



THE COVENANT VISION

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

THE COVENANT VISION.

Editor: Frank W. Dowsett.

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

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

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

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

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

We proclaim the absolute necessity for the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people to recognise their 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'

(continued on inside back cover.)

Editorial

A famous writer once wrote these words;

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil,
is for good people to do nothing."

Now you will note that he did not say that they SAY nothing, but that they DO nothing. There is a vast difference. Millions of people are only too willing to add their voice to the confusion that already reigns. They don't seem to mind joining the crowds and waving their hands in the air and shouting the standard slogans relative to the particular circumstances. But when it comes to action, then that is a very different matter. It is far more difficult to convince people to DO things than to talk about doing things.

And this unfortunately applies so many times to Christians. There are not a lot of Christians who are really willing to put their faith or belief into action. And this doesn't necessarily mean getting out in open-air meetings, or some other physical activity. Not everyone is capable, or even physically able, to do such things. I think of those who are ill, or getting on in years. Now obviously, we all get to the stage when even the most simple activity is beyond us, and I am not talking about those people. But there are, by the same token, many who can be of enormous assistance in the Lord's work if they only but realised it. During the second World War I was an apprentice in a workshop which manufactured field equipment for the army. And I remember being told that it took at least ten men at home to supply the needs of one man in the field. We need to realise this fact friends. For every person out in the front lines, as it were, teaching the Word of God, and exhorting the people, there needs to be a consecrated and dedicated band of supporters to provide the encouragement and wherewithall for them to operate. The service of the King is a group effort. And the rewards are

far beyond anything which we could imagine, or even deserve.

It is with this principle in mind that we write this editorial. We need your assistance in spreading the wonders and glory of God's Word. Are you able to pray? Then please pray for us. Are you able to write a short letter to us now and then to encourage us and share with us? Then please write. Some of our readers write to us quite regularly, whilst others might write once a year at best. Others never write, and we have no alternative but to discontinue sending the magazine to them, as we feel that to continue sending it to those who never contact us would be bad stewardship. Are you able to support us financially? Then please prayerfully do so. Rising costs of postage and printing material are constant sources of concern. In addition, we send a lot of free literature to ministers of the Gospel, and those who are unable to subscribe. Are you able to send us the names and addresses of people with whom you would like us to share the Word. Then please do so. We send out three copies of THE COVENANT VISION to such people, and in the third copy insert a form by which they can advise us as to whether or not they wish to continue receiving it. Some readers have arranged for us to send them several copies which they hand out to friends. Are you able to hand out literature? In this issue we include a sample copy of a pamphlet on God's Law which we have specially printed in several colours to enable you to share in this ministry. Please help us in these things. People are starving for the Word of God. They need to know the down-to-earth truths of what God has for them. They are sick and tired of so many of the sanctimonious platitudes which seem to be the only things on offer from so many of the churches.

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to offer not only Life, but ABUNDANT Life to everybody, right here on earth. We - that is, you and I together - have been given the wonderful privilege of making this glorious offer known in its fullest practical meaning to those around us. Please remember us and help us in this task.

Between Ourselves

OUR GREATEST OPPORTUNITY

Rev. John W. Shenton

(Courtesy 'National Message')

ISRAEL CHRISTIANS everywhere ought not to have been caught out by the present fast deteriorating world conditions. We have ample and clear warning in the Book, the Bible, which is the Book of Divine Revelation (and Reality) in which Almighty God speaks to His people and warns rebellious nations. The naked truth is that with the church mainly failing to 'Preach the whole Word of God' events have become preachers. If people will not hear 'The Word of The Lord' they cannot ignore being taken up and involved in the events which now torment our life and times. Almost everyone has an inner conviction that we are heading not only towards another crisis, but into the supreme crisis of the ages. What is almost important, we know that the choices before us are being quickly narrowed down, but the crisis we are now entering will be decisive — decisive for us and our children for many years to come. Communism appears to be rushing ahead on its world-conquering aim. The most urgent and pressing question for those of us who call ourselves 'Christian' is, 'Is there a Christian answer that will be approved and backed by Almighty God?'

When the world is at its worst we Christians must be at our best, and we cannot be at our best unless we really know what Almighty God wants us to know, be and do, He has given us this information in His Word. We should note well how present day events are revealing the absolute folly and nonsense of some of the 'traditions and false doctrines of men' which have held sway and influence modern life far too long. The first is the absolute nonsense and bankruptcy of the doctrine of the Humanists that man will get better with time. One went so far as to say that given enough time man would solve all his problems and become not only an angel but an archangel! Now we Christians ought not to neglect this clear discrediting of this Humanistic Satanic lie, 'ye shall be as gods'. Interestingly enough it was not Christians who in this present day and age called certain sections of the community 'Animals'; this came from people who witnessed the behaviour of so called human beings!

So much for the Humanistic lie. Above all people we Christians ought not to fail to see that man as he now is cannot of himself, without Divine intervention, change so that he is able to obey God's Laws and save himself.

