



# F.A.C.S. REPORT

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## On the Map

by John Terpstra

**I**N DAYS WHEN MUCH of this world was still unknown territory, it was common practice for map makers to chart what was known and to circumscribe the perimeter of the known world with pictures of demons, dragons, snakes and monsters. This way of describing landmarks and providing directions for travellers was wholly consistent with the religious climate of the day. You see, the known world was enveloped in familiar landmarks. These set boundaries to where people went, how far they would go, and so on. These landmarks set a locus of control over behaviour, attitudes, beliefs and habits.

The story is told of the Roman commander whose mission led him off the charted map rather unexpectedly into the wilderness beyond reality. Writing from the depths of *Dragon Land* he sent an emissary back to Rome with this classic request, "Please send new orders. We have just marched off the map."

This demonstrates the principle that boundaries serve an invaluable purpose in limiting or constraining behaviour and expectations.

The ancient map maker mirrored the understanding that scripture gives us. Within the known world is the safety of known landmarks, signs that are a part of the realm. The kingdom offered protection to all who remained within safe bounds. The world outside was the realm of devils, dragons and all other such demonic creatures. This is possibly where the notion of demon possession comes from when challenging someone who has, to our way of thinking, stepped beyond acceptable lines and we say to

them, "What on earth has possessed you that you should do such and such?"

Today we hear little of this turn of phrase. We live in a world that knows no limits, and does not want to know them. Consequently we have lost the concept of a city, the safe fortress within which all citizens are safe. We have escaped a perception of the reality of demons and

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excepting the bizarre we have also lost sense of anything spiritual. Does this negate the existence of demons? Does this negate the power of the forces of darkness of our land, or over the world for that matter? If not, what by design may negate the powers of darkness?

### A Trumpet Call

**T**HE SONG OF ZECHARIAH (Luke 1: 67- 80) is a most comprehensive yet simple summary of how our God has acted through history. It issues a subtle trumpet sound to all from the days of Zechariah until the end of the future as we know it.

A trumpet served many purposes. Firstly, it would be used to sound a warning or alarm in the approach of danger. Secondly, it served to rally people to a task or battle. Thirdly, it would ring the

sounds of victory. Lastly, the trumpet was used to mark the memory for some past major calamity.

In examination of our passage, Dr Luke makes the point that Zechariah was not speaking as an ordinary man but by divine inspiration and with heavenly instruction. We must at all times sit back and take note when divine instruction is given. We are most apt to glaze over many critical points made in the holy scriptures if we do not stop to take note when it is brought to our notice by such stark means that God has something to say to His people. Not only did Zechariah so amazingly recover his speech after a nine month absence, but immediately he became an instrument of the Holy Spirit.

Zechariah begins by praising God because he has come to redeem his people. Note that before that awful event on Calvary, Zechariah can already claim that it has been accomplished — such is the certainty with which God interacts with us.

We may note that the horn of salvation that God has raised up for us is an occasion for the utmost joy for all who are redeemed from their bondage to sin, death and destruction. To the unbeliever this heralds a most ominous note because to them it sounds the cords of their total ruin, it marks their bruises and scatters them to the four winds.

The salvation that Christ brings is not of novelty value only! Zechariah makes sure we do not miss the point that this is of cataclysmic proportions. This event was spoken of by the prophets for time immemorial. This Jesus has been testi-

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fied to by prophets from the beginning. It is as if Zechariah is saying that in this person all the prophets have come alive, so stop, look, listen and submit NOW. This is important news so we ought to note the arduous reinforcement over and over.

What is the power and office of this Christ, this saviour? None other than this: that Christ was given that we may obtain salvation from our enemies. Who are our enemies? How many christians today would actively claim they have enemies? Is that not too strong a word in our day and age? But wait now, Zechariah points out that our enemies hate us! Ouch! We do need salvation, we can not deny it now!

### Peace at any Price?

**O**UR AGE WANTS PEACE with everything and with all people, regardless of creed, craze, practice, deed or action. Opposition and confrontation are social taboos. We live in a time that wants no landmarks, no barriers, no laws, no limits. Is it surprising that we should take issue with the notion that we have enemies?

What Zechariah says next is even more revolting to many present day christians. Today God the Father is so often portrayed as a stern, relentless judgmental type, and Jesus as the meek peacemaker who offers us a blanket to shield us from the Father. This distortion is an obnoxious misrepresentation of God. Zechariah says that God has shown mercy to our fathers. He has remembered his covenant (or contract) that he swore under oath to our father Abraham.

This covenant was none other than that he would rescue his people from their enemies. Thus Zechariah speaks of the mercy that was performed in his own day that is not only forward reaching into the future of which we are a part, but also reaches back into the past. This mercy, this wonderful salvation has at once secured the deliverance of all the saints of old. All is exhibited in Christ who alone can save men from certain destruction, from vicious enemies and from the tyranny of the devil and his forces.

