

THE COVENANT VISION

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**“Heaven and earth shall pass away:
but My words shall not pass away.”**

THE COVENANT VISION.

Editor: F.W.Dowsett.

In presenting this little magazine, it is not our intention to start up another organisation. Our only purpose is to present the Word of God in its fullness as we feel God has revealed it to us, in order that the God of our Fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob may be glorified.

It is our firm conviction that we are living in the very last days prior to the return and appearing of our Great God and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are also convinced that never before in the history of our nation and people has there been such a need for the "Watchmen in Israel" to 'sound the alarm' in order to awaken God's People to the urgent need to repent, and to return to God with all their hearts, and with all their minds, and with all their strength.

Denominational doctrines and differences are not our concern, and it is not our intention to enter into such arguments. There is not enough time left that we can afford to waste it on such unproductive, and indeed destructive exercises. We are concerned ONLY with what the Word of God says and teaches.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for all people to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour as the only means to Eternal Life.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people to recognise their inheritance, and their responsibility, as the literal descendants of God's people Israel.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for all who would faithfully serve God to 'receive the Power from on high'

(continued on inside back cover.)

Editorial

In Proverbs 22:6 we are told;

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he shall not depart from it."

The great majority of Christians today are completely unconcerned at the heathen origin of so much of what is taught and accepted as 'Christian doctrine'. For centuries our children have been brainwashed with unscriptural practices and customs, so that today they will not depart from them. It seems that most Christians would rather jump over a cliff than give up their precious customs, despite the number of times they have been warned and shown the truth. Over the years, numerous Christian teachers of God's Word in widely diversified fields of Christian service, have been led by the Spirit of God to warn His people of their sins in continuing to contaminate "the faith once delivered to the saints" with evil pagan customs. But to very little avail.

Truly has God spoken to His people through the prophet Jeremiah; (Jer.5:25-31).

"Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you. For among my people are found wicked men. They lay wait, as he that setteth snares. They set a trap. They catch men. As a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit. Therefore they are become great and waxen rich. . . .

Shall I not visit for these things, saith the Lord? Shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land. The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means.

And my people love to have it so.

And what will ye do in the end thereof?"

Yes, WE LOVE TO HAVE IT SO. What would our families think if we stopped participating in these practices? How embarrassing it would be. And what would our friends think? We would be branded as 'religious cranks', and they wouldn't want to visit us any more, or invite us to their homes. Look at all the good fun we would miss. But worse still, what about the children? How on earth would we explain to them that there wouldn't be any more Santa Claus, or Christmas trees, or fancy decorations, and masks, and easter eggs, and easter bunnies? We couldn't possibly do THAT to the children. We couldn't possibly destroy so much fun and pleasure.

So we train them in the ways of the heathen, and then wonder why they don't grow up to walk in the ways of the Lord. We have sown the wind, and we are certainly reaping the whirlwind.

Many, in reply to the above have said, "Yes, we know the heathen background to most of these customs, but we are not celebrating these heathen aspects. We are applying the 'spirit' of these customs to our faith. It is the spirit of what we do that counts."

Well now! Is that so! My Bible tells me quite clearly that we must worship God not only in spirit, but in TRUTH. So having chosen to worship God in error, then the 'spirit' in which we worship God must be a 'spirit of error or evil'. God has no part in this. We thus offend and insult the Majesty of the God of Israel.

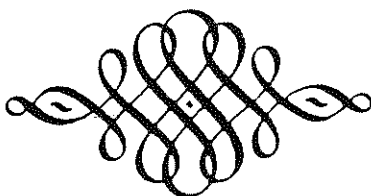
In these very last days, God is calling and separating to Himself a special remnant of His people who will receive the prize of the high calling of God in

Christ, those who are to be summoned to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, preparatory to becoming Priests and Rulers with Christ over His Kingdom. Those who are to be heirs of God, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

These shall not be chosen from those who deliberately and willfully flout and compromise His Sacred Word.

"Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing,

AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU.



"Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?

He retaineth not His anger forever, because He delighteth in mercy.

He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us. He will subdue our iniquities. And Thou wilt cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which Thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old."

(Micah 7:18-20)

Jesus Christ as Lord of All

JOHN W. SHENTON

The Covenanter

England

(Courtesy 'Kingdom Digest')

Our Desperate Need: To discover the magnitude and magnetic magnificence of Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

I would like to begin this theme by making a bold affirmation: "Whatever men or nations think of Him, you cannot get rid of Him".

When the Turks long ago invaded a certain town, they smashed into a Christian church and painted over a painting of the returning Christ in great power and glory. Over the years the paint wore thin, and through the fading daubs you could discern the figure of the returning Christ. An onlooker whispered to a friend standing by his side: "See, you just cannot get rid of Him". Here lies our hope. The Regal, Royal Sovereignty of Jesus Christ as Lord of all is the one indestructible fact of our universe; and if we could but realise its importance right now, we would thank God as never before in our lives. It is Christ as Lord of all that lightens up the ever-darkening sky. This lofty and outshining dignity demands investigation.

In every age and time men have asked the ever-present pressing question: "Who can deliver us from the trials, torments and tumults of our life and times?" Every humanistic way has been tried and failed, yet there is hope for all who really desire it.

It is at hand in the Bible, the book of hope. The Bible is not the dull book most people think it to be. It is a voice — the voice of the creator-God speaking to His creatures. In the Old Testament alone, which was the Bible of our Lord Jesus, "*Thus saith the Lord*" occurs 3,500 times, thus showing an active interest in the affairs of mankind in every aspect of their lives.

The God of the Bible is no idle Spectator sitting in outer space unconcerned about the affairs on Planet Earth. Always He is not only 'speaking' but 'giving'. The God of the Bible is the greatest giver, giving in the fullness of time His Own Beloved Royal Son, that in and through Him we may become, not creatures by creation, but be brought back to the status of 'Sons and Daughters of the Living God' by being made anew, re-created by and in Jesus Christ, Lord of All. Are we not having demonstrations every day that the problem which bedevils every situation is the unchanged human heart and nature; man is as selfish and selfwilled

as ever he was in any age. Nothing, absolutely nothing, only a new birth, a re-creation, can solve the problems of mankind. You cannot make the Golden Age out of old iron. This is why the discovery of the sovereign, royal dignity of Christ as Lord of all is so desperately necessary for survival and salvation.

Archbishops and preachers can preach 'peace' until they are blue in the face, but there will be no peace until men and nations are right with God. Peace is not an isolated commodity. It is the fruit of righteousness, the fruit of living according to God's right ways, or God's laws, which are an expression of His Love and Grace, not the other way around! How often has the word 'peace' been mouthed by both politicians and preachers since 1945, yet there is no peace anywhere in the world today! *"There is no peace to the wicked, saith the Lord"*. Ah, that is the fundamental cause of the trouble, life lived without regard to the Living Lord and His Laws.

Happily, God has never abandoned His people living on Planet Earth. Indeed, He has great plans for us and for Planet Earth. Again, herein lies Hope.