Communism

Though communism appears to be conquering the world and is narrowing the choice between itself and the real Biblical Christian answer, we Christians ought not to be afraid to face up to its failures, too. The atheistic, materialistic communist has adopted the dogma of human omnipotence to create Utopia, the earthly man-made paradise. Two things we Christians can ask, Where in this world have the communists created a human Utopia, and man-made paradise where everyone is running away from their own countries to enjoy this communist Utopia?

Secondly, note the rallying cry of the materialistic communist: 'Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains'. But, just where are people today mostly in chains—mental chains, religious chains, political and economic chains etc? It is very strange that it is mostly where the communists come into power that the people under that regime are restricted and bound in their lives. This is the communist Utopia awaiting us all unless we Christians at this late hour come forth with the only available and possible alternative—the Biblical Kingdom of God on Earth. We Christians must rediscover and proclaim with all the strength God gives, the divine and only alternative—The Kingdom of God on Planet Earth.

Particulars of this Divine Alternative will be explained in future issues. Right now let us beware of wrong thinking about the times in which we live. Some say, 'It is too late to do anything', others say, 'The times are too evil'. But we say God can, has and will move wherever He finds men and women who believe His Word. In 1789 the French Revolution broke out and was followed by the Napoleonic wars which lasted from 1792 to 1815. In the span of those years the Baptist Missionary Society was founded. In 1799, when Napoleon was on the rampage, the Church Missionary Society was formed. In 1804 when Napoleon was threatening to invade England, the British and Foreign Bible Society came into being.

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform, and we must grasp the opportunities now to proclaim the message of the Kingdom of God and his Laws along with the necessity for National Repentance. This is our next greatest individual and

national adventure. What is also important and our only real hope of getting back on to the high road of the Destiny that God has for us as a people, is made clear in Holy Writ. Now is the hour of our greatest opportunity.



I WILL GIVE

What Christian can fail to find some outlet for his ardour to serve God and to save souls, when he remembers that Jesus is glorified, that the Spirit has come, and that "out of" him (contemptible as he may be in his own eyes) "shall flow rivers of living water?" What child of sorrow can find his burden greater than he can bear, when the very "Man of Sorrows" says, "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come unto you?" What tempted one, if "trusting, simply trusting", can doubt the issue of the conflict, when told that in every temptation there is a way of escape, that "sin shall not have dominion over" him, and that, abiding in Christ, he shall not only have his prayers answered—and so be preserved from failure—but his hopes exceeded by being enabled to bring forth much fruit?

Christ, you see, has no misgivings about it. To Him it is clear as the day. And He leaves us with the notes of confidence, reverberating as He says, "All power is committed unto me in heaven and earth", and binds Himself, as it were, to use this power for us by adding "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world".

BY REV. J. B. FIGGS
The Overcomer, England



See the Lord and His face continually: let this be the business of your life and strength, and let all things be subservient and in order to this! You cannot find nor behold the face of God but in Christ; therefore labor to know God in Christ."

— Oliver Cromwell
In a letter to his son,
1650

THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART ELEVEN.

THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE KINGDOM. (Cont.).

In our previous issues we found that there are FIVE aspects or requirements for the setting up of a kingdom. They are;

1. A Location.
2. Natural Resources.
3. People.
4. Leadership.
5. Government and Laws.

Having studied the first four of these requirements, we now turn our attention to the fifth aspect, namely:

GOVERNMENT AND LAWS.

"For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off.

It is not in heaven, that thou shouldst say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldst say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments that thou mayest live and multiply. And the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shall be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;

I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over to possess it.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him. For He is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the length of the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

(Deut. 30:11-20).

Thus we receive the Eternal command of the Eternal God. Our participation in the blessings of God depend entirely on our obedience to the Law of God. The extent of those blessings is directly proportionate to our obedience. It is a Law which we can never es-

cape, and from which God never intends for us to escape. Blessing or cursing will follow our obedience or disobedience just as surely as night follows day.

It is not our intention at this stage to study the individual Laws of God themselves. What we need to understand first is the PRINCIPLE on which God's Government and Law is based, and on which it operates. The first aspect which we will study is:

1. DEFINITIONS.

(i) GOVERNMENT.

GOVERNMENT is 'National Rule, or Authoritative Control'. It is 'The System of Governing'. It is an integral part of THE KINGSHIP. It requires that the Governor has total authority and control on a national scope, within the framework of the pre-determined precepts and rules. That is, the GOVERNMENT exercises its authoritative control by means of the already established law. We read in Isaiah 9:6-7;

"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."

And again in Matt. 2:6;

"For out of thee shall come a GOVERNOR, that shall rule My people Israel."

In both these references, the GOVERNOR, which of course is our Lord Jesus Christ, will GOVERN by means of the perfect Law which He has already given. He is not going to formulate another system of Law. You can't have two systems of Law both of which are perfect, but yet different from each other. If one is different from the other, then at least one of the systems must have some imperfection. There is only ONE perfect Law, and that is that which God has already given, and clearly enunciated in His Word.

