

# THE PIONEER BAPTIST

INDEPENDENT • MISSIONARY • ESTABLISHED 1786

VOLUME 24, NO. 7

APRIL, 1993

## "SO HE BRINGETH THEM TO THEIR DESIRED HAVEN"

BY: C. D. COLE

Psalm 107:23-30, *They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters: These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end. They cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven."*

**INTRODUCTION:** Our text is an inspired description of a voyage at sea. I am using it as a figure of the journey of life, in the hope that we may safely make that voyage and finally drop anchor at the desired haven and leave the ship for the shores of sweet deliverance.

It is quite common to compare the journey of life to a sea voyage. We have it in our hymnals and in all the world of poetry. The comparison between a voyage at sea and the journey of life is very striking. I do not recall that life is ever compared to a journey by land, the sea voyage is much more apt. We travel, some do, in three natural elements today: land, sea, and air. I'm a land lubber,

I'm neither sea-minded nor air-minded, so far as means of travel are concerned.

Our journey through life is much more like a voyage by sea than by land or air. Life, like a sea voyage, is a great adventure. How much mystery there is about it! How much mist and fog! How numerous are the perils to which we are exposed! And how pathless is the sea we traverse. Journeys by land are over well-marked roads, but not so on a sea voyage, there are no paths across the ocean.

Life is full of loneliness, like the wide, wide sea. We who have not crossed the ocean are apt to think the sea is covered with ships. In the harbors we see them jostling one another, but one may cross the ocean from New York to Europe without ever sighting a ship. And there is a **loneliness in our individual experiences as though we were a ship at sea**. All alone in the world, alone even while we walk the crowded streets of the city. In our deepest experiences, whether of joy or sorrow, we are alone. We have heartaches, and hopes and thoughts that nobody shares with us, they do not even know of them. Every individual sails the sea of life in his own frail bark. Changing the figure, there is a room in our lives into which we never invite anybody, nobody save the Lord and Saviour. In the Roman Catholic confessional, the kneeling penitent whispers into the ear of the priest, father confessor, things not even told

to wife or husband. And so those who have Jesus Christ for their High Priest, pour into his ear, things that nobody else will ever hear.

I. We are all voyagers, we are all headed towards some sort of port. How quickly the days and weeks and months and years go by! How soon grey hairs appear! Job compared the journey of life to the swift ships. Life was slower in Job's day than ours and the ships were slower too. So life today can be compared to the swift ships that plow the high seas. We are all on our way to some supposed haven. We have no continuing city here. We are on the move and there is no stopping place. Whether asleep or awake, we are living out our allotted days on earth. The place that now knows us will shortly know us again no more forever.

But this aspect of life gets little attention today. The masses are making the best of this life, getting all they can out of it. We live in utter forgetfulness of the life that is to come. The end of this life is a forbidden subject with most people, they deliberately ignore the end of the way. But whatever our circumstances, however vigorous our physical frame, however strong our will, we are going on and will soon reach the end of life on this earth. There will soon be a hole dug for you and for me. Medical science has raised the average length of life, but it is still true that men live no longer than they did generations ago. It is still true that if we reach the age of

fourscore years, *"their pride is but labor and sorrow, for it is soon cut off and we fly away."* We might as well face the fact, life is a voyage and our ship of life is headed toward some kind of port. We cannot go on forever, the voyage will end. We may exercise our will over some people, but when death summons us, whatever our wealth, our learning, our influence, or force of will, we shall have to obey Him.

Here's a thing I wish I could get everybody to seriously consider, to what haven is your ship directed? To what destination are you traveling? The ocean of your life will some day be crossed, where will you land?

I have never crossed the ocean, I have never been on a ship long enough to get seasick. But those who have, say there are two stages of seasickness. The first stage is when you are pretty sick, so sick you are afraid the ship will go down; the other stage is when you are awfully sick, so sick you are afraid it will not go down, you really want to die, you are so sick. And so, on the ship of life there are times when one is so sick of life that he wants to die. I suppose most of us have had experiences on the sea of life, when we felt that if all the voyage is going to be just like that, we would be glad for the voyage to come to an end. Some of you have had such a stormy voyage and you have longed for the ship to come to port somewhere.

There may be somebody today who is tired of life, but you have no home to go to. Your soul is orphaned, and you know nothing of homesickness for the fatherland. You are weary of life, but do not know where to go.

