

THE COVENANT VISION.

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"Heaven and earth shall pass away:
But My words shall not pass away."

THE COVENANT VISION.

EDITOR: Pastor Frank W. Dowsett. J.P.

In presenting this magazine, it is not our intention just to indiscriminately add to the number of Christian journals already available. 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 appearing and return 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.

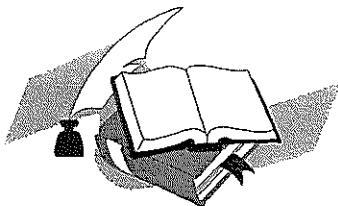
Denominational doctrines and differences are not our concern, and it is not our intention to enter into such arguments. There is not enough time left to waste it on such unproductive, and indeed, destructive, exercises. We are concerned ONLY with what we believe the Word of God says and teaches.

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 identity, 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', which can only

(continued on inside back cover)



Editorial.

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:
Amos 8:11 (KJV)

Sadly enough when one studies this passage of scripture let us look at the meaning of the word 'word' in this particular passage. Under the number H1697 in the Hebrew it refers to God's word or commandments or chronicles of our God. Now that we have established this, and in this light let us now look at the overall picture. This passage is not referring to the modern-day churches as they seem to be growing and with what the Hill song Church and their thousands every Sunday one wonders just how this fits in today, although there is a lot of discontent in the churches, because people are now starting to ask questions. Especially when the local church I have been to, the pastor does not even read out one word of the Lord's word in his sermon.

No this verse is very adapt for today in our times because O'Lucifer (Satan) who knows his time is coming to an end. The queen termite (Edom/Esau) and all the workers subversively destroying all that was held dear to the hearts of our ancestors now thrown out of the churches and have just become a lot of arm waving and feel good on a Sunday Christians.

Now let us get down to the meat or crux of the real meaning. The Israel identity groups are crumpling under the onslaught of the termites; they have gotten into the Sydney branch of the B.I.W.F. and as I write this article have not gotten back onto their feet as yet. The Queensland branch of the same has had some very suspicious dealings which as yet have not been fully

cleared up. Like their New South Wales counterpart's money or deceased estates left to them has caused the termites to come out or should we say get in. Last but not least one held dear to my heart the Victorian B.I.W.F. I am told are finding it very hard because the wonderful staff down there are getting old and it is getting a bit difficult for them to carry on. To these wonderful Israelites down there I say well done thou good and faithful friends you have all run the good race and kept the termites out, rest and relax, watch for now, we all shall hold the flag high and unfurl the banner and carry on the Lord's work till He comes **no matter what our adversity throws at us or does.**

Now let us get down to the crux of the matter. My dearly beloved brother Frank ran his race for over 64 years in the Israel-Identity message and not once could Satan come any where near him. But alas in his finest hour when he was due to rest in retirement did Satan's underlings come in and try to destroy his life works. To you my friend I say relax, enjoy your time with your best friend (the neck that turned the head) for we that are left shall not waver nor stumble. We will carry on the Lord's work until **relieved** or it is time to enter into our closets at the coming of him that was promised before hand, Elijah! in **Malachi ch.4:6.** Let us read it:

"And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

In closing, this let me say this, over the last two months since we first experienced all these troubles the one thing that kept us all here on an even keel so to speak, was the fervent prayers offered up to our Lord and well wishes from all over Israel's great lands, it has been truly inspirational and we here a the Covenant Vision truly thank every one for every thing and from the supporters at home here. **Thank You...Editor.**

PARADISE HEAVEN & HELL

CHAPTER FOUR.

THE NEW CREATION.

There is ample proof in the Scriptures that there will be no secret rapture, and that those caught up to meet Him in the clouds will come down with Him to this earth. We read in Luke 17:33-37;

“Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. I tell you, in that night there shall be two [men] in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two [women] shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two [men] shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, wheresoever the body [is], thither will the eagles be gathered together.”

Those removed from the world are the tares, destroyed by the angels who come in flaming fire, and who then cast them into a furnace of fire. Eagles gather as vultures when men die, and this is the intended illustration of the last verse.

Those who are left will be those who will meet the Lord in the air at His return.

Paul also wrote in Colossians 3:4;
“When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”

This appearing in glory takes place when Christ returns; and it takes place on earth. Those who previously became glorified by

the First Resurrection will already have the ability to enter the literal presence of the glorious Majesty on high also, having become spiritual creatures in the “New Creation” through resurrection power, in the same manner as Jesus did after His own resurrection.

Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-11;

“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power.”

Paul here prays that God would count them “worthy of this calling,” that is, make them partakers of this wonderful resurrection glory, when he shall come to be glorified in his saints ... in that day. They are saved from everlasting destruction. They are saved from remaining dead all through the millennial age and not being participants in the “First resurrection.” The wicked are destroyed in flaming fire. This is clarified by the unpardonable sin, Matthew 12:32;

“And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world (Aion or Age), neither in the world (aion or age)] to come.”

In all honesty we must ask what about the age to come?

Paul's vision, given in his epistle to the Thessalonians is identical with that given in his 2 Timothy 4:8;

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

The day here referred to is clearly not when Paul would die, but rather the day of Christ's glorious return to set up His Messianic earthly Kingdom, giving the rewards to His faithful overcoming servants, according as they have used their talents in His service during this Age. Then the deceased Overcomers will enjoy their reward of the First Resurrection, together with those who are now alive and remain until His coming, and who also are destined to be changed. We read in Philippians 3:21;

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Hebrews 2:10 states;

"For it became him, for whom [are] all things, and by whom [are] all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings"

He makes them Overcomes, or as Paul writes in Romans 8:16-18;

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

They are "joint-heirs with Christ."

Paul wrote of the righteous in 2 Thessalonians 1:10,

“When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”

Notice that the Lord Jesus Christ will be “glorified in you, and you in him.”

This glory is to be revealed in us at the time of the First Resurrection, as shown once more in the following Scripture in 1 Corinthians 15:41-43;

“There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.”

This again shows that we enter into glory, not immediately when we die, but by resurrection. This honour of the First Resurrection can become ours if we are faithful and are found amongst those concerning whom Paul wrote in Romans 2:7;

“To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.”

In this Scripture we see that “immortality,” like “glory and honour,” will be a reward for “patient continuance in well doing.”

As yet we possess very few of these things, but we shall be “raised in glory.”

The Word of God does not suggest anywhere that good people go directly to Glory when they die. On the contrary, just as Jesus was elevated to the highest state of glory and manifested as God’s perfected Son by His resurrection in a “glorious body,”

so also will the saints be resurrected gloriously and be revealed as God's sons when Jesus returns to earth, ushering in His Messianic Kingdom. We read in 2 Thessalonians 2:14;

“Whereunto he called you by our gospel to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

A Holy God cannot possibly condone sin, and will and must severely judge all sin and sinners. Furthermore, we have seen that His judgment will be perfectly just, God dealing with every man “according to his works,” Matthew 16:27 informs us;

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”

“How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Romans 6:2.

Christians have already experienced the death to sin by the acceptance of the sacrifice on our behalf for the forgiveness of our sins by our Lord Jesus Christ. They do not need to go through that experience again.

The writer of Hebrews quotes Deuteronomy 4:24 in Hebrews 12:29; **“For our God is a consuming fire.”** When we have access into His presence He remains a consuming fire. Hebrews 10:19 records;

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.”

This is the reason Christians experience fiery trials, because His presence must eradicate sin. No wonder Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:12;

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.”

These fiery trials all have a constructive and useful purpose in the all-wise plan of the Creator. The pagan idea of the Almighty casting myriads of His creatures into a flaming torturing abyss for an unending eternity without any remission or possibility of escape is contrary to Scripture, and directly contrary to the nature and purpose of a Creator whose Name is “Love,” 1 John 4:8 we read;

**“He that loveth not knoweth not God;
For God is love.”**

Man is a “single-soul” creature, and does not possess a separate or third part of himself, which passes consciously into some other realm of either bliss or torment at death. On the contrary, all men, whether good or bad, die. They all “go to one place, and will all sleep in the dust of the earth” until their respective times for resurrection.

Meanwhile both good and bad are dead, absolutely dead; and, like David, are not in the heavens, nor are they in Paradise, nor in Purgatory, nor in Gehenna, nor in Hell, nor in any other place whatever, except “the grave,” that is “the dust of the earth.”

In fact there is no such term as Hell or anything like it in the original Greek New Testament Scriptures. The same applies to the Torah or Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures.

There are three totally different Greek words “Hades” (i.e., “Sheol” in OT) “Tartarus,” and “Gehenna,” representing three different states or places.

They have all been mistranslated by the one old-English term Helle! The first word Hades refers to the state of death or the grave generally, as distinct from Keber which means an individual tomb or burying place. “Tartarus” is found only in 2 Peter 2:4;

“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (Greek Tartarus), and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”

This denotes the confines or region around this earth in which the rebellious spirit-beings and not departed humans are confined. “Gehenna,” on the other hand, was only a refuse dump and burial place outside Jerusalem where the worm was always present to devour, and where a bonfire burned perpetually, into which the city’s refuse and even the bodies of criminals and beggars were cast.

Jesus used the picture of Gehenna as a simile to show the Jews that if a man’s body must inevitably go to corruption, perishing in Gehenna or in burial at death, it were better to end maimed physically but spiritually righteous, rather than physically fit and spiritually unrighteous to await God’s judgment and wrath after resurrection.