To all who have exiled themselves from God's kingly rule and redemption, we plead for a serious return to the study of the Bible, not as a matter of mere religion but discovering reality. Read the Bible as God speaking to us as individuals and as a nation, and read the thousands of promises God has made to enlighten and enliven our lives, for none has promised like God. God has never failed to keep any of His promises. They are ours to live by and to live upon; and the brightest shining of all the promises is that God would in the fullness of time send forth His Kingly Son.

This is the hope of the Old Testament prophets. *"I have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion"*. Nothing and no one can thwart nor prevent God fulfilling that Divine Decree. In Isaiah, we are promised One of supreme dignity and power; see Isaiah 9:6-7, and study these verses well, for here is One upon Whose shoulders is to be the government. Note how we have here the First and Second Advents foretold positively. His sixfold name has tremendous significance. Three of them signify His Deity, one His Humanity, another His office as Judge, and the other His Kingship. *"And he shall be called wonderful, counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the prince of peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts*

will perform this."

Through the constant practice of sentimentalising Jesus, we have lost sight of the revelation fact of the reality of the sovereignty of the kingship of Jesus Christ, to our individual and national loss. Note how this Divine Promise and divine guarantee asserts the supreme dignity, reality and absolute dominion of Jesus Christ. Every word of this promise must be studied deeply and seriously. Nor is this just an odd or isolated text of Divine Revelation; it is the constant unfolding theme of Holy Writ, and it is this which makes the Bible the book of real hope, in fact, our only hope!

Further, it ought to thrill the hearts of all believers to know that *"He will ultimately have the uttermost parts of the Earth for his possession"*. Strange though it may read, yet it is a fact of reality, the only government that can stand increase and become a blessing and not a tyranny is the government of our Lord Jesus Christ. We well know, from bitter and cruel experience, that the spread of human governments brings burdens, blight and bloodshed. It is the Lord Jesus who is the Prince of Peace.

When we examine St. Luke's Gospel, chapter one, we find a most interesting revelation concerning 'The House of David', 'The Throne of David' and 'The Kingdom'. Note: *"Thou shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David, and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end"*. (see verses 31-33).

In essence, what does all this mean as a foundation for hope and joy and peace? Happily, God has not abandoned Planet Earth. God is not an idle Spectator far off in outer space, leaving sinful man to work out his own ruin. God has a redemptive plan and a restoration purpose which He is working out within our human history in every age.

Planet Earth is the chosen theatre of Divine activity furthering the redemptive pupose of Almighty God, where His will shall be done and His laws obeyed as they are in Heaven. This means the entrance of the Eternal and the Divine into the stream of 'Time'. This means the confrontation with all evil and the Evil One, which also means neither evil nor the Evil One has any permanent future. Evil just cannot win.

Here again lies our hope! God has guaranteed it. The evil in our world is rebellion against the Lordship and Sovereign Kingship of God's King, Jesus Christ, Lord of all. There are still many who say: "We will not have this man to rule over us", hence the constant conflict and confrontation; yet we must take heart, hope and joy from another fact of

Divine revelation and realisation: The Kingdom of God under the rule of the Kingship of Jesus Christ is not offered to us as a kind of 'sedative' but as an inspiring 'tonic' to greater and courageous effort, for the Kingdom of God is the actualization in our human history of God's Love, Law, Wisdom, Grace and Power for the true welfare of us all, as we bow in acknowledgment of the Kingship of His Royal Son. This is why Jesus is crowned, among many titles, 'Prince of Peace'.

What new light this sheds upon history! History is not a mere series of disconnected inconsequent events, but, though unseen by the human eye and so often undiscerned by the human mind, the Divine purpose and power runs through it like a mighty conquering river giving meaning and purpose to it all, yet, as we have noted, we humans cannot always see this Divine purpose, but it is there.

So God has not left us abandoned and orphaned and hopeless. There is a Divinely directing Hand in all the affairs of men, directing His own purpose (which is our hope and indeed our life) towards a definitely determined consummation. History is going somewhere, and so are all those who are living in harmony and obedience to God's Anointed King Jesus! Our hope is theocratic in character, which means it is not in unchanged man but in God, Who has anointed His beloved Son King, Whom we venerate and adore.

This is our message, that we recognise the unfolding theme of Divine Revelation as the kingdom of God on planet Earth, under His royal son as king; see this, accept this, for herein lies the remedy for the many plagues that afflict us today. It is rebellion against the Empire of Christ that is the root of the many evils that try and torment our life and times. Men will submit themselves to any authority except the Kingly Authority of Jesus Christ, God's anointed king. They will not accept His laws and government.

Happily, and again herein lies our hope, the last word will not be and is not with men. The rivalries which are shaking the very foundations of our homes, our societies and our nations, will yet find that the King Whom they refuse to accept and obey has had committed into His Kingly Hands 'all power and all judgement', and will, at the appointed moment in time, triumph gloriously.

We must note well the Prayer our Lord taught us to pray, and I mean 'pray':

"Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven, etc... For Thine is the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen!"

Please note and remember well what the Prayer states as divine fact:
Thine is the Kingdom — Right now! No one can take it from Him.
Thine is the power. . is the power, all power, right now.
Thine is the glory — is the glory right now.

All other Kingdoms are fading kingdoms. All other power is fading power, and all other glory is fading glory. Amen.

Take heart, my dear friends; live courageously under the Banner of Jesus Christ your King. His Regal Office empowers Him to bless you with all your needed blessings for this life. Do not forget the great treasure-house of blessings that God has promised you in His Kingly Son.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:20: "*For all the promises of God in him are Yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God*". Indeed, Jesus is the gate and the guarantor of all the promises of God.

Every good and perfect gift will come via one of the Offices of Jesus Christ. As all the stars are in the sky, so are all the covenant blessings in God's Royal Regal Son. He actually came to confirm the promises, that is, to make them sure and good.

Having given His Dear Son, will not God with Him and in Him and through Him give to us all that He knows we need to make us what He wants us to be in His plan and purpose for us?

He is the Fulfiller of the promises. Having fulfilled so many promises at His First Coming, shall He not fulfill them all at His second coming? Will God, having come so far, stop short now? Never.

Take heart, my friend; Those that believe can experience the mighty blessings of a victorious kingly Christ now.

If we believe? With so much Divine evidence before us, is it so difficult to believe God? Have faith, for with God all things are possible.



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THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART 7

THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE KINGDOM. (Cont).

In our last issue we found that there are FIVE aspects or requirements for the setting up of a kingdom.

1. A location.
2. Natural resources.
3. People.
4. Leadership.
5. Government and laws.

Having considered the first of these requirements, we now move on to the second aspect, namely;

2. NATURAL RESOURCES.

In studying these various requirements, it should be remembered that they cannot be fully understood and appreciated in isolation from each other. Furthermore, they were certainly not created or developed in the first place in isolation from each other. There is a very definite connection and interdependence between the various aspects which should always be kept in mind. God did not develop any of them without completely relating them to His final and overall plan. Nor did He develop any aspect without relating it to the other necessary requirements. If you consider any of the above five aspects for a few moments, you will readily see that none of them would mean anything without the others. For instance, there is no use having 'Leadership' if

there are no people to lead. And there is no use planning for 'people' if there is no country provided for them to dwell in. Similarly, there is no use providing a 'people', and a 'location' for them, if the resources they need to survive are not also provided.

