



GRAN ALACANT TABERNACLE NEWS

April 2015
Issue 2

Greetings to all our brethren and friends of the Tabernacle in the name
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

January, February and March are months that we have very few visitors and this year even less, as we are a very small local congregation we do notice the difference during this time, however we thank the few visitors that have come to share in our time of worship during the past few months.

We do experience some difficulty to cover the rental and running costs of the mission here, but we give thanks to all our brothers & sisters for their gifts and prayers for the work here in Gran Alacant which is greatly appreciated.

I would like to mention a little about the mission here, when Pastor Winston McCombe and Doreen his wife were ministering here, their prayers along with other local English speaking believers were focused on reaching the Spanish community. At that time, the congregation had a larger amount of English speaking locals that lived in the area, but during the past few years many have sold up their properties and returned to their homeland, leaving only a few locals congregating.

However, we praise the Lord that prayers for a Spanish speaking congregation have been answered although only a small number are meeting at this time.

The mission here, as well as being a meeting place available for those who come for vacation or have a second home here, is to reach out to the many Spanish locals in the area, who are lost and in need of a Savior.

Hence the Spanish speaking church and the furthering of the work in the Spanish community is our focus and the main mission.

We praise the Lord that a small number of Spanish believers have joined us and for their contributions to the church, also for sharing the word of God through teachings and articles for publication, and for their zeal to further the work here.

We ask for your prayers specifically in this area and trust that The LORD will guide us in the way forward.

We pray that the articles in this issue will be an interest and blessing to you and that Our LORD God is honored and glorified.

Thank you for your continuing prayer & friendship
Pastor Pino Cinquemani

Commonly referred to as "Palm Sunday" the day when Jesus marks the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, a few days before the Passover feast. This event is recorded in all four Gospels, and according to the gospel of John 12:12 this occurred the day after the multitudes had come to see Jesus and Lazarus in Bethany.

Jerusalem was filled with pilgrims coming to celebrate the Passover feast, this was the day that they would select a male lamb of up to 1 year (Ram) or a Kid from the goats, four days before the sacrifice was to be offered at the Temple, during which time the lambs would be inspected to ensure that they were without defect as ordered by God in Exodus 12:3–6; *"Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb',...* And in verses 5–6 *"your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight"*.

On the 10th of Nisan or Abib (The 1st month of God's calendar) a huge crowd of people were coming down from the Mount of Olives to enter Jerusalem through the East gate. Jesus the messiah entered the city of Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, four days before the Passover.

Some people are cutting down palm branches and spreading them on the road and others putting their coats down in front of Jesus as a sign of honor. Everyone is shouting, *"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!"*

"Hosanna!" This word in Hebrew is "hoshiah na" which means "please save us" or "give thy salvation!" The multitudes were singing out Psalm 118:25–26 and in the gospel according to Matthew, they were applying this to the son of David, the Messiah our Lord Jesus who had come.

Psalm 118:25–26 *"Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord"*.

What they were shouting out was true, salvation was coming from the Messiah; Jesus was coming as Lord from the highest heaven and was bringing salvation. For a brief moment Jesus was given His proper praise, though He came as a suffering servant, yet He is a king.

(Matthew 21: 4–5 "All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: 5 "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'")

This was the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy given in Zechariah 9:9.

The first coming of Jesus was as the suffering servant in obedience to the father and the redeemer of mankind. Later that week Jesus, the Son of God, became the perfect Passover sacrifice as the sin offering for man's sin. He atoned for our sin in His death, and in His resurrection three days later gave us hope for eternity. After 40 days He ascended into heaven where He now intercedes for us and is preparing a dwelling place for all those that have placed their trust in Him and follow Him, to be eternally with Him.

He is the Son of God but the crowd failed to recognize and proclaim it, the prophecies were fulfilled, the Messiah was amongst them, they even shouted that out themselves, yet they still failed to realize who He really was; *(They were expecting a King that would free them from the Roman oppression and not from the bondage of Sin)*, many of those in the crowd shouting;

"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Four days later were shouting; *"Crucify him! Crucify him!"*

This is also happening today, it is not much different, people get all stirred up and emotional, march in processions, sing songs and get their palm branches blessed. They even say things that are true about Jesus, a great teacher and example, yet do not put His words into practice, they do not study His word or follow His teachings.

