the goddess Artemis, having a large temple dedicated to her by King Croesus that was later destroyed by fire. However, the Temple of Artemis reconstruction continued during the years of turmoil.

Later, after being under Persian rule and liberated by Alexander the Great, Ephesus was named Arsineia by one of his generals after his death. Despite the renaming and expansion of the city, the native Ephesians eventually re-founded the great city port of Ephesus. It then came under the Roman Empire, and even after suffering a massacre, earthquakes, and upheaval, it regained its position of great importance along the trade routes of Asia.

Christianity became the religion

over the region, and worship of Artemis and the pagan culture was forbidden. This led to the ancient temple of the goddess being destroyed again. The Temple of Artemis was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, which no longer exists.



Some early Christians of importance were visitors to the city, which remains a Christian pilgrimage location. The Apostle Paul preached there and is the author of the book of Ephesians. And did you know the Catholic shrine, the House of the Virgin Mary, where Mary’s last residence may have been, is located in Ephesus?

Visions and revelations from a Roman Catholic nun named Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, written in two books by Clemens

Find it on Amazon or wherever books are sold



We Have Snow

A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

by ANGELA ERRETT

Out Now!



Glory Ink  
glory-ink.com



Brentano, were used to locate what some believe is the House of the Virgin Mary, residing just a few miles outside of Ephesus. These visions described the stone house the Apostle John (Ioannes in Greek) built for Mary, the mother of Jesus, for the remainder of her earthly life (see the Gospel of John chapter 19:18-30). The small stone structure is situated on Mt. Koressos (Mount Nightingale), overlooking the Aegean Sea and ancient Ephesus. Muslims also venerate the Virgin Mary as the mother of the prophet Jesus but do not believe He is the Son of God.

The Catholic Church has neither confirmed nor denied its authenticity. Yet, it is a Catholic pilgrimage site with the status of a

Holy Place and has been visited by Saint Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. Each year on August 15th, there is a customary public ritual of worship to honor the Assumption of Mary. This is one of the four Marian dogmas of the Catholic Church, where the body and soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary were brought into the presence of God. However, early traditions believe the Assumption of Mary occurred in Jerusalem, not Ephesus. In Jerusalem, there is a cave situated in the Kidron Valley at the bottom of the Mount of Olives, considered to be the tomb of Mary. Tradition also equates her with the “woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars” found

in the Book of Revelation chapter twelve. Still, other areas with their own traditions claim her burial site, but none have been verified.

Still, another Holy House resides in Loreto, Italy, and is called the Basilica Della Santa Casa (Basilica of the Holy House). Saint Pope John Paul II called it “the house of all God’s adopted children.” Tradition states the Holy House was rescued from the Holy Land by Crusaders in the 13th century, and items were saved from Muslim invaders and transported to Italy by the Angeli family. Thus, the legend that the house was moved by “angels” would be correct since Angeli means “angels” in Latin and Greek. The site in Nazareth was compared to the stones of the lower walls of the Holy House, and they were found to be similar.

I encourage you to look up both of these if you want to learn more. It is intriguing that to this day, a woman is celebrated in Ephesus. In our hearts, are we celebrating someone we discern is of the first love or of those who have forgotten from where they came? Are we celebrating one with true power or one with only the power to create stumbling blocks? Are we celebrating traditions and not harkening to the Helper, the Holy Spirit, who God sent to teach us all things and bring to our remembrance what Jesus, the Christ, the Word said? (See Deuteronomy 28:1-14 for the blessings of God for the faithful and Deuteronomy 28:15-68 for the curses of the disobedient.)

Ephesus, Jesus says, has endured and possesses constancy and patience. They have labored and not grown weary; still, they are “found wanting.” They had left



Top to bottom: The House of the Virgin Mary thought to be the last place Mary resided is located near ancient Ephesus in Turkey; The statue of the Virgin Mary stands in the courtyard; The Wishing Wall to the side is where visitors place small notes containing their hopes and wishes.



