

## Chapter 10

# Sit Back And Let The Evening Go

### BIBLE

The king turned his face about, and blessed all the assembly of Israel, and all the assembly of Israel stood.<sup>1</sup> He brought his people out with joy, his chosen with singing.<sup>2</sup>

Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, “Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen.<sup>3</sup> Let's come before his presence with thanksgiving. Let's extol him with songs!”<sup>4</sup>

Now John himself wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.<sup>5</sup> He summoned the multitude, and said to them, “Hear, and understand.”<sup>6</sup>

As the people were in expectation, and all men reasoned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he was the Christ,<sup>7</sup> the third angel blew his trumpet; and there fell from Heaven a great star, which was on fire like a torch. It fell upon a third part of the rivers and upon the springs of water.<sup>8</sup>

### COMMENTARY

<sup>1</sup> **1 Kings 8:14** U2 members Bono and the Edge, describing the power of rock and roll in separate interviews: [Bono] "Rock music can change things. I know that it changed our lives. Rock is really about the transcendent feeling. There's life in the form. I still think that rock music is the only music that can still get you to that eternal place where you want to start a revolution, call your mother, change your job or change your mind. I think that's what rock music can do." [The Edge] "You see, rock and roll isn't a career or hobby - it's a life force. It's something very essential."

<sup>2</sup> **Psalms 105:43**

<sup>3</sup> **Acts 13:16**

<sup>4</sup> **Psalms 95:2** "It's wonderful to be here, it's certainly a thrill," announces the Sgt. Pepper "band" in "Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band." Gratitude is a powerful spiritual tool.

<sup>5</sup> **Matthew 3:4**

<sup>6</sup> **Matthew 15:10**

<sup>7</sup> **Luke 3:15** In 1966, John made his statement suggesting the Beatles were more popular than Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> **Revelation 8:10** [*"The third angel" is George*]

The fourth angel sounded, and one third of the sun was struck, and one third of the moon, and one third of the stars; so that one third of them would be darkened, and the day wouldn't shine for one third of it, and the night in the same way.<sup>9</sup>

The fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from the sky which had fallen to the earth. The key to the pit of the abyss was given to him.<sup>10</sup>

They sang to one another in praising and giving thanks to Yahweh, "For he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever toward Israel." All the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised Yahweh, because the foundation of the house of Yahweh was laid.<sup>11</sup>

"Praise Yahweh, you angels of his, who are mighty in strength, who fulfill his word, obeying the voice of his word.<sup>12</sup> Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all his army!"<sup>13</sup>

"Raise a song, and bring here the tambourine, the pleasant lyre with the harp.<sup>14</sup> Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet! Praise him with harp and lyre!<sup>15</sup> Praise him with loud cymbals! Praise him with resounding cymbals!"<sup>16</sup>

"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice! Let them say among the nations, 'Yahweh reigns!'"<sup>17</sup>

<sup>9</sup> **Revelation 8:12** [**"The fourth angel" is Ringo**] If you take away one third of 1,000, which represents perfection in the Bible\*, you are left with 666, which symbolizes man and our beastly nature. Our task on our journey back to the light is to restore the one third that has been darkened. And since progress is often "two steps forward one step back," one third of every step we take may be in the wrong direction. The Beatles can help us on our long and winding road. (\*In Revelation, we are told that those in Heaven lived with Christ for a thousand years)

<sup>10</sup> **Revelation 9:1** [**The "fifth angel" is keyboardist Billy Preston**] The mythical title of "fifth Beatle" has been bestowed to several different individuals, including Billy Preston, former members Pete Best and Stu Sutcliffe, producer George Martin, and manager Brian Epstein. Preston performed with the Beatles at their rooftop concert.

<sup>11</sup> **Ezra 3:11** Plato: "Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything."

<sup>12</sup> **Psalm 103:20** Edgar Winter: "Music is very spiritual, it has the power to bring people together."