Many people claim Jesus as their Saviour, yet are still striving to save themselves through ceremonial works, but that cannot save from sin and its consequences.

Only God can save, by His mercy and grace received by faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary.

Our worship to God is in spirit and truth, "the church" (comprising every individual true believer) is the temple of God and a living sacrifice, Holy and set aside to be His people, which is our reasonable worship to God in Christ Jesus, by being daily conformed to Him, this alone can be acceptable to a Holy God, and not some dramatic theater and spectacular show, which may seem pious in appearance, but in truth have the heart far from Him.

As time passes and more prophecies are being fulfilled it is evident that the time of the return of Jesus is drawing near, repentance and remission of sin should be preached and the nations need to turn from their ways and seek God for salvation, but it seems that people prefer to listen to the world and become more and more deceived by following the road back to Rome and Babylon.

But all this does not come as a surprise as the scriptures gives us warning of apostasy in the last days.

Many "churches" are busy spreading the Gospel of "world peace" and "world prosperity" a gospel of "world unity" and "interfaith", It is a social gospel to be ashamed of, it is not the gospel that has power to save; but a gospel that is trying to establish the Kingdom of God on this earth by "Christianizing" all types of worldly practices, following superstition and eastern practices, also adhering to cultural and human rights, it is false worship because it takes the focus away from the truth and away from God and leads to Idolatry which is spiritual adultery and spiritual death.

The Holy word of God tells us that one day, the rightful praise will be given to Jesus as Israel's true King when He returns with power and Glory as, King of Kings and Lord of Lords to set up His Kingdom. According to Revelation 19, He will be mounted on a white horse riding at the head of armies of heaven and the saints, and will establish His reign and Kingdom on earth, but only after the coming Great Tribulation upon the earth.

Like the original Passover in Egypt, the sacrifice of the Lamb causes the wrath of God to "pass over", all those that have put their trust and given their lives to God through His mercy and provision of the perfect Passover sacrifice of Jesus the messiah, we have redemption from the bondage of sin and the evil one, and will be spared the wrath of God that is to come.

During this Passover season, let us be reminded that our true reward will be given to us in heaven by our Lord and not by anyone or anything here.

By the love and gracious mercy of our Lord, let us pray that through His strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit we can stand firm on the rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ, as His living temple, as individuals locally and as His universal church globally, and make known the true gospel of God that has power to save through Jesus Christ, to a dying world.

"Blessed is He (Jesus) who comes in the Name of the LORD!" Amen.

"David said: "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" (2 Samuel 9: 1)

Mephibosheth was the grandson of King Saul, who had repeatedly attempted to take the life of David. He descended from a rebellious house, which was expected to be exterminated once David would rise to the throne; Mephibosheth was a helpless cripple, who had fallen from the arms of his mother when he was little. The fact that he lived in someone else's house in Lo Debar, which means "no pasture" suggests that, he was poor. Lo Debar was on the east side of the Jordan and "very far" from Jerusalem (God's dwelling). Despite all that there was merit in Mephibosheth with regard to gain favor with David.

David investigates about him, he sent messengers, and commanded him to the royal palace, he told him he had nothing to fear; David enriched him with all the land of Saul, provided him with a number of servants in order to assist him, and honored him by giving him a permanent place at the king's table as one of the king's sons. Then he bowed himself, and said, *"What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"* (2 Samuel 9:8)

Why did David show such mercy, grace and compassion toward one that was so unworthy?

The answer is "for Jonathan's sake". David made a covenant with Jonathan, the father of Mephibosheth, and stated that he would never cease to show kindness to the family of Jonathan. This was an unconditional covenant of grace.

(1 Samuel 20: 14-17 And you shall not only show me the kindness of the Lord while I still live, that I may not die; 15 but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the Lord has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." 16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "Let the Lord require it at the hand of David's enemies." 17 Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul).

It should not be difficult for us to see ourselves portrayed in this description:

- We were born a rebellious and sinful race under the condemnation of death.
- We were morally deformed and paralyzed by sin.
- We also dwelt in a land of "no pasture" spiritually hungry.
- We were not only convicted helpless and poor, but also "very far" from God, without Christ and without hope.