The obvious conclusion is this.

The establishment and formation of LAW came BEFORE the organisation of GOVERNMENT.

This being the case, it follows that GOVERNMENTS do NOT formulate LAW. The responsibility of GOVERNMENT is to administer the LAW which has already been established.

Every session of our Parliament is opened by the Speaker of the House reciting what is called The Lord's Prayer. Part of that Prayer says, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This is an outright admission that God's Will, as expressed through His Law, is not only already in existence, but is the object of their deliberations. No wonder the anti-Christ in our midst is doing everything in its power to have these prayers deleted from Parliament. Take careful note of the party from which most of the politicians come who delay their entrance to the chamber until after the reciting of this prayer. The formulation of regulations, and the updating of the law to handle changing social circumstances is quite legitimate, providing it is done within the parameters of the existing Law. Governments have no right, either legally or morally, to change, to add to, or to take from, the Law of God already in existence, being the Law which they claim they are praying to be done here on this earth. The principles of the Law of God are as unchangeable as God Himself. To change the Law of God is to try to change God, and is blasphemy of the

highest order. No wonder God expresses such anger with those who have the audacity to oppose His Laws.

(ii) LAW.

Law, on the other hand, is the custom or practice recognised as binding by a community, especially as a result of having been so decreed BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY.

Thus;

The GOVERNING AUTHORITY

decrees THE LAW

which is implemented
by the GOVERNMENT.

We need to understand this sequence. Without doing so, it is virtually impossible to understand the subject of GOVERNMENT AND LAW, especially as it refers to God's People Israel.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAW AND GOVERNMENT.

(i) We should firstly realise that the Law, i.e. GOD'S LAW, did not originate at Sinai. It was already in existence at the time of the formation of Adam. From that time, it applied individually to the members of the Adamic Race. Thus it is not true to say that it was originally given only to Israel. But it is obvious from our study of the Scriptures that Israel, being that portion of the Adamic Race with which the Bible deals almost exclusively, was the nation, AND THE ONLY NATION, to whom this Law was given as a CODIFIED, NATIONAL LAW.

But the operation of this Law was constant whether used on an individual level or on a national level.

The first mention of Law occurs in Genesis 2: 16-17 where we read of God's commandment to Adam. Eve had not yet been formed. Previous to this, God had established a particular portion of the earth as a model of, or a miniature, Kingdom of God. It was perfect in all aspects. It is referred to as "the Garden of Eden". That it was a special particular portion of the earth's surface, and not the entire earth is indicated by the fact that the record says that God planted the garden EASTWARD in Eden. (verse 8). It couldn't be 'eastward' of somewhere if it constituted the WHOLE area. But where ever it was, it must have been east of what we now refer to as 'the middle east'. The Divine record goes on to say that when God formed this Adam, (and please note that this word 'formed' is not the same word, nor does it have the same meaning as the word 'created' used in the first chapter of Genesis), He placed him in the Garden of Eden which He had already prepared. Now it is not within the scope of this work to go deeply into the conditions that prevailed within this Garden. The pertinent thing to be noted is that firstly it contained what is referred to as 'the tree of the knowledge of good and evil', and secondly, that partaking of this knowledge would bring punishment. Now this brings us to two conclusions.

- a. The 'knowledge of good and evil' requires the pre-existence and operation of Law. If there were no such Law already in existence, there would have been no basis on which to make any judgment as to whether or not any particular act was 'good' or 'evil'.
- b. The principle of punishment also requires the pre-existence and operation of Law on the very same grounds.

Thus we conclude that THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY, being that which decrees the Law as we stated above, could have been no other then GOD HIMSELF.

We also read in Genesis 26:5;

"Because that Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My COMMANDMENTS, My STATUTES, and My LAWS."

Quite clearly, THE LAW OF GOD was in operation long before the formation of the nation of Israel.

It was clearly God's original intent that this people whom He had formed to be 'The Sons of God' should not experience, or even know about, evil. This is why He placed Adam, the son of God, (Luke 3:38), in 'the Garden of Eden' rather than allow him to dwell outside of this perfected and protected area.

(ii). The second thing we note is that the introduction of Law brought about an automatic OPPOSITION to Law. This opposition became manifest in two ways. Firstly, in plain outright rebellion and rejection of the Law, but secondly, and most insidiously, by the introduction of private interpretations of the Law, and indeed even contentions as to the continued validity of the Law, in order to suit individual desires and beliefs. This principle started way back in Genesis 3:6 where it is recorded of Eve that she determined to find out about the forbidden subject of evil because;

1. It held forth a promise of providing her human needs,
2. It was pleasant to the eyes. It held a physical attraction, and
3. It offered wisdom.

Clearly, these three factors were presented in such a way as to make them more attractive than the very same things which were available from the 'Tree of Life'. Times have not changed my friends. Satan has also not changed. There is not one single thing that God has offered to us for which Satan has not made a fictitious and seemingly more attractive offer.