<sup>13</sup> **Psalm 148:2**

<sup>14</sup> **Psalm 81:2**

<sup>15</sup> **Psalm 150:3**

<sup>16</sup> **Psalm 150:5**

<sup>17</sup> **1 Chronicles 16:31**

The Jews had light, gladness, joy, and honor.<sup>18</sup> They gave them drinks in golden vessels of various kinds, including royal wine in abundance, according to the bounty of the king.<sup>19</sup> They send forth their little ones like a flock. Their children dance.<sup>20</sup>

It happened, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking Yahweh; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised Yahweh, [saying], “For he is good; for his loving kindness endures forever!” that then the house was filled with a *cloud*, even the house of Yahweh.<sup>21</sup>

However the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.<sup>22</sup> The foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.<sup>23</sup>

“Come,” [say they], “I will get wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow shall be as this day, [a day] great beyond measure.”<sup>24</sup>

Others, mocking, said, “They are filled with new wine.”<sup>25</sup> Wine is a mocker, and beer is a brawler. Whoever is led astray by them is not wise.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>18</sup> **Esther 8:16**

<sup>19</sup> **Esther 1:7**

<sup>20</sup> **Job 21:11** “Everybody let their hair down,” John observes in “I’ve Got A Feeling.”

<sup>21</sup> **2 Chronicles 5:13** The “cloud” is the presence of God.

<sup>22</sup> **2 Kings 15:4** Incense enjoyed a resurgence of popularity in the Sixties, as pot smokers started to use it to mask the pungent aroma when they were in “the high places.”

<sup>23</sup> **Isaiah 6:4** In the Sixties, smoking marijuana to reach the “high places” became as socially acceptable as drinking alcohol. But the experience was very different. Rather than just hold one’s own glass, pot smokers passed a joint as a shared ritual. Getting stoned tended to make users mellow and insightful, rather than loud and aggressive as alcohol often did. Of course, many young people combined both marijuana and alcohol, as well as other drugs, for an even more intense and pleasurable high.

<sup>24</sup> **Isaiah 56:12** In “Getting Better,” the Beatles announce that “it’s getting better all the time.” An optimistic attitude keeps us in alignment with our true self. William James: “Pessimism leads to weakness, optimism to power.”

<sup>25</sup> **Acts 2:13**

<sup>26</sup> **Proverbs 20:1**

“For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither like the green herb.<sup>27</sup> If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is holy, which you are.”<sup>28</sup>

So the steward took away their dainties, and the wine that they should drink, and gave them pulse.<sup>29</sup> He called the porters; and they told it to the king's household within.<sup>30</sup>

The disciples of John told him about all these things.<sup>31</sup> He cried with a loud voice, as a lion roars. When he cried, the seven thunders uttered their voices.<sup>32</sup> “Have we no right to eat and to drink?”<sup>33</sup> For these aren't drunken, as you suppose, seeing it is only the third hour of the day!<sup>34</sup>

“A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes the life glad; and money is the answer for all things.<sup>35</sup> Give strong drink to him who is ready to perish; and wine to the bitter in soul.”<sup>36</sup>

“God said, ‘Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed, which is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree, which bears fruit yielding seed. It will be your food.’<sup>37</sup> Every moving thing that lives will be food for you. As I gave you the green herb, I have given everything to you.”<sup>38</sup>

<sup>27</sup> **Psalm 37:2** [*“Herb” is slang for marijuana*]

<sup>28</sup> **1 Corinthians 3:17** Anonymous Anti-drug slogan: “The only Pot you should be looking for is at the end of the rainbow.”

<sup>29</sup> **Daniel 1:16** “Dainties” are rich, tasty delicacies. “Pulse” is simple, cooked seeds.

<sup>30</sup> **2 Kings 7:11**

<sup>31</sup> **Luke 7:18** Disciples” are followers of a group or an individual

<sup>32</sup> **Revelation 10:3**

<sup>33</sup> **1 Corinthians 9:4**

<sup>34</sup> **Acts 2:15**

<sup>35</sup> **Ecclesiastes 10:19**

<sup>36</sup> **Proverbs 31:6** Frank Sinatra: “Alcohol may be man’s worst enemy, but the Bible says love your enemy.”

<sup>37</sup> **Genesis 1:29** Willie Nelson: “I think people need to be educated to the fact that marijuana is not a drug. Marijuana is an herb and a flower. God put it here. If He put it here and He wants it to grow, what gives the government the right to say that God is wrong?”

<sup>38</sup> **Genesis 9:3** Carl Sagan: “The illegality of cannabis is outrageous, an impediment to full utilization of a drug which helps produce the serenity and insight, sensitivity and fellowship so desperately needed in this increasingly mad and dangerous world.”

