



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

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“Spectacle: A Triumph of God’s Glory”

In the process of research for the next MCM World Missions trip, I was looking at cities, especially megacities. At the same time, I have been teaching a series, *The Just Shall Live by Faith*. Currently, we are in Habakkuk 2.

According to Habakkuk 2:12, a city represents the final fruition of mankind’s efforts to “subdue the earth.” The city brings together all kinds of resources and diverse individuals. People speak of the energy of the city, the creativity inspired, the palpable power in the air, etc.

Cain built the first city and dedicated it to his son (Gen. 4:17). Nimrod built an empire on the basis of his strength and ability to enslave others. He was the founder of the most ancient Babylon, a mighty hunter in the earth, and a powerful city builder. (Gen 10:8-12) At Babel (Gen. 11:4) people got together to lift up a gateway to God, a monument to man’s ability to reach God his own way. The city of Sodom was judged with the consuming fire of God (Gen 13:10; 19:24, 25). Egypt enslaved God’s own people in its great city. (Exodus 1:11).

However, in the third proverbial byword of Habakkuk 2:12-14, referencing the Chaldeans (Babylon), it is, “Woe to the one who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town with violence.” Justify as one might want, the end is fire and vanity. Fire from the LORD went before Israel, destroying all its enemies (Deut. 9:3) See also: Is 1:7; Amos 2:5; Is 66:15; 2 Peter 3:10.

A characteristic of cities and megacities is “spectacle.” New York City, for example, is called the city of miracles. People want to come to cities. Monuments unify the people. Great statues form the city’s identity, like the Statue of Liberty which symbolizes freedom and which is patterned after the Colossus of Rhodes (4th century B. C.). The challenge of survival necessitates creativity, like providing water to the over 9 million people of NYC, and the aqueducts of Rome being an engineering feat that meant fresh water and even water flowing uphill. In Samos, men bore a channel through a mountain to show they could defeat the mountain.

Maps of the skies in the ground birthed megacities. Being able to tell time by means of inventions like sundials, water clocks, positioning great stones, etc. are linchpins of every city. NYC has Times Square, where people gather to bring in the New Year. Understanding and measuring time means being able to synchronize life and mark events connected to birth, death, fertility, crop cycles, wars, journeys, seasons, navigation, etc. Mastering time and astronomy, the heavens, allowed arranging our lives. People could measure their days.

So teach us to number our days,
that we might apply our hearts unto wisdom. Psalm 90:12

From the beginning the power struggle loomed. The Elite became power brokers. The empire builders sought control over the populace. The desire to subjugate led to using devices like mythical forms of sorcery, entertainment to keep people preoccupied with “bread and circuses.” Spectacle glorifying man includes monuments, arenas, skyscrapers, memorials of pride, statues of the “great,” “light” shows, massive architectural structures, parades [parade of defeat or victory], great art exhibits, etc. All this meant building stadiums, arenas, using media and public relations, bribery, games, whatever means possible to rise in popularity and acclaim, because popularity meant power. Bloodsport, bloody battles, violence, savagery, all increase as people’s appetites cannot be satiated. So “spectacles” have to be bigger, bloodier, and bolder.

Look at the English definition of “spectacle.”

- a. a visibly striking performance or display b. an event or scene regarded in terms of its visual impact
- synonyms: display, show, pageant, parade, performance, exhibition, extravaganza

Look at the NT Greek definition of “spectacle.”

Cognate: 2302 *théatron* (the root of the English term, "theatre") – a theatre; a place for public exhibition; (figuratively) the *public display of putting someone "on exhibit"* to be mocked at as a *spectacle*

[1 Corinthians 4:9](#) For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.
[Hebrews 10:33](#) partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers [companions] with those who were so treated. Hebrews 10:30-35.

Man has his spectacle, glorifying his greatness, his prowess, his accomplishments, the things of his pride. The Living God has His.

And having spoiled principalities and powers,
He made a public spectacle of them,
triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:15

The Father sent Jesus on a mission with a message. It meant salvation to some and doom to others. Jesus came in humility, riding into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. His splendor came from His glory within, for Jesus Christ is the God-Man, the Word made flesh dwelling among us. In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. At the point of His death on the Cross the spectacle intensified. Jesus endured suffering, mocking, temptations, the cackling glee of the kingdom of darkness. He endured the Cross, despising its shame. But then He turned captivity captive. Darkness covered the land, the sun darkened, the veil of the temple rent from top to bottom, the earth quaked, rocks were rent, graves were opened; people witnessed the rising of many dead. None of Jesus' bones were broken, and out of His side, pierced by a spear, came blood and water.

In this First Appearing, Jesus came in grace, to save. As the veil of His body was rent, the glory burst forth. The Cross, an instrument of death, becomes the instrument of triumph, the place where "it is finished." Calvary, outside the city gate, is the place of Christ, the Anointed One, the Elect One, accomplishing all that was necessary and sufficient as Surety of the Covenant, as the only Mediator between God and man, as Savior and LORD, as sin-bearer, curse-bearer, bearer of the wrath of God, and bearer of the Glory. Only Jesus satisfies.

Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood,
Suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto Him
Without the camp, bearing His reproach. Hebrews 13:12, 13

Jesus did this that His own might be reconciled to God, that His own might be redeemed, restored, that by the sacrifice of Himself His own would be forgiven with debt and liability cancelled and the penalty of the Law paid. The wrath of God came on Him and kept coming until He propitiated that wrath, that agony of the Father's rejected love. The devil had his day as all the kingdom of darkness aimed full force against Jesus Christ, but Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil and to render the devil powerless legally and judicially. It was a public spectacle the likes of which heaven and earth had not seen.

Was it accepted by His Father? The answer to that lies three days hence as the love of the Father and the Holy Spirit and the energy of that love raised Jesus from the dead. Death could not hold Jesus, for He had no personal sin. What He did, He did for His own. Thus, those who are born from above, born-out-of-God ones, find themselves adopted into the Family of God, their lives transformed as testimony of the magnitude of God's grace and love. While we were yet sinners, while we were enmity with God, Christ died for us. He died, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. He was put to death in the flesh but raised in the Spirit. For you see, all of salvation is about getting back to the Father.

Yet another public display is coming. The Second Appearing of Jesus Christ will be a spectacle. This time the kingdom will come in glory and in great power. And when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth? For the Word of God tells us: the knowledge of God will spread such that the boundaries are universal...like the waters covering the sea, like the filling of the earth... the glory of Yahweh, the knowledge of Yahweh, the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh.

Behold the spectacle of Jesus Christ. Behold the God of your salvation. And rejoice in Him.

Just the Messenger,

Mary Craig

Mary Craig, D. Min.

Behold, He comes with clouds;
and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him:
and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him.
Even so, Amen. Revelation 1:7

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