



Museum and Gallery
Saratoga Springs, NY

the Soulwinner

January 19, 2013

ISSUE 17

ONE SOUL AT A TIME

Mark 15:16 — King James Version 1611

Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature

Promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Inner City

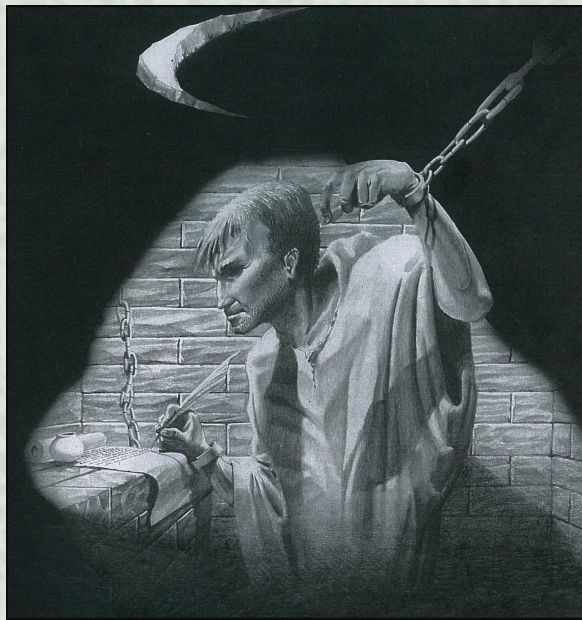
Illustration, photography, graphic design and journalism by Jim Robinson

Most all pictures link

Past Issues of *The Soulwinner* can be obtained from jrartworks.org

Persecution Today for the Cause of Christ People Being Punished for Their Faith

The Soulwinner Newsletter has mentioned many times about the suffering of Christians in history, much of which qualified a blessing on America and other countries who refused to recant their savior to a higher pagan authority. But the same persecution is still in effect today, mostly in the form of imprisonment, for citizens of countries where there are no religious freedoms. Persecution.com is a website that features many people who are currently suffering for the cause of Christ, from imprisonment to utter abuse. In over 40 nations worldwide people are being imprisoned, tortured and killed for their faith in Jesus Christ, but they continue to be a testimony for Him.



Paul Writing In Bonds, pencil by Jim Robinson. All throughout history and even into our modern day, Christians have been imprisoned and persecuted for their beliefs. [Order print.](#)

Many of the apostles of Jesus Christ were persecuted and killed after Jesus rose from the dead and the church was forming. Bartholomew was beheaded. James the son of Alphaeus was possibly crucified. Andrew died by crucifixion. Peter died by crucifixion. Thomas was killed with a spear. James the son of Zebedee was beheaded. Philip was martyred in an unknown way. Matthew was killed with a spear. Thaddeus may have been crucified. Simon was killed by crucifixion (from [about-jesus.org](#)). It was the Jews and Romans who killed them, many times it was because of the rising of the church and the prosperity of Jesus' resurrection.

That same pattern has been carried down through the centuries until the present day. In many nations people are today being imprisoned for their fervent faith

and they are not recanting their belief to get out of prison. In many Islamic countries, the national leadership is opposed to Christianity and Judaism and they consider it a federal offence to practice Christianity. You can see one man's example from the *Voice of the Martyrs* at [Prisoner Alert—Farshid Fathi](#).

You would be surprised to find that even here in America our faith is in jeopardy. As our country depends more and more on the secular humanist philosophy, America is increasingly opposing Christianity calling it a fanatic fundamentalist regime. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to give the gospel on the streets and in public places. See worthynews.com.



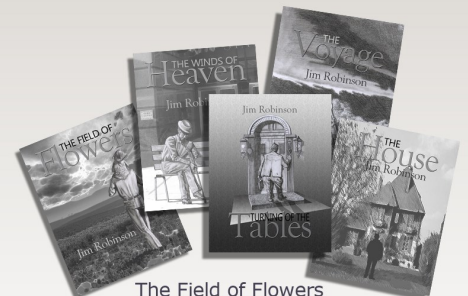
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by Jim Robinson

