

FIRE BY NIGHT

"Reflections Upon Reflections" [of The Father's Heart]

...."You, in Your great compassion, did not forsake them in the wilderness; The pillar of cloud did not leave them by day, to guide them on their way, or the pillar of fire by night, to light for them the way in which they were to go".... Nehemiah 9:19 NASB

April 24th

FAITH OR UNBELIEF

[Part 1 of 3]

WHEN JESUS "MARVELLED"

Words of prophecy:

* *Blessed are those who have held fast the vision with great faith and patience [Habakkuk 2:2-4] in the face of much tribulation [persecution, reproach] - those who have suffered for righteousness' sake at all cost to themselves - for, truly I say to you, they shall have a continual [unending] flow of both My [unfading] Glory and My divine prosperity right to the end of the age.*

*...."And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed." But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us." But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus said to her, "**O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish.**" And her daughter was healed at once.
Matthew 15:22-28 NASB*

...."And a centurion's slave, who was highly regarded by him, was sick and about to die. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders asking Him

to come and save the life of his slave. When they came to Jesus, they earnestly implored Him, saying, "He is worthy for You to grant this to him; for he loves our nation and it was he who built us our synagogue." Now Jesus started on His way with them; and when He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, for I am not worthy for You to come under my roof; for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. "For I also am a man placed under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." Now when Jesus heard this, He marvelled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith." When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health".... Luke 7:2-10 NASB

"marvel" - something that causes wonder, admiration, or astonishment;

When Jesus "marvelled" at the faith of the centurion and the Canaanite woman He was experiencing a joy and a divine satisfaction that had its origin in the very Throne Room of Heaven. Linked to the Father's Heart as He was, the exercising of this great faith in His presence caused Jesus to experience the great pleasure and satisfaction that the Father was experiencing in that moment.

In the same way, Jesus was also confronted many times with the unbelief and "religious words and activities" of the religious leaders of the day. In those instances, He also experienced the Heart of the Father but, this time, it manifested in the "expression" of absolute Truth on the part of Jesus *[with a holy anger - in a spirit of righteous indignation]* in the face of the traditions and lies that they had established through many centuries of religious practice.

...."And he [Jesus] marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching".... Mark 6:6 KJV

...."But He said to them, Excellently and truly [so that there will be no room for blame] did Isaiah prophesy of you, the pretenders and hypocrites, as it stands written: These people [constantly] honor Me with their lips, but their hearts hold off and are far distant from Me. In vain (fruitlessly and without profit) do they worship Me, ordering and teaching [to be obeyed] as doctrines the commandments and precepts of men. [Isa. 29:13] You disregard and give up and ask to depart from you the commandment of God and cling to the tradition of men

[keeping it carefully and faithfully]. And He said to them, You have a fine way of rejecting [thus thwarting and nullifying and doing away with] the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition (your own human regulations)! For Moses said, Honor (revere with tenderness of feeling and deference) your father and your mother, and, He who curses or reviles or speaks evil of or abuses or treats improperly his father or mother, let him surely die. [Exo. 20:12; Exo. 21:17; Lev. 20:9; Deu. 5:16] But [as for you] you say, A man is exempt if he tells [his] father or [his] mother, What you would otherwise have gained from me [everything I have that would have been of use to you] is Corban, that is, is a gift [already given as an offering to God], Then you no longer are permitting him to do anything for [his] father or mother [but are letting him off from helping them]. Thus you are nullifying and making void and of no effect [the authority of] the Word of God through your tradition, which you [in turn] hand on. And many things of this kind you are doing".... Mark 7:6-13 The Amplified Translation

Prayer of Proclamation:

Father, we thank You and praise You that You have raised us up a people of great faith - a people through whom You can continually fulfill the highest purposes of Your Kingdom. And we declare all of these things done *[on an ongoing basis]* - to Your greatest Glory, in Jesus' Name. Amen.