

Written by Dan Babcock

## Missionary to Albania

### *Fellowship with God in prayer:*

In Ephesians 2:6, Paul shows us that the followers of Christ are raised up and seated now with him in the heavenly realms. God has raised us up spiritually now into the heavenly places, just as we will be bodily and visibly hereafter. What does this mean to us? Why has He put us in this honorable place of sitting with Christ?

First, we can say that sitting together is fellowship. To be invited to the table of a friend of high honor had great significance for the people of Jesus' day. The thought of sitting down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of God was their greatest heavenly hope. Everyone wishes at some time for a highly respected friend. Men search longingly for true fellowship. The joy of sitting with treasured friends, being accepted and respected is not always easy to find. But the Creator of the universe has called us to sit with Him!

**Exodus 24:9–11** describes the glory of this fellowship: *"Moses...and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank."*

On that mountain they saw His glory, and yet continued their earthly, physical life. They ate and drank in His presence beholding His majesty, yet they were preserved alive and unhurt. What a picture of us sitting with Him in the heavenly places now — yet at the same time continuing our lives here on earth to fulfill our calling!

They rejoiced before Him and the sight of His Majesty was indescribable. Only what was under his feet could be put into words. It was something like a pavement of sapphire, as clean and pure as the heavens in its brightness. They saw the heavens, and everything else besides as His footstool. Perhaps Paul had this in mind as he prayed that we would see Jesus ascended above the heavens with all things put under his feet (Eph. 1: 21–22, 4:10).

Sitting together is sharing something in common. We are seated with Him in order to partake together. The elders went up to meet with God. Through the covenant and the sprinkling of blood He brought them into a new fellowship. He is not looking for a business-like relationship with us, but rather a close communion! They ate of His offerings! His portion went up in smoke on the altar, and theirs was eaten in that holy place.

They conversed with Him freely, as at the table of a friend. Seated with Him there, we also have been given access to the Divine Presence and the Divine food of His will — His Word, and especially the victories and accomplishments of the cross. By it we fellowship with the God who has accepted the same sacrifice! What He enjoys, we enjoy! *"And truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."* **1 John.1:3**

Sitting together is also a partnership. To be seated with God is to partake of the sovereignty which He has over all creation. There we share in the distribution of His power and acts of grace (toward

individuals, the church, Israel, and the world). Those who study the nature of God find this curious truth – He wants the agreement of His friends in what He has done, plans and is doing! Sitting before Him is taking part in His decision-making. It is intimacy. It is thinking with God and like God. Incredible!

Throughout the book of Revelation we see elders seated before God in a place of representation with judgment given to them. Souls and even the destiny of a portion of mankind are influenced by their judgment as they worship and present their censers full of incense. In worship God sets up His throne of judgment for His people and asks them to judge and win the victory over their enemies! We can do this together on behalf of Illinois and the cause of righteousness.

As we fellowship with God, we want more of Him. Our relationship grows. We begin to see things differently, as through the eyes of God. The desires of His heart start to become the desires of our heart. *“Take delight in the Lord, and **He** will give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4*

His will starts to become our will. *“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us”. 1 John 5:14* He assures us that once He hears us, He answers our prayers! *“And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” 1 John 5:15*

Sitting with Him is a sacred relationship. Its special privileges demand holiness. Defilement disqualifies the fellowship and enjoyment of this heavenly calling (Eph. 1:3-4). In order to hold this place by faith, the believer’s conscience must be good. It must be pure. We cannot have the strength to keep our place or persevere with joy unless it is clean, so we must turn often to the LORD for cleansing as we walk through this filthy and defiled world. Through faith in our glorious Savior we have been given a position and an inheritance far above all things, in the place where the history of the Church began and will yet be made, and where every issue of good and evil will be settled for eternity.

## *Pray:*

- ... that the upcoming elections may result in Godly leaders being elected to office.
- ... that pastors would encourage their people to get registered to vote, then go to the polls on November 4<sup>th</sup> and vote for Godly candidates.
- ... that Religious Liberty would be preserved.
- ... that there may be peace for the Nation of Israel.
- ... that God would expose the evil plans of those who are using women and children as human shields.
- ... for our men, women and allies who are fighting to preserve our liberties.
- ... that the persecuted Church worldwide be strengthened and continue to grow.
- ... that the pastors, church leaders and patriots who have attended this week’s the Black Robed Regiment events would have a clear understanding of the need and duty of Christians to be involved in politics.