Here is an analysis of the 89 occurrences of the four original words in Scriptures and of the number of strange and misleading meanings which the translators have put upon them. The term Hades in Greek, and Sheol in Hebrew, have the same meaning.

Psalm 16:10; “**For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.**”

David is recorded as saying in this Messianic prophecy concerning Christ;

“**You wilt not leave my soul (nephesh) in hell (Sheol); neither wilt thou suffer thine holy one to see corruption!**”

In the NT, it is quoted in Acts 2:31;

“He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.”

His soul (psuche) was not left in hell (Hades) neither did his flesh see corruption.

Sheol. It is found 65 times in the OT, and is translated 31 times as “Grave,” 31 times as “Hell,” and 3 times as “Pit.”

Hades. It is found 11 times in the NT. It is translated 10 times as “Hell,” and once as “Grave.”

In 1 Corinthians 15:55 “O death, 2288 Thanatos (than'-atos); where is thy sting? O grave, (Hades 86 haides (hah'-dace); where is thy victory?” It should be noted that in some Greek translations thanatos is used instead of Hades, for grave.

In the KJV margin it is rendered grave i.e., Sheol, 5 times. Firstly in Psalm 55:15;

“Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell (Sheol): for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.”

Secondly in Psalm 86:13;

“For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.(Sheol).”

Thirdly in Isaiah 14:9;

“Hell (Sheol) from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.”

Then fourthly in Jonah 2:2;

“And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell (Sheol) cried I, and thou hearest my voice.”

Fifthly and finally it is rendered grave in the margin of the Revelation 20:13;

“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death (Thanatos) and hell (Hades) delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.”

TO BE CONTINUED

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The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.

If you should die before me, ask if you could bring a friend.

I would rather live my life as if there is a God and die and find out there isn't, than live my life as if there isn't, and die to find out there is.

LOVE

Love ever gives, Forgives, out lives. And ever stands with open hands. And while it lives it gives. For this is loves prerogative – To Give, To Give, To Give.

A man's words without his deeds, Is like a garden full of weeds

CV NEWS

Well at last we have another issue, No.114, and for a time, I did not think we would do it. Well I mean my loving wife who supported me over the current crisis and those immediate friends who knew what was going on, and our congregation at the ex-headquarters. Our congregations have been truly wonderful in their support along with some wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ, from a very humble man I thank all of you and every one world wide who offered up fervent prayers to our Lord and our wonderful heavenly Father. For the very rough time that was suffered here, He certainly was looking after us. Praise! His name and glorify The God of Israel!

There is so much to tell every one so we will get down to the most important of the subjects. **Frank has been found!** on Tuesday 18/10/06 at approximately 11.00 Frank's second eldest daughter rang to obtain a set of all Frank's books and told me where he is living and an address for all to write to him, for this I was very impressed with the courtesy and was most grateful. Now the address to write to him is **P.O. Box 138, Eden, NSW, 2551**. From here the mail will be passed onto him a couple at a time as I have been told he gets a bit bewildered. If you want the address of where he is living then feel free to contact me, but remember he cannot return your mail as it is a bit beyond him.

A new book shop has opened up on the Gold Coast and is owned and operated by **Mr. P. & R. Pollock**. It is an **Israel Identity shop** and has some wonderful books for sale along with the entire collection of Frank Dowsett, Brenton Edwards and Allan Campbell, along with many other authors, on all subjects relating to our glorious message. Also there is a coffee shop where you can relax and enjoy the written works. The address is as follows: **CHRISTIAN HERITAGE BOOKSHOP, SHOP 5/7 LAVELLE STREET, NERANG, and QLD. 4211**. They have a wonderful collection of books and what they do not have

that are still in print can be obtained, so when in the area why not visit them and see what they have available over some refreshments.

A subject I would like to bring before you is, I feel, the mix up sometimes when I send out the Forms CV7 and CV8. When I send you a respective form first you will receive a CV7 and if no reply then a CV8. They are only to remind you that your subscriptions are due. If however you are in bad financial times, or on a low fixed income, then please do not hesitate to let me know as I have written to quite a few people and seeing they are on a Low-Fixed-Income I will send them the Covenant Vision free. That was Frank's policy. Please do not be offended, all I am interested in, as stated on the forms is to see if you are still interested. Also if you get another form when you have already paid then let me know. For the last three years I have been on my own and I do get a little bit behind sometimes or a little bit mixed up.

Over the next couple of months getting organized is going to take some doing, as at my home here, it is taking some rearranging to fit in what I did get. The entire collection of Brother Frank's tapes were given to me in boxes, and through no fault of any one, the labels with the numbers on them were old and came off. So I have to sit down and renumber all the tapes or I should say put the numbers back on them. For this reason alone, is why I am suspending all tape orders. I hope in the next issue (No.115) now that I have someone capable of doing labels. The tape ministry will resume, God willing. The existing tape orders will be fulfilled and if by chance we do owe you some tapes then just send us a letter or let us know and give us gentle reminder please.

So until the next issue God bless and good reading, studying and remember Prayer to our Lord God of Israel to awaken more people to His glorious message. Until next time, God be willing, we will be back and keep on keeping on with His glorious message. - EDITOR

RESSURECTION

CHAPTER 6.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

We now resume our study on the subject of resurrection, this being our final chapter in this subject. You will recall that in our previously chapter we studied the difference between corruption and in-corruption, and honour and dishonour, and weakness and power, the natural body and the spiritual body, and we discussed these differences in relation to the doctrine of resurrection.

We come now to the 50th verse, and from this point we find that this is the actual event itself. We've deal with all the aspects, the technical aspects and the theological aspects, the theoretical aspects of resurrection as a doctrine. But we come now to this verse, which a companion verse of the one is found in the 4th chapter of I Thessalonians, which we will refer to in a few moments. We find here now stated what is actually going to happen as distinct from why it happens, and the whole of the build-up that we have been discussing over the last five messages. But I found it very interesting that when we get to the 50th verse Paul suddenly introduces something into the discussion, which he has not mentioned in this subject of resurrection to this point. Suddenly, without any warning, he refers to the Kingdom of God.

You will find in the 50th verse, "Now I say brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." And it makes one wonder why he all of a sudden just introduces the Kingdom of God here, in the context of corruption not inheriting incorruption. And it is quite obvious that the reason he has done it, is because here is the next progression in teaching about the resurrection. It is not just a matter of being raised from the dead. This being raised from the dead is done in the context of the Kingdom of God. Otherwise he would never have mentioned it here. And it is very important for us to realize the importance of the Kingdom of God in this subject. Corruption cannot inherit incorruption. What is the colloquy of that? He has just said it. "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God." Flesh and blood are equated with corruption. The Kingdom of God is equated with

incorruption, and this is what he is getting, the Kingdom of God. Once the Kingdom is fully established, you wont get any corruption within the Kingdom. And so this is the first thing he mentions. There are two aspects here that is the first one. that the Kingdom of God is evidenced by incorruption, whilst the corruption is evidenced by flesh and blood.

But there is one word which I want to just spend a few moments on, or just a minute on, before we go onto that. Because he said that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of god. Now, it is interesting that he did not say that flesh and blood could not live in the Kingdom of God, or could not be in the Kingdom of God, or take part in the Kingdom of God, or whatever other expression we want to use. He picks a particular word here, "shall not inherit". We have to understand what inherit means. If I was to own a business, my son would inherit that business under normal conditions. What does it mean? It means that he would not be a member of the workforce, as such, I mean he wouldn't just be working on the floor of the factory or whatever you are doing. What does it mean to inherit? It means to be given possession of it. And you get to by virtue of the fact that you are the son of the one who already owns it. We inherit the Kingdom because we are sons and children of God. He owns the Kingdom and we inherit the Kingdom. But there is an aspect that we have to realize, that the person who inherits the inheritance, whatever it is, not only becomes the possessor of it, he becomes the ruler of it. He is in charge of it. I mean it is not much use owning a business, and not having any say in how it is run. So inheritance means more than just possessing it. Inheriting something means to be given authority over it. And so we find something here now, which is rather different to what a lot of people. I believe, realize about this first resurrection, this resurrection that we are talking about here.

We have to realize that the Bible speaks from a human point of view of only two resurrections. There were actually three, we know that because the Lord was raised from the dead. But we're not talking about the Lord's resurrection here. As far as you and I as human being are concerned, there are just two resurrections. Now we have to make up our mind what Paul is speaking about here. When we go over to Revelation 20, and read verses 4 to 6, it says, "I saw thrones, and they that sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God,

and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

This is the first resurrection. The second resurrection is not referred to by that name, but we know it must be a resurrection, because of what happens. Remember, it says, "the rest of the dead lived not again until", that means they must live again. And when you go further down on that same chapter, in the 12th verse, well we'll start on the 11th verse. "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of these things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which was in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Now I want to deal with those verses just at the end of this talk. The reason I read them out here is that this is the only place where it talks about a second resurrection.