So it was that in His planning, God made sure that when the people of His choice settled in the lands of His choice, that the physical resources which they would need in order to live the abundant life which He intended for them would also be readily available.

Furthermore, He made this fact known unto His people in the early days of their development. At the time of Moses, the people were only in their infancy, living in a comparatively small area of land. True, they had come through some shocking experiences whilst in Egypt, but they had also experienced divine deliverances which no other nation had ever known, nor have known since. The development of the national promises to their fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had still not been experienced. As a matter of fact, most of the people probably never even gave these promises much further thought, being as they were, caught up in the rigors and events of life at that time. But the time came when God revealed through His prophet Samuel a further revelation in respect to His great plan and purpose for His people in regard to their development into this great national status which He had previously promised. II Samuel 7:10 records these words;

"Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime."

Now as the people of Israel were living in the land of Palestine when this promise was made, it is obvious that the 'appointed place' to which God was referring must have been outside of Palestine. And it must

be equally obvious that this 'appointed place' must be the recipient of God's attention as far as His preparations were concerned in providing the resources which would be necessary for sustaining the life-style which He intended for His people once they arrived there.

The promise regarding these resources is found in Deuteronomy 33:13-16, and reads as follows;

"And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath,
And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon,
And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills,
And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of Him that dwelt in the bush. Let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren."

When we analyse these verses we find that they encompass every area of blessing required by a nation for its own self-sufficient existence. In other words, God always intended that His people would never have to be dependant upon other people or nations for any of their requirements, whether individual or national. He was to be their provider in every area of their lives. And in consequence of this determination, He made provision for every one of these resources within the lands which He had already appointed for His people. In His foreknowledge, God knew where His people were going to finally settle after their captivities and migrations, and at the time when He created the very earth and heavens themselves, He made sure that these requirements would be there all ready for His people to use

when the time came. We find these promises listed under five general headings. They are;

1. The precious things of heaven.
2. The good things of the seas.
3. The precious things from the sun and moon.
4. The precious things of the earth.
5. The good will of Jehovah Himself.

But before we look at each of these provisions, it is important that we understand one other factor. Whilst God made provision for all these blessings, and incorporated each of them into the lands which He had set aside for His people, the enjoyment of these provisions was not automatic. God made it quite clear that the nation's enjoyment of His provision and blessing would depend absolutely and solely upon their obedience to Him through the keeping of His Laws. God's conditions for blessing are set out in Deut. 28:1-14, and they are just as pertinent and applicable today as they were in the day that God first gave them. God said;

"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.

Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and
blessed shalt thou be in the field.
Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body,

and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face. They shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thy hand unto. And He shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways.

And all the people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of thee.

And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain

unto thy land in his season, and to bless
all the work of thine hand.

And thou shalt lend unto many nations,
and thou shalt not borrow.

And the Lord shall make thee the head,
and not the tail. And thou shalt be above
only, and thou shalt not be beneath;

if that thou hearken unto the command-
ments of the Lord thy God, which I com-
mand thee this day, to observe and to do
them.

And thou shalt not go aside from any of
the words which I command thee this
day, to the right hand, or to the left, to
go after other gods to serve them."

A quick look at these verses reveals that they
incorporate in some way every one of the resources God
planned for and promised to His people. They are all
there. The only thing standing between God's Promises
and our blessing is OUR OBEDIENCE. But we find some-
thing else.

Of all the blessings that are listed there, we are
not as a nation enjoying any of them today. NOT ONE!
And of all the curses which are listed in the remainder
of the 28th. chapter of Deuteronomy, which God said
would result from NOT obeying His Laws, we are suffer-
ing today from every one of them. Yes! EVERY ONE!

And despite this, people who claim to be teach-
ers of God's Word, and the voice of God to the people,
still stand in the pulpits and teach in our churches that
the Law of God has been done away with, and no longer
applicable. May God have mercy on them.

So Let us have a brief look at these various pro-
mises and see the bounteous provision of God.

1. The precious things of heaven.

We read in Deut. 28:12;

"The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season."

I'm sure that no one would argue the importance of rain to our very existence. It's one of those things that we take so much for granted until it ceases to occur. Yet it is interesting to contemplate the fact that rain very rarely occurs just as and when we like it. In most instances, we get either a flood or a drought. Our farmers battle the land in a seemingly never-ending fight for survival. But when we look again at the above scripture we find that God promised to give us "rain in his season". I wonder what went wrong?

The answer is quite simple. We have been disobedient to God's Laws. Consequently, we inherit the curse. It reads, in Deut. 28:15 and 23;

"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day, that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee."

"And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.

The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust. From heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed."

So we find that not only is our disobedience to the Law of God the cause of not having the required

rain in the required place in the required quantity, i.e., 'in his season', but that the heaven itself showers down upon us 'powder and dust'. I'm sure that I don't have to expand on the present levels of air pollution and smog and various fallouts that are descending from the heaven onto the earth with such destructive results. If we had done things God's way, we wouldn't have all these troubles, and we would be unjoying the full benefits of God's blessing of THE PRECIOUS THINGS OF HEAVEN.

2. The Good Things of the Seas.

Have you ever taken time to consider how many wonderful blessings God has incorporated into the seas? Space does not permit going into details on the fish, the food, the oil, and the minerals, just to name a few, with which a gracious God intended to bless us through the wonders of the seas. Scientists seem to be continually finding out more and more of the food and medical resources which it contains. But again, man is destroying this blessing from the Lord by his callous and irresponsible mis-use and abuse of the seas. Our oceans are polluted by the effluent poured into it almost all over the world. Divers have recorded how they have found layers upon layers of rubbish, cans, and you name it, floating at various levels under the surface. A reading of Deuteronomy 23:12-13 appears to indicate that God's method of disposal of such things as effluent and rubbish is to bury it in the ground, not cast it into the seas.

Of course, the good things of the seas are not restricted just to what we get out of them, but also the power which the sea was intended to bring to us as a nation. One of God's promises to His people was that they would possess, or control, the gates of their enemies. These 'gates' include the sea-ways and their strategic positions. We used to control all of these. How many of them are left to us today? Not many. And we have lost them because our power has been scattered as foretold in Daniel 12:7, because of our national and individual disobedience to the Law of God.