The Door to Sambucca



Daniel & Revelation
John & Romans
Psalms & Proverbs



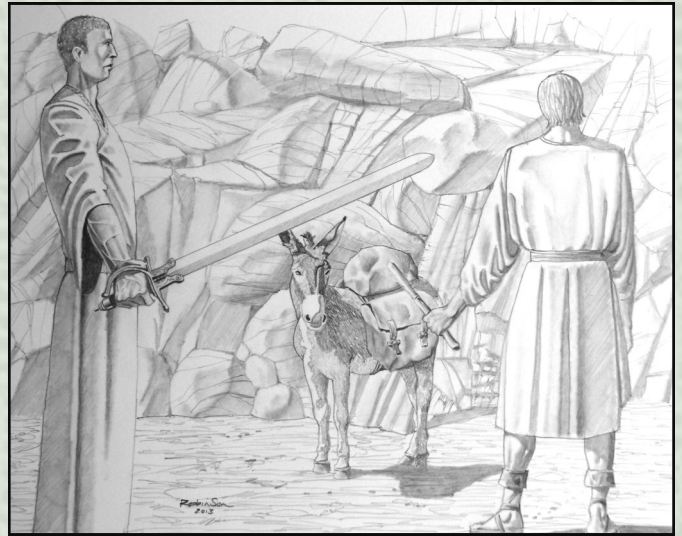
The Field of Flowers
The Winds of Heaven
Turning of the Tables
The Voyage, The House

The Subtlety of Balaam A False Prophet Shows His Colors

In [Numbers 22:1-20](#), the King of Moab named Balak wanted to use God's prophet to curse God's people because they were his enemies. Balak had heard of the conquering of Sihon and Bashan by Moses and his people and Balaam was chosen by Balak to curse God's people. Balaam, however, was one of God's people. How then could Balaam bring himself to a curse?

As we read on in [Numbers 22:21-35](#), we see that Balaam insisted on entertaining the wicked Balak's offer for status and riches just to have a conversation with him. But Balaam knew that Balak was God's enemy. Nonetheless he took a journey with his ass (donkey) and two servants to see Balak, and God sent an angel to stand in the way. Balaam's ass saw the angel but Balaam did not see him, and his ass tried to warn him by refusing to carry on. Balaam then hit the ass three times with a rod, and God opened the tongue of the ass so that it spoke to Balaam, asking him why he kept hitting her after she had been so dedicated to him all these years. Then Balaam's eyes were opened and he saw the angel. He repented to the angel of his desire to follow after Balak, but God instructed him to carry on to Balak regardless and to say the things He told him.

Balaam's disobedience in [Numbers 22:36-41](#) and [Numbers Chapters 23-24](#) was complicated all the more with the sacrificing of bullocks to impress Balak, and Balaam persistently came back to



Balaam Halted by the Angel, pencil by Jim Robinson. Balaam's donkey could see an angel that Balaam could not see, and the donkey spoke up to warn him.

God to ask him whether or not he should curse the children of Israel. And Balaam gave a complete prophecy as a result.

Balaam was never spoken of highly by other prophets of the Bible, and he was later executed for his persistence to chide with God concerning a curse on God's people.

Lot's Wife Looking Back at What She Lost

When Lot was traveling with his uncle Abraham, the great patriarch, they came upon a quarrel between their herdsmen. Abraham thought it best for them to part ways than to have the dissention, so Lot chose the well-watered plains of Sodom and headed that direction. Lot then settled in Sodom with his family, which is quite surprising considering that Sodom was a city given over to the deviance of homosexuality. As a result, Lot became comfortable there, but day by day he lived with the sin of the inhabitants. ([Genesis 18:16-33](#)).

God had determined that Sodom was all over wicked, and He decided to destroy it with fire and brimstone to be rained down from Heaven. It was at a point where the angels had to *pull Lot away from Sodom* along with his wife and daughters. Then God rained down fire and brimstone on Sodom, the neighboring city of Gomorrah, and surrounding cities. The result was a burning furnace that completely destroyed all the cities. Lot was told not to look back on the city as he was escaping it, but his wife turned around to see it and became a pillar of salt ([Genesis 19:1-29](#)). But, as it was in the days of Noah, purging homosexuality from the land in Abraham's day did not stop it from coming back today.

Lot's wife may have become so accustomed to the pleasures of the wealthy city of Sodom that she felt she was losing something. Lot likewise did not want to leave. When we become so involved in a world where other people sin, it can affect us and change our mind, and sometimes we can become like them. Lot's greatest error was in heading towards Sodom in the first place when he knew how wicked the city was, but the Bible says furthermore that *he stood at the gate of the city* which means Lot was a leader in Sodom.



Lot's Wife, color pencil by Jim Robinson. Lot's Wife was curious enough to look back on the brimstone destroying Sodom, even after God commanded her not to. She turned into a pillar of salt. [Order print.](#)