But praise God, there is not one single thing that Satan offers but that God makes a factual and truly more attractive offer.

Remember! Satan offers nothing new in itself. All he can offer is a perverted and imperfect version of the perfection which originates only with God. What he offers is not even second best. And yet people today will go to almost any lengths to argue against the necessity of obedience to these Laws, and thus to nullify and remove the blessings they promise. I am constantly amazed at the number of people, including ministers, who with outright and outraged fanaticism teach Christians that the Law of God is done away with, and that now in these 'New Testament' days we don't have to worry about them any more. Yet these same people pray to the same God Who gave these Laws to relieve them from the very curses they have incurred from their disobedience to them. How hypocritical can we get? I have personally even experienced actual rejection of fellowship by other Christians(?) simply because I maintain an unshakeable belief in the necessity for each and every one of us, both individually as well as nationally, to fully obey the Law of God to the very best of our ability. But such opposition is the objective of Satan. And if he could fool Adam and Eve who to that time lived in sinless perfection, how much easier it must be for him to fool people today after thousands of years of accumulated sin.

(iii) So the third thing that we find is that the introduction of Law introduced CONDITIONAL blessings and punishments. As we have previously noted, man's future condition depended ENTIRELY on the degree of his obedience to THE LAW OF GOD. God willing, we will continue this aspect of our study in our next issue.



When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice:
but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

Proverbs 29:1

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The Prophetic Ministry of Elijah.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART ELEVEN.

DELIVERANCE FROM DECEPTION AND PERSECUTION.

II KINGS 1:1-16.

The life and ministry of the Prophet Elijah, and its prophetic application to the future life of both the nation of Israel and the individual Christian within that nation, was now nearing its climax. The great victory of faith over the prophets of Baal; the subsequent period of persecution by Jezebel, representing those who promulgated and supported the system of Baal; and the final experience of discovering in all this the ultimate source of the real Presence of God; all this was now behind Elijah. I find it an amazing fact when I realise that this discovery of the real source of God's Presence was revealed not before Elijah became involved in all these miraculous events, but after they happened. Perhaps there is a real lesson for us to learn here. Is it possible that we can experience the POWER of God in the things around us without really experiencing the humbling PRESENCE of God within us? Is it possible for us to utilise the power of God in and through the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, without experiencing the true indwelling of the Spirit of God? Let me put it another way. Is it possible to lose sight of THE STILL SMALL VOICE, the reverent silence of God's Presence, in all the shouting and the noise of emotional display? Before you jump in quickly to answer this question, just pause to consider the following Scripture from Matt. 7:22-23;

"Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works?"

*And then will I profess unto them, I NEVER
KNEW YOU. Depart from Me, ye that work
iniquity."*

The word "knew" as used here means, 'having a close personal relationship'. Jesus is saying of these people that He never had a close personal relationship with them. Oh yes, we might make all the claims in the world about how close a relationship WE claim to have with the Lord Jesus Christ, but the real question is whether or not our Lord Jesus Christ has a close personal relationship with US. There is a world of difference here. And I believe that the ministry of the Prophet Elijah wonderfully illustrates this point.

Now Elijah's ministry to this time had been associated with the actions of the wicked King Ahab and his equally wicked Queen Jezebel, culminating in Ahab's death, just as Elijah had prophesied. He was succeeded by his son Ahaziah of whom it is recorded that he was just as evil as his father and mother before him. You would think that people would learn from experience wouldn't you? But it was no different then to what it is now. Ahaziah probably had less excuse than some, because he had the example of Jehoshaphat, the King of Judah, who was reigning over Judah during the reign of his father Ahab over Israel. He must have noticed the difference. He must have seen that one of the most important things which he did was, as recorded in I Kings 22:46, to remove the remnant of the sodomites, the modern word for which is homosexuals, from the land. Despite all the ravings of all the do-gooders in our midst, the only cure for the plague of AIDS which is now ravaging our lands is to obey God and remove the cause from our midst. But of course, we know better, and so we continue to suffer the results of our presumption.

King Ahaziah had only a short and turbulent reign of two years. The nation of Moab, which had been subdued by King David and come under the rulership of Israel had been greatly oppressed by both Omri and

Ahab. This oppression, by the way, is recorded on the Moabite Stone found today in the British Museum. So as soon as Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against Israel, and Ahaziah found himself in dire trouble right from the start. But instead of learning the lesson from what had happened to his father Ahab, he continued to rebel against God, as a result of which, he came under God's judgment. He had an accident, falling through the lattice or balustrade of an upper floor, and being seriously injured. Naturally enough, he wanted to recover, but this is where his commitment to evil became evident. He had two choices. There is no way that he could not have been aware of the miraculous healing power of the God of Israel, of whom he was the representative, as evidenced through the ministry of Israel's prophet Elijah. But he spurned this avenue of healing. He turned instead to false gods. It's not that he didn't have enough faith in God. He just didn't have any faith in God. He wasn't a scrap interested in the Lord God of Israel. I think we should realise that this was not a rejection of God by one of the ordinary citizens of the nation, as serious as that might be. This was a deliberate rejection of God by the very person whom God had appointed to be His earthly representative. This was a far more serious situation. And God moved very speedily. He immediately sent the prophet Elijah to Ahaziah to pass judgment upon him.

