

Chapter 4

Paul

BIBLE

God worked special miracles by the hands of Paul.¹ He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of workmanship.²

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the Good News of God.³ He spoke three thousand proverbs; and his songs numbered one thousand five.⁴

His head is like the purest gold. His hair is bushy, black as a raven.⁵ His feet were like burnished brass, as if it had been refined in a furnace. His voice was like the voice of many waters.⁶

Yahweh will preserve him, and keep him alive. He shall be blessed on the earth, and he will not surrender him to the will of his enemies.⁷

He will be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that produces its fruit in its season, whose leaf also does not wither. Whatever he does shall prosper.⁸

Therefore he says, “Awake, you who sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”⁹

COMMENTARY

¹ **Acts 19:11** [*Paul is the “second angel”*]

² **Exodus 35:31**

³ **Romans 1:1**

⁴ **1 Kings 4:32** Paul is one of the most prolific and successful songwriters in history. As a Beatle and as a solo artist, he has sold over 100 million albums and over 100 million singles. 32 of the songs that he has written or co-written have reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. His songwriting partnership with John was somewhat unusual in that both of them wrote words and music, as opposed to the more typical arrangement where one person is lyricist and the other is composer.

⁵ **Song of Solomon 5:11**

⁶ **Revelation 1:15**

⁷ **Psalms 41:2**

⁸ **Psalms 1:3** Prosperity obviously includes more than just monetary wealth, but Paul is in fact the richest musician in the UK. His net worth was estimated in 2014 to be US \$660 million.

⁹ **Ephesians 5:14** “You were only waiting for this moment to arise,” Paul shares in “Blackbird.” The indwelling Christ presence must be awakened in each one of us.

“Give thanks to Yahweh, for he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever.”¹⁰

“The night is far gone, and the day is near. Let’s therefore throw off the deeds of darkness, and let’s put on the armor of light.”¹¹ For you were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.¹²

“Having eyes, don’t you see? Having ears, don’t you hear? Don’t you remember?”¹³ Were you called being a bondservant? Don’t let that bother you, but if you get an opportunity to become free, use it.”¹⁴

“You shall be blessed in the city, and you shall be blessed in the field.”¹⁵

¹⁰ **Psalm 118:1**

¹¹ **Romans 13:12** In “The Long And Winding Road,” Paul tells us that “the wild and windy night...has left a pool of tears crying for the day.”

¹² **Ephesians 5:8** In “Blackbird,” Paul encourages us to fly “into the light of the dark black night.” Light is good, it takes away the darkness.

¹³ **Mark 8:18** “Take these sunken eyes and learn to see,” Paul counsels in “Blackbird.” Paul, on the inspiration behind “Blackbird”: “I had in mind a black woman, rather than a bird. As is often the case with my things, a veiling took place...she became a bird, became symbolic, so you could apply it to your particular problem. This is one of my themes: take a sad song and make it better. ‘Empowerment’ is a good word for it.”

¹⁴ **1 Corinthians 7:21** A bondservant represents someone in bondage to the “flesh.” Paul reminds us in “Blackbird” that “you were only waiting for this moment to be free.” Embracing the light of God and of higher consciousness sets us free from the flesh. The only place to find this freedom is in *this moment* however, since God is found only in the present moment.

¹⁵ **Deuteronomy 28:3**