3. The Precious Things from the Sun and Moon.

Sometimes we don't stop to think enough of the blessing which God gives us through the sun and moon. These days their chief benefits seem to be getting a good suntan, or providing romantic nights. I'm sure though that I will not have to take up space in enumerating the essential nature of these two heavenly bodies. But there are two aspects which we should keep in mind. The first is that we are in very grave danger of turning these blessings into a curse by the man-made contamination and in places, destruction of the various layers in the atmosphere by the pollution which we have caused. Various rays from the sun which God never intended to reach us are now penetrating the atmosphere with results that still have not been fully assessed. All we know right now is that in the long term, it looks very bad. No longer do we enjoy the same ripening processes of the harvests. The natural goodness of the fruit of the ground has deteriorated immensely, partly at least to the above factors. But the second aspect is the blessing which God imposed upon these heavenly bodies as being His witness to His own Holiness and Faithfulness, as set out in such scriptures as Jer.31:35-37, and Jer.33:19-22. Every time we look at these bodies, our hearts should be filled with praise as we realise just what their continued existence means to us in the terms of God's promises and covenants.

4. The Precious Things of the Earth.

The full statement of this promise in Deut. 33: 15-16 reads; "And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills, and for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof." Here is the promise of untold wealth, and the provision of virtually every form of material necessary for the well-being and livelihood of God's people. Here are the forests. Here are the water tables. Here are the minerals. Here are the precious metals and stones. Here is the oil. Here is everything which we need. Used and cared for as God intended it to be used

and cared for, the Israel people would have everything it ever required and more. We would have so much abundance of the good things of life that we would be able to export it to others. In fact, in many ways, other nations would be dependant on us for their own requirements. Take time to check on where all the main sources of timber and minerals are found for instance, and you will find that they occur in the Anglo-Israel countries. We have the richest countries in the world. And it was provided for us in the goodness and love of God. But what do we find? Today, the main aim of national and international politics is to give it all away to the non-Israel people, and to make the Israel people more and more dependant upon non-Israel sources. Look for instance at Rhodesia. Not many people realise that this country is one of the only two countries in the world from whence we can obtain chrome, one of the most important elements needed today in the manufacture of the high-tech steels used for modern equipment and armaments. And as you might have guessed, the only other country where chrome is found is Russia. Think about it. Who now controls the former Israel territory of Rhodesia??

5. The Goodwill of Jehovah Himself.

Now some might claim that this is not in itself a resource. If we are only looking at natural resources, then this could be right. But what we have to realise is that when we are considering God's people Israel, we are considering much more than the natural. You see, Israel is not a natural people, or a natural nation in the normal usage of the word 'natural'. Israel was formed to be, still is, and always will be, a supernatural people. God formed Israel to be above every other nation of the world, as expressed in Deut. 7:6;

"For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God. The Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth."

God formed Israel to be His Kingdom here on this earth. Thus, material resources were not enough. They also had to be provided with spiritual resources. And this, God did. He provided for them His own 'goodwill', in the forms of the blessings which He promised. As we have pointed out, these depended totally upon Israel's obedience to His Laws. But the fact that Israel failed to achieve these blessings because of their disobedience in no way alters the fact that they were part of the over-all provision of a loving God for His people.

So finally, all was prepared and in readiness for the introduction of the people who were predestined to share in the bountiful provision of God, and thereby become the instrument through which God was to bring blessing, joy and life abundant to all the families and nations of the earth.

"The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible."

— Noah Webster

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P.O. Box 75, Wellington, NEW ZEALAND.

The Prophetic Ministry of Elijah.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART 7.

THE PROPHETS OF BAAL. (Continued).

"Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto Mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the grove four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto Mount Carmel.

And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, 'How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.' And the people answered him not a word.

Then said Elijah unto the people. I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

Let them therefore give us two bullocks, and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces and lay it on wood, and put no fire under. And I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under.

And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord. And the God that answereth by fire, let him be God.

And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken." (I Kings 18:19-24).

Thus did Elijah the Prophet lay down the challenge to Israel. As we discovered in our previous studies, he had very clearly and concisely revealed to the people, and particularly to their king and governor, Ahab, the reason for their plight. They had not just broken, but had completely forsaken the commandments of the Lord, the Law of God, and they had followed other gods, or the laws and customs of other cultures. They had allowed anything and everything to take precedence over the Lord God of Israel.

But unlike so many people, and even so many Christians today, Elijah was not satisfied to just state the problem. He followed his words with action. We can all learn a great lesson from this. So many today think that they can solve problems just by talking about them. But I believe this attitude to be quite wrong. Don't misunderstand me. I am not saying that we shouldn't talk over problems with those involved. This is absolutely vital. What I am saying is that talking alone is very often not enough. There are times when all the talking in the world is not going to affect a situation. What is vitally necessary at such times is action to give substance to what we have said. Commitment does not depend so much on what we say as on what we do. This principle is clearly stated in I John 3:18 which reads;

"Let us not love in word, neither in tongue. But in deed and truth."

Elijah was quite aware of this. So having made his denunciation, his very next act was to throw down the challenge. He set in motion a course of action based on what he had just been saying. And it is interesting to note the cycle which developed. He made his statement, and then acted by calling the leaders and the people together.

He then restarted the cycle. He spoke to the people. He said, in modern terminology, "It's time you lot got your act together. Do you really want to go on in your present life style with all its trouble and strife,

or would you prefer to change it for a life style free of all these worries. Now make up your minds."

"You've got to be joking" was the reaction. You see, that would require doing some thinking for themselves. And who wanted to do that. Wasn't that what they paid their politicians and parsons and union leaders for? The Word of God records that "they answered him not a word." They weren't the slightest bit interested.

And things haven't changed. Appeals made simply to the emotions don't work any better or have any more lasting effect today than it did then.

Having failed in his appeal to the people's intellect, or spiritual values, Elijah turned his appeal to their human or material values. Actually he had no choice, because it is quite apparent that the people didn't have any spiritual values in the first place on which any form of spiritual appeal could be based. So in the true spirit of the 'Anglo-Saxon Gambler', he offered them a proposition with odds so ridiculously in their favour that they just couldn't refuse. He said, "There's only one of me, and there are hundreds of you. So what about a competition to decide the issue." I don't know how many got killed in the crush to get their bets on with the local bookies, but the Bible says;

"And all the people answered and said,
It is well spoken".

The challenge to action succeeded where the challenge to thinking failed.

But as if the original odds of hundreds of them to only one of Elijah was not enough, they must have thought that all their Christmases had come at once when Elijah announced the terms of the competition. How could they possibly lose? Not only did they have the numbers, but they had the proof, in a negative fashion, of the justice of their own cause. When all was said and done, where was any proof of the existence of this

so-called God of Elijah? What had He done for the people? All they had, apart from their fleshly pleasures, was trouble and strife, and if there was a god superior to their gods, then it must be his fault, obviously.

The details of this spectacular event are recorded in I Kings 18:23 to 39. The conditions were quite simple. Each side was to make the same agreed offering to their respective god in what ever manner they chose. But neither side was to set fire to their respective offering. The god who answered by consuming their offering by fire was to be accepted as the true god. The cycle continued. The talking was over. It was now time for action.