Those who accept or claim the responsibility of leading the sheep of God's pasture should consider this incident very carefully. It is bad enough for the sheep to disobey God, but when those who claim to be the shepherds do not obey Him and do not follow His commandments to the utmost degree, then they come under much greater condemnation. The very prevalent practice today of watering down God's Word so as not to offend the people must be an abomination to God, and I'm sure can only result in the most severe censure when they finally stand before the Throne of God.

Times haven't changed for Israel. Then, as now, our leaders have turned to the false gods of the heath-

ens for relief from our ills, instead of turning to our own God. Ahaziah sent his servant to enquire of Baalzebub, the god of Ekron, as to whether or not he would recover. Now it's interesting to see just who this 'Baalzebub, god of Ekron' was. Ekron was one of the five cities of the Philistines recorded in the book of Joshua, which were situated within the land that God had promised to Israel. God commanded that all the inhabitants of these cities were to be removed, and that the land thus acquired was to be apportioned among the tribes of Israel. But Israel did not fully obey God's commands. They allowed some of the people to remain. The problem lay not so much in the people as individuals, but in the gods that they worshipped. In commanding that the people be removed, God was primarily removing the false gods from Israel's territory. And by disobeying this command, Israel allowed these false gods to remain amongst them. We have paid a terrible price ever since. The Anglo-Israel nations have no excuse, no excuse whatsoever, for the present immigration policies which we have allowed to be implemented whereby non-Israelites have been allowed to enter and settle in our Israel lands and bring with them their heathen gods. To give help and sustenance to these people is our God-given responsibility, but to also give sustenance to their gods is an abomination before God.

The gods of the Philistines have been a thorn in the side of Israel ever since. And one of these gods was Baalzebub. Unless you look it up in a concordance, you would never guess what the word 'Baalzebub' means. It means, believe it or not, "Lord of the flies." I never cease to be amazed at what some people will worship. They will worship everything from alligators down to flies. This god is referred to in Matt.12:24 where we read that the Jews charged our Lord Jesus Christ of casting out devils in the name of Beelzebub, the prince of the devils. It is obvious, particularly when we read verse 26, that Beelzebub, or Baalzebub, is one of the titles of Satan himself. So that when King Ahaziah enquired of Baalzebub, he was actually enquiring of Satan as to his future. No wonder God was mad, and pronoun-

ced immediate judgment on him. But have things changed much today? Don't God's people still seek after Satan for their future through the abominable practices of astrology and all its associated wicked practices of fortune telling? And are we foolish enough to think that God's judgment is going to be any less, just because of the passage of time? If we do, then we are living in a fools' paradise.

The Sacred Record shows that the servant of Ahaziah never actually reached the place where he was to enquire of Baalzebub. On the way he was met by Elijah who gave him the message of doom for the king. On recounting this meeting to Ahaziah, he asked the servant to describe the man whom he had met. The servant described the man as being hairy, and wearing a leather belt. This phrase did not mean that the man himself was hairy, but that the clothes that he wore were hairy. Actually, the hairy clothes with the leather belt was a recognised uniform associated with the prophets of God. It was this more than anything else that caused Ahaziah to recognise the fact that the man to whom his servant had spoken was actually the Prophet Elijah. And what a fright he got. He immediately knew that he was not messing around with some two-bit prophet. The reputation of Elijah was legendary. What he said really happened. And when he said that the king was going to die, and not recover, he knew that he was going to die. He really had to get hold of this man, and either force him to change his sentence of judgment, or destroy him, no doubt thinking that by doing so he would cancel out what Elijah had said. So he sent out three troops of soldiers to capture Elijah.

Now this is a very fascinating incident, and one which contains much more meaning and significance than the casual reader would suspect. Let us have a look at it. We read in II Kings 1:9-10, (N.I.V);

"Then he sent to Elijah a captain with his company of fifty men. The captain went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill,

*and said to him, 'Man of God, the king says,
Come down!'*

*Elijah answered the captain, 'If I am a man of
God, may fire come down from heaven and
consume you and your fifty men.'*

*Then the fire fell from heaven and consumed
the captain and his men.'*

What an unusual situation. These days we might send out a couple of policemen to pick up someone for questioning. We might even send out a special detachment to arrest a hardened or dangerous criminal. But to send out fifty men plus an officer to catch just one prophet of God seems rather odd. But that only shows the degree of respect in which prophets like Elijah were held. People actually DID see their faith by their works. Here was a troop of 51 men, with the single order to capture just one man. We note as we read the account that this incident was immediately followed by a similar incident where a second troop of the same size tried to achieve the same result, so we will deal with the two incidents together, as both the intent and the result was the same.