The fact that we may now serve God without fear deserves our attention further. It implies that we can *not* worship God in any proper manner without composure of mind, soberness, and without peace with God. Those who do not know real peace of mind in approaching God cannot worship and adore him. It's that simple! Without peace of conscience we can not begin to approach our heavenly father in praise and adoration. David says (Ps 130:4) *"But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared."*

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***"The fact that we may now serve God without fear deserves our attention . . ."***

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But now Zechariah declares that since God reconciles men to himself in Christ, and by his protection keeps them safe from all fear because he by his own hand is the guardian of our safe keeping we are declared to have been delivered from all fear.

The result of this great and successful rescue mission is that we may now live in holiness and righteousness all our days. This is the key to our ability to live within the bounds of God's map for living. It is His divine plan for active service in His kingdom. And we are safe from all harm, our hearts find peace with God, when we willingly submit to His boundaries (law). We can now build a society that knows bounds, a society in which no orders should ever be given to go beyond the limits of the map.

John the Baptist has the appointed task of preparing the way for the Most High, for the Lord, to prepare a way for King Jesus. John heralds the knowledge of salvation, forgiveness of sins, and peace with a clear conscience. How much do we hear of emotional unrest in

## Health News

**H**EALTH IS SOMETHING that gains everyone's interest as they get older. With over 40% of all doctor's visits recently reported to be to alternative health suppliers, it is not surprising that alternative health is now big business.

By alternative health is not meant the idea that there are alternatives to health treatment. What is meant is that there are real alternatives to the usual medical health system. Perhaps this can be best understood by example.

There is a growing debate over the treatment and prevention of hardening of the arteries. Low cholesterol and low fat diets have been argued as the traditional means of prevention, while radical surgery is treatment once the heart cannot get its supply of blood.

For over 30 years, however, it has been argued that Vitamin E can be a key to a healthy heart. Now, in a recent report released from Great Britain, 2,000 patients were treated in a controlled experiment, some with Vitamin E, some without. The reported result was a 75% lower incidence of heart disease in those who took Vitamin E supplements.

The response from one medical practitioner when interviewed on this report was that it was too early to get excited about the results. Further experiments would be required. The implication, however, was that this was the only report that indicates the possible benefits of Vitamin E in prevention of heart disease, if not all heart disease, then many types of it. But this overlooks reports, for example, published as early as 1953, on the experiments of Dr. A. Gorla, an Italian, who used an electrocardiograph (ECG) in experiments on subjects who took Vitamin E. The results indicated that Vitamin E improved the function of the "normal" heart. In addition, it assisted the circulatory and metabolic systems of the body.

While vitamins and various minerals can help in the prevention of heart disease, what is not so well known is that there is treatment for heart disease that eliminates the need for bypass surgery. Not only is the treatment successful in those who have already developed hardening of the arteries, it is also highly successful as a *prevention* for cardiovascular disease. The treatment is known as chelation therapy.

the world around us. Do you know people who have suffered nervous breakdowns, broken marriages, people who are oppressed and weighed down with guilt? Jesus came to rescue his people from all that separates us from him by procuring for us a clear conscience and deliverance from all our fears. We do not need psychiatrists to save us from our consciences, we need the living God who in tender mercy came that we may be rescued!

Jesus the rising sun came to us from heaven by way of the mercy of God. Since God is the author of His salvation, we have nothing to offer and no claim to independence in our coming before Him

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to praise, adore and worship the Mighty God who sent His own Son to chase away the shadow of death and to guide our feet (oh for that wonderful map!) into the path of peace.

### **Divine Protection**

**A**T THIS JUNCTURE we must now also take note that those on whom the Son of Righteousness does not shine are left without hope. Outside of the locus of God's map for living there is darkness, emptiness, devastation, unrest and the tyranny of the devil and his dominion. Separation from God and the absence of the protection of His realm amounts to the most feared condition in eternity. But the powers of darkness would not have us see this stark reality, they want us to perceive of God the Father as a restricting dark ogre, they would rather have us see the realms of darkness as a continuous party with plenty of wine, women and song.

How much we need God's divine protection. More than that, we need the power of the Holy Spirit that we may be instruments of grace in a world in which the veil of darkness is so rapidly spreading over the remnants of the christian

west, once known as a christian civilization.

Our power of influence is nothing in the world if first and foremost our own hearts and lives do not own peace with God through Jesus the Son. If we want to transform the world we must first learn to submit to the limits of God's kingdom. Only then will we find the means to follow the directive that God gave to our father David.

Our children, our families, our homes, our cities have been taken captive by paganism and humanism. The religion of technology demands our all. Social pressures bear heavily on everyone we know to conform to a life style of appearances, a superficial existence that knows no locus of authority, no bounds. Our world has moved off the map!