As we read the account of what transpired, we are struck by the absolute sincerity and dedication of the people to what they believed. There can be no doubt about this. But the lesson must be learned. All the sincerity in the world is no guarantee in itself of being right. The most evil men in history were completely sincere. And the most evil of them all, Satan, is very, very sincere. People today seem to have considerable difficulty in appreciating this fact. But it is a truth that must at all costs be accepted. God's Word is very precise in its instruction regarding this principle. We are not to judge anything, or anyone, simply on appearances, or just on what they say, or even just on the manner in which they say it. To do so makes the acceptability of truth dependant solely on the acceptability of the one who offers it. Error can be made to appear acceptable simply because of the attractiveness of the purveyor of that error. And conversely, truth can be made unacceptable simply because of the un-attractiveness of the teacher of such truth. And in this regard, it is important for us to recognise that this degree of attractiveness does not necessarily have to be the normal characteristic of the person concerned. Very often these characteristics are deliberately engineered in order to give credence to the error or to smear the truth. It's simply the application of the age-old sales pitch. 'To sell anything, you must first sell yourself.' But before

we get too caught up in thinking of all the things that all those other nice people do wrongly, (according to us), let us also remember that it applies both ways. We must be ever careful that we do not present ourselves, or even allow ourselves to be presented by others, in such a way as to destroy the attractiveness and credibility of our ministry because of any unattractiveness associated with ourselves, whether imposed by others, or brought about by our own misuse or abuse of what we teach. Christ said it all. "You will know a tree by its fruit."

And so the sincerity of the people didn't avail them a single thing. They danced all over their offering. They worked themselves up into a frenzy of religious fervour. They cut themselves. They yelled and screamed till they were blue in the face. Every now and then Elijah prompted them along with a few well timed taunts. But nothing prevailed. O yes, they were sincere alright, but the tree was barren. It was all branches and leaves. It was good to look upon, and pleasing to the eye, but there was no fruit. That was the big test. I wonder how many organisations, including Christian organisations, and for that matter even individuals, could pass this test today? There is only one criteria. It doesn't matter how grand is the church building. It doesn't matter how numerous the congregation. It doesn't matter how eloquent the preacher. These things all have their place, and used correctly can be of great blessing, but in the final analysis, it is the FRUIT that counts. From what we can gather from both Biblical and secular accounts, the apostle Paul was physically a rather unattractive man, and not a particularly good speaker. But just have a look at his fruit.

And so all the display of grandstanding and wild emotions and activities got the people absolutely nowhere. They wore themselves out in their attempt to gain the attention and approval of their gods, and incidentally of their fellow men. They collapsed in a heap, and their offering was still there, in a complete shambles, and totally unaccepted. The God-ordained sign and

evidence of His Divine acceptance, the consuming presence of the fire of His Holy Spirit had not eventuated. The people had worn themselves out doing things their own way, but it hadn't worked. It wasn't God's way, and so it wasn't acceptable. What a lesson there is for each and every one of us in this tragic incident. Thus the people's attempt to prove their case came to an end.

It was now Elijah's turn, and at his command, they all gathered around him to see how he would handle the situation. I'm sure that they didn't expect any different results from Elijah than what they had received from their own prophets. But as we read the account of what transpired, we are struck by several important factors associated with what Elijah did.

Firstly, the record states in I Kings 18:30;

"And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down."

Now the importance of that decision can never be emphasised too much.

I do not personally think that this statement indicates that Elijah had initially built an altar which had subsequently been damaged by the activities of the prophets of Baal, thus necessitating repairs before he could continue. According to Strong's Concordance, the Hebrew word translated here as "repaired" means "to cause to be healed, or made whole". Thus the full import of Elijah's action was to direct the people's attention to the correct and the only acceptable way of approaching the Lord God of Israel. And this acceptable way was certainly not to offer a sacrifice to God upon the ruins of the old altar. The altar had to be healed and restored to the condition which was acceptable to God. How we miss out on this requirement. Both individually and nationally we have broken down the altar of God. And what is the altar? Isn't it the foundation on which the sacrifice is made or offered? And how have we broken it down? Haven't we substituted our own foundations on

which we then offer our own choice of sacrifices which happen to suit our own particular beliefs and point of view? Don't we so often try to impose our own will upon God instead of allowing Him to lead us in His ways?

This should not, and cannot be. In Psalm 11:3, King David wrote these words;

"If the foundations be destroyed, what
can the righteous do? "

It is quite obvious that in these circumstances, they can do nothing. We have to face the reality and truth of our situation. We cannot build works of righteousness acceptable to God on scattered and contaminated foundations. It just cannot be done! And fully realising this vital principle, the very first thing that Elijah did was to correct this state of affairs. He knew what he had to do, and what is more important, he knew how he had to do it. This is the second factor that we note about Elijah's actions.

Having decided and shown WHAT had to be done, he now set about showing the people HOW it was to be done. We desperately need to learn this lesson today. He did not gather a great heap of stones and just throw them on top of each other till the pile was big enough for his purposes. That's the sort of thing that we might do. It seems to me that more and more these days we are not only permitted, but encouraged to come up with every wierd and wonderful belief that suits us, and by throwing it into the 'Christian Pot', it becomes sanctified into what we refer to as 'The Christian Faith'. No wonder that: our Lord Jesus Christ Himself expressed doubt as to whether He would even find faith on the earth when He returned. (Luke 18:8). No wonder the prophet Amos was inspired to write;

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord
God, that I will send a famine in the
land, not a famine of bread, or a thirst

for water,
but of hearing the words of the
Lord." (Amos 8:11).

No my friends. There is only one basis upon which we can build our 'altar'. Elijah knew it, and he proceeded on the basis of that knowledge. There is absolutely no reason or excuse for us to do differently. I think that one of the saddest conditions that I have experienced is to find so many who know this basic foundation of God's Word, and then, for fear of upsetting someone, or for whatever other reason, set it aside and sacrifice truth upon the altar of popularity.

Elijah took TWELVE stones. One for each of the tribes of Israel. And with these twelve stones, representing the complete nation, or kingdom, of God, he built the altar, not TO God, but in the name God. The twelve individual stones used in the collective name of Israel, became the Altar in the one and only Name of the Lord God of Israel. And around the altar he dug a trench, and after placing the wood and the bullock of the sacrifice in place, completely drenched and surrounded it all with twelve barrels of water. The number was very carefully and deliberately chosen. There was to be no mistaking the significance of what Elijah was doing. His every decision and act had Israel as its foundation.

But why did he go to such extremes in making an already seemingly impossible situation far more impossible. It was almost as though he was trying to defeat God before He even started. The people looking on must surely have thought that he had really gone quite mad. But he had a very good reason for what he was doing. You see, God had originally formed Israel against what was, from a human point of view, seemingly impossible odds. He started by making the humanly impossible promise to an elderly couple, that despite the fact that they were both far beyond the age of producing children, they were going to have a child whose descendants would in turn become so numerous that they couldn't be counted. Elijah knew this. He also knew, and was

fully prepared to put to the test, what we should also be prepared to put to the test.

