

# PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path"  
Psalm 119:104*

September 3, 2017

## Divine Abundance

by Frank Himmel

Have you ever noticed how often the Bible uses some form of the term *abundant* in reference to God? Here are just a few verses to consider.

📖 "They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; and You give them to drink of the river of Your delights" (Psalm 36:8).

📖 "For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in loving kindness to all who call upon you" (Psalm 86:5).

📖 "Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite" (Psalm 147:5).

📖 "Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

📖 "The thief comes only to steal and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

📖 "For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who

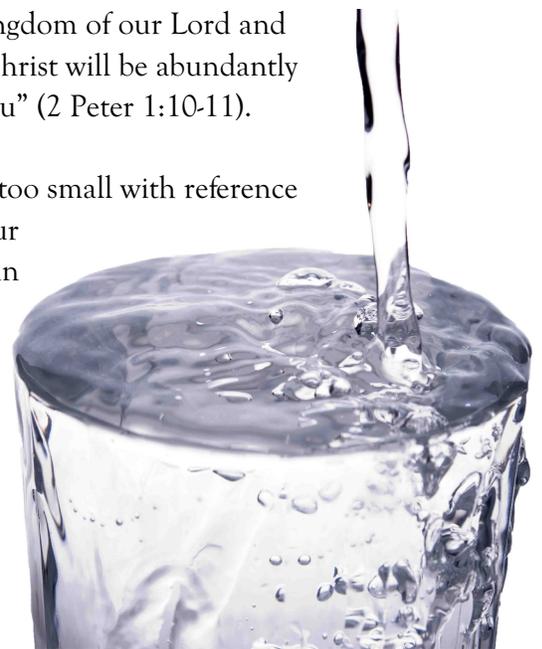
receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:17).

📖 "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

📖 "And the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 1:14).

📖 "Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you" (2 Peter 1:10-11).

Do not think too small with reference to God: in your expectations, in your prayers, in your repentance, in your service to Him, in your hope. God is abundant! ■



# The First Resurrection

by Frank Himmel



“Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6).

The book of Revelation foretells the persecution of Christians which was to occur shortly after it was written (1:1, 3). Indeed, it was already beginning (1:9; 2:13). The message is, be faithful to Christ. No matter how much opponents seem to have the upper hand, Jesus and those with Him will be victorious.

The persecution, while carried out by man, was ultimately led by Satan. Chapter 20 is about his downfall.

Earlier in the vision John saw those who had been slain because of the word of God; they were crying out for justice (6:9-11). Now he sees them again; they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years (v. 4). These were people of principle. They had not worshiped the beast or his image despite the threats against their lives (13:15). “And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death” (12:11). Remember that during His lifetime Jesus taught, “For whoever

wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it” (Matthew 16:25).

Chapter 20 continues to tell about the final demise of Satan and the judgment to follow. Those whose names are not found written in the Lamb’s book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire, where Satan was also thrown; that is the second death (vv. 14-15). But these martyrs will not be there! The second death has no power over them, no claim on them. The cowardly and unbelieving will be there (21:8), but the faithful in Christ, no matter what happens to them in this life, will be safely with Him.

Please note that, contrary to popular opinion, the text does not say that Jesus will reign for 1,000 years. It says the martyrs will reign with Him that long. (He was already reigning before the events of this vision even began [1:5-6; 3:21].) Why 1,000 years?

At the beginning of the vision, Jesus warned of the coming persecution: “Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (2:10). 10 days and 1,000 years are obviously both round numbers, symbolic numbers. They illustrate the relative values of suffering and being victorious. Would you not suffer 10 days, no matter how hard, for 1,000 years of victory in return? The blessed man keeps everything in perspective: “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen” (2 Corinthians 4:18a). ■

## Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Bruce Williams	Greg Winget	Adam Gibson
SONG LEADER	Carlos Garcia	Bruce Williams	Mark Clifton
OPENING PRAYER	Steven Turner	Albert Lee Harrison	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Bruce Hollander	Bruce Hollander	
CUP	John Baucom	John Baucom	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Adam Wilson		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	J B Williams
CLOSING PRAYER	Kerry Gray	Josh Baucom	Daven Daniel