**985 Rumination for Dec. 10, 2023 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **Be Of Good Cheer** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: ***Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.* Matt. 9:2b**

The **T**hots:

Five times the Lord uttered, “***Be of Good Cheer***” in His ministry on earth as recorded in scripture, as follows:

1. **Jesus Cheered up the Paralytic Man and he Gained his Sight**. **Mt. 9:2; 9:1-8** cf. Mk. 2:1-12; Lk. 5:17-26

*And, behold, they brought to Him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son,* ***be of good cheer****;* *thy sins be forgiven thee.*

1. The **P**aralytic’s **P**revailing **P**roblem – the Cause for his **P**aralysis, **P**robably his sins
2. The Lord’s **C**omforting Word – *Be of Good* ***C****heer*; *thy sins be forgiven thee.* Mt. 9:2
3. *Then saith He to the sick of the palsy,* ***Arise****, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.*

*And he* ***arose****, and departed to his house.* Mt. 9:6, 7

1. The Lord thus **P**roved His Deity and **P**otency – He had **P**ower to forgive sins and to heal his **P**alsy!
2. **Jesus Cheered up His Panic Disciples and they Worshipped Him.** **Matt. 14:27**; **14:22-23**

 *But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying,* ***Be of good cheer****; it is I; be not afraid*.

1. Jesus ***C****onstrained His disciples to get into a ship, and to go before Him unto the other* *side*. Mt. 14:22
2. *But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was* ***C****ontrary.* Mt. 14:24
3. *In the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea…when the disciples saw Him…they* ***C****ried out for fear.*
4. *But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying,* ***Be of good Cheer****; it is I; be not afraid*.
5. *Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be Thou, bid me* ***C****ome unto Thee on the water.*
6. *When Peter was Come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.*
7. *When he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he* ***C****ried, saying, Lord, save me.*
8. *And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and* ***C****aught him, and said unto him,*

*O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*

1. *And when they were come into the ship, the wind* ***C****eased.*
2. *Then they that were in the ship* ***C****ame and worshipped Him, saying, Of a truth Thou art the Son of God.*
3. **Jesus Cheered up His disciples when Walking on the Water. Mk. 6:50; 6:45-56**

 *For they all saw Him, and were troubled. And immediately He talked with them, and saith unto them,*

***Be of good Cheer****: it is I; be not afraid.*

1. ***When*** *He had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.*
2. ***When*** *even was come…He saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night He cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.*
3. ***When*** *they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: For they all saw Him, and were troubled. And immediately He…saith unto them,* ***Be of good cheer:*** *it is I; be not afraid.*

 *And He* ***w****ent up unto them into the ship; and the* ***w****ind ceased: and they* ***w****ere sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and* ***w****ondered…*

1. ***When*** *they were come out of the ship, straightway they knew Him.*
2. **Jesus Cheered up His Disciples in the coming Woes that will befall the World.**

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but* ***be of good cheer****; I have overcome the world.* Jn, 16:33; 16\_28-33

1. Jesus’ Mission. Jn. 16:28

*I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.*

1. Jesus’ Origin: Jn. 16:29, 30

*His disciples said unto Him, Lo, now speakest Thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.*

*Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee:*

*by this we believe that Thou camest forth from God.*

1. Jesus **C**hallenge: Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe? Jn. 16:31
2. Jesus’ **C**heer and **C**omfort to His disciples in the forthcoming Calamity. Jn. 16:32, 33

 *Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own,*

 *and shall leave Me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.*

 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but* ***be of good cheer; I have overcome the world****.*

1. **Jesus Cheered Up Paul in his Plan to go to Rome though it might land him in Prison**. Acts 23:11

*And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said,* ***Be of good cheer****, Paul:*

*for as thou hast testified of Me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.*

***Cheer up****, then, oh, fellow mortal, Never utter one complaint;*

 *Never will you pass the heav’nly portals, If you weary or grow faint.* F. P. Luther

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 985**

1. Hamas gunmen launched an unprecedented assault on Israel from the Gaza Strip on **7 October,** killing 1,200 people and taking about 240 hostages.

The Israeli military responded with air strikes on Gaza, and launched a ground offensive. More than 16,200 people have been killed in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run government. Fighting resumed last Friday following the end of a seven-day temporary truce, during which Hamas released more than 100 hostages in exchange for 240 Palestinians in Israeli jails – From BBC News.

The Bible has also prophesied that one day in the future Israel, God’s people, will go through the Great Tribulation that has never been experienced before nor will they ever go through another one in the future. It will be unprecedented, unparalleled and never will happen again on this earth – **Daniel 12:1**

*And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and* ***there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time:*** *and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

It was again confirmed by the Lord Himself in His Mt. Olivet Discourse with His disciples – **Matthew 24:15-22**

*15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

*16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:*

*17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:*

*18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.*

*19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!*

*20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:*

*21*  ***For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.***

*22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

If we ever consider that the aftermath of the war declared by Israel on Hamas on October 7 was horrible and terrible, then we need to pay heed to the warning in scripture of the Great Tribulation to come and this time Israel will be the victim of these fearful attacks.

What is important for us to know is that the October 7 tragedy makes it possible for the possible fulfilment of scripture prophecy. Do you believe that this prophecy in the Scripture will come true? **REFLECT**

1. However, we must not confuse this Great Tribulation with the normal tribulations and persecutions which Christians experience. Jesus has warned us:

John 16:33 – *These things I have spoken unto you, that* ***in Me ye might have peace****. In the world ye shall have tribulation:* ***but be of good cheer****; I have overcome the world*.

Romans 8:35 – *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

Romans 12:12 – *Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer*;

This is not the Great Tribulation spoken of above. This is the trial that befalls us as the Lord shapes us to be what He wants us to be. Let us Rejoice. **REFLECT**

**Points to Ponder:**

*The larva struggles through the chrysalis* [of tribulations] *to emerge a beautiful butterfly.*