Now if the second resurrection applies as we have just read it there, and we'll discuss later on, does that take in what we are discussing here in I Corinthians? If there is only two of them, and the first resurrection applies only to those who are going to reign and rule with Christ, then I would suggest very strongly, and I believe personally, that this passage whilst it has an application to the resurrection of generally the Christians at whatever stage. I believe the primary motive behind this, is the resurrection of the overcomers. Those who are going to rule and reign in the Kingdom. They are the ones who will not only possess, they are the ones that will have the authority that goes with the possession of inheriting the Kingdom. And so what

Paul is talking of here, I believe, is quite in line with what he said to the Philippians, that he strives to attain the goal of the prize, or the mark, of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. And I believe that the primary application of this and the passage in I Thessalonians 4, which I will read to you now, apply specifically or primarily to the elders, those who will rule and reign in the Kingdom.

Lets look at this one in I Thessalonians 4. It says there in the 13th verse, "I would not have you be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleeps in Jesus will God bring with him." Now who is God going to bring with Him? That is God bringing with the Lord Jesus Christ. Who comes back with the Lord Jesus Christ? It tells you quite clearly He is going to return with the saints. It has got nothing there about Him coming down with angels. The angels were never called saints. He said that He is going to return with the saints. I believe theses are the ones that have gone up to the marriage supper and come back with Him. He is talking, "God will bring these with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord will not precede (prevent in the King James, but the word means precede) them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Therefore comfort ye one another with these words."

Now I believe that in its primary application and intent that Paul is dealing here with the appointment of the overcomers, the elders, those who will be called to the marriage supper of the lamb. Firstly, on the basis, as I say, of the word inherit which means you are given possession and that possession also gives you authority. No Christian within the Kingdom is going to have authority over the Kingdom unless they are appointed as elders and rulers over that Kingdom. I mean, no one has got authority in any firm to give orders unless they are given the authority to authorize authority.

"Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom". And he goes on to give that illustration here of the difference between corruption and incorruption. But what about this flesh and blood? The life that we have now we know is a life which is dependant on our bloodstream. The Bible tells us, "The life is in the blood." This is why we are forbidden to eat any blood, or to drink blood. Simply because all sickness which causes any form of disease is transmitted through the bloodstream. Doctors might argue with me technically on that, I'm not going to get into the technicalities of it. But the blood is that organ of the body, and the only organ of the body, which touches every other part of our body. so if you have got a poison finger here you can get poison throughout your entire body simply because of that. Simply because the blood takes the poison through. The bloodstream carries the sin, the iniquity, the genes and that. Whatever is affecting us is carried through the bloodstream. And so our life depends on the blood which is in our veins. But there will come a time when it is going to be different to this.

In Luke 24 and verse 39, we read the Lord's words there. Remember He suddenly appeared as they spoke, the disciples were there, and suddenly Jesus stood in the midst of them, and it says in another one of the Gospels, "The doors and the windows being shut." And suddenly the Lord suddenly just stood before them. You can just imagine that the disciples must have got the real shock of their life to all of a sudden see the Lord standing there, and no one had opened any windows or doors. But He said to them, He said, "Why are you terrified?" Because they supposed that they had seen a spirit or a ghost. And he said to them, "Behold, my hands and my feet that it is myself: handle me and see; for a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see." And He has got no blood. Now we've all been through this before. I'm not telling you anything new, I'm just putting it into the context now of the resurrection. What actually happened? There must be some very, very dramatic change in our physiology, because no longer does that body have blood. Our Lord said, "touch me and see that I am flesh and bone". If He had been flesh and blood, He could not have been in the Kingdom Himself. Because the sin is transmitted in the blood. Now what sort of a body does that mean do we have? Because it says here we are going to be changed. Changed into what? What have we got to be changed?

Well the first thing, or the reason we've got to be changed is so that we can get from this place up to where ever it is that we meet the Lord up in the air. I haven't seen a high jumper do anything like this yet. Something has got to happen to us. We know that we are going to be changed, and I will go into that in a moment. But it is an interesting though, and I am just speculating to some extent. What is going to flow through our body? See if we haven't got blood as we now know it, just think of this, it sounds a little bit queer when you start to think of it. Why have you got a heart? Your heart is there to pump the blood. So if there is no blood, do we need a heart? And the lungs are there to purify the blood. And if you have got no blood, no lungs. You know, your chest becomes like a politicians skull, nothing in between it, sort of thing. But then you look at your stomach and you have the food. And you digest the food and that creates things that help to feed the blood. And you have got no blood so why do you need the food? And so in the end you have got a body with nothing in it. Now I don't imagine that this is what the Lord has in store for us. Otherwise, you know, the expression 'we shall be changed' would be the understatement of the century. The Lord could still eat. He could still speak. He could still talk, walk, and feel. He was as solid as you and I. Something had changed.

What happened to Adam when he was first formed? He was perfect when God formed him. Now there are some who have put forward the theory, and I am not arguing against this theory because I don't know enough about it theory to say anything different, but it sounds quite feasible to me. That when Adam, well before he sinned, he had light going through him. The blood was the light, or the light of God. And that when he sinned, that light congealed into what we now call blood, but it still flowed through the body. Now, I don't argue with that. I don't know enough about it either way to argue with it. But you have to have some reasonable explanation, and that sounds fairly reasonable to me although I wouldn't argue if someone has another argument or another answer to it. But the point is that something then has to flow through our body rather than the blood which we have. And what is it that that would be?

It's obviously that, the spirit of God would be flowing through our body. Now I don't know what effect that has on our heart, whether we need the heart to pump the spirit of God through our body. I don't know how these things will work, but believe me that God made us in His image. In other words we didn't look like Him just on the outside with a head, and two arms, and ten fingers, and two legs, and ten toes, and you know, like that. We are like God. In other words God is like us. But in a perfected condition. And all the organs we have now I'm sure will have some use in respect to the new body that we have. But you can't have the old body if you are a ruler in the Kingdom, or even if you are a member of the final completed Kingdom of God. You can't have the old body. This is what he is getting at here.

And he goes on to say then, "Behold, I show you a mystery." Now the word mystery, as we've said many times before, is nothing to do with something that is mysterious. A mystery is purely a Biblical term which means something which is secret, or which has to this time been secret but now is being revealed. He says, 'I am going to show you the meaning of something which has been secret up to this time.' And He said, "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." Now it is obvious that if He said we are not going to all sleep, but we are all going to be changed, then there is going to be some who are going to be changed who are not asleep. He is talking about the sleep of death, of course. And this fits in with the reading that we had in I Thessalonians where it says that 'we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together in the air.' So, we find one complementing the other. But who are the all?

It says, "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." That surely must be those who inherit the Kingdom of God. That is what he has just been talking about. Those who will inherit the Kingdom as distinct from those who will live in the Kingdom, under Kingdom conditions, even with everlasting life. It is going to be different. Those who inherit the Kingdom, they shall be changed. And how are they going to be changed? They are going to be changed in two ways.

Firstly by speed, in the twinkling of an eye. Well all know what that means. The word twinkling just means the blinking of an eye. You can blink your eye, and I'll guarantee every one of you

has blinked a couple of times since I have even said the word. And, you know, I get people sometimes, and I am sure some of you have heard them say, 'You know, that whether it will happen or not, they hope that it will happen in such a way that when the Lord comes back, they'll just be given a minute or two to say a last prayer before He gets here so they can put everything right, sort of thing.' forget it. If it happens in the twinkling of an eye, now every one of us can try, you can lay odds on it. You will not pick the next time you'll blink. It just happens normally. And just in that speed it will happen. Just as suddenly and as unexpectedly. We blink all the time, we know it is happening, but we never know when that particular blink is going to happen. In the twinkling of an eye.

But it says 'in a moment'. And again, we go through what we have said many times before. This word moment is the Greek word atomos, from which we get our word atomic. So we can translate this quite truthfully and quite rightly as, 'we shall be changed in our atomic structure in the twinkling of an eye.' And of course this gives us something to really look forward to. As I said a few moments ago, we are changed in our atomic structure, we have got to be changed in our atomic structure to get from here to meet the Lord in the air. You know, we are not going to stay up there, because we are going to come back with him. But we have to change. I am sure that Elijah's body changed when he was caught up in the whirlwind, because he could not have survived without his body being changed. So our body is changed in its atomic structure. Not only will the organs be used in different ways, as I said a moment ago I can't imagine that we are going to walk with just flesh and bones and nothing inside, that's just rattling around or whatever. We have to have some form of body that is going to be substantial, that can feel and be felt, which can talk, which can hear, which can see, all the senses are there. But it is going to be an absolute miraculous body that we are going to have. And this is what we will need to take in this change of position even, to meet the Lord in the air, and even to stand in the presence of the Lord. You can see the necessity for this change to be made.

But then we find two other expressions used. "We shall be changed 'at the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound.'" Now these are two separate statements. The first one is when, and the

second one is what happens with the trumpet. We will be changed at the last trump. Now, the word at means, I think it was Betty that mentioned a few weeks ago I did a little moment or so study of the word at. Study the words; the little ones are just as important. At means, at the time and place and within the right element. That's 'at the last trump'. Now what is this last trump? Maybe we will go over to Revelations, and we will see a reference here in the Book of the Revelations, chapter 20, I have written down the wrong reference. At any rate, it talks about the last trumpet. We find it further back, I wrote down the wrong number there. When it is talking about the trumpets, remember the angels they all had these trumpets, and they sounded and when the last one sounded, it's round about the 11th chapter, verse 15. Right.