(Ephesians 2:12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ).

- There was nothing in us that would cause the love and mercy of God.

But God sought us, found us; he freed us from the fear of death, blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, brought us to his banquet table and raised the banner of his love for us.

(Luke 19:10 " for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.")

Why did He do this? It was for the love of Jesus, and for the covenant of grace that we were chosen to be in Christ before the foundation of the world.

(Ephesians 1: 3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us

with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,).

The proper response should be to prostrate ourselves before him and say, *“What is your servant that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?”*

Thank God for having noticed us, insignificant grains of sand, to make us bearers of his love for his beloved Son, without any merit on our part. To Him is the glory forever, Amen!!!

Blessed are those who mourn

Isaiah 61:2–3

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

Revelation 21:4

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will no longer be any death; and there will no longer be any mourning, crying or pain; because the old order has passed away.”

Psalm 38:3–6

There is no soundness in my flesh Because of Your anger, Nor any health in my bones Because of my sin. 4 For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. 5 My wounds are foul and festering Because of my foolishness. 6 I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.

The second Beatitude Matthew 5:4

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

For the natural man this verse may sound confusing, It is really hard for us to imagine Jesus saying, “Blessed (joyful) are those who are in grief and sorrowful.

We need to ask, what mourning Jesus is talking about. Does it mean that anyone who mourns will be comforted, regardless of what kind of mourning? People mourn for many reasons for the loss of a family member or a friend in death, physical sickness, natural disasters, and loss of finances, loss of status or self-esteem and more.

For certain those believers who have put their trust in God through Jesus Christ will receive the means to overcome through the grace of faith He bestows upon His children.

However, in the context of what our Lord Jesus is saying, this mourning is over our sin, it is Godly sorrow that brings grief and heartache.

In the previous beatitude, He spoke of those who were “poor in spirit” (the realization of one’s own spiritual state) spiritual destitution due to his sins, this second beatitude is the outcome of that truth.

There are many that have let people believe the gospel is about making us feel good about ourselves, the reality is that it begins by telling us we are sinners and in need of a Saviour.

In this beatitude, Jesus is speaking of those who have understood their condition in front of a Holy righteous God, and there is no reason to be joyful about it. This mourning can only take place in the sorrow of repentance and is the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of a convicted sinner. Sin is contrary to God's nature; Sin is contrary to his will; Sin is rebellion to His justice and makes us His enemies.

We must mourn for our sin and repent with Godly sorrow, submit to Him and seek his grace, the Lord will comfort those who truly mourn over their sin, and will exalt them in their humbleness before Him. When God forgives us our sins, our sorrow is turned into joy.

"Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy." (Psalm 126: 5)

On the contrary the ways of this world, deceives the heart with a "happy state" through material pleasures and covetous desires, but its end is eternal death!

"Blessed, are those who mourn; for they shall be comforted;

Because

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes".

The Epistle to the Romans *Continued*

As mentioned in the previous issue this is one of the most significant books in the Bible for it contains clear explanations of *"The Gospel of God "*.

"The Gospel of God, which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all the nations for His name, among whom you also are called of Jesus Christ." (Romans 1:1-6)

It brings a deeper understanding of the Gospel to those who are already disciples and followers of Jesus. Although it is not giving out a Gospel message to the unsaved, throughout the letter the Apostle Paul edifies, prepares and exhorts us in a manner that we can be well equipped to spread the true Gospel to those who are lost.

There are some very important facts in this epistle that are so relevant for the proper functioning of the church today, our relationship to God , to our brethren in Christ Jesus, to the non believers and to Israel as we approach the end times.

During the time of our Lord Jesus and Paul, the land of Israel (Judea and Samaria) was part of the Roman Empire. Julius Caesar gave rights to the Jewish communities to assemble, and govern themselves and enforce discipline. This authority was under the political system of the Synagogue and the Sanhedrin. The Jews were the only religious group in the Roman Empire to have these rights. The Romans would not allow any new religions, only Judaism was permitted, which led to resentment towards the Jewish people amongst the population of Rome.