Top to bottom: The House of Virgin Mary, Turkey; Olgalucherrino/Bigstock.com; Virgin Mary statue, and Washing wall at House of the Virgin Mary, Turkey; D\_Zheleva/Bigstock.com



their first love. They are told to remember where they had come from (Rev. 2:5), to repent, turn away from their works, think differently, renew their minds, associate with the Holy Spirit, and return to their first love. Do the first works as Paul did and be filled with the Holy Ghost and power.

Jesus mentions their ability to detest the work, the acts, and the teachings of the Nicolaitans. They were the ones having the error of Balaam, upholding the liberty of eating things sacrificed to idols as well as committing fornication, both physically and spiritually, through magic and witchcraft.

Balaam should have paid more attention to the Angel of the Lord (see Numbers chapters 22, 23). You cannot curse who God has not cursed, nor defy, who the Lord has not defied. These acts are stumbling blocks for the church of God. Does that sound like the Ephesians? Were they sacrificing their time and possessions to idols and venerating them above God? Was money to be made by these acts? How about what is happening

today in the world? Do we choose to seek good, and not evil, that we may live? And are we discerning the spirit in which something comes?

A church found wanting—just like the Ephesian church—is one that has permitted the ways of this world to cloud their minds. Yet, God declares, those who hear the Spirit will be given the power to overcome and eat of the tree of life, which is “in the midst of the Paradise of God.” The only paradise to seek is one not of this world. It is not one found in Asia, built by man’s hand and located in the idols of wood, silver, or gold that remain without power, nor found in traditions and habits. The only paradise to seek is one built from our first love, our uttermost desire, to return to the One who loved us first, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May the celebration of His birth this holiday season be a reminder that our eternal paradise lies in the reconciliation with the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Amen, and  
Merry Christmas!*

The goddess Diana is associated with pagan religions, including ancient Roman religions, Wicca, and Stregheria, the Italian word for witchcraft.



## A Call To Repentance

*(Read Amos chapter 5)*

**Seek good, not evil,  
that you may live.**

**Then the Lord God  
Almighty will be with you,  
just as you say he is.**

**Hate evil, love good;  
maintain justice in the  
courts.**

**Perhaps the Lord God  
Almighty will have mercy  
on the remnant of Joseph.**

**Therefore this is what  
the Lord, the Lord God  
Almighty, says:**

**“There will be wailing in  
all the streets and cries of  
anguish in every public  
square.**

**The farmers will be  
summoned to weep and  
the mourners to wail.**

**There will be wailing in all  
the vineyards, for I will pass  
through your midst,”  
says the Lord.**

Amos 5:14-17 (NIV)



Ancient sculpture of Diana (Artemis): Glimanshin/Bigstock.com



# REVEALING God's Glory

By Al Tucker



Helvetia Public Library at Christmas, Helvetia, WV: © Backyard Photography, Alan Tucker

EVERY  
GOOD AND  
PERFECT  
GIFT IS FROM  
ABOVE,  
**Coming  
down from  
the Father  
of the  
Heavenly  
Lights,** WHO  
DOES NOT  
CHANGE LIKE  
SHIFTING  
SHADOWS.

**James 1:17 (NIV)**

When you read this, we will be in the Advent Season, awaiting Christmas, the day we celebrate when God sent His perfect gift, Jesus, into this world. Before being saved, if you asked me what my most perfect or memorable gift was, I would tell you it was the largest orange I had ever seen. That was in 1948, and I was only six at the time living in post-World War II in Southwestern England, where times were still challenging, and food availability was in short supply. We all had food ration cards which helped us survive those difficult days, and I still have mine. Until that joyful Christmas morning, I had never eaten an orange or a banana, for that matter. When I awakened, I rushed to the

end of my bed to get my Christmas stocking. Much to my delight, there it was, but it looked somewhat different, bulging at the bottom. What could it be? It seemed so heavy, and I couldn't wait to find out. I quickly dumped the contents of nuts, toffees, hard candy, etc., on the bed, and then...it rolled out; the most beautiful sight I had ever seen, a massive orange. I am told I ate the whole thing right then, rind and all. I am sure I had the most delightful smile of joy on my face. The orange was a gift from my Aunt Flo, my dad's oldest sister, and 74 years later, I still get tears in my eyes when I think of her kindness. I am sure my reaction made Aunt Flo's Christmas too. She stayed with us that year, and for the following





Windows at Gloucester Cathedral : © Backward Photography, Alan Tucker

Stained glass windows of Gloucester Cathedral, formally the Cathedral Church of St. Peter and the Holy and Indivisible Trinity, in Gloucester, England

week, I woke up each day to find another orange by my bed. That's a kind of love that spans a lifetime.

