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## **“THE FEET OF GOD”**

### **Revelation 1:15**

***“His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace.”***

The study of human feet is called “podiatry.” Let us study Divine Podiatry that we might know God more fully and serve Him more faithfully.

When the Lord Jesus appeared to John on the Isle of Patmos, John wrote the most exhaustive pen portrait of Jesus’ appearance that we have. He said, *“His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace.”* (Rev. 1:14-15)

This is similar to the vision of the Lord that Daniel had: *“I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.”* (Daniel 10:4-6)

Many are the scriptures that speak of the “feet of God.” What lessons can we learn about God by considering His feet? In order to grasp the big picture of how God’s feet are referenced in Scripture, the passages are divided as follows:

### **GOD’S FEET AND HIS FOOTSTOOL**

There are 15 Scripture references to the term “footstool” and they are classified as both literal and figurative. Basically, the footstool is a footrest and the reference is to that upon which the feet of a king rested when he sat on his throne or chair of state. When this term is used in reference to God it sends several different messages:

#### **God’s Footstool Reveals His Deity.**

*“Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His footstool - He is holy.”* (Psalm 99:5)

The truth that God is “holy” is a reason for prostration and deepest humility before Him. In John’s vision of the Throne Room in heaven he writes that before the Throne of God, the creatures *“do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”* (Revelation 4:8) Heaven recognizes His deity if earth doesn’t!

#### **God’s Footstool Reveals His Majesty.**

*“Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His footstool - He is holy.”* (Psalm 99:5)

Look again at this verse - *“worship at his footstool.”* To worship at His footstool denotes the profoundest admiration and reverence for His majesty. Samuel Stennett’s hymn extols Him:

“Majestic sweetness sits enthroned  
Upon the Savior’s brow;  
His head with radiant glories crowned,  
His lips with grace o’erflow,  
His lips with grace o’erflow.

No mortal can with Him compare  
Among the sons of men;  
Fairer is He than all the fair  
Who fill the heav’nly train,  
Who fill the heav’nly train.”

### **God’s Footstool Reveals That He is Mighty.**

*“Thus says the LORD: ‘Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool.’”* (Isa.66:1; Matt.5:35)

The phrase, *“the earth is My footstool,”* when applied to the earth, shows how small it is when compared with God. To show the greatness of God, the earth is represented as being merely His footrest. Think on the immensity of God, who pictures Heaven as His throne and the earth as a place to put His feet! He is the God of the infinite. Eternity designates His infinity in relation to time and immensity designates His infinity in relation to space.

Jesus had this passage in mind in the Sermon on The Mount when He said, *“Swear not at all; neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool.”* (Matt. 5:34-35)

What a mighty God we have! To sit on His throne in the heavens and rest His feet upon the earth helps us to comprehend somewhat His greatness. Indeed, *“Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.”* (Psalm 145:3) However, He is not too big for the smallest problem the humblest person faces.

### **God’s Footstool Reveals His Victory.**

*“The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”* (Psalm 110:1)

The *“right hand”* in Scripture speaks of the position of honor. Luke 22:69 states, *“Hereafter shall the Son of Man sit on the right hand of the power of God.”* In that position, His enemies will become His footstool. It was the custom of ancient conquerors to place their foot upon the necks of their conquered enemies. (Joshua 10:24) Here, King Jesus is seen with His enemies beneath His feet. That day will come! *“For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.”* (1 Cor. 15:25)

The preceding verses declare: *“As in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.”* (1 Cor. 15:22-26)

The resurrected King Jesus is the Reigning Monarch in this passage. He is our God, Savior and King! Let us bow before Him, worship and adore Him, for what a mighty God we serve!

### GOD'S FEET AND HIS FOOTSTEPS

There are several biblical scenes in which God is pictured as walking. Each scene is instructive as we seek to know God better. We begin by going all the way back to the Book of Beginnings, Genesis, and learn a vital lesson about God from His footsteps in the Garden of Eden.

#### God's Footsteps Denote His Pursuit.

*"When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?'" (Genesis 3:6-9)*

Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden fruit. In the context of the cause and consequences of that sin we have an amazing expression about God: Adam and Eve *"heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves...."*

Picture that earthly paradise where flowers never faded, nothing ever died and where innocence had never been violated. One morning dawned with dazzling brightness and comforting warmth. Wafting on the gentle wind was a cacophony of bird songs and a plethora of sweet smelling aromas. Nothing had ever threatened the perfect environment into which a man and his wife had been placed by the Creator of this pristine place. However, this day was to end as no other day had ever ended.

