

Chapter Fourteen
THE GLORY BEYOND THE SUNSET
PICTURES YOUR COMING DAY

On more than one occasion, my wife and I have been all but **hypnotized by a fantastic sunset**. Everything else seems to lose its significance as a beautiful sunset dominates the horizon. At such times, God seems to be showing off His artistic abilities by the changing colors and cloud formations.

On one of those occasions, it seemed like God was drawing our attention to the brightness of the sun, which had just fallen beyond our vision; but the glorious brightness of the sun still dominated just beyond our sight. **A dark cloud formed a “V”, which spread out across the sky**. The sun’s brightness was in the center of the “V”, with colors of orange fading into darker shades until the dark cloud served as a picture frame, giving emphasis to the sun that had just set.

This unforgettable sunset perfectly illustrates what your author is trying to get across **concerning the carrot, which is just beyond the river**.

The river is the end of one’s life.

The carrot is the golden sun, which still dominates, but is just out of sight.

JESUS DEMONSTRATED THE PROPER USE OF THE CARROT

Jesus came into this world as a man whose life would pass through the darkness of the cross. On the agonizing cross, He suffered as no other man has ever suffered. He was totally abandoned by both God and

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man as He took upon His Holy, sinless self the sins of every vile person who ever lived. He died as a condemned lost soul. What made this day even darker was that He was not only man, but God in the flesh. As God, He knew every pain of the cross that He would suffer, **even before it actually happened.**

How did He endure it? How could a Holy God, robed in human flesh, suffer such shame and pain? He looked down through the narrow "V" to the brightness that lay just beyond the horizon. He saw the carrot just beyond the river.

The Scripture states, “...who for the **joy [carrot] that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**” Heb. 12:2

He was able to endure the cross because He looked beyond the river to **the glory and victory that His death would bring.**

He saw the **multiplied millions of souls** His death would save from hell.

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He saw the **love and limitless joy** that His sacrifice would bring to those millions.

He **felt the praise and worship** of His grateful children, which would be endless.

The carrot was so much greater than the cross that He was able to triumph in the world’s darkest day. **He looked to the gain, which overshadowed the pain and shame.**

Jesus taught this carrot principle to Father Abraham. The Bible records several talks that Jesus had with Abraham. Jesus

referred to Himself as “**I Am,**” and said Abraham rejoiced to see His day.

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caused him to be able to look beyond life and made him willing to offer his own son as a sacrifice. If God had allowed Isaac to be offered, Abraham believed God would have raised him from the dead.

Abraham was able to **look beyond the river and see the glorious Kingdom** that would come upon this earth. Looking beyond the river gave Abraham contentment

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to dwell in tents, although he was a very wealthy man, because he saw the city that had foundations

(twelve) whose builder and maker was God.

The burning sand, the heat with its discomforts, was nothing to Abraham as he saw the glory that lay just beyond the river.

Jesus taught this carrot principle to Moses. By faith, Moses turned away from a place of honor and distinction in earth’s most powerful nation, Egypt, to suffer

affliction with the people of God. **“Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in**

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Egypt...” Heb 11:26 Why did he turn away from man’s glory to suffer reproach? **It was because God had revealed to him the carrot on the other side of the river. “...for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.”** Heb 11:26 Moses saw Him who was invisible and the coming Kingdom, which gave him faith to face Pharaoh’s wrath and triumph over it.

Jesus taught the carrot principle to the apostles. Jesus clearly identified the carrot in Luke 22:29-30, when He told the

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apostles **they would eat and drink at His table** for a full 1000 years, and serve as kings over the twelve tribes of Israel, if they carried the Gospel to their lost generation. In Acts 1:3, the Bible reveals that for forty days He emphasized this promise until the apostles could clearly **see the carrot on the other side of the river.**

The apostles could not be stopped until, through death, they obtained their prize.