By grace, in his tender mercy God will quicken His people by the power of the Holy Spirit to do as king David was instructed

to do (I Samuel 30:1ff). Ziklag was destroyed and the Amalekites had taken everything captive. So, too, our everything is under constant siege attempts, some have fallen captive, and need our help. Can we let the world do this to our own any longer? If our answer is no, then we need a battle plan, we need to mount the offensive.

The church is at a very low ebb. Just so, David was overwhelmed by the devastation. David found strength in the Lord. God gave the marching orders when David had been first prepared. Nothing was left of his own esteem, his strength, when his life was under greatest threat. Then God stepped in. God said, David you pursue. Go and get my stuff back. God gave the victory in His time and in open demonstration of the greatness of His mercy God allowed His city to be enlarged by the destruction of the Amalekites.

So, too, we must first find peace with our gracious God and Father through Jesus Christ, the victorious Son, before we can receive our marching orders to take back from the powers of darkness what they have taken from God's house.

Let us therefore treat ever so seriously our great and awful salvation, let us find peace and strength to do battle in His name. Amen.

Now chelation therapy is not an unknown and unused treatment in other areas. It is, for example, the only known treatment for lead poisoning. But what many doctors do not tell their patients, is that this same treatment can be successfully used for heart disease.

The word chelation comes from the Greek, *chele*, to claw. In this treatment, a synthetic amino acid, ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA), is placed into the blood stream via a drip and it literally *claws* out the build up of calcium, iron and other metals within the vessels which form major obstructions to the flow of blood. The treatment does not require hospitalization, and costs less than 10% of bypass surgery.

In 1976, Dr. Norman E. Clarke, chairman of the research department, Providence Hospital, Detroit, Michigan, gave testimony before the Scientific Board of the California Medical Society that he had personally administered 120,000 infusions of EDTA chelation. Not once, he claimed, had he seen any problems with the treatment, only benefits. As stated above, chelation is the prescribed treatment for lead poisoning. That it can be used for other purposes seems to have escaped the notice of many, although a number of doctors in Australia provide this treatment to their patients.

There is a known 25% failure (i.e. death) rate for those undergoing bypass surgery. This, in itself, seems sufficient grounds to find a better substitute. One exists. Why is it ignored by so many doctors? Often the answer to this kind of question is not so easy, for it is difficult to know why some people accept the ideas they hold to.

This only means that each individual has to take greater care and concern for his own welfare, and not trust too highly on doctors. Information is readily available that will allow an individual to know what alternatives are available. Finding an open-minded doctor as a family medical adviser should be a priority for all.

A form of self-chelation exists by including vitamins and minerals such as Vitamins C and E, betacarotene, selenium and magnesium in the daily diet. These are available in various food forms or in supplements. These vitamins and minerals assist the circulation flow, helping to keep the arteries clear so that the blood circulates freely throughout the body.

**H**EALTH IS OFTEN RELATED to lifestyle, and rightly so. A recent report on retirement highlighted the fact that for men, retirement can mean a life of physical and mental misery. While retirement brought a short term experience of well-being, this gave way to a sharp decline in physical and mental health. (*The Weekend Australian*, March 16-17, 1996, p. 9: "Retirement Honeymoon Can End in Male Misery".)

Conducted by the Centre for Stress Management and Research at Mel-

bourne's Monash University, the study found that the most common causes of stress among retired men are finance (15%), loss of purpose (12%), health of a spouse (11%), own health (10%), missing work (8%), personal relationships ranked with family affairs (9%), and boredom (7.5%). Interestingly, the report listed salesmen, managers and the self-employed as those most likely to have difficulty in adjusting to retirement. Because so many people identify themselves with their work, once they retire from it, they

can lose their own sense of identity and this carries with it risks in health.

Most men apparently experience a dramatic dip in health and mental well-being after about twelve months of retirement. This sounds like as good a reason as any not to retire, or at least to ensure any retirement is restricted to a one year period. This may also explain why those who retire and remain healthy are those who find something constructive to do with their lives.

We are saddened to report the death on December 11, 1995 of Dr Greg Bahnsen. He had not enjoyed good health for many years, and underwent a third operation for a congenital heart condition. Aged 47, Dr Bahnsen had become a leading defender of the faith in the United States and around the world.

Apparently he did not always welcome the publicity obtained from his first book, *Theonomy in Christian Ethics*. But for some of us, this book was the linch-pin in helping us get our theology sorted out. A massive study in biblical thinking, *Theonomy in Christian Ethics* will remain an outstanding contribution to theological debate in this century.

Other readers may be more familiar with his popularization of this study, entitled *By This Standard*. A more readable version, it has been used by many of our own subscribers, not only in their own thinking, but as a give away to help others think through the meaning of Christian ethics.

Dr Bahnsen's contribution to ongoing Christian debate will be missed by many. We will continue to carry his books. The following titles are available:

*By This Standard*, \$6.95

*No Other Standard*, \$10.95

*House Divided: The Breakup of Dispensational Theology* (with Dr Ken Gentry), \$24.95 (hardback).