Firstly, what was the actual intent behind this action? We notice that in each case, the captain addressed Elijah as "Man of God." They knew not only WHO he was, but WHAT he was. They tried to persuade Elijah to come down by openly recognising and admitting his position. They thought that by doing so they would fool Elijah into thinking that they wouldn't hurt someone they recognised as being a man of God. How wrong can you be. Elijah wasn't fooled for one instant by this ruse. They didn't care for a moment whether he was a prophet of God or not. All they were doing was to pander, as they thought, to Elijah's vanity. It still happens today. If you want something from someone, just address them by a nice title. Appeal to their ego. Flattery will get you everywhere.

But not with Elijah. He was quite aware of what was in their minds, and he threw the whole thing right back into their laps. He replied in effect, let's put your opinion of me to the test. If I am a man of God as you say, let fire come down from heaven and consume you. Now I don't think that that was what they wanted to hear. But they didn't have much time to worry about it, because the fire of God descended and consumed the entire 51 soldiers. How would you have liked to be a member of the second troop having just witnessed what had happened? But sure enough, the same thing happened to them. And there was still a third troop of the same size waiting to repeat the whole exercise. But before we study what happened to them, just let us think a moment on the lesson of the first two troops. Both captains had used Elijah's position to try to deceive him by appealing to his vanity. Both of them had then issued a command in the king's name. So in fact, they were using and supporting their authority by deceitful means. They made a literally fateful mistake. People still make the same mistake today. They speak with the authority of God's Word, but try to implement that authority by the use of deceit. With a lesser man than Elijah it probably would have worked, just as it works today. But the end result will be no different. Such practices will inevitably bring down the judgment of God on those who misuse His Holy Word to their own advantage. The prophet Ezekiel states quite emphatically:

"Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?"

But when we read of the third troop who were sent to capture Elijah, we note some very interesting differences. The captain handled the matter in a completely different manner, and one can hardly blame him after seeing what had happened to the first two troops.

The same course of action was obviously sheer suicide. This man Elijah was obviously exactly what he claimed to be. He WAS a prophet of God. And this captain had enough common sense to accept the inevitable. He certainly started off with the same words. He addressed Elijah as a man of God. But there was no command. He was not like so many Christians today who thump their fist on the table before the Throne of Grace demanding God's attention and action on their behalf. This captain had never heard or sung the words of the hymn, "Just as I am without one plea", but he certainly knew the principle behind them. He recognised the position of Elijah, and he recognised the power of both Elijah and his God. He acknowledged what had happened to the other troops, and just pleaded for the life of his men and himself. In other words, he placed himself in the hands of God. If we could but only learn that lesson. There would be far fewer Christians today who get their fingers burned.

It is only then that God's Word reveals that Elijah had been in danger. The angel of the Lord said to Elijah, 'You can go down now. There is no longer any need to be afraid.' Obviously, if Elijah had nothing to be afraid of with the first two troops, God would not have said that there was nothing to be afraid of after the third captain had spoken as he did. Now what was it that Elijah risked? What could he have been afraid of?

Elijah, we are told, was on the top of a hill. Now this may not seem very important, but in fact it was of great significance in its prophetic application. You see, the king was trying to induce Elijah into coming down from his higher position. He tried to do this by the use of authority and deceit. But Elijah was here prophetically representing God's people Israel. And the enemies of Israel have always sought to destroy her by enticing them by any and every means possible to come down from their exalted position with God to their own level. They know they cannot win if they meet us at God's level. So they order us, they console us, they trick us, they promise us everything that looks good, if we will

only meet them on their own ground. It is the temptation of Eve all over again. The methods of Satan haven't changed. And the tragedy of it all is that time and time again, we have fallen for this. It is a trap of death, yet we never seem to learn from our mistakes. It seems that we have accepted the implantation of a self-destruct mechanism within our individual and national hearts that causes us to welcome death. You'd think that we would wake up to ourselves. But no. We talk of detente. We talk of disarmament. We talk of peace pacts. We talk of everything but the only thing that will save us from our enemies, and that is individual and national repentance before God Almighty, and a return to obedience to His Holy Laws. It is the only answer. There is no other given in the entire Bible.

It must be remembered that Israel always has, and always will, hold a very special position as far as God is concerned. We read in Deuteronomy 7:6;

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

This is the prophetic application of Elijah sitting on top of a hill. Satan's plan all along has been to induce Israel to forfeit that exalted position. And never let us forget the fact that we did not place ourselves in this position above the other nations. God put us there. And if this sounds like racism, then please don't blame me. I didn't make this rule. God did. If you wish to argue about it, you'll have to argue with God.