There was another one just before that where it says in the 7th verse of the 10th chapter, "In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God shall be finished." The secret of God shall be finished when that seventh angel is about to sound that last trumpet. Then in chapter 11, verse 15 we read, "And the seventh angel sounded it; and there were voices in heaven saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever." We find here that in one reference he began to sound it, and in the second one he sounded it. Now what is the difference? The difference is, just for arguments sake, if I can just use myself as an illustration, about gracious nearly thirty minutes ago; I came up onto the pulpit to deliver a message. That is when I began the message. But I didn't really begin it until I opened my mouth to say it. There was a preparatory period between the time I go up out of the chair, came up to the pulpit, and got ready, and then I opened my mouth. This is this sort of thing. There is a preparation period where you begin to sound or prepare to sound, and then there is the point when the sound is actually uttered. That is dealing with the last trumpet. And it said, "For the trumpet shall sound." Not begin to sound or be prepared to sound. "The trumpet shall sound." And when that happens the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall all be changed.

Now he mentioned previously the fact of this applying primarily to those who are elders in Israel. If we go right back to Numbers,

chapter 10. In the first few verses, I am not going to read it all, the Lord gave Moses instructions about making trumpets. And in the 4th verse, He specifically states that if they blow only with one trumpet, as distinct from blowing on several trumpets, which he has just been through. He has just mentioned them. If they blow with only one trumpet, "then the Princes, which are the heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee." One trumpet is for the heads. This in Corinthians talks about the last trump. The last trumpet. Not plural, singular. So we get another indication here that He is talking specifically and primarily to those who are going to be rulers and Kings and Priests reigning in the Kingdom.

And don't let any of us sell ourselves short, by saying we will never make it. If the Lord said to Elijah as he did that he still had seven thousand people who had not bowed their knee to veil. You just try to think of how many people are in seven thousand. And I know it might seem a bit strange, but when you look at most Christians, and I am not trying to be derogative about them, this is mainly because of their teachers today. How many of those people are really qualified to rule in the Kingdom of God? Because 99.9% of them don't believe in His laws at any rate. They don't meet the qualifications that you have to have to rule in the Kingdom. And all of us who may even have those qualifications, and it is not our place to sort of make an assessment of ourselves, but we shouldn't be stupid about it. If we are teaching and doing the law of God according to the Lord Himself who said, "They who do those things will be great in the Kingdom of heaven." Not the least, who are those who don't obey the law and who teach others not to obey the law. See there is a difference here. We can rightly assess ourselves as coming within the parameters of what is required to be a ruler. But there are many levels of ruler ship.

The disciples were told they would sit on twelve thrones governing the twelve tribes of Israel. Kings. And the Lord is going to be King of kings. But you have got the next layer and the next layer. And I will tell you what, you will be flat out using up seven thousand people. Why do we need seven thousand people in the kingdom? Will it be very difficult to find seven thousand people? I would say from my point of view, I think it would be a bit difficult to find seven thousand people.

Simply because of the great diversity of opinion that exists within the Christian faith today where people just don't seem to know what constitutes a person who inherits the Kingdom of God. So don't let us sell ourselves short. There are going to be positions for every one that falls into the framework of those who obey God and keep His commandments. That is the primary requirement. If we've kept that law, if we obey God, if we teach others to keep the law of God, we have qualified for some level of rulership. God is not going to appoint anyone to rule over His Kingdom who will not obey His injunctions to rule over it in its earthly condition now. I mean that would be foolishness. I mean, even a simple ordinary manager down here wouldn't do that, let alone God do it. So we're going to be changed "at the last trump". And when that trumpet sounds, that is when the change will take place. "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

I read some many, many years ago, I think it was Howard Rand as a matter of fact, who made this suggestion, I'm not too sure just how correct he is. I do understand what he is getting at. The difference between having everlasting life and having immortality. I think the only area that worries me a little bit is when they make a difference between everlasting life, which of course, the word means age lasting, it lasts for the age. And immortality means that you are never subject to death. I think there is an argument to be forward in this sense that if everlasting life is only age lasting, then we could then conclude that at the end of a particular age, doesn't matter whether it lasts for millions of years, then the everlasting life could stop. And I don't think that is what God intends. Whilst there is a difference, I believe the difference comes in with what we have discussed in an earlier talk where it says, "There shall be celestial bodies, and terrestrial bodies." I think that is where the difference comes in. But not, in my opinion, so much as the duration of your everlasting life. I mean, once you have got everlasting life, that is talking about mortality or immortality. See, the difference is that the corruptible must put on incorruption. What's the corruptible body?

The corruptible body is, in this sense, the one who has died. Their body has seen corruption. As a matter of fact, we are told in the Psalms that God would not allow the body of Jesus Christ

to see corruption. In other words, it never started to decay. We know, as human beings, that the moment we die our body starts to decay because there is no life left in it. The spirit of God has left it and it eventually goes back into the dust from which it was first formed. But it will no longer do that. The body which is subject to death and then to decay will no longer be subject to corruption. That's the dead.

But the mortal must put on immortality. Now what is the mortal? The mortal is the person who is still alive. We haven't seen corruption. I mean, we have got destruction in our body but we haven't seen corruption in the sense of it applying to a person who has died. That body sees corruption.. Ours hasn't seen corruption in that sense, because we are still alive. "Those who are alive and remain", he says to the Thessalonians. We are mortal people. We will become immortal. What's the change? We will not be subject to death. The corruptible body which has been subject to corruption and fading away in death, will no longer be subject to that. We will all be in the same situation. There will be in fact, no such thing as death.

So, we find the corruptible must put on incorruption. Those who have died and their body is decaying, or has decayed, over thousands of years will no longer be subject to that condition. They will never again decay. Those who are still alive, will put on immortality. In other words, they will never die. See, it's the same thing, but one is dealing with those who have died, one is dealing with those who have not died at this particular point in time. And I believe that the difference with immortality and incorruption, if one wants to sort of see some difference in that, and I'm not saying that there isn't a difference there. but I believe that it is more in the area of the celestial and the terrestrial body, the difference, the status to which we are appointed in the resurrection and the new conditions which apply then.

By the way, let me just add this here. Isn't it interesting that so many, and I mentioned this in I think the last talk or the previous one to that, the fact that so many people, especially some of the, I know the Masonic lodge teaches it, and a lot of Christians do, what they call the immortality of the soul. The soul is immortal. Now that is totally unscriptural, isn't it? The soul that sins will

die. And we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God, so there is no such thing as the immortality of the soul. If there was why is Paul saying here, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, that the mortal shall put on immortality? You don't put on something you have already got. We must put on immortality. It is something which we are given as a reward at the time of the resurrection. So that "when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and when this mortal shall have put on immortality: when the dead in Christ shall rise, and their bodies become immortal then (not subject again to corruption), when those of us who are alive and remain are changed and we receive the immortal body, we will all be the same; and then that which will brought to pass the saying that is written in death, is swallowed up in victory."

Now in Revelations 21, and verse 4. It says there that, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death". Death it says will be swallowed up in victory. But I believe before we get to that stage something else has to happen. We have got to remember that in dealing with these subjects, God teaches us the subject. He doesn't always put it into the right time frames. I don't mean He puts it in wrong time frames, but I mean He doesn't separate it into little boxes for us. We have to work out the details ourselves. And we will find that when we go to the 20th chapter of the Book of the Revelation, as we saw just earlier, and I am just going to refer to it again now. There is another aspect of resurrection which I feel we should deal with just in the final moments of our series of studies on resurrection.

Till now we have dealt with everything which pertains to what we know as the first resurrection. But what happens at the end of the Kingdom Age, the Millennium Age, and the thousand years whatever term we want to use, reign of our Lord Jesus Christ? We find there what is referred to as the Age or the period of the Great White Throne of Judgment. And I just want to spend a moment just on giving you a few of my own personal thoughts as to the principles of this particular judgment which happens to those who are resurrected at that time.

"I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the

book of life." Now before we go on, let us clearly see what is happening. There are two groups of books. One is books plural. The books of works, "and the books were opened, and another book was opened." So you have got two groups here. You have got one plural books, you have got another group, if you could out it that way, it is only one, but just to identify that it is different from the others. One of them is the book of life. But "the dead were judged out of those thing which were written in the books", plural. So you have got one lot of books which contain the works, the record of the works of everyone who is brought forward at that time. And don't ever think there is ever going to be a wacking great crowd of about fifty billion people standing around in a queue waiting for this. This is a process of time, and it won't worry God, because at that time, you know, there is no such thing as time with God. So there wont be any problem about this.

"The books were opened . . . the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works." It goes on to say that "the sea gave up the dead which was in it; death and hell (that is the grave) delivered up the dead which was in them, and they were judged every man according to their works." And then it says after that whoever was not found written in the other book, the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. We are not going into about what the lake of fire is, it has got nothing to do with our talk today. It is final judgment. That is about all we can say about it. So here we have a list of books, or a stack of books, and everything that anyone has ever done they're going to be judged out of that.