Jesus first demonstrated looking beyond the darkness to the glory of the coming Kingdom to the apostles who followed

His example of **looking to the joy set before them of eating and**

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drinking at His table. This transformed them so that they were never stopped by the trials and hardships of their lives. They could see the carrot that was brightly shining on the other side of the river.

PAUL WAS OVERCOME BY THE BRILLIANCE OF THE CARROT

There are many strange happenings and stories in the Bible. When one finds an unusual happening in the Bible, it is God's way of drawing **the reader's attention to a very important doctrine or truth.** The example of Jonah being swallowed by a large fish is an example of an event that has drawn the attention of millions of people. Balaam's talking donkey is another

example. Perhaps one of the strangest stories is found in II Corinthians, Chapter Twelve.

Paul began by recounting something that had happened **fourteen years earlier**. Paul was not sure whether he was dead or alive when this event took place. He referred to the experience two different times. The first time, Paul said the person in the story was caught up into the Third Heaven. The second time, he referred to the Third Heaven (where the throne of God is) as paradise. **He was not sure whether he was dead and really went to Heaven, or whether he was given a revelation of the glories of Heaven.** Many believe that Paul was referring back to the time he was stoned by a hostile mob and left for dead at Lystra.

There is no doubt that Paul's confusion of whether or not he was dead was used by God to **bring attention to the following statement:** "...heard **unspeakable words, which it is not lawful [possible] for a man to utter.**" (verse 4) Paul was not saying that he saw something in Heaven that was against the law to talk about. He was saying that he heard and saw things that **were beyond man's ability to talk about.** Man's earthly vocabulary was incapable of relating what he saw and heard.

But the effects of what he heard and saw so excited Paul, and mesmerized his being, that he could not stop thinking about it. It blew his mind, so to speak. The event was similar to the country boy who meets the beautiful, graceful girl and falls hopelessly in love with her. His mind can think of nothing else but that wonderful girl.

What Paul saw had such an effect on him that he could not get it out of his mind. He was star struck. He was consumed by its brilliance and glory.

God, in order to get His servant Paul back to a place where he could finish his ministry, had to demonstrate His

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sovereign power. God showed his power and control by allowing Satan to afflict Paul with something Paul called “a thorn in the flesh.” Please read Paul’s very words of why he was afflicted by the devil with something that caused unbearable pain. He said, **“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.”** (verse 7)

Paul saw revelations (**the carrot**) that were so glorious that he was overcome by their brilliance. The author believes there were two reasons for the very painful condition that came upon Paul.

First, the affliction caused Paul so much pain and discomfort that he had to seek God's grace just to be able to continue his life and ministry. The thorn was so horrible and weakened Paul so much that he had to totally rely upon God in order to continue his ministry. The thorn used by God caused Paul to regain his focus and continue his ministry.

The **second** reason was to show the world that people in hopeless pain and affliction can still overcome **by looking beyond their affliction to the carrot**, which lies just beyond the sunset of life.

What Paul saw and heard caused him to "forget those things in the past" in order to press on to apprehend, or **finish**, what he was commanded to do. (Phil 3:13) He "**pressed toward the mark for the prize.**" (Phil 3:14) Something he may have seen in the revelations.

When Paul finally finished his course, by fighting a good fight as a soldier and keeping the sacred trust of preaching the

faith, **he was ecstatic**. Dying alone in a Roman prison could not dampen the joy and thrill he experienced as he left this world anticipating **the carrot that was just across the river**. II Tim. 4:6-8

These revelations caused Paul to be buffeted by sickness and pain in order for him to be fully focused on his

People in hopeless pain and affliction can still overcome by looking beyond their affliction to the carrot, which lies just beyond the sunset of life.

ministry once again. One outstanding message he left to **the millions suffering cruel hardships or devastating pain was A MESSAGE OF HOPE**. His testimony was, “I found the grace of God always more than

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equal to the task that confronted me. In fact, the fellowship and

help I found in the grace and tenderness of the Lord caused me to long for the fellowship of His suffering.” Phil 3:10

Dear brother, you may not be suffering pain because you saw the secrets of Heaven, but **God allows suffering to happen in order to bless your life**.