There is a wonderful lesson for us in the attitude of the third captain. The fact that Elijah stood firmly against temptation, apart from the obvious disasters which befell those who tempted him, brought about an entirely different approach from the enemy; a humble approach that recognised Elijah's power and authority. It was this change of heart that allowed Elijah to come down from the hill, not in compromise, but in the exer-

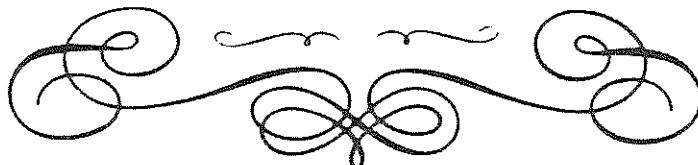
cise of his God-given ministry. How we need to learn this lesson in these days where truth is compromised so as not to offend people. People will always respect strength of character and purpose, even though they may not understand, or even agree with, everything that is said. But they will immediately recognise weakness, and not only reject the weak person, but also what that person is saying or teaching. Our nation would be better off; our churches would be better off; our ministers would be better off; and our people would be better off, if we put our collective feet down firmly against the immoral issues that are now destroying us, instead of handing out wishy-washy emotionalism and platitudes which do little more than dull the pain without destroying the root cause of the problem.

But there is one other quite fascinating factor in this incident. To lead into it, we must turn to the Gospel of John, 21:1-14, where we read of the miracle of the draught of 153 fishes. Bible students have always recognised that this number is of special significance. It has a special application to "The Elect", or "The Sons of God". The numerical value of the phrase "The Sons of God" in Hebrew is 153. The numerical value of the same phrase in Greek is 3,213, or 21×153 . The numerical value of both the word "fishes" and the phrase "the net" in Greek is 1,224, or 8×153 . Even those who have little if any knowledge of Bible Numerics will have no trouble in recognising that this is something quite unique. Apart from other considerations, it is quite clear that this number has a special association with God's People, the Elect, and with their protection, as illustrated by the fact that the fishes were gathered into the net in a truly miraculous way. It is the only place in the entire Bible that this number 153 is mentioned. Yet God always requires at least TWO witnesses in His Word. I don't know what you feel about this, but I just do not believe that it is coincidental that the number of troops that were sent to capture Elijah, or figuratively to 'gather him into their net' was three troops of 50 soldiers plus an officer, making three troops of 51 men each. And $3 \times 51 = 153$. The last

miracle associated with our Lord Jesus Christ prior to His ascension contained 153 fishes. The last miracle associated with the Prophet Elijah prior to his translation and ascension contained 153 men. Coincidence? I don't believe so. God's Net is still around His people. If only we could see it. The "Sons of God" are still in the protective care of God. Is it not worth considering that the very next event in the ministry of both Elijah and our Lord Jesus Christ after their respective ascensions is their return to this earth, the one to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers, and the Other to take upon His shoulders the Government of His People, and rule in righteousness and justice for evermore.

The night is far spent. The Great Dawn is close at hand. Let us be eager and ready to answer the call that "The Bridegroom Cometh", and be counted worthy to be invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

(to be continued).



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Resurrection & Translation.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be. And that which is done is that which shall be done. And there is no new thing under the sun. (Eccles. 1:9).

My wife and I are two of those people who constantly think and talk about the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. I think I can honestly say that scarcely a day goes by but we don't talk about, or at least mention this coming great event, in terms of our longing for it to happen, and our firm conviction that it is going to happen very, very soon. Even some Christians of our acquaintance have commented rather critically to us of what they see as 'our obsession'. All I can say to such people is that when they can find something better to talk about and look forward to, then please let us know.

Not that we are by any means alone in this state of expectancy. We are constantly thrilled by the letters we receive from friends all over the world, and the articles we read in other Identity literature which evidence the same degree of hope and expectation. What saddens us is the fact that so many Christians today don't share this degree of anticipation. The return of our Lord Jesus Christ to so many is nothing more than a doctrine. It's something which we must, as Christians, believe, but which we don't make too much of a fuss about. When all is said and done, didn't the Lord Himself say that nobody knew the day or hour of His return? So why should we worry too much about it? It will happen when the Lord is ready, so leave it up to Him. I've come to the sad conclusion that many Christians don't really want Him to return. 'There are too many people still to be saved'. 'There are too many things which I still have to do for the Lord'. These and other obvious excuses are usually offered. And I'm not making

this up just for something to write about. I've actually had these statements made to me by Christians. One is certainly left at a loss to understand such attitudes.

There appears to me to be only one basic reason for this seeming apathy on such a vitally important subject. It is that most Christians are so terribly lacking in knowledge as to the reason for Christ's return, and of the nature of our individual participation in that return, as well as what is Divinely destined to happen after His return. It seems that they would rather settle for the present which they think they know, and for which they can happily continue to plan in accordance with their own desires, than to settle for a future of which they obviously don't have the slightest clue. The whole thing has become too much of a mystery, and therefore, too much of a hassle. And of course, we have enough hassles in life already without adding any more.

So when we talk about such things as 'resurrection' and 'translation', then we are really getting into the real deep stuff. Well, so be it. But I believe that the Bible has not left us in any doubt as to how these two events are going to happen. And I didn't say when. I said "HOW".