Today, if you asked me what the most perfect gift I have ever received was? Without hesitancy, I would say Jesus. I have this incredible joy that stems from being saved and personally knowing Him. It is more than a lifetime gift; it spans eternity. It baffles my mind that He would want someone like me who harbored such "jealousy and self-ambition" (James 3:14) and was full of sin. It also baffles my mind that He would choose me to "be a kind of firstfruits of all He created," (James 1:18) and it still baffles my mind that He loves me so much that He would send His Son to die the most gruesome of deaths for my sins. I am not worthy; none of us are! But, because "God so loved the world," (John 3:16) He offered us hope through Jesus' resurrection.

It is called salvation, everlasting life in God's kingdom. It is a free gift! All you have to do is "believe the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation," (Ephesians 1:13) and you will become a Child of God for eternity. What a gift! It is truly perfect, to which I can attest.

I am so thankful for His perfect gift of salvation and all the other gifts He has given me. God has blessed me beyond measure. It truly overwhelms me to think of how my "cup runneth over." He has given me—like He has others—unique talents, abilities, and skills. He has put us or called us to places where He wants us to use our individual and unique gifts, not to serve ourselves, but to serve Him and to bring Him glory. We are called to His purpose. Since being saved, daily, I try to align myself to His will. It is a joy! I love writing these testimonies and sharing how God

works in my life. If I didn't know Jesus, I wouldn't have anything worthwhile to write about, and there would be no glory to reveal.

In my prayers, I ask God to keep me focused on what He wants from me. I am aware that Jesus is coming back one day, and I long for that day. Some have claimed to know precisely when, only to be completely wrong. Others still try to discern when, but we don't know. Jesus even said: "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Mark 13:32 NKJV). I don't know about you, but that is very clear to me. What we do know is there are many signs that signal the end, with one of them being, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14 NKJV). When I





Cabin at Jackson's Mill Historic Area during winter in Lewis County, WV

*You're Invited!*  
*Come Worship and Celebrate  
 our Risen Lord!*

**EVERY SUNDAY**  
**8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

Gymnasium sanctuary of The Way of Holiness Church  
 off Route 33 in Buckhannon.  
 Non-denominational contemporary worship.

*Breath of  
 GOD  
 Worship*

**Breath of God Worship**  
 P.O. Box 2353  
 Buckhannon, WV 26201  
 304-473-7300

 /BreathOfGodWorship

opened my computer this morning, there was an article discussing how the internet had reached remote villages in Colombia. With the internet and other advances in communication and technology extending everywhere, that day of His return is approaching faster than ever before. Until that day, we (Christians) must be diligent about His work. However, this isn't like college, where one crams for final exams. If you read my last testimony and remember the words *diligence* and *earnest* being underlined, you already know that is what we should be doing every day. Like most gifts, they are only beneficial or effective when we use them, wear them, or display them. God's gifts are no exception. "Who is wise? Let Him understand these things" (Hosea 14:9 NKJV).

Dear friends, I was blessed to receive His perfect gift ten years ago. Today, thanks to that gift, I am still like that little six-year-old boy devouring his first-ever orange that kept getting sweeter and sweeter. As my faith matures, the more His Spirit overflows into my life, making it so much more rewarding. God amazes me at how He uses ordinary people to do His work and even allows me to play a small part in it. I hope and pray that my testimonies are an encouragement and example to fellow believers and that they also inspire others to seek Jesus.



A close-up photograph of a red-headed house finch perched on a thin, brown branch. The bird has a vibrant red head and neck, with brown and white streaked feathers on its body. It is looking to the right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus red, and there are white snowflakes falling around the bird.

*I look forward to sharing more of  
them in 2023. Till then,  
**Merry Christmas,**  
and have a Blessed New Year.*

Snowy red headed house finch in the backyard





*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!*

*Glory* Magazine