He knew, and believed with all his heart, that nothing is impossible to God.

Finally, when all was prepared, and only when he knew that everything that he had prepared was fully acceptable to God; then, and then only, did he call upon God. What a lesson there is here for us. How often do we approach the Lord quite unprepared. How often do we approach the Lord on the foundation of our own will, and on the basis of what suits us to believe rather than on the simple and plain statements of God's Word. And we wonder why so often God doesn't answer. Could it be possible that despite all our knowledge, and despite all our theology, and despite all our fervour, and despite all the good works that we do in the Lord's Name, that we can still miss out on the fullness of God's blessing? Yes, my friends, it is very possible. God's Word is quite unequivocal on this point. We MUST worship Him BOTH in Spirit and in Truth. Not one or the other. BOTH!

But we notice one further thing. Elijah called upon God, not by some popular expression, or in some way pleasing to himself, but by His full Title. The Title that differentiated his God from all other gods. He addressed Him as;

THE LORD GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND OF ISRAEL.

:

And that's when it all happened.

As Elijah called upon that Name which is above all names, (because He was the same Jesus whose Name is above all names);

"Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood,

and the stones, and the dust, and licked
up the water that was in the trench."
(I Kings 18:38).

Elijah, we are told in James 5:17, was a man just the same as us, and yet look at what he achieved in God. What was his secret? Although he was just like you and me as a human being, he was obviously very different from us in certain aspects.

But his secret lay not in the fact that he was different, or in that he did things differently. His secret lay in the fact that he did things CORRECTLY. He did things God's Way. And it worked. Every time. And this was no exception. God answered him. My goodness, how He answered him. In a blinding flash of majestic power and light, everything disappeared. The offering, the wood, the stones, and the water. All that was left was a gaping hole in the ground, and the amazed expressions on the faces of the people as they prostrated themselves on the ground in the presence of what they now recognised as the One and Only True God. God had answered the faith of His servant, and demonstrated the power of His Glory. The fight was over. It had been won.

As a nation, this is the experience which we so desperately need today. We must turn from the worship of all the false gods which have literally taken over every aspect of our lives. We need to repair the altar of God in our midst in order to restore health and well being to our nation. Only then will we be able to enjoy the blessings of a True and Loving God, who wishes above all else that we should prosper and be in good health, even as our soul prospers.

There was now only one thing left to be done. The final cleanup. And what a cleanup it was. God willing we will look at this in our next study.



Counterfeit 'Israel'

A Dangerous Prophetic Illusion

MICHAEL A. CLARK

Courtesy WAKE UP!

MILLIONS of Christian people in the West have a deeply sincere belief that the emergent Israeli State of the past three decades is a wonderful fulfilment of Bible prophecy heralding the restoration of Israel, prior to the Second Advent of Jesus Christ.

Although the peoples of the Zionist State are demonstrably not homogeneous racially and despite the fact that they are rooted in their rejection of Christ the Messiah, it is widely believed by the evangelical Christian folk of the West, that this is just a phase preliminary to Israeli acceptance of Christ at His Return. The fact that 730,000 Palestinian Arabs were displaced when the militant Zionists took over in 1948 does not seem to matter very much to this school of prophetic teaching.

Such is the fervour of this enthusiasm for the Israeli State, that one is impelled to feel that should the Israelis ever use the nuclear weapon which is strongly suspected to be in their possession, these bemused Christians of the West would not be averse to exonerating them. The question of defeat and eventual destruction of the Israeli State does not seem to enter their thinking, so misled are they by their unscriptural exposition of Bible prophecy.

It is high time that this state of thought should be corrected.

The interpretation of events put by these Christians might be well and fine—except for one relevant point which those who relate this prophecy to the Israeli State have chosen to ignore. *The fact is that the vast majority of Jewry in Palestine are not descended from the ancient Israelites and therefore do not come within the terms of the special protection of Almighty God, in their occupation of Palestine.* The mere taking of the name 'Israel' really has

nothing to do with it for those who are not Israelites by lineage. In point of fact it could become a *curse* upon those who use the Divinely appointed name improperly.

In this we have the clear Scriptural record of our Lord's own words. He informed racially mixed Jewry—as distinct from the true descendants of Judah—of their failure to bring forth the fruits of righteousness. He said: *'Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation (not a Church) bringing forth the fruits thereof' (Matt. 21).*

Within forty years following the crucifixion of Jesus, a military threat developed for the Jews of this period from which they fully expected to be delivered by God. An armed uprising was staged against Rome, but Divine intervention was not forthcoming and the Jewish nation was driven from Palestine. A final stand was made at the mountain stronghold of Masada where, rather than give in to the Roman legions, the Jews died to the last man by their own hand. These people were no longer to be regarded as the people of the Kingdom—or of the Prince, the Messiah—as predicted by the prophet Daniel and as foreseen in our Lord's own prophecy.

It is now common practice to regard the designations 'Israeli', 'Zionist', 'Jewish' and 'Israel' as synonymous, applicable to the Jewish people no matter what their racial origin. This is a serious, fundamental error leading to all manner of confusion when it comes to prophetic interpretation relating to events in these days.

It is now recognized by those informed on this question that the Jewish people are

not a *race* as such, but rather a group of people drawn from differing races. By far the largest proportion are descendants of a South Russian Turco-Mongol people, the Khazars (Chazars) who were converted *en masse* to Judaism during the eighth century, as some Jewish scholars themselves admit.* The name 'Israel' cannot possibly apply to these people.

From this mixed lineage, now known as the Ashkenazim, came political Zionism. From this source there developed the political pressure which produced the Balfour Declaration of 2nd November, 1917. This coerced Britain—as part of the real Israel order—into handing over the Mandate for Palestine (in 1948) and snatched away the future peace of this vital region at the very moment that the Turkish desolation was being removed. Out of this has come the present bitter conflict between Arab and Jew. Surely it *cannot* now be considered reasonable for prophetic exponents in the West, to maintain their argument that the Israeli State was Divinely ordained to be 'a blessing to all the families of the earth'.

In the present Israeli-Zionist State, the Ashkenazim, who constitute about 30 per cent of the population, 'rule-the-roost' over the other 70 per cent, called the '*Sephardim*'—a people who, contrary to what might be thought, contain only a small number of true *Sephardic*. These originate from many distant lands. There is consequently a great 'blocking off' of avenues of advancement for these by the dominant Ashkenazim who refer to the Sephardim as 'Orientals' or as 'Jews from Asia and Africa'. In this way, the European Sephardi both in and outside Israel, are restrained from becoming offended or alienated from Zionism—which would be the case if they were too readily identified as an 'inferior' strata. It is significant that less than 10 per cent of university undergraduates in Israel are of Sephardi origin, whilst in the Knesset (Parliament) they are hardly represented at all.