Into this picture perfect paradise slithered that Old Serpent, Satan and before the day was over all would change and nothing would ever be the same again. Yielding to the temptation that Satan dangled before them, Adam and Eve violated God's prohibition and immediately introduced into the human gene the deadly virus of sin.

And then, what they feared became reality: God came calling! They heard His footsteps *"walking in the garden in the cool of the day."* Every footfall brought Him nearer. Fear drove them to attempt to avoid the Eternal Inevitable, but the footfalls followed them. Dread gripped their souls. The sound of the Walking God who had provided all that they ever enjoyed grew closer. That sound, the sound of the steps of the Almighty One they could not endure. They hid but their hiding place was discovered by the eyes of omniscience. They attempted a "cover up" but God saw through that, confronted them with their sin and expelled them from Paradise - Paradise lost!

In 1893, the English poet Francis Thompson, wrote a 183 line poem titled, "The Hound of

Heaven." The name is strange. It startles one at first. It is so bold, so new, so fearless. It does not attract, rather the reverse. But when one reads the poem this strangeness disappears. God is portrayed as relentlessly following the fleeing soul in a never ending pursuit. The first few lines of the poem are as follows:

*"I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;  
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;  
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways  
Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears I hid from Him..."*

Andrea Wolfe, on staff with the CoMission office in Raleigh, North Carolina tells the following story:

In the 1930's Stalin ordered a purge of all Bibles and all believers. In Stavropol, Russia, this order was carried out with vengeance. Thousands of Bibles were confiscated, and multitudes of believers were sent to the prison camps where most died, unjustly condemned as "enemies of the state."

The CoMission once sent a team to Stavropol. The city's history wasn't known at that time. But when the team was having difficulty getting Bibles shipped from Moscow, someone mentioned the existence of a warehouse outside of town where these confiscated Bibles had been stored since Stalin's day.

After the team had prayed extensively, one member finally mustered up the courage to go to the warehouse and ask the officials if the Bibles were still there. Sure enough, they were. Then the CoMissioners asked if the Bibles could be removed and distributed again to the people of Stavropol. The answer was "Yes!"

The next day the CoMission team returned with a truck and several Russian people to help load the Bibles. One helper was a young man, a skeptical, hostile agnostic collegian who had come only for the day's wages. As they were loading Bibles, one team member noticed that the young man had disappeared. Eventually they found him in a corner of the warehouse, weeping.

He had slipped away hoping to take a Bible for himself. What he did not know was that he was being pursued by the "Hound of Heaven." What he found shook him to the core. The inside page of the Bible he picked up had the handwritten signature of his own grandmother. It had been her personal Bible. Out of the thousands of Bibles still left in that warehouse, he stole the very one belonging to his grandmother, a woman who throughout her entire life was persecuted for her faith.

No wonder he was weeping! God had powerfully and yet tenderly made Himself known to this young man. Such was his divinely appointed meeting with the sovereign Lord of the universe, the "Hound of Heaven" who had tracked him down to that very warehouse! Remember Jeremiah's words: *"Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the Lord. 'Do not I fill both heaven and earth?' declares the Lord."* (Jer. 23:24)

Since God's walk *"in the garden in the cool of the day"* that evening long ago, He continues to tread on the trail of Adam and Eve's offsprings to bring them back to Himself and that Paradise yet future. Listen to His footsteps and do not run from Him but run to Him for salvation. Paradise was lost in the past but Paradise will be restored in the future!

### **God's Footsteps Describe His Punishment.**

Several Scriptures convey in very vivid language the punishment that God meets out upon His enemies. One of the symbolisms used is that of the winepress. A winepress is a device used to extract juice from crushed grapes. Absent modern machinery, the grapes were crushed in a vat by persons walking about in the winepress and with their feet they crushed the grapes. The feet and even the clothing of those walking in the winepress were stained by the juice. This is the process pictured in Isaiah 63 where we read:

*"I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury...."* (Isaiah 63:3) *"I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth."* (Isaiah 63:6)

The winepress is a symbol of the wrath of God and the wicked are analogous to clusters of grapes. The winepress into which they are cast is trampled, prophetically, by Christ. The picture here is one of the foes of God being crushed.