II. Psalm 107:30, *"So he bringeth them unto their desired haven."* What is your desired haven? To what land will you emigrate? If you could have your heaven made to order, what kind of a place would it be? A missionary who had spent years in India under scorching sun came home to America; there was such beauty and comfort everywhere, he remarked to someone: "It may be that heaven will be better than this, but for the moment this is good enough for me." Yes, there are

times when earth seems good enough, but all of us have had enough of earth to know that it is not the desired haven. There are too many broken homes, too many blasted lives, too much wreck and ruin all about us, to find any paradise on earth. We have to sail for another country.

What is your desired haven? What would fulfill your ideal? What kind of people would you want there? How many would you gladly leave behind? How much baggage would you carry? And how much would you label, "Not wanted," and even forget to bring it on board?

I tell you somebody I would like to leave behind. He is called "the old man" in the Scripture. I don't think I could have any heaven with him present. A preacher tells of a member he once had who had the habit of climbing up the "miff-tree". He learned to leave him up there, because when he brought the step ladder to help him down, he would use it to climb another tree. One day the preacher said to his wife, "Suppose you and your husband take your church letters and go somewhere else and be happy." She shook her head and said, "I fear, pastor, it would be as our former pastor used to say, we should take our miserable selves with us." Yes, our miserable selves, that's the trouble with all of us.

What is your greatest trouble in life? Your circumstances? No. Is it somebody who is hard to live with, a husband or wife? No. Your chief trouble is in your own breast, and so is mine. The land to which we are going must be a land where the old man will never be known.

My desired haven is a sinless land. I want to reach the place where there will be no sin in me and no sin around me.

My desired haven is the land of which it is written, *"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat,"* Revelation 7:16. This is the land where there are no climatic difficulties, where everlasting wealth obtains, where there are no cemeteries, and no broken hearts.

Where is there such a place?

Not in America, or Europe, or Australia, or Africa, or Russia. It is not on this planet.

III. I must tell you of a ship and pilot that will take you to this desired haven. There is a liner guaranteed to transport all who desire to go from this sin-stricken world to the desired haven. And there is a Pilot who has never lost a passenger. There is a heaven-bound ship. That is what salvation is. And Jesus Christ is the Pilot and owner of this ship. The ship is all paid for and the passage has been paid for as well. I see marked on the side of the ship the name **GRACE**. Do you ask the fare? Nothing at all, the ticket is marked. Isaiah 55:1, *"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."* You get the ticket for nothing when you trust the Pilot, Jesus Christ. The Pilot is dependable and the ship is seaworthy. The passage is going to be stormy, but the ship is safe and all passengers are safe.

I heard of an old man of melancholy mood. His only pleasure was in being melancholy. You see people like that. But he was sound in the faith. He knew the Lord and although he did not

(Continued on page four)

# ***POOR, POOR WORLD!***

BY: D. M. FERRELL

**If Jesus died for everyone in the entire world, then why did He not pray for the entire world?**

*"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine,"* John 17:9.

Our Lord Jesus Christ steps out of time and into the sphere of eternity and prays and intercedes for His people! But what about the millions of people that never repent, never believe and eventually go to hell? Does the Lord pray for them?!! Oh, christian pity this **poor, poor world!**

**For whom does Christ pray?**

*"I pray for them."* Many say that this is in strict reference to the apostles but the seventeenth chapter of John reveals that the Lord is referring to *"the as many as are given"* vs. 2, *"unto the men"* vs. 11, *"them also which shall believe on me"*-vs. 20, *"they"* vs. 24, *"and I in them"* vs. 26.

Granted, the apostles are in direct reference (especially in vs. 12)-but it is plain to see that all of the family of God are included, as is plain to see in verse 20. *"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;"*

John Gill wrote, "For whom He is the propitiation, He is an advocate; and for whom He died, He makes intercession, and for no others in a spiritual saving way."

We desperately need the Son of God to intercede for us! He is our High Priest (Hebrews 2:17, 18); He is *"touched with the feelings of our infirmities"*(Hebrews 4:14-16); He can save us to the uttermost...*"seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for us,"* (Hebrews 7:24, 25); *"He appears in the presence of God for us,"* (Hebrews 9:24). Now we can *"draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,"* (Hebrews 10:21, 22); He cares for us, (I Peter 5:7); and *"If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Fa-*

*ther, Jesus Christ the righteous:"* (I John 2:1). *"The Lord knoweth them that are His..."* and when He prayed on the cross *"Father forgive them..."* 3,000 were saved on Pentecost!