Then you've got this other book. The book of life, and if your name is not found in the book of life, you have had it. That's it. That's what is called here, the second death. No some people like to refer to that as the time when everyone is going to be rehabilitated, and I cannot find where the Bible says that. You look at the Concordance and your Lexicons, whatever you like to find to check with, that word death means a cessation of life. That's it. All the dead, doesn't matter who it is now, at that stage have to be resurrected to stand before the Throne of God for judgment. The book of works is opened, and it will come to Mr. Joe Blow. And his works will be considered by God. If his works are considered to be conducive to further reward, or at

least not to be conducive to destruction, his name will be put in the book of life. I don't find any problem with this.

As we have said before, there are thousands, literally thousands, hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people who never ever heard the name of the Lord Jesus Christ before they died. Many, many of them were very, very righteous people. They may not have lived under the Abrahamic covenants, they probably never knew anything about them. But in their own culture, in their own lands, in their own lifestyle, and by the laws of their own country and their own groups of people, whatever you like to refer to it as, they were in every respect righteous people. They were lawful people, they were good living people, and they were very just and upright people. Betty will tell you we have lived for a few years in New Guinea, and any of you who have lived in some of these countries even for a short period of time, I don't mean as visitors, but have lived there among the people, you will find there many, many people who you would trust more than a lot of Israelites that you know. I mean they don't walk around with knives behind their back to stick them in your back when you are not looking, sort of thing. They are very, very upright people, according to their own standards.

Now these people will never, ever be rulers in the Kingdom. They will never, ever be Kings and Priests. But I'll tell you what, they do not fall into the category of those that it says, "Blessed are they which do His commandments that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates of the city." Then it says, "For without are dogs (which are homosexuals), sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers, idolaters, and who ever loveth and maketh a lie." I know many people of other races who don't fall into any of those categories. They are the ones who will be outside the Kingdom in what is called outer darkness. And I believe that when these books are opened, there will be many people who will be judged, at that time, as having qualified as righteous people in the lives that they lead. As a matter of fact, there are many who believe, and I don't even argue with this, that the resurrection of the rest of the Christians that doesn't take place at the first resurrection, that is the elders, waits until this second resurrection. I know many fine Christian folk, Identity folk, who believe that, and I won't argue with that, because the person who is dead doesn't know another thousand years has

gone at any rate. It doesn't make any difference. And so the book of works will be, it will contain his name as having received the Lord Jesus Christ. And he will find his name in the book of life.

So we find here a very big difference in what goes on. The first resurrection, you have to qualify to be an elder, or a ruler in the Kingdom. This second one is to whether you even live in the Kingdom, and you are judged out of those books of works. If it is found to be right, you r book goes into the book of life and you have your citizenship in the Kingdom, or certainly in the bounds of the Kingdom, or the areas that are controlled by the kingdom. You are certainly not cast out of the Kingdom.

"Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." You notice something about that? Let's go back to I Corinthians 15 again. It says, "Death shall be swallowed up in victory." See death is not swallowed up in victory at the first resurrection. Death can only be swallowed up in victory after the second resurrection, and the great judgment period takes place. Because it is only after that and that the punishment is meted out to those to whom it is appointed, those who deserve death, that it says that death itself will then be done away with. You might remember back, just a few talks ago, when we were doing an earlier part of this 15th chapter of Corinthians. It says of the Lord Jesus Christ, "Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the father. When he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power, for He must reign till He hath put all enemies under His feet." Now remember, all enemies are not under His feet when He starts to reign. But He has got to reign till all enemies are under His feet. In other words, He has got control of the whole thing, and it goes on to say then, "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." So being put under the feet of Jesus means that whatever it is , is destroyed. The last thing that is destroyed is death.

That's got to happen after the second resurrection. Because if death is destroyed before it, then how is it going to come into operation at a future period? So you know we are talking about a very large expanse of time here. We're only studying principles. I wouldn't even dare to presume to try to give details of what is going happen here. Now what is going to happen? Someone

told me, you know they believed in what is called the ultimate reconciliation or as the Americans call it, the restitution of all things. And under this teaching they say that eventually everyone that ever breathed, that ever walked on the face of the earth is going to all end up with eternal life. Now I don't happen to subscribe to that.

The person that spoke to me about it said that this was going to happen over a period of fifty thousand years or something. And I remember saying to him 'well, you know, I am not even going to be presumptuous enough to tell you what God is going to do in another fifty thousand years. And if He wants to do something like that, then well, you know, jolly good luck. I'm not going to argue about it.' But as I read the Bible now, I cannot see how that holds water. But if it does happen, then it is in God's plan. I am not going to argue with what God is going to do. and especially in another fifty thousand years. You just try to imagine. We have lived a life of seventy years, in round terms. Some of us have made more some of us are not quite there yet, but that is the allotted time we are given. You think of living fifty thousand years. I mean, that's an awful long while. So who is going to argue about what God does in fifty thousand years, but don't let us use that as an excuse for what may be not what the Lord is actually saying.

But the point is, that the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. "For he shall put all things under His feet. And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things unto Him, that God may be all in all." What's happened? Death now is no longer an issue. The whole subject of death can be forgotten, because there is then no such thing as death. No such condition as death. It will be impossible to die even if you want to and no one in their right sense, or any other way, will ant to die. You won't be able to die. We will be immortal. We won't be able to see corruption. We won't be able to see mortality. We will be those who are the rulers and finally those who are the citizens of the Kingdom, shall have real everlasting, age lasting, and the word age I might add also applies to the age of the ages. That's as other translations use it. They will have everlasting, immortal life. death shall no longer be in existence. It will be impossible to die.

And that is going to start, that whole process, will really be put into operation the moment that trumpet sounds.

At the time, and the place, and under the circumstances of the last trump. "The trumpet shall sound." No more preparation time. It will sound and then it will all start to happen. The dead in Christ, those who have seen corruption in their bodies, will rise. Those of us who remain alive at that time will change in our bodies. We will be changed in our whole atomic structure. It will happen suddenly. We will meet the Lord in the air for what Pheraphenton, I think very excellently, translates in his translation of this passage in I Thessalonians. "We shall meet the Lord in the air for an introduction into our eternal condition." And I think that just about says everything that needs to be said about what that means. This is the great last supper. The marriage supper of the lamb. When we are given our marching orders, as it were. We are all appointed as lance corporals, corporals, sergeants; you take it as . . . you know. We sing about the army of the Lord.

We are always told about being soldiers of Christ. You know, soldiers of Christ do not sit down on their backsides and enjoy the country air, or something like this. I am sure the people over in Kuwait now waiting for this war are not out there on the beach somewhere just getting all bronzed up, and thinking 'isn't this a great old lurk, we are getting paid to do this.' They are very, very highly trained. And if we can pay so much respect to a hundred and ten men who have gone over there the elite of the Australian Army, we might think that is just a drop in a bucket, isn't it? Just a hundred and ten men. But they are some of the most highly trained men in the world at what they have got to do. Christians will not be prepared to pay any price to even be half as well trained as what these men are trained to do in their earthly life. We take so much for granted, don't we? We will not accept the liability and the responsibility which goes with being soldiers of Christ. A soldier as I say, is not someone who just looks at the countryside and looks up at the sun and sun bakes on the beach or something like this. If you are a soldier of Christ, you are always on demand, you are always in uniform and you are always under the command of the King.

So what do we find? Death is then swallowed up in victory. And then we get just these last few verses, the hymn of praise for this victory. "Oh death, where is thy sting? Oh grave, where is thy victory?" And the answer is simple. Because the sting of death is sin. What causes death is sin. And what causes sin is the law. Under the terms of the New Covenant the law will be written in our hearts and our minds and we won't be able to sin. So if we can't sin there will be no death. And because there is no death, then there is victory. So thanks be to God which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. And that's what we have to look forward to. We have one more verse there which I will take in with the 16th chapter, Go willing, in our next talk. But that I believe culminates the whole of our studies of resurrection. It is not a matter of even knowing what it is about. The theological and the technical arguments for and against various aspects. We have to realize how God is going to use this. What He is going to do with this. How He is going to do this with us. And why He is doing it with us. This is just another stage in His plan. Just as He formed the first Adam to be the son of God from whom would come the people through whom He would bring salvation and repair, if you could call it that, restitution to the rest of the world, which had really gone off the rails over, we don't know how many thousands, if not millions of years prior to Genesis chapter 2.

Just as He created or formed that Adam for a special purpose, that Adam failed. Now this is the next stage when He is going to appoint a higher standard of Adamic race. This one will be transformed into someone who can never die. Remember the first Adam was told death was there. He was told, if you sin you shall start to die. So death was always present with the first Adam. It was only inoperative as long as he continued to obey God. We know the story. But in this case now, God has set aside all that. He is going to destroy the effects of sin. He's going to start off by raising up those who will be Kings and Priests ruling with Him to help to bring the Kingdom into its fullest perfection, after which the whole thing about death will be done away with, and we will then experience the immortality that even Adam and Eve never, ever had.

So the plans and purposes of God are something really quite brilliant, aren't they, when you really look at it? The way He has worked it all

out, the way He has designed it. Step by step, He's done this. Bruce referred to it in his prayer a little earlier. That we build line upon line, that's what the Lord has done. Built precept upon precept. Here a little, there a little. And we build up, and we find that in building up our knowledge we find how God is building up His plan. He has a plan. It has just about reached that fruition stage when we are about to see very remarkable changes and we can only pray that all of us will be ready for that time, which I believe is very close upon us, when the trumpet sounds and we will then meet the Lord for the marriage supper of the lamb to be allocated whatever position we are going to have in the Kingdom as Kings and Priests ruled over by the King of kings, and the Lord of lords.

