# "On that day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel..." -- Joshua 4:14



The Highland Mountains southwest of Whitehall, MT site of a 14 pound gold nugget on the road to Butte, MT

"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day."

2 Corinthians 4:16





#### Question of the week:

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey and her colt, some in the multitude wanted to know who this was. What was the crowd's answer?

Last week's question: Before Joseph died in Egypt, in talking with his brothers, he referred to an oath that God had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. What oath was that? *Answer: To give the Promised Land to them (Genesis 50:23).* 

## ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 75 Morning Assembly – 95 Evening Assembly – 51 Wednesday Night (2/1) – 76 Butte Lord's Day – 8 GF Lord's Day – 56,74 Wed. - 58



### The Epistles to the Evangelists

## **The Proclamation**

Paul, in writing to the church at Corinth, explained that human wisdom would not be able to arrive at any real knowledge of who God is. "The world," averred the apostle, "through its wisdom did not come to know God" (1 Corinthians 1:21). Knowledge of God has to come through God's own efforts in injecting information into the realm of man's thought, and this ultimately has come through the scriptures themselves. God spoke directly to the patriarchs such as Abraham. With the coming of Moses, God began to have the message written down, adding books to the scriptures through the Old Testament scriptures and prophets. For four hundred years this message simmered as the words of the Old Testament scriptures were read and preached in the scattered synagogues of the Jews. But as the new

covenant made its advent, the message exploded upon the whole world through the preaching and writing of the apostles, bringing the "words of life" through Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.

- Hope of eternal life The apostle Paul, in his opening lines to Titus, indicated that his purpose was to be a promoter of "the faith of those chosen of God" and a proponent of "the knowledge of the truth." The purpose of his efforts, he states, is "in the hope of eternal life" (Titus 1:2). This eternal life is found *in Jesus Christ*. "The witness is this," asserted the apostle John, "that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1 John 5:11). Hence those who have been immersed into Christ and have maintained their faith are spoken of as already possessing eternal life. "Truly, truly, I say to you," Christ informed His hearers, "he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, *has eternal life*, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life" (John 5:24). Because, however, certain tests of faith must be passed for each who treads the pilgrim road, Paul uses the terminology "in the hope of eternal life." This will be accomplished in our positive resurrection from the dead.
  - Promised long ago As Moses approached the burning bush, the angel of the Lord spoke to him in these words: "Iam ... the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:6). He did not say that *He was* the God of the patriarchs; He said *Iam* their God. The thrust of the emphasis here is that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were very much alive, and that the truthfulness of eternal life is, by this process, being promised. David, upon having

Paul was entrusted with the proclamation of God's word!

the death of his first son by Bathsheba confirmed, noted, "I shall go to him, but he will not return back to me" (2 Samuel 12:23). And the angelic messenger informed Daniel that "many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake—these to everlasting life—but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2). The apostle was drawing upon these points as well as others in thus speaking of "the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago."

Manifested at the proper time – The promise of eternal life did not become particularly clear until it was "at the proper time manifested"; specifically, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead brought the concept of eternal life into clear focus (Titus 1:3). Jesus Himself said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). He also had noted that "he who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life" (John 5:24). *Life* indeed is in the *Son*.

But who would really know about this eternal life if the message were hidden, if it were cloistered? Hence the message is to be proclaimed, heralded as the only eternal good news for eternal life. Thus the great apostle Paul, in his comments to Titis, speaks of this message as "at the proper time manifested, even His word, the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior" (Titus 1:3). May that proclamation reach the entire world!! Soon!!

JAY WILSON