Remember, the Lord offers you the same victories that Paul enjoyed. His grace is sufficient for you also. Perhaps, instead

of questioning God concerning your problems, **you should submit to the same grace that lifted Paul to a victorious life.**

PETER WAS AWESTRUCK BY THE BRILLIANCE OF THE CARROT

Peter was so awestruck by the brilliance of the carrot that he could not stop talking about it. Before he could put off his tabernacle, as Peter described his impending death, the Holy Spirit inspired him to write about a glorious coming event, which he had already taught and convinced his converts of.

If there was ever a need for a carrot that could be used to lift the minds of God's people, it was in the declining times of apostasy, which Paul and Peter endured.

In II Peter 1:12, he stated **“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.”**

Peter was soon to depart for Heaven. He was leaving his precious followers to face **the darkest hours of their lives.** Gone was the revival described in the book of Acts. Gone were the days of tremendous spiritual results. In II Peter Chapters Two and Three, Peter described the horrible

attacks upon Christianity by the devil and his false prophets. **It seemed like the true faith could not weather the onslaughts of the various attacks** that the true churches were encountering. The churches were being attacked from within, by evil brethren who had secretly infiltrated their membership, as well as from without. Their whole society was filled with carnal, rebellious people.

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Attendance in the true churches was declining, as people turned to the false churches (described in II Peter Chapters Two and Three). The spiritual climate in the services wasn't as warm, and it was becoming harder to get people saved. The pastors were becoming more like the world.

VISUALIZE THE COMING EVENT

Put yourself in the situation of those disciples, and try to capture the significance of Peter's words. He said, **“For so an entrance shall be ministered into you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom**

of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” II
Pet 1:11

Peter had already taught on the subject of the coming glorious Millennial Kingdom, and they believed it.

But Peter could not shut up about this carrot, which was shining so brightly just beyond the river. He had taught them about this great truth, and they had accepted his teaching and were established in it. But he stated, **“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things...”** verse 12 He continued in verse 13 by saying, “As long as I am alive, I will stir you up by reminding you of the **abundant entrance into the glorious 1000-year reign**, which will be ministered unto you.”

Peter, **for a third time**, reminded them of the **abundant entrance** that would be ministered unto them, and stated, **“Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things [an abundant entry] always in remembrance.”** verse 15

What event was so embedded in Peter’s mind that he kept talking about? There was something that both he and his disciples witnessed that **God was using to**

cause Peter to keep rehashing over and over again. Lets continue our study to find the answer.

THE GRAND PARADE OF A VICTORIOUS GENERAL

The Roman government performed a ceremony to honor a general who led his army in a victorious campaign against their enemies. **They gave him a victorious**

Peter kept reminding his followers that they too would be received home (at the awards banquet) as victorious soldiers.

parade through the city of Rome. On such occasions, the general was clothed in purple and gold, woven in figures setting forth his achievements. He wore **a crown** on his head and held a branch of laurel, the emblem of victory. In the other hand, he carried his staff. He rode in a magnificent chariot, adorned with ivory and plates of gold, which was drawn by white horses.

A marching band led the procession after the general's chariot. Young men led sacrifices to be offered in the general's honor, and then came the spoils of war and kings, princes and generals **who had been taken captive.** This was followed by his triumphant soldiers riding chariots. People

threw flowers and shouted victorious chants as they went by. Following the chariots, came the Roman Senate, priests, other dignitaries and the rest of the parade.