TO BE CONTINUED

* * * * *

Israel's Throne

⁹ His seed also I will make to *endure* forever,
And his throne as the days of heaven.

³⁰ "If his sons forsake My law
And do not walk in My judgments,

³¹ If they break My statutes
And do not keep My commandments,

³² Then I will punish their transgression with the rod,
And their iniquity with stripes.

³³ Nevertheless My loving kindness I will not utterly take
from him,

Nor allow My faithfulness to fail.

³⁴ My covenant I will not break,
Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.

³⁵ Once I have sworn by My holiness;
I will not lie to David:

³⁶ His seed shall endure forever,
And his throne as the sun before Me;

³⁷ It shall be established forever like the moon,
Even *like* the faithful witness in the sky."

Psa. 89:29 through Psa. 89:37 (NKJV)

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

COURTESY OF Destiny, Howard Rand

Often the Christian has gone into the fray poorly equipped, having only partial information about the spiritual armour he should wear to protect himself and being pitifully vulnerable to attack. Just as it would be suicidal for a nation to enter a war improperly equipped for battle, so Preparation and adequate equipment for a given task are recognized requisites if success is to be achieved. Young men and women who expect to attain positions of authority must prepare for the accompanying responsibilities through intensive training during years of schooling. There is no other way to genuine achievement, for without such foundation work it will be found to be impossible to secure the coveted high position. Whether a man follows a profession or becomes a skilled craftsman, his years of preparation are absolutely essential to lay a sure foundation to reach his goal; otherwise, he will fail.

Courting Disaster

In time of war victory depends upon the degree of preparation, the type of equipment and the skill exercised by a nation during the period of crisis. Few Christians, however, seem to be aware that, by virtue of having accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, they have enlisted in a conflict that is the most sanquinary and deadly of all in which a man can participate. Preparation for that conflict is as essential for the individual as it is imperative for a nation to prepare to meet evil aggression if it is to survive. Too, too, it is foolhardy for a man to enlist in the service of the Lord and either refuse or fail to put on the whole armour of God. When a Christian does this he is courting disaster and, what is even more serious, ignominious defeat, for his conflict is against evil, entrenched and powerful. It is the most deadly contest of all time for the powers of darkness gives no quarter, using every type of weapon, fair or foul, at their command. They do not hesitate a moment to make use of falsehood and treachery to besmear and, if possible, destroy their opponents as they press the battle.

Every man and woman who desires to crucify the flesh, consecrate their lives to the Lord's service and give their bodies to become the temple of the Holy Spirit must indeed put on the full armour of God so that they will not suffer defeat, but, instead, gain the victor's crown. Only thus equipped may they hope to stand against the wiles of the Devil, for Paul declares:

"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness [wicked spirits] in high [heavenly] places." (Eph. 6:12.)

Protection Needed

Because many Christians have failed to recognize the full import of this warning given to us by Paul, they have treated lightly the welfare in which they have become engaged. This has prevented multitudes of Christians from giving a good account of themselves in the conflict and many have suffered defeat when they should have gained a victory over the foe. Actually, no man is able to stand before the powerful forces of evil that are arrayed against righteousness unless he has put on God's full armour. It is also imperative to recognize the type of foe against whom we are called upon to fight, for then we will also recognize how important it is to avail ourselves of the protection that can only be secured when we follow the advice of Paul:

"Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles [tactics or stratagems] of the devil." (Eph. 6:11).

It is only when we follow these directions that we may be strong in the Lord and may go forth in the power and might of His Spirit. The forces arrayed against us are gross evil, malignant and powerful, as defined in "Giants of the Darkness," DESTINY for November 1947. These are the denizens of the great deep, or Bottomless Pit, who are at war with His Kingdom and are endeavouring to defeat its citizens – those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and King. As stated in "Giants of the Darkness":

"Human beings who are evil, or who unwittingly lend themselves to subversive activities, supporting programs in

opposition to the establishment of His Kingdom, are furthering the plans of these devils. If the eyes of men could be opened so they could see, even for a moment, the fearful apparitions whose influence and directions they are following, fear and horror would seize them. From time to time men have caught glimpses of these denizens of the nether world and it has left them frightened and shaken. The man of God, occupying the front-line trenches of this sanguinary conflict, is fully aware of their existence, having learned by experience to respect their power."

Unprepared for Conflict

Because of the nature of this warfare, any man who enters the conflict unprepared is foolhardy indeed. An example of such foolhardiness is given in the Scriptures when certain vagabond or wandering Jews who were exorcists undertook to pronounce the name of the Lord Jesus over those possessed of evil spirits, saying:

"We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." (Acts 19:13-16.)

Without the armour of God those young men entered a conflict for which they were completely unprepared. They had no protection whatever from the possibility of such an assault. They were trying to interfere with a possession exercised by an evil spirit and the result was disastrous to them. Today much harm has been done because of the prevalent propensity to underestimate the enemy of the Christian's soul. Note carefully how Ephesians 6:11 is translated by Ferrar Fenton:

"Our fight is not against blood and flesh; but against the sovereignties, against the powers, against the commanders of the darkness of this world, against the spirits of wickedness in the heavens."

Moffatt translates this:

"For we have to struggle, not with blood and flesh but with angelic Rulers, the angelic Authorities, the potentates of the dark present, the spirit-forces of evil in heavenly sphere."

In his translation of the Scriptures, Robert Young renders this verse as follows:

"Because we have not the wrestling against blood and flesh, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual things of the evil in the heavenly places."

The Armour

Because this is so, we are again admonished of the need of putting on the whole armour of God so that we may be able to resist these evil forces in the day of danger and hold our ground by overcoming the foe. Thus, in terms of the armour worn by the Greek soldier, Paul proceeds to describe the spiritual armour needed for protection in the warfare in which we are engaged.

"The Grecian armour consisted of two sorts: Defensive and Offensive armour. The apostle selects from these the following, which he calls the panoply, or complete armour of God: 1) The Girdle, or military belt, used to brace the armour tight to the body, and cover the two parts of the breastplate where they joined, and to support daggers, short swords, etc. 2) The Breastplate consisted of two parts: one reaching from the neck to the navel, and the other hanging from thence to the knees. 3) The Greaves, made of gold, silver, brass or iron, designed to

defend the font of the legs and feet. 4) The Helmet, made of various metals, and used to protect the head. 5) The Shield, sometimes round and sometimes square, was made of strong thick leather or hides; sometimes of wood covered with brass or iron. 6) The Sword, as an offensive weapon. He who had these was completely armed for combat." (Emphatic Diaglott).

The Belt of Truth

Translating this armour into terms denoting the armour of God, Paul declared:

"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about [or belted] with truth." (Eph. 6:14.)

Moffatt translates this:

"Hold your ground, tighten the belt of truth."

There is nothing more effective than truth, for time will always vindicate its decrees. It binds together the armour of righteousness and enables one to hold his ground against the forces of evil. Malicious lies, half truths and the smear technique must ultimately give way before the truth which gives support to the weapons of warfare against unrighteousness as the belt of the warrior binds together the breastplate and supports his dagger and sword. The Psalmist states:

"All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies." (Ps. 25:10.)

Covenants Important

No man can tighten the girdle of truth who despises God's covenants and refuses to keep His testimony. We have in this statement one of the reasons why so many Christians are

unable to stand their ground before the infidel, atheist and agnostic. They have rejected the girdle of truth by despising the covenants made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, with Israel at Mount Sinai and with the House of David. Having rejected these covenants, the full purport and meaning of the New Covenant to be made with the House of Israel is completely lost to them. Without these truths they have no support or any means by which they can bind together the breastplate of righteousness which Paul states must be worn as part of the armour of God'

"Having on the breastplate of righteousness." (Eph. 6:14.)

Perfection of the Law

Righteousness is inseparably related to the Law of the Lord in all of its perfection. It is a term which designates the acts of those whom we call righteous. The Scriptures define the righteous as those who keep in mind and observe His laws. The Psalmist, speaking of the Godly or righteous man in contrast to the ungodly, states:

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." (Ps. 1:2.)

When Christians despise the breastplate of righteousness, how can they hope to stand firm in the day of spiritual battle? Multitudes in our churches have cast aside this part of the armour of God in their rejection of the Law of the Lord and their refusal to heed its admonitions or keep its precepts. Because they have done this, their bodies are not protected from sickness and suffering, a weapon used by the enemy to destroy the effective service they otherwise would have rendered their Lord. Moses instructed the people to keep the commandments, statutes and judgments of the Lord. The result would be that the Lord would keep the covenant of mercy with them, then the statement:

"And the Lord will take away from thee all sickness."
(Deut. 7:15.)

Why are so many Christians ailing and sick today? Is it not because of their refusal to put on the breastplate of righteousness and keep the requirements of all His laws? That breastplate will protect the body from sickness and from moral defilement:

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward." (Ps. 19:7-11.)

Law Violation Condemned

Not only has the Psalmist declared that in the keeping of the law there is great reward, but Jesus Christ condemns those who break even the least of the commandments and who teach men to also break them. He stated that they would be least in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 5:19). It is absolutely essential that the warrior, who would go forth in the strength and power of the Lord, fasten this breastplate of righteousness securely in place. Next Paul declares:

"And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." (Eph. 6:15.)

