

## Chapter 1

### Ed and Ann

Ed and Ann were chatting over a cup of coffee as the Sharon Tate news item came on TV.

They had just finished reading an account of how Sue Richie had foiled a would-be rapist, and found herself free through quickly claiming a Bible promise, in prayer! They had both been awed as they read of the would-be rapist fleeing from her presence as if suddenly seeing a dozen police cars racing in the driveway, where Sue had suddenly swerved her car. \*

\* This true account is found in the book, "Foolish Prayers - Fabulous Answers" by Glenn and Ethel Coon.

As the news came on the screen, they spoke of the sordid cruelty of modern maniacs. Then their conversation turned to what Ann had been reading about praying creatively. It was how a person can claim a Bible promise in prayer, and know the answer is created, although not always seen at the moment.

#### A BOOK

"Ed," Ann began, "I've just found a book that awes me!"

"Oh, and haven't shared it with me, eh?" Ed chuckled.

"No," Ann smiled, "and I will tell you why. It is both deep and clear. I did not want to bother you with anything that I myself was not completely sure about. Yet this book seems to contain wonderful things about the Bible that I never heard of before."

"Like what?"

"Well, you know how my minister, Reverend Smith, quotes St. Paul so much. He seems to love the New Testament generally - Paul's writings specifically. I believe that if Reverend Smith were to meet St. Paul on a city street, he would actually embrace him!"

"Yes, I have observed that. And I guess all his congregation, also, is aware of it. Of course, you are not suggesting that he is placing Paul above Christ!"

"Oh, no, Ed! But I was just thinking how the minister of your church, Reverend Brown, seems to exalt the Apostle Peter next to Christ."

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“Well, what has that to do with the book you are starting to read, Ann?”

### NOT OBSOLETE

“Ed, I almost hate to say this, but this book makes clear that the Apostle Paul said the ‘obsolete’ Old Testament, as we have heard it referred to, is not really obsolete at all.”

“Ann, but we have heard it called the ‘Old Bible’ as contrasted with the New Testament. Isn’t that right?”

“Yes. But I doubt it is true, Ed - not according to the book I am reading. The author of this book seems to exalt the writings of both St. Paul and St. Peter. But then he quotes both of them as stating that the Old Testament was actually written with our very day in mind: in fact, for our development of Christian character. So that makes it up-to-date.”

“I never heard this before, Ann. Where do you find Paul or Peter making such a statement? Did you know, Ann, that if this were true, it would change our whole religious thinking?”

### IT CAN SOLVE PROBLEMS

“Yes, Ed, and that is why I’ve been slow to share the book with you until I am absolutely sure that its teaching regarding prayer is Scriptural. If it is, Ed, then you and I have the basis for solving every problem of life. And so do our friends, Mike and Ruth, down the street.”

“Without a psychiatrist, Ann?”

“Careful now, Ed. The book is not belittling professional counseling. But it is dealing with a basis for solving problems.”

### FOR OUR DAY

“And what about Paul and Peter, Ann?”

“Well, St. Paul said that things written in the Old Testament were actually written for us today. He wrote: ‘For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning.’ And he is referring to the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament; for he continues by saying, ‘that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.’ That is found in Romans 15:4.”

“Well, Ann, we surely need hope and comfort in these days when the first cause of death among our youth is suicide. Everywhere we turn we find riots, rape, murder, and destruction. Someone said the

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other day that millions of people in the world are actually starving right now! Anything that claims to teach us how to find comfort and hope in these dark days is worth looking into. But what about Peter, Ann?”

“Ed, the statement by the Apostle Peter is even more amazing to me. He stated that the Old Testament writers were informed at the time of their writing that their messages were not nearly so much for them as for us. He speaks of the Old Testament prophets and the salvation they presented. Then he adds: ‘Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister.’ That is found in the First Epistle of Peter, chapter one, verses ten to twelve.”

### FOR END OF WORLD

Ann continued, “And, Ed, Paul makes a sweeping statement in 1 Corinthians 10:11, when he says: ‘Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.’ “

“Well, Ann, that fits our day. Our wisest men are now telling us that the world can’t last many more years. They say the end is almost here.

“But, Ann, don’t Paul and Peter mean that the Old Testament prophecies are about our Lord’s life and death, and they teach lessons we should learn?”

“Yes, Ed, the book underscores this vital feature of the Old Testament. But it states that there are truths in the Old Testament, also, that we have not understood. These have to do with the basis of a different kind of prayer—one that claims Bible promises.”

### OLD TESTAMENT TEACHES OF CHRIST

“Well, Ed, first of all, it says the Old Testament tells us that our Lord Jesus would come to earth and die. The book claims that the Old Testament also teaches that He already existed in Old Testament times. And, in fact, He is the One who made the world in the beginning of time. So that actually makes Christ the Creator - the Maker of us all.”

“And where did the book get that idea from, Ann? I never once heard of any such Scripture. I think I see now why you have been slow to share the contents of this book with me. I would hesitate to acknowledge that Christ existed in Old Testament times - and of all things, not as the Creator of the world, Ann!”

“Ed, that is just what I had thought, too, until I read the book. But here are some of the passages of Scripture the book quotes. Suppose

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you run and get our Bible, and while I read the texts as given in the book, you check them with the Bible, and we'll see for ourselves."

In a jiffy Ed was back with their Bible. Then Ann gave him a couple texts to read. The first was John 8:58: "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." The next was 1 Corinthians 10:4. The "Rock that followed them... was Christ." "The footnote," Ann explained, "said that verses 1-4 and onward are speaking of the Israelites coming out of Egypt."

"Of all things!" exclaimed Ed. "Do you mean that Moses knew Christ?"

"That is what it says. Now here is another Scripture, Hebrews 11:26. It says that Moses made a decision because he was 'esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.' "

"I see. You are right, Ann. Christ did exist before He came to this world! But I can't buy the idea that He was the One who made the world. Someone would have to bring me a lot of Bible proof to convince me of that one."

### CREATOR OF THE WORLD

"Ed, if the book quotes the Bible correctly, then there are many texts that state that Christ made the world. Now if you will turn to the Bible again, and do some more checking, we will see if the Bible is correctly quoted. Here are two or three texts."

"OK, Ann. Shoot!"

"The first text comes from my pastor's favorite Bible hero, St. Paul. In Hebrews 1:1 and 2 he wrote: 'God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.' "

"You don't mean it, Ann! Let me see if that is actually what the Bible says." Ed finally located the text. "Yes, Ann, that is exactly what it says."

"And here is another, Ed, from St. Paul, too. Listen to this one. Speaking of Christ, St. Paul says: 'In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.' Colossians 1:14-18."

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AMAZED!

“Ann, I am absolutely astonished!”

“But, Ed, there is more than this. Look at another text in St. Paul’s writings. It is Hebrews 1:6 to 10. It says that the Father, speaking to His Son, said: ‘Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.’ And then the Father said to His Son: ‘And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands.’

“And, Ed,” spoke Ann calmly, “here is a ringer, Speaking of Christ, the Gospel of John says: ‘He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.’ John 1:10. So Jesus came, and the people of His own nation did not receive Him. Yet He was the Maker of us all. I think that is pitiful, don’t you, Ed?”

PUZZLED

Ed was puzzled. As he sat there, pondering what this had to do with the new kind of prayer, the clock struck eleven.

“Let’s go to bed,” Ed suggested, “and begin from here tomorrow night.”