It is only from among the 'European' type of Sephardi that we shall find any racial link between Jewry and ancient Israel. The group does not number more than half a million throughout the world. Of that small number of Sephardic stock, only a small proportion is to be found in the Israeli State itself. Thus it is a complete nonsense for Christian exponents of prophecy to talk about 'Israel back in the land' or of a future Divine intervention on their behalf. *True* Israel today is to be found in Celto-Saxondom and it is on behalf of *these people* that Divine intervention is to be forthcoming when the siege of their own 'Jerusalem' threatens extinction.

There is every indication that a catastrophic situation will indeed confront the Israeli State in the relatively near future. A spiralling trade deficit this year is expected to reach £2,500 million. This small state now has an international debt of well over £70,000 millions. This is considered the highest *per capita* debt in the world—an increased demand for American aid to the tune of some £500 million is now planned. The rapid oil price increases and the withdrawal from the last Sinai oil fields, together with military spending and building needs in the Negev, has caused this tremendous deficit.

Despite the long arm of the Israeli secret service and notwithstanding the power and influence of the Jewish lobby in the U.S., strains are developing between America and Israel. There are deep political reasons for this which are being worked out on a global scale. The true prophetic interpretation of the appearance of this counter-felt 'Israel' at this Age-end period is that it constitutes a 'barren fig tree'—the tree which Jesus Christ cursed so that it withered (*Matt.* 21). The economy of the Israeli State is 'withering' now. Moreover, the Jews in Palestine have their Masada complex. They would prefer death rather than surrender to the dark terrors of the Jewish past, or bend to the pressure upon them to do something positive for the 3.5

million Palestinians. The fact is that the Arabs have a right to live in Palestine, based on their racial links with the ancient inhabitants of that sorely troubled region. The Ashkenazi Jews, on the other hand, have no such right or link with the past.

A very interesting 'twist' to the prophetic picture leads on from this, introducing a new element into the traditional concept of the Middle East and the global 'invasion' of 'Gog' (Ezk. 38 and 39). There is every evidence for linking the name 'Gog' to the Khazars and in turn to the Ashkenazi Jew *globally* and not merely to the Soviet Ashkenazi revolutionaries who 60 years ago took control of Russia. This is especially the case in view of their 'invasion' by immigration into Palestine and intrusion into the powerful political and economic spheres of true Israel in the Western World. They are indeed '*as a cloud to cover the land*' as Ezekiel reveals.

Such is the depth of political intrigue and evil deeds in Satan's world-embracing camp that at times the workers of iniquity may be observed fighting against themselves. This could very well be the case in respect

of the 'withering' of the Israeli State. Christian teachers who have resisted the message which identifies the true Israel of God as revealed in the peoples of present-day Celto-Saxondom have thereby wrongly glorified the counterfeit Israel in Palestine, stand to be confounded before long.

Under the Premiership of Mr. Begin, religious Zionism in Israel has taken on a political relevance which, in the past, religious leaders refrained from encouraging. It is this counterfeit thought of *their* being 'Messianic' as a state which is leading Jewry in Palestine to another destruction on the Masada pattern. Should Washington exert pressure on the young Israeli state, the Israelis may conceivably attack the Arab nations to the east and north, convinced that God is on their side, making them invincible. If this happens, instead of the Romans, it could well be the Russians who come to Jewry's 'Masada', for they themselves may have to capture Old Jerusalem in order to hold down an Islamic revolt on their vital southern flank.

*'The Thirteenth Tribe' by Arthur Koestler
—copies available from Covenant Books, 6
Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6JP.



"A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and he carries his banners openly. But the traitor moves among those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very hall of government itself. For the traitor appears not traitor — he speaks in the accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their garments, and he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He rots the soul of a nation — he works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of a city — he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to be feared."

— Cicero (42 B.C.)

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ANTI-CHRIST and THE MAN OF SIN.

by F. W. DOWSETT.

PART THREE.

THE MAN OF SIN.

In our last two studies we referred to the three different entities spoken of by three of the writers, or authors, of the New Testament. They were:

1. ANTICHRIST. referred to by John.
2. THE MAN OF SIN. referred to by Paul.
3. THE SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN. referred to by Christ.

From our studies, we concluded that these titles all referred to exactly the same thing, or the same entity. Having dealt with the first of these, ANTICHRIST, in our last study, we now turn to the second entity, THE MAN OF SIN. The only reference to this entity in the entire Bible is found in the Second Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians, chapter 2 and verses 3-12, and reads as follows.

"Let no man deceive you by any means. For that day (the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ of verse 1) shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the

Temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Remember ye not, that when I was with you, I told you these things?

And now that ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work. Only he who now letteth (i.e., restrains), will let (restrain), until he be taken out of the way.

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of truth, that they might be saved.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.

That they might be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (II Thess.2:3-12).

As in our previous study of "Antichrist", we again find that the above statement regarding the Man of Sin contains some very important factors which require careful study if we are to properly understand what God is trying to reveal to us. Firstly, we find that the phrase "the Man of Sin" does not refer to just one specific man. The Greek word 'anthropos' from which the word 'man' is here translated applies more generally to 'mankind', as distinct from a special or particular

person. You will remember that we found this same feature in our study of "Antichrist". We also find that in verses 10 to 12, God refers to this entity in the plural by the use of the words 'them' and 'they'.

The second thing that we need to understand is the timing involved. A study of verse 7 reveals that the 'man of sin', under the title of 'the mystery of iniquity', was already operating at the time Paul wrote his epistle. Then in verse 8, under the title of 'that Wicked', we are informed that this entity will continue to operate until the second advent of our Lord Jesus Christ when he will be destroyed by the brightness of Christ's coming. Thus we find that the time frame of 'the man of sin' is from a time prior to when Paul wrote, up to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, the exact same time period as for the operation of 'anti-christ'. Again, as we found for 'antichrist', this phrase cannot apply, at least in its fullest sense, to the Roman Catholic Church, because that particular church did not come into operation until many years later.

The third point to be noted is that Paul was referring to something that was known about at the time of writing, in just the same way as 'antichrist' was known about at the time of John's writing. In verse 5 he reminds the Thessalonians that he told them about this on a previous visit.

The only way to understand what God is telling us in this passage is to study the words used in the original language. The authorities I am using are:

1. "A Critical Lexicon and Concordance of the English and Greek New Testament".
by E.W. Bullinger, D.D.
2. "Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words."
by W.E.Vine, M.A.

So as an example, let us study the words of verses three to seven.

"Falling Away." Apostasy, NOT only religious. It covers all aspects of both individual and national life, including finance, politics, morals, religion, and faith. It means a collapse, or falling away, from what should be. It covers not only the structure, but includes the FOUNDATIONS. Thus, not only is TRUTH destroyed, but THE FOUNDATIONS ON WHICH TRUTH IS BUILT.

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Psalm 11:3.

"Man of Sin."

"Man" Mankind. A group of people, as distinct from a special or particular person.

"Sin." Lawlessness.

"Sin is the transgression of the law."
I John 3:4.

Used here, it does not apply just to the ACT of sin or lawlessness, but to the EVIL PRINCIPLE or INTENT OF THE HEART covering and motivating all forms, phases, and movements of sin. It is also referred to as INIQUITY.