Peter kept reminding his followers that they too would be received home, at the Awards Banquet, **as victorious soldiers**. They too would be ministered to and honored. But **the abundant entrance** into the glorious Millennial Kingdom **would be far beyond the ability of the human**

tongue to describe. Best of all, **this** unbelievable honor would be

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ministered abundantly unto them by the One who would be leading the coronation. **It would be their Savior**, who had now been crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

HEAR THEIR BECKONING CALL

Please try to understand what these three great teachers have tried to communicate to us. Visualize them sitting at the Bema Stand **calling back to us across the years**.

JESUS IS CALLING

Jesus said, **“The joy, carrot, is so great that you can go through any pain, suffering, and shame to get here. As you travel through trouble, keep your eyes focused on the coming glories in the future Kingdom.”**

PAUL IS CALLING

Paul spoke about the all-suffering grace that will far exceed any attack you may encounter from the devil. His message was, **“Do not resist pain and suffering, but**

“Do not resist pain and suffering, but rather accept the grace and fellowship of Jesus as He travels with you in your pain and suffering.”

rather accept the grace and fellowship of Jesus as He travels with you in your pain and suffering.” Paul stated that, **“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”** II Corinthians 4:17

PETER IS CALLING

Peter's reminder, to those who are attacked on every side by a rebellious world of sin and apostasy, was, "**Look to the parade!** See yourself as the one who is riding in that chariot. Hear the chants and the hallelujah chorus being sung in your honor. **Keep that unspeakable and indescribable carrot ever in your mind.** After all, it is just a short distance through this life to the other side of the river."

THE AUTHORS CHALLENGE

Keep that unspeakable and indescribable carrot ever in your minds. After all, it is just a short distance through this life to the other side of the river."

Dear reader, try to focus and visualize this coming scene on the final page.

On the next page of this book is an exercise that a person should read over several times until it is firmly fixed in his mind. Try to visualize that future scene in your mind. Try to see the joyful faces of some of your family and friends who will be there to share in that victorious and joyful moment. Use that tremendous mind which God gave you to picture the ceremony **which was designed just for you.**

Turn the page and begin to change your life. It will also **change your address in the soon coming millennium.**

LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CARROT

Look across the river.

Picture yourself arriving at the awards
banquet.

The person who was just honored before you
has been ushered off the stage.

Project yourself as being ministered to.

See the honor guard.

Hear the band playing.

Listen to the hallelujah chorus being sung.

Feel the tingling of expectancy in your body.

It is your turn.

Your time has **come**.

There is a moment of silence.

A hush falls over that vast audience.

There is a crown that represents kingship and
authority, which is brought to the center stage.

The maestro raises his hand.

Every eye is focused.

His hand comes down.

It is your time.

It is your day.

It is your hour.

Sense it.

See it.

Feel it.

Now, by the grace of God, **go for it!**

MAKE IT HAPPEN!!

IT IS YOUR DESTINY!!!

About the Author

Dr. James Wilkins is one of five preachers brothers. Together they have preached over 215 years with out any scandal. Dr. Wilkins will begin his 60th year in the ministry on July 16th 2009. he had the privilege of leading his brothers to the Lord.

In addition to this book on the Millennial Reign of Christ he has written several other larger books among those are a study of the Doctrines of Grace, The Model Prayer and doctrinal books. He has authored 43 books or booklets and has over 750,000 in circulation. He is best known for the books on discipleship and soul-winning.

As a pastor or church planter he has helped plant thirteen churches. He hosted his own radio talk program for twelve years.

He is an avid believer in the imminent return of Christ and expects to be preaching when Jesus comes.

He has taught for twenty-one years in Baptist Colleges and has preached or taught over 41,000 times.

He lost his wife, Louella, through her promotion to heaven after 41 ½ yeas of labor. Together they had five children and eleven grandchildren who are active in the Lord's work.

Dr. Wilkins now resides in Espanola, New Mexico with Penny, his present wife of thirteen years. Dr Wilkins refers to Penny as his “Second Blessing”. They are active members of the Valley Bible Baptist Church, Dr. Brian McMath, Pastor.

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