Hebrews 10:31 says, *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."* It is also a fearful thing to fall under the feet of the living God! A "harsh" statement? Yes! True? Yes! There is coming a day when The Crucified will be justified; when the vilified will be vindicated! Zechariah records the day as follows: *"Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west."* (Zech. 14:3-4)

Oh, sinner, flee from the wrath to come! Be not among those who fall under the wrath of God, accept His offer of pardon! *"Come now, and let us reason together,"* says the LORD, *"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword";* for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." (Isaiah 1:18-20)

*"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;  
His truth is marching on.*

*Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on."*

- Julia W. Howe

### **God's Footsteps Demonstrate His Power.**

Let us go back to the beginning and begin there: *"In the beginning God created the heavens*

*and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:1-2)*

Now let us fast-forward to the New Testament days when the Creator, in the flesh, walked among men. The disciples were on a boating outing on the Sea of Galilee and, *“In the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” (Matt. 14:25-27)*

He who created the waters in the seas walks upon these waters. Nature’s God proves that He is the God over nature and walks upon water more easily than humans walk on dry earth! In so doing He demonstrated His power over nature.

*“God moves in a mysterious way,  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea,  
And rides upon the storm.”*

- Wm. Cowper

### **God’s Footsteps Deliver His Purpose.**

*“And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.” (Mark 1:16-20)*

Jesus’ purpose in coming from the throne in heaven to the throngs on earth was, as He said to Zacchaeus, *“to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10)* As He walked along the shore of the Galilee Sea He enlisted Peter, Andrew, James and John to be *“fishers of men.”* His purpose for His church today is the same! His followers in every age are to be fishers of those yet in the sea of sin. We are to find them, fetch them and feed them! Are you purposefully pursuing the purpose for which Christ came?

## **GOD’S FEET AND HIS FOOTSOLDIERS**

Many are the references to the army of saints who knelt at the feet of the Captain of their salvation. Some of the more well known instances are as follows:

### **At His Feet Listening.**

*“Yes, He loves the people; all His saints are in Your hand; they sit down at Your feet; everyone receives Your words.” (Deuteronomy 33:3)*

*“Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.” (Luke 10:38-39)*

“Sitting at the feet of Jesus,  
Oh, what words I hear Him say!  
Happy place! so near, so precious!  
May it find me there each day.  
Sitting at the feet of Jesus,  
I would look upon the past;  
For His love has been so gracious,  
It has won my heart at last.”

- Asa Hull, music

### **At His Feet Petitioning.**

*“And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.” (Mark 5:22-23)*

### **At His Feet Worshiping.**

*“So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.” (Matt. 28:9)*

*“And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.” (Luke 7:37-38)*

On the Isle of Patmos, John saw Jesus and said, *“His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.” (Rev. 1:15-18.*

### **At His Feet Thanking.**

Only one of the ten lepers healed by Jesus was grateful and, *“When he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks.” (Luke 17:15-16)*

The bodily posture of which the Lord Jesus is worthy, is the posture of prostration at His feet. In every throne-room scene in heaven beings are at God’s feet. *“Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: “ You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”(Rev. 4:9-11)*

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## CONCLUSION

Let us bow at His footstool, follow in His footsteps and serve as His footsoldiers!

I repeat that which I said at the outset of our study in this series: “We must not miss the point of this study and that is that we get to know God better, not just know more about Him as an academic exercise, but to know Him intimately.” In studying “The Feet of God”, I trust that all of us know Him better, serve Him more willingly and are found kneeling at His feet in adoration and worship.

John Dillinger was a terrible criminal. One evening outside a theatre in Chicago he was gunned down. In one of the Chicago newspapers a most unusual picture appeared – only the feet of the dead Dillinger showed. The caption under the picture was brief: “These are the feet of John Dillinger!” The editorial comment was heart-searching: “Who knows where these feet might have gone if someone had guided them aright?”

My personal testimony is that I thank the dear Lord for Christian parents who taught and lived the truth before me and guided my feet aright! I can say, *“He brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps.”* (Psalm 40:2)

May you do as the psalm writer did who said: *“I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies.”* (Psalm 119:59) The person who chooses to walk in the footsteps of the Savior, *“Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.”* (Psalm 85:13)

It is my prayer that this study will be heeded by someone, and that they will fall at Jesus’ feet in praise before they are forced to fall under His feet as punishment!