"Son of perdition."

"Son." Not necessarily a descendant. It refers to the origin and nature which determines the character of what is being referred to. For example:

"The field is the world. The good seed are the children of the Kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one." (Matt. 13:38.)

"Perdition." Destruction and ruin which is absolute, final, and irreversable.

"Opposeth."

To be set opposite to, and to be totally repugnant to.

"Exalteth."

To lift oneself up in arrogance and conceit.

"The Temple of God." God's People, not only individually, but nationally as applying particularly to Israel.

"And what agreement hath the Temple of
God with idols?

FOR YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE
LIVING GOD.

As God hath said, 'I will dwell in them,
and walk in them. And I will be their
God, and they shall be My people.' "
(2 Cor.6:16, and Leviticus 26:11-12.)

"Shewing." Displaying, but in such a way as to take
attention from themselves and direct it to something
else.

"Revealed." To remove the veil or covering away from,
and so to expose to open view what was previously hid-
den, (and obviously in existence).

"Mystery." "That which is known to the initiated. In
the ordinary sense it is equal to 'knowledge withheld',
but in the Scriptural sense, it means, TRUTH RE-
VEALED."

Let us remember that all these aspects which we
have just studied were already in existence, and al-
ready operating when the Apostle Paul wrote these
words. Paul describes the Man of Sin and the way in
which it operated as "The Mystery of Iniquity", and
went on to say that 'it was already working.'

It was only left for the IDENTITY of this power
to become manifest just prior to the return of our Lord
Jesus Christ.

So applying the above word studies, we arrive at the following amplified paraphrase of Paul's statement:

"Just prior to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wise shall understand the REVEALED TRUTH that there will be a collapse, not only of truth, but of the very FOUNDATIONS of truth, which will include all aspects of our society and way of life. This collapse will be motivated by a group of mankind who will not only be lawless, in terms of their disobedience to the Laws of God, but who will be dedicated to the very evil principle and intent of the heart to promulgate evil. Its aim will be the absolute, final and irreversable destruction of everything pertaining to God. It will be arrogant, conceived, and repugnant to God. It will be utterly deceitful, in that it will shew itself to be what it is not, and hide its true identity by focusing peoples' attention elsewhere, and it will operate within God's people."

We now ask the question.

Who is this group who is so ruthlessly opposed to our Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom here on earth?

Who is this group of mankind who are so dedicated to the propagation of everything that is evil, and everything that wil destroy the mind and the will of God's people through constant brainwashing and falsehoods?

Who is this group who are the self-confessed enemies of God?

They were operating in Paul's day, and they are still operating today!

Their aims are still the same!

WHO ARE THEY ???

WHO IS 'THE MAN OF SIN' ???

A study of verses 9 to 12 of II Thess. 2 gives us the information we need in order to decide this question. Remember as we study that it is God's stated intention to reveal its identity prior to the return of the Lord.

1. Verses 9 and 10 tell us;

"Whose coming, (i.e. 'that wicked' of verse 8), is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders."

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish."

God does not leave us in any doubt as to whom He is referring here. If we refer to Revelations 13:13-14 we find the description of a beast coming up out of the earth who;

"Doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do . . ."

I believe that this is a reference to the same entity to which Paul was referring under the title of 'the man of sin'. Their mode of operation and aims are too identical for them to be otherwise. But verse 11 of this chapter of Revelation identifies this beast as "having two horns like a lamb, and speaking as a dragon." Here we have the original 'sheep in wolve's clothing.' Here we have the description and identification of a group who pose as God's people Israel, but are actually not, but are led by, and speak with the voice and authority of, Satan. With this authority, they have deceived God's people by the seemingly miraculous nature of their deeds and power. Even the most casual investigation into the way they control and manipulate the world's money supply gives a remarkable illustration of the 'miracles' they perform in order to wield their Sat-

anic power. It is interesting to note that the remainder of the 13th. chapter of Revelations deals with this very subject.

But I feel that we should not overlook the statement contained in Rev. 13:13 which says that "they make fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men." No doubt, many will be wondering what this means. Once again, we go to the Scriptures. In Leviticus 9:24 we read that after Aaron had properly prepared and offered the sacrifice to God, then a fire came from God and consumed the sacrifice upon the altar. This was a very special fire, being the evidence of God's acceptance of the offering. As a matter of fact, Deuteronomy chapters four and five make mention several times of the fact that the Lord God of Israel dwells in the fire. The use of this statement that the 'beast' of Revelation 13, (being another expression of 'the man of sin' of II Thess. 2), makes "fire come down from heaven" is very interesting, because it is identifying the fact that this entity is deliberately presenting itself as being blessed by God, and having the power and authority of God to pass judgment on all other people by putting their seal of approval on whatever they choose.

2. Verse 10 also tells us;

"They received not the love of the truth,
that they might be saved."

Speaking to the Jews of His day who would not accept Him, Jesus said;

"Ye are from beneath. I am from above.
Ye are of this world. I am not of this
world.

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall
die in your sins. For if ye believe not
that I am He, ye shall die in your sins."
(John 8:23-24).

Speaking a little later to the same people, Jesus added this very potent remark;

"I told you, and you believed not. The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of Me.

But ye believe not,
BECAUSE YE ARE NOT MY SHEEP!"
(John 10:25-26)

3. Finally, verses 11 and 12 tell us the result of their deceitfulness. The enemy themselves are to become victim to their own deceit. They shall be swallowed up themselves in their own delusion. And they shall become subject to the judgment of God for what they have done.

God willing, our next study will positively identify this 'man of sin', or 'anti-christ' in the world today.

Meanwhile, let us be sober and watchful, because Satan is now going abroad like a roaring lion, devouring whom he can, because he knows that his time is short.



BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM

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— Hudson Taylor

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With our Christian love, Frank and Betty Dowsett.

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"AND IN THAT DAY THOU SHALT SAY, O LORD I
WILL PRAISE THEE. THOUGH THOU WAST ANGRY
WITH ME, THINE ANGER IS TURNED AWAY, AND
THOU COMFORTEDST ME.

BEHOLD, GOD IS MY SALVATION. I WILL TRUST,
AND NOT BE AFRAID. FOR THE LORD, JEHOVAH,
IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SONG. HE ALSO IS
BECOME MY SALVATION.

THEREFORE WITH JOY SHALL YE DRAW WATER
OUT OF THE WELLS OF SALVATION.

AND IN THAT DAY SHALL YE SAY, PRAISE THE
LORD, CALL UPON HIS NAME, DECLARE HIS
DOINGS AMONG THE PEOPLE, MAKE MENTION
THAT HIS NAME IS EXALTED.

SING UNTO THE LORD, FOR HE HATH DONE
EXCELLENT THINGS. THIS IS KNOWN IN ALL THE
EARTH.

CRY OUT AND SHOUT, THOU INHABITANT OF ZION.
FOR GREAT IS THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL IN THE
MIDST OF THEE."

(Isaiah 12).

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