**But what of this world?**

There are millions of sinners who will never repent and never submit to Jehovah God. Our God in His grace has endured with long suffering the vessels fitted for destruction. And yet God in His infinite wisdom and justice has **not** secured the salvation of everyone rather he allows them to exercise the freedom of their wills; which is to persist in their sin! This leaves the lost world in a tragic condition! *"We are thine: thou never barest rule over them; they were not called by thy name,"* Isaiah 63:19. *"Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee,"* Jeremiah 7:16. Jesus said *"But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you,"* John 10:26. **Poor, poor world!!** *"But when we are judged we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world,"* I Corinthians 11:32. **Poor, poor world!** According to John 17, this world has no intercession vs. 9, not kept from hate vs. 14, not kept from evil vs. 15, never have unity vs. 21, never any glory vs. 22, no love vs. 23, never go to heaven vs. 24, and will **never** know God the Father vs. 25.

*"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness,"* I John 5:19. **Poor, poor world!!**

**Who is the world?** As Christians we do **not know** who the Lord is going to save, and whom He is not. We are to pray for all men (I Timothy 2:1) and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). The only hope for lost worldlings is for them to flee from the world and trust

in the Lord Jesus Christ. It would be the height of folly for a sinner to reason "I am probably not one of the elect anyway." **NO, NO, NO, REPENT, REPENT, Believe on Jesus Christ!** Whosoever will, let him come! God does not hold us responsible to know his hidden decrees. Rather that we turn from our sins and trust in the finished work of His Son!

*"O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord,"* Jeremiah 22:29.

Oh sinner friend, you are **not** safe in this condemned world. The day is coming when lost humanity will stand before the Lord's tribunal and hear Him say, *"Depart from me...I never knew you!"* This is why He did not pray for the world! (John 17:9). In His sovereign plan He has determined to enforce inflexible justice!

Perhaps you are one of the redeemed! Perhaps the Lord is calling you? Oh sinner, harden not your heart! Why should you go another day in doubt and despair? Do not argue, taste and see that the Lord is gracious! Prove that you are not of this world flee, run to Christ, and plunge into His fountain of blood. Perhaps you complain "How do I know that I am chosen, prayed for, and atoned for? You will **not know** until you repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ! If you love sin and you stiffen your neck in impenitence; then do not cavil that the Lord has not extended more grace to you.

He has saved others, **why not you?** If the Lord has prayed for you, He **must**, He **will** have

(Continued on page four)

## ...DESIRED HAVEN

(Continued from page two)

show it in his face, he rejoiced in Christ. Somebody went to him for advice about his soul's salvation. He had believed in Christ but did not know whether he was saved or not. "I have so much trouble, so much difficulty in my business, so much trouble with my children, so much trouble with this old body. I wonder if I am really a Christian. If I were, it seems I would be free of all these things." The old brother said, "Did you ever cross the ocean?" "Yes." "Did you have a good passage?" "No, a dreadful passage." "What was the matter with you?" "Well, it was terribly stormy." "Did you get off the ship?" "Oh no, I had to stay on." "You had your ups and downs?" "Yes, I did." "But," he said, "you did not have your ins and outs, did you?"

Being a Christian will not insure smooth sailing on the sea of life. But Jesus Christ our Pilot, and His ship our salvation are equal to all the storms of life and will bring every trusting soul to his desired haven.

What a troubled world this is. Find me, if you can, a bit of tranquil water anywhere. There is no smooth sailing anywhere on the sea of life. But there is a desired haven where Christ will bring us. I end with a prayer which I wish might be the prayer of everyone:

Jesus, Saviour, pilot me,  
Over life's tempestuous sea;  
Unknown waves before me roll,  
Hiding rocks and treacherous shoal:  
Chart and compass come from Thee,  
Jesus, Saviour pilot me.

As a mother stills her child,  
Thou canst hush the ocean wild:  
Boisterous waves obey thy will  
When thou sayest to them, Be still!  
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea,  
Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore,  
And the fearful breakers roar  
Twixt me and the peaceful rest,  
Then, while leaning on thy breast,  
May I hear thee say to me,  
Fear not, I will pilot thee.

## POOR, POOR WORLD!

(Continued from page three)

you, and you will **want** Him. *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will not wise cast out,"* John 6:37. Will you receive the Lord? The Lord did not pray for this world so why should you love it? (I John 2:15). Come, come, ...before it is eternally too late. Oh Christian, pity this **poor, poor world!** And thanks be to God for His free grace and for including us on His prayer list!