

VOL. XXXVIII.

MONCTON, N. B., DECEMBER 31ST, 1952

No. 309

Strength for the New Year!

By A. Milton Smith

As thy days, so shall thy strength be (Deut. 33:25).

It has been said that we have thirty-two thousand promises in the Bible. This figure may have been named because of the number of verses in the Bible. Some verses do not give direct promises; yet others contain more than one. It goes without debate, however, that there are many promises found in the Bible.

Some of the promises stand out as mountain peaks. For instance, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee," or "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." "As thy days, so shall thy strength be," stands high with its message of hope. What better can we do as we stand on the threshold of a new year than to lay hold of this promise that covers every possibility that we face? Let each one appropriate these bracing words to his own life, and seek to make this promise his very own.

In this promise we have coverage of everything. Whatever the day may be, God gives strength for it. If the day is full of danger, God gives courage; if it be filled with burdens and heaviness, there will be aid given which is fitted to these conditions; if the enemy comes in like a flood, the Lord will lift up a standard against him; if we are tempted, tested and tried, the angels will soon minister to us; if we are misunderstood and mistreated, just the needed help will be given. Strength is promised for our days regardless of what the situation may be.

THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

Write deep in your heart this New Year's Time this word of sublime confidence, Jehovahjireh. It tells you that you can trust God always, that no promise of His ever fails, that He doeth all things well, that out of all seeming loss and destruction of human hopes He brings blessing. You have not passed this way heretofore. There will be sorrows and joys, failures and successes, this year, just as there were last year. You cannot see a step before your feet. Yet Jehovahjireh calls you to enter the new year with calm trust. He bids you put away all anxieties and forebodings—"The Lord will provide."

-Selected.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

What shall I ask for the coming year? What shall my watchword be? What wouldst Thou do for me, dear Lord? What can I do for Thee?

Lord, I would ask for a year of love, That I may love Thee best; Give me the love that faileth not, Beneath the hardest test.

Lord, I would ask a year of prayer, Teach me to walk with Thee; Breathe in my heart Thy Spirit's breath,

"Fireproof Faith"

By C. M. Hazzard

Do you feel you are fighting a unique, lonely battle unlike any other person? Are you stripped of all visible evidence of God or His presence?—then I am talking to YOU.

First of all, let me assure you, you are running true to form-the form of these "last days." It is consoling to know we have a brother, Elijah by name. He, too, was able to count only one in his class. But God, kind as He is, informed Elijah he had missed out on his count by 6,999. God declared he had 7,000 instead of one. So, be of good cheer, we are not alone-Just keep this notation handy-We are going to make it by faith alone, persistent undaunted, undying faith in God, on the basis of His Character. He is faithful. What you see and feel may mock you and laugh you to scorn, but you are safe in your undying confidence in the eternal attribute of God. In fact, this is the great test. If you do not possess a firmly grounded faith in God for Himself alone, you are without foundation, for every visible thing will fail. A warm, personal, continuous fellowship with God will produce a confidence resulting in the quality of faith required today.

I was waiting in line for Car Inspection a few days ago. My soul felt dazed and stunned with the fury of spiritual conflict. I opened a periodical to read, "Is Your Faith Fireproof?" It was a radio address from Dr. Paul S. Rees. His opening words were-"We put shatterproof windshields in our motor cars. That is good. Many a face has been saved from disfigurement by it, many a life spared. Yet more important than shatter-proof windshield is a shatterproof faith in God. "We build fireproof structures. That too is good. Many a hotel guest owes his life to such a building. But more important than fireproof buildings is a fireproof faith by which the soul is held steadfast amid the wreck-or at least the threat of it-of all things earthly. "Precisely such desperate and heroic faith flashes out from the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, better known as 'the three Hebrew children.' Actually they were not children but young men whose ideals were not to be smudged and whose courage was never to flinch." The Holy Spirit spoke to me. I heard as though I were the one lone person for whom the message had been given. I read on, "There are times when faith must cling to God without having any evidences of God strewn (Continued on Page Five)

"Thy days" indicates that the promise is limited to our needs. The promise reads, "as thy days," not as thy desires. It is "as thy days," not as thy fears. Spurgeon once said that human beings seem to have a trouble factory within, and if trouble does not come, the factory is put to work. Yet this promise gives us much assurance in the midst of fear and trouble. Therefore, fear not to live, neither fear to die, since Christ was dead and is now alive. Fear not what shall be, for He has said, "I am he that liveth and have the keys of hell and of death."

While "thy days" limits the promise, yet the limitation is inclusive of all "thy days." It means today, tomorrow, the next day, and all the days to come. It includes the bright and the dark days, the eventful and uneventful days, and the happy and sorrowful days. It includes youthful and aged days, and all the Pray Thou Thy prayer in me.

Lord, I would ask for the dying world, Stretch forth Thy mighty hand; Thy truth proclaim, Thy power display, In this and every land.

-Selected

days between. Both life and death, living and dying, are included in the promise. What an adequate word, not only for the beginning of a new year, but for the whole year, and for all of life.

George Keith based his hymn on this promised strength when he wrote:

Fear not; I am with thee. Oh, be not dismayed, For I am thy God; I will still give thee aid. I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,

Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent hand.

In every condition—in sickness, in health; In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth; At home and abroad; on the land, on the sea— As thy days may demand shall thy strength ever be.

-Herald of Holiness.

The King's Highway