The Gospel of Peace

This is not the gospel of personal salvation, for Paul later refers to that gospel as represented in the helmet the warrior is to wear. What, then, is the gospel of peace, the preparation for which is protection to the feet? The feet give to the individual freedom of movement and liberty of action. They also propel him forward. Only by the preaching of the gospel of peace can each person be assured of the continuity of his freedom and liberty. The entire Scripture message concerning the glad tidings of peace has to do with the ultimate establishment of the perfection of the Kingdom of God upon earth. It is of the King of this Kingdom and of the Kingdom itself that Isaiah was speaking when he said:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name 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 for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (Isa. 9:6-7.)

That peace is to become a reality when the words of Micah are fulfilled:

"But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it." (Micah 4:1-4.)

Preparation for Peace

But Paul, careful of his definitions, says that it is "the preparation" of the gospel of peace with which the feet are to be shod. As soldiers of the King, we are to declare that the way of peace is in the restoration of the administration of the commandments, statutes and judgments of the Lord. Then, and then only, will poverty be abolished, distress cease and prosperity come to His people. It is in the restoration of the Kingdom that there will come true freedom and liberty for all. It is this gospel of the Kingdom that is to be proclaimed as a witness only according to the words of Jesus:

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (Matt. 24:14.)

Ferrar Fenton translates this:

"The good news of the Kingdom, however, shall be proclaimed throughout the whole Empire, as a witness to all nations; and then the end will come."

Remember the Law

Since the feet of the warrior are shod with this gospel of peace, it represents a movement proclaiming the need of a national turning to His laws and their administration so that the people may have peace. This is in line with Malachi's admonition:

"Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers. Lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." (Mal. 4:4-6.)

Purpose of Identity

As pointed out in "The Kingdom of God Is at Hand" (Documentary Studies, Vol. 1), the Elijah message was to go out just before the great and terrible Day of the Lord, calling the people to

repent and restore the administration of the Law of the Lord. We are witnessing the proclamation of this Gospel of the Kingdom in fulfilment of that ancient prophecy. Actually, as set forth by Malachi, the coming of Elijah would bring a message that would turn the hearts of the fathers (ancient Israel) to the children (modern Israel) and the hearts of the children (modern Israel) to their fathers (ancient Israel) through the promulgation of the identity and responsibility of the children to keep the oath of their fathers who swore that they would obey the requirements of the covenant that God made with them:

"Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you."

(Isa. 51:1-2.)

Thus, as soldiers of the Lord, we must have, as part of our armour, the message of the proclamation of the Kingdom of God which, when established in the fullness of its administration, will bring peace to His people and meet all the requirements of political and economic freedom. Under its benevolent administration – to become world-wide-poverty, destitution and want among all peoples will ultimately pass away. This is an essential part of the armour of defence against the thrusts of the enemy as he endeavours to substitute the regimentation and oppression of mankind under a tyrannical program of the Evil One for the righteousness of the Kingdom of God. Paul then declares:

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

(Eph. 6:16.)

Ferrar Fenton translates this:

"Lifting up over all the big shield of the faith, upon which you will be able to quench all the blazing artillery of the Devil."

The Shield of Faith

The shield of faith actually covers the entire person, for faith in God and all His works is a mighty defence against the machinations of the Evil One. Fiery darts in olden days were slender reeds filled with combustible material which were ignited and shot from bows for the purpose of setting fire to tents, buildings and defences. The courageous soldiers would receive these on their shields and thus prevent them from doing the intended damage. Such fiery darts are emblematical of the persecution of believers throughout all ages in the attacks upon their character and against the principles for which they stand. The warrior must put his trust in the Lord and through faith meet this type of onslaught and await the day of complete vindication.

"Now faith is the substance [ground or confidence] of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1.)

After giving this definition of faith Paul calls the list of men and women who by faith went forward, many of whom died without seeing the promises fulfilled but knowing through faith that in God's good time He would vindicate them and make the truth known. The shield of faith is the faith of Abraham who, because God had spoken, believed what, humanly speaking, appeared to be impossible:

"And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness." (Gen. 15:6.)

Believing God

There are thousands of men and women today who believe God exists but only a comparative few who actually believe Him in all that He has said and spoken through His Word and by his prophets. Those who do not have the faith of Abraham are going into battle without a shield. The result is in evidence in the great falling away as the darts of the enemy destroy their defences, resulting in the great apostasy which today has settled down upon all Christendom. It is well to remember:

"Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:6.)

The shield of faith is such an essential part of our armour that John declares:

"For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the son of God?" (1 John 5:4-5.)

Because these are the conditions required of true believers, should we be surprised that the Church today is lacking in victory when its pulpits are occupied by men who accept the doctrines of the school of modernist teaching? They lack the faith and the pews are filled with followers of such preachers who also have accepted their doctrines and therefore disbelieve the Word of God.

Paul continues:

"And take the helmet of salvation." (Eph. 6:17.)

The Will of God

A helmet is to protect the head from injury so that the mind may be keen and alert at all times. Personal salvation provides spiritual keenness, enabling one to discern the truth, reject error and know the will of God. Thus Paul could say to the Christian:

"Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Rom. 12:2.)

In the sanguinary conflict with the forces of evil it is absolutely essential that we know the will of God; otherwise, we shall fall far short of the victory for which we are striving. The will of God is that through His Son we shall be saved. With this as our helmet the mind and thoughts are protected from satanic influences which seek to destroy our will to fight.

More than Helmet Needed

Unfortunately, many Christian warriors go into battle equipped only with the helmet of salvation. This accounts for the many casualties upon the spiritual battlefield and the periods of defeat which

have dogged the footsteps of those who have taken personal salvation as their sole protection against the wiles of the Devil. It is well to note that Paul has stressed the need of having on the whole armour of God without which no man can hold his ground against the attack of the enemy. Essential as salvation is for the individual in His spiritual relationship to God through His Son Jesus Christ, still his physical well-being, health, prosperity and all material blessings from God depend upon his obedience to the commandments, statutes and judgments of the Lord and upon the ultimate restoration of Kingdom administration. This part of the armour of God must be worn along with the helmet of salvation if the soldier of the Lord is to gain a complete victory over all his foes. No part of that armour may be discarded if he is to stand his ground in the day of attack.

Then, too, along with the armour worn for protection against evil aggression, the warrior must also have a weapon of offence with which he can rout his foe. Paul declares he must take:

"The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."
(Eph. 6:17.)

It cannot be overstressed that a knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures is essential to the Christian, for without this sword the warrior is helpless to press for victory. Unless the man has t

he sword of the Spirit, he is always on the defensive and defence alone never wins a victory. The unfortunate fact is that many Christians know so little about the Bible that they not only lack much of the armour of God but they are also without the sword of the Spirit. Herein lies the answer to the question as to why the Church has failed to accomplish what it should have throughout the ages. It is because its members have not put on the full armour of God. Many may have the helmet of salvation but some do not even possess the sword of the spirit, without which it is impossible to effectively advance against the foe. Paul had this to say about the Scriptures:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (Heb. 4:12-13.)

Ferrar Fenton translates this:

"For the word of God is living and energetic, and more cutting than any two-edged sword; and divides even the life and spirit, joints and marrow; and is critical of desires and thoughts of the heart. And there is no creature hidden before it; but all is naked and bare to His eyes to Whom we have to account."

With such a sword as a weapon of offence, evil cannot long endure the attack of the warrior fully equipped with God's armour who vigorously presses the conflict. The warrior advances into battle with Paul's admonition constantly in mind:

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." (Eph. 6:18.)

Ferrar Fenton translates this:

"With prayer and supplication, praying at every moment in spirit, and keeping watch in it with steady tenacity: and praying for the holy."

Spirit of Prayer

We are urged to be constantly in a spirit of prayer; in fact, Paul refers to "a spiritual state of sleepless vigilance," for the warfare in which we are engaged is against an enemy that will take advantage of the slightest deviation on our part. When thus equipped with the armour of God, grasping the sword of the spirit, in a spirit of prayer and constantly alert, the Christian is ready to face the foe with assurance of ultimate victory.

Order of Armament

It should be carefully noted that, in describing the Christian's equipment for battle, Paul did not begin with the helmet of salvation. Instead, the warrior dons first the girdle of truth, which includes

instructions concerning the immutable covenants of God. Following this comes the breastplate of righteousness – the Law of the Lord. Then the lower limbs and feet are carefully protected with appropriate armour, symbolizing the Gospel of the Kingdom by which peace is to be established upon earth. The shield of faith is the next piece of equipment mentioned since it will enable the warrior to resist all the fiery darts of the Devil. Then follows the helmet of salvation which typifies the awakening to the need of personal salvation. This is the final piece of armour the warrior puts on. The Christian warrior is not ready to take up the weapon of offence and this is the sword of the Spirit – the Word of God – which will provide discernment between good and evil and between righteousness and unrighteousness.

In this analogy of the dress of the warrior prepared for battle we find typified the order of presenting the truths of the Bible by which individuals are won to Christ. By the time the warrior has clothed himself with his girdle, breastplate and greaves (protection for his feet), and taken his shield, he is ready to put on the helmet of salvation. When the Christian world awakens to these facts, multitudes will be won to Christ who are now unreached with the good news of salvation.