The different ways of life conflicted between them, Jews were focused on one God, being separated from the gentiles, they kept laws regarding Sabbaths, food to eat, circumcision and moral conduct. In contrast the Roman world was pagan, worshiped many gods (idolatry), and had a Hellenistic view of life (hedonism) by following Greek philosophies and their gods.

From a Roman point of view the Jews were foolish for depriving themselves from the pleasures of Life, for their moral laws and practices and that they would not worship the gods of Rome.

This is a quote from the writings of a Roman author of that time, Philo Judaeus, whose writings are still in existence: *"The great section of Rome on the other side of the Tiber is occupied and were brought as captives to Italy, they were liberated by their owners and were not forced to violate any of their native institutions. They have houses of prayer and meet together in them,*

particularly on the sacred Sabbaths when they receive as a body of training in their ancestral philosophy. They collect money for sacred purposes from their first fruits and send them to Jerusalem by persons who would offer the sacrifices."

This all led to anti-Semitism and one of the reasons why Claudius the Roman emperor of that time expelled the Jews from Italy; however the next emperor Nero invited them back.

The letter to the Romans was written at the time when the Jews were back in Italy and the church in Rome was a mix of Jews and gentile believers.

In the letter Paul explains: How the role of Israel's partial blinding, became the riches for the gentiles regarding salvation.

Paul states exactly what the mystery of Israel is all about in chapter 11: 25:

"For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in".

The blindness of Israel is partial. The message to Rome also includes understanding: That our faith is in the God of Israel and Israel's Messiah Jesus. The Gospel we have received was declared to the Jews first but we are now equals through faith in Jesus without having to become Jews; however that does not exclude us from following God's commandments.

In chapter 11 Paul teaches that for now there is only a remnant of Israel who have responded to "God's grace" and God has grafted the gentile believers into the olive tree that represents the commonwealth of Israel (Children of God) of which are nourished by the "roots" (the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob through our Lord and savior Jesus).

As he reminds us in Ephesians 2:12-13:

"That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ".

So that now the believing, "remnant Israel" and the grafted in branches, "Gentile believers" are one in Christ Jesus.

The greatest task in Paul writing to the Romans and the task of the true church today, is to balance the teaching of the obedience of faith to God, the same God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, while maintaining the truth that we are saved through grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. The apostle Paul through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit has given us this balance and truth which has been distorted and twisted and even erased from Scripture by many who claim to be Christians.

The letter to the Romans speaks to us today, tells us why man is so confused and has a depraved mind and other issues we morally face today; adultery, perversion and homosexuality, lying and disobedience. Teaches us about freedom which comes from forgiveness of sin by being delivered from guilt. Also teaches us about the relationships between flesh and Spirit, law and grace, and proclaims the infinite and mighty power of God to save, hope for the future, and our eternal destiny with the Lord, and future plan for the nation Israel.

Paul also exhorts us by the mercies of God to take hold of our responsibilities to be worthy of those mercies by presenting our bodies (including our mind and spirit) to be living Sacrifices, Holy (set apart) to live for God, which is our reasonable response to the grace He has bestowed upon us.

But most of all, it brings us closer to understanding God and our role and acceptable worship to Him.

With prayer and the Holy Spirit guiding, I pray this will help in having a clearer understanding of the epistle to the Romans when studying this part of scriptures.

"For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen".

Romans 11:36

Thanksgiving and Blessing

Gran Alacant Evangelical
Tabernacle

Avenida D'Escandinavia 35
Gran Alacant, Santa Pola
Alicante, Spain

*For more information contact us
via the website*

www.granalacantchurch.org

Email

Pino@granalacantchurch.org

As mentioned in the front page, in these past few months we have been very small in number and have been struggling, but we praise and thank God for His provision through the prayers and generosity of our brethren.

Today I saw that the fig trees in the area have started to bring forth its leaves, and it was a reminder that the return of our Lord Jesus is drawing near and the day of our complete glorification to be with Him eternally. But also is a sign that summer is near and will be blessed to see those who come to visit us.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

*May the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.*

*May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.*

Please continue to pray for us that the Lord will guide us into His will for the church mission here in Gran Alacant.

Blessings in the name Jesus.