“God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.”<sup>39</sup>

Afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the book of the law.<sup>40</sup>

The book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He opened the book, and found the place where it was written,<sup>41</sup> “And behold, joy and gladness, killing cattle and killing sheep, eating flesh and drinking wine: *Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we will die!*”<sup>42</sup>

The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this man!”<sup>43</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and rushed at him with one accord.<sup>44</sup> “He who loves pleasure shall be a poor man. He who loves wine and oil shall not be rich.”<sup>45</sup>

But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you don't know about.”<sup>46</sup> There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and make his soul enjoy good in his labor. This also I saw, that it is from the hand of God.”<sup>47</sup>

<sup>39</sup> **Genesis 1:31** The Buddha: “If we could see the miracle of a single flower clearly, our whole life would change.”

<sup>40</sup> **Joshua 8:34** [*“He” is John*]

<sup>41</sup> **Luke 4:17**

<sup>42</sup> **Isaiah 22:13** “Dig it, dig it, dig It,” John tells us in “Dig It.” His advice is just to enjoy everything.

<sup>43</sup> **John 7:46**

<sup>44</sup> **Acts 7:57**

<sup>45</sup> **Proverbs 21:17**

<sup>46</sup> **John 4:32** [*“He” is John*]

<sup>47</sup> **Ecclesiastes 2:24** John once said: “I’ve always needed a drug to survive.” Drugs, mainly speed, marijuana, and LSD, had a big influence on the Beatles music, philosophy and lifestyle. And in turn, their use and implicit endorsement of those same drugs, especially marijuana and LSD, affected society itself. Before the Sixties were over, the influence of drugs was everywhere.

Even the interest in new and different spiritual practices that began during this period was inspired in part by the use of mind altering drugs. Robin Richman wrote in *Life Magazine*: “In many ways the counterculture was about altered states of consciousness, which really meant drugs. That led to a number of changes in the sixties.”

He told them a parable. "See the fig tree, and all the trees."<sup>48</sup> The trees said to the vine, "Come and reign over us."<sup>49</sup> The vine said to them, "Should I leave my new wine, which cheers God and man, and go to wave back and forth over the trees?"<sup>50</sup>

"Go your way--eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart; for God has already accepted your works."<sup>51</sup>

He received a cup, and when he had given thanks, he said, "Take this, and share it among yourselves."<sup>52</sup> Be no longer a drinker of water only, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities."<sup>53</sup>

He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave to them, saying, "All of you drink it."<sup>54</sup> Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God!"<sup>55</sup>

Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for today is holy to our Lord. Don't be grieved; for the joy of Yahweh is your strength."<sup>56</sup>

"Let us lift up our heart with our hands to God in the heavens."<sup>57</sup> Oh clap your hands, all you nations. Shout to God with the voice of triumph!"<sup>58</sup>

<sup>48</sup> **Luke 21:29**

<sup>49</sup> **Judges 9:12**

<sup>50</sup> **Judges 9:13**

<sup>51</sup> **Ecclesiastes 9:7**

<sup>52</sup> **Luke 22:17** "Take a drink from his special cup," John recommends in "Doctor Robert." "Doctor Robert" was an actual physician practicing in Manhattan who gave injections of speed to his affluent clients. The Doctor "helps you to understand." His prescriptions "pick you up," make you "a new and better man," and leave you "feeling fine."

<sup>53</sup> **1 Timothy 5:23**

<sup>54</sup> **Matthew 26:27**

<sup>55</sup> **1 Corinthians 10:31**

<sup>56</sup> **Nehemiah 8:10** All of the Beatles experimented with LSD.

[John] "God isn't in a pill, but LSD explained the mystery of life. It was a religious experience." [Paul] "I don't recommend it. It can open a few doors, but it's not any answer. You go out and get the answers yourself." [George] "LSD isn't a real answer. It doesn't give you anything. It enables you to see a lot of possibilities that you may never have noticed before, but it isn't the answer." [Ringo] "I think it was very important at the time. I'm glad I took it. I don't ask anyone else to take it because I took it- because that's the problem we have."

<sup>57</sup> **Lamentations 3:41**

<sup>58</sup> **Psalms 47:1**