

THE APPLE OF HIS EYE — ZECH. 2:8, (read vs. 6-12)
 "HE THAT TOUCHES YOU TOUCHES THE APPLE OF HIS EYE."

INTRODUCTION:

OTHER SIMILAR EXPRESSIONS,

FLOWER OF THE FLOCK,

CREAM OF THE CROP,

ONE IN A THOUSAND,

WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD.

*to the pupil of the eye —
 the most precious part*

I. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PHRASE.

(IT IS FOUND 5 TIMES IN THE BIBLE)

1. IT EXPRESSES SUPREME APPROVAL

A. PS. 149:4, THE LORD TAKETH PLEASURE IN HIS PEOPLE.

B. MT. 3:17, THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED.

C. 1 JN. 3:22, WHATSOEVER WE ASK WE RECEIVE OF HIM, BECAUSE

WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS,

AND DO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT.

2. IT IS AN EXPRESSION OF INTIMATE ATTACHMENT.

A. HE WHO TOUCHES YOU TOUCHES THE APPLE OF HIS EYE.

B. ACTS 9:4, WHY PERSECUTEST THOU ME?

C. 1 SAM. 18:1, THERE SOUL OF JONATHAN WAS KNIT WITH THE SOUL OF DAVID, AND JON. LOVED HIM AS HIS OWN SOUL.

D. PROV. 18:24, THERE IS A FRIEND THAT STICKETH CLOSER THAN

A BROTHER.

E. HE THAT IS JOINED UNTO THE LORD IS ONE SPIRIT, 1 COR. 6:17.

(1). THE MARRIAGE UNION

(2). SEE MT. 19:6, WHAT THEREFORE GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER,

LET NO MAN PUT ASUNDER.

(3). WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST? ROM. 8:35

3. IT EXPRESSES AFFECTIONATE ADMIRATION.

A. IF YOU SEE SOMEONE AS THE APPLE OF YOUR EYE,

IT IS NOT BECAUSE OF THEIR LOVE FOR YOU,

BUT BECAUSE OF YOUR LOVE FOR THEM.

B. GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS EXCELLENT, PS. 36:7.

(1). IT IS STRONGER THAN DEATH. S. OF S. 806

(2). IT IS STRONGER THAN THE FLOODWATERS OF ADVERSITY, V. 7

(3). IT IS "WONDERFUL, PASSING THE LOVE OF WOMEN", 2 SAM. 1:26

(4). IT IS MORE ENDURING THAN TIME; IT IS EVERLASTING, JER. 33:3

(5). IT IS INFINITE IN ITS EXPRESSION, JN. 3:16

(Illustration: the substitute)

II. WHO IS THE APPLE OF HIS (GOD'S) EYE?

1. ISRAEL.

A. ZION, THAT DWELLEST WITH THE DAUGHTER OF BABYLON, V. 7.

B. EVIDENCES OF GOD'S LOVE AND CARE FOR ISRAEL.

(1). DEUT. 32:10, "HE FOUND HIM IN A DESERT LAND, AND IN A WASTE HOWLING WILDERNESS; HE LED HIM ABOUT,

HE INSTRUCTED HIM, AND KEPT HIM AS THE APPLE OF HIS EYE."

(2). SEE ISA. 62:3, THOU SHALT BE A CROWN OF GLORY IN THE HAND OF THE LORD, AND A ROYAL DIADEM IN THE HAND OF THY GOD

2. JESUS IS IN A VERY REAL SENSE, "THE APPLE OF GOD'S EYE."

A. MT. 3:17, MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED.

B. PS. 22:20, DELIVER MY SOUL FROM THE SWORD; MY DARLING (ONLY ONE) FROM THE POWER OF THE DOG.

3. THE CHURCH IS THE APPLE OF GOD'S EYE.

A. THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT,

MT. 16:18

B. CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR IT. EPH. 5:25

C. THAT HE MIGHT PRESENT IT TO HIMSELF A GLORIOUS CHURCH, V. 27

4. THE CHRISTIAN BELIEVER IS THE APPLE OF GOD'S EYE.

A. MAL. 3:17, THEY SHALL BE MINE, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS, IN THAT DAY WHEN I MAKE UP MY JEWELS.

III. WHY IS THE CHRISTIAN THE APPLE OF GOD'S EYE?

A 1. BECAUSE HE SEES US NOT IN OURSELVES, BUT IN CHRIST.

B 2. BECAUSE WE ARE SO NOT FOR OUR OWN SAKE, BUT FOR CHRIST'S SAKE.

C 3. BECAUSE IT IS HIS PURPOSE TO REVEAL HIS OWN GLORY IN AND THROUGH THE BELIEVER.

D 4. HE LOVES US, NOT PRIMARILY BECAUSE WE ARE SO LOVABLE, BUT BECAUSE IT IS HIS DIVINE NATURE TO LOVE.

IV. WHAT GOD DOES FOR THE APPLE OF HIS EYE.

A 1. HE PROTECTS US FROM OUR OPPRESSORS. PS. 17:8

B 2. HE CARES FOR OUR NEEDS, 1 KINGS 17:14, THE BARREL OF MEAL SHALL NOT WASTE, NEITHER SHALL THE CRUSE OF OIL FAIL.

PHIL. 4:19, MY GOD SHALL SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEEDS.

C 3. HE MAKES ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR OUR GOOD. ROM. 8:28.

V. THE DUTY OF THE ONE WHO IS THE APPLE OF GOD'S EYE IS

TO KEEP GOD'S LAW AS THE APPLE OF HIS EYE, PROV. 7:2

4. M. 5/1/55

DE SUNFLOWER AIN'T DE DAISY,
AN' DE MELON AIN'T DE ROSE;
WHY IS DEY ALL SO CRAZY
TO BE SUMFIN' ELSE DAT GROWS?
JES' STICK TO DE PLACE YO'RE PLANTED
AN' DO DE BES' YO KNOWS:
DE SUNFLOWER OR DE DAISY,
DE MELON OR DE ROSE.

DON'T BE WHAT YO' AIN'T;
JES' BE WHAT YO' IS;
IF YO' AM NOT WHAT YO' ARE,
DEN YO' IS NOT WHAT YO' IS.

IF YO'RE JES' A LITTLE TADPOLE,
DON'T YO TRY TO BE A FROG;
IF YO' ARE DE TAIL,
DON'T YO' TRY TO WAG DE DOG!
PASS DE PLATE
IF YO' CAN'T EXHAWT AN' PREACH;
IF YO'RE JES' A LITTLE PEBBLE,
DON'T YO' TRY TO BE DE BEACH.

WHEN A MAN IS WHAT HE ISN'T
DEN HE ISN'T WHAT HE IS;
AN' AS SURE AS I'M A-TALKIN'
HE'S A-QWINE TO GET HIS!"