THE END

REMEMBER THE QUESTIONS I ASK LAST ISSUE

WELL I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THEM. BECAUSE OF THE TURMOIL OVER THE LAST TWO OR SO MONTHS, WHAT WITH THINGS BEING HECTIC JUST TO PRODUCE A MAGAZINE AND AT THIS POINT IN TIME, WE ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR A PLACE TO HOLD OUR SERVICES. IN THE NEXT ISSUE I WILL ENDEVOUR TO SHOW SOME ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS I DID ASK. AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR REPLYS.

TRUTH

Probably one of the most difficult subjects to rationalise in our minds these days is that of how far do we go in insisting on TRUTH. In fact, do we ever seriously ask ourselves?

"What IS Truth?"

It must be quite obvious to the most uneducated person that if you get two opposite opinions to the meaning of one simple phrase, then at least one of those opinions must be wrong, and therefore not the truth. But I feel that in our search for truth, we must recognise the fact that the most dangerous situation is not that which is obviously untruth, but rather that which is "part truth."

In our study of God's Word, every honest student wants the truth. But there are so many voices clamoring to be heard that it becomes almost impossible to decide on which voice to follow. With this in mind, I would suggest that we should adopt some very firm and steadfast rules.

1. There is no substitute for Truth.

Nothing, and nobody, is more important than Truth. The non-observance of this fundamental rule has led to untold damage and misunderstanding to the Truth of God's Word. People are NOT more important than Truth. Doctrines are NOT more important than Truth. Churches and organisations are NOT more important than Truth. Think of this for a moment. If you had a very close and dear friend who was virtually paranoid about some belief that you were totally convinced was not the truth according to God's Word, would you let him keep on believing said error just so as not to offend him, or would you consider the risk worthwhile in an effort to lead him away from his error and into truth? Or would you make some excuses and compromise both his and your belief so as to retain his friendship and possible support? You may think this to be an odd question to raise, but believe me, I know a lot of Christians who do exactly that. They will put their friendship first. They will put their church or ministry

first. They will 'tailor' their preaching or teaching so as not to lose the other person's support, or what might be of more importance to them, so as not to lose their job. They will 'sit on the fence', or do any other thing necessary so as 'not to rock the boat.' No wonder our Lord that "Truth is fallen in the street."

2. Secondly, the fact that a particular statement is "true" doesn't necessarily mean that it is "TRUTH!"

Have you ever thought about that? Let me illustrate the point. We are all aware that in court, the witness is required to take an oath, or in these days of 'enlightenment' to make an affirmation to tell the truth. But it doesn't stop there. If it did, the oath would be useless. The full oath is to tell "**The truth, the WHOLE truth, and NOTHING BUT the truth.**" I'm sure that many people would never realise the fact that there can be a great difference between saying a statement is 'true' and 'telling the WHOLE truth.' Many years ago I had an experience of this that has never left me. I had been listening to a minister preaching in an open-air meeting, and he said something which to me was quite contrary to what God's Word said. So after the meeting I approached him and questioned him about what he had said. In reply to my question he asked me, rather sneeringly I must admit, if I believed everything the Bible said. I replied that I did. So he immediately told me that in that case I must believe that there was no God, on the basis, according to him, that this statement was actually in the Bible. When I rejected his statement and the line of his argument he promptly advised me that he wouldn't even have communion with me. Lucky me. But let us look for a moment at what he said. Was his claim **TRUE**, that the Bible said that 'there is no God'? Yes! It is true. There is an actual statement in the Bible that says 'There is no God'. But whilst this claim in itself is **TRUE**, it is not the **TRUTH!** The statement itself is true, but because it is not the WHOLE truth, it becomes a lie. The full statement is, "**The fool has said in his heart, there is no God!**" I am still amazed, after 40 odd years, at the effrontery of this minister. Now with this principle in mind, how should we study the Word of God? It is clear that if we are to arrive at **TRUTH**, as opposed to statements which may be **TRUE**, then we have to study all aspects of any given subject within the entire context of the subject throughout the entire Bible.

3. We must have the WHOLE truth.

How many preachers and teachers of the Bible do you know who 'specialise' in portions of the Scriptures to the exclusion of much of the rest of the Scriptures? I'm not criticising teachers for specialising in certain areas, but I certainly do object to those who pick out their favorite bits of the Bible and then throw the rest away as being of apparently no value or importance. I'm reminded of a preacher I actually heard many years ago who, during the course of his message, held out both his hands and said, "My left hand represents the Old Testament, and my right hand represents the New Testament. I have no time for left-handed Christians." Would you believe such nonsense? How will we ever understand the plans and purposes of God if we don't have the entire picture? And I'm not for an instant even suggesting that we have to know all the details of every aspect of the Bible. What I AM saying is that we have to take every aspect of God's Word into consideration if we would gain a proper, even if incomplete, understanding of it. We must have the WHOLE truth.

4. And finally, we must have NOTHING BUT the truth.

As far as I'm concerned, the present habit of teaching the Bible in such a manner as to give our own opinion of what God means, or in order to primarily support the particular doctrines of a particular church which we wish to preserve without investigation or argument, is just not on. One is staggered at the sheer presumption of such methods. Believe me, God doesn't need our paltry opinions to 'correct' or 'excuse' what He has said. I really get quite annoyed when I hear people saying in pompous tones, 'I know the Bible says 'this', but it means 'that'. The proper understanding of God's Word has today been virtually destroyed because of the 'traditions of men' that have been placed on the clear and concise statements of God Almighty. No wonder God promised that in the last days there would be a famine of the Word of God God's Word is wonderfully complete. In its totality it is **TRUTH**. And why shouldn't it be. **God Himself is TRUTH**. Our Lord Jesus Christ has assured us that "**He is the TRUTH.**" And we will be blessed only as we accept His entire Word as

"The Truth,
the Whole Truth,
and Nothing But the Truth."

SPECIAL PRAYER GROUP

WHAT WE HEAR AT THE COVENANT VISION ARE TRYING TO DO IS TO SET UP A PRAYER GROUP FOR THOSE OF US, (AND I MEAN EVERY ONE OUT THERE) WHO IS DIRE NEED OF PRAYERS FOR SUCH THINGS AS EMERGENCIES OR AS SUCH SHOULD ARISE. MY FELLOW BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST, HAVE AGREED THAT WHEN THE MORE PEOPLE PRAY FOR SOME ONE THEN SUCCESS AND ANSWER TO PRAY IS GRANTED, IN OTHER WORDS THE MORE WE GET PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR SOME ONE, THEN WE ARE BEING DRAWN TO EACH OTHER. CLOSER NOT ONLY TO OUR LORD BUT IF YOU ARE ON THE INTERNET THEN I CAN CONTACT ALL OF YOU BY EMAIL OR OTHERWISE I CAN RING AROUND OUR CIRCLE OF BELIEVERS AND WE ALL PRAY TOGETHER, LIKE WE DID WHEN THE COVENANT VISION NEARLY FOLDED AND 8 JUST ISRAELITES PRAYING TOGETHER AT AN APPOINTED TIME THE LORD HARKENED TO OUR PRAYERS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

come through the infilling, baptism, and ministry of the Holy Spirit within us.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for our nation to return to full obedience to the Law of God as the only way by which we can receive the full blessings of God.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for each and every individual Christian to prepare themselves for the greatest event yet to be witnessed on this earth, namely,

THE RETURN OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Whilst the production, publication and distribution of this magazine is undertaken as a faith ministry, it is totally dependant on the tithes and offerings of our readers. We are happy to continue sending it freely to all who wish to receive it but genuinely cannot afford to contribute in any way. However, we do request an offering to at least cover the cost of postage especially for overseas readers. But in order to be faithful stewards of the offerings sent to us, at the end of each year we will be obliged to remove the name from our mailing list of any one who has not contributed or contacted us within the past years. The financial assistance and prayers of those who read it, and are blessed by it, are therefore vitally necessary for its continuance and growth.

We also invite our readers to send us the names and addresses of any whom they think would be genuinely interested in receiving a sample copy. In this way you can share in the proclamation of the Gospel of the Kingdom, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified.

It is our fervent prayer that you will be blessed and lifted to higher planes of joy and blessing as you study and learn of the wonders of God's Word, and of His boundless and merciful love for each of us.

With our Christian love,

Frank and Beffy Dowsett.

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1 My dear children, I write this letter to you so you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have a helper in the presence of the Father—Jesus Christ, the One who does what is right. 2 He is the way our sins are taken away, and not only our sins but the sins of all people.

3 We can be sure that we know God if we obey his commands.

4 Anyone who says, *“I know God,” but does not obey God’s commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.* 5 But if someone obeys God’s teaching, then in that person God’s love has truly reached its goal. This is how we can be sure we are living in God: 6 Whoever says that he lives in God must live as Jesus lived.

7 My dear friends, I am not writing a new command to you but an old command you have had from the beginning. It is the teaching you have already heard. 8 But also I am writing a new command to you, and you can see its truth in Jesus and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. 9 Anyone who says, “I am in the light,” but hates a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. 10 Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light and will not cause anyone to stumble in his faith. 11 But whoever hates a brother or sister is in darkness, lives in darkness, and does not know where to go, because the darkness has made that person blind.

1 John ch.2: 1 to 1 John ch.2: 11. New Century Version.

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