But firstly, let us read the Scriptures regarding this event. In I Thess. 4:16-17 we read;

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and 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.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Again, in I Cor. 15:51-53 we read;

"Behold, I shew you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall ALL be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump. For the trumpet shall sound,

and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,

and we (the living) shall be changed.

For this corruptible (the dead) must put on incorruptible,

and this mortal (the living) must put on immortality."

We should realise that the words 'resurrection' and 'translation' do not mean, or apply to, the same thing. According to Vine's Expository Dictionary, the word 'resurrection' means 'to raise up, or cause to stand, as from among the dead'. The Greek words translated 'rise' and 'raised' in the above readings mean exactly the same as the word 'resurrection'. Obviously, one has to be dead in order to be resurrected. You can't be resurrected from the living. I'm still trying to work out how it is that when we die we are supposed not to die at all, but just go through a 'doorway' where we are alive in another life. That's what the heathens belief and teach. How on earth can a person be resurrected from the dead if he is not dead?

On the other hand, the word 'translated' means 'to be in, or transferred to, another place'. Now whilst it is true to say that this could be applied to the dead, it is clear from the context in which this word is used in God's Word that it applies to what happens to the living. For instance, we read in Hebrews 11:5;

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and was not found, because God had translated him."

So we find that the word 'resurrection' applies to those who are DEAD, whilst the word 'translation' applies to those who are LIVING.

We can now examine the sequence of events as set forth in our readings. And the first thing we note is that this great event applies only to those who are designated as being "in Christ". That is, it is a selective event. It does not apply to all and sundry. There is a separate resurrection at the end of Christ's 1,000 year reign which includes everyone else. Rev. 20:5 tells us;

"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished."

The next thing that we notice is that whilst we will not all be dead, or asleep as Paul expresses it, we shall ALL, both the dead and the living, be changed. That is, we shall be changed from one thing into another, or from one condition into another condition. We are told that this will be "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye". Now I asked myself, why did God repeat Himself here? Because 'a moment' and 'the twinkling of an eye' seem to mean the same thing. And this is quite true. But when we look at the meaning of the word 'moment' we find a very interesting thing. It comes from the Greek word 'atomos' which you will readily see is the derivation of our English word 'atomic'. It's primary meaning applies to the smallest possible portion of time, but as the time factor is also mentioned as 'the twinkling of an eye', I believe that the word also indicates the nature of our change. That is, we will be changed "in our atomic structure", instantly. And this fits in perfectly with the fact that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was changed in its atomic structure after His resurrection as evidenced by the fact that He was able to pass through solid objects whilst retaining a solid body which could be felt and which could absorb food. The restructured atoms in His supernatural body could now pass through or between the atoms of the natural. And this is what our bodies are going to be like when we are changed.

The signal for this to happen is stated quite clearly. As He begins His descent, or return, to this earth, our Lord Himself is going to give a great shout accompanied by, or as some translations have it, like, the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God is going to sound. Believe me, there is nothing secret about this, and the illustration which we will look at a little later will prove this. This will rock the whole world, and everyone in it. One could write a separate article on what the immediate result of this will be, but we will have to leave that to another time, God willing. God's use of a trumpet is nothing new. In Numbers 10: 1-4 we read;

"And the Lord spake unto Moses saying, Make thee two trumpets of silver. Of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps.

And when they shall blow with them, all the assembly shall assemble themselves at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

And if they blow but WITH ONE TRUMPET, then the princes, which are the heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee."

Let us get the picture clear in our minds. If they blew on the two trumpets, all the people gathered. But if they blew on only one trumpet, only the leaders or elders gathered. Now how did they know whether the call was to all the people or just the leaders unless they ALL heard the trumpets. And note further, that when the First Resurrection takes place, ONLY ONE TRUMPET SOUNDS! It is the call to the leaders, or the overcomers, who will be those who will be exalted to the position of Kings and Priests, reigning with our Lord Jesus Christ over His Kingdom for the 1,000 years, as set out in Rev. 20:4-6 and Luke 1:33.

Thus we have a clearly defined sequence of actions.

1. There is to be the shout of the Lord, accompanied by the Trump of God.
2. The dead in Christ will rise, and their previously corruptible condition will become incorruptible.
3. Those who are in Christ, but are still alive at this time will also rise, and their mortal condition will instantly change into the immortal condition.
4. Both groups, the dead and the living, will meet together as they are caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and as translated by Ferrar Fenton, "for an introduction by the Lord into the eternal condition." I believe that this will constitute "the marriage supper of the Lamb" as recorded in Rev. 19:9.
5. I believe that this group will constitute the army which follows Him upon white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean, when He actually completes His journey of return to this earth, as recorded in Rev. 19:14.

Now whilst this might give us a general idea of the sequence of the events, what proof does the Bible itself offer as to how these events are to occur? Well, I consider that the Bible gives us an undeniable illustration of how both the resurrection and the translation are going to happen. The illustration of the resurrection is well known, and is found in the account of the raising of Lazarus, as recorded in John 11:44. Now this is obviously too long a passage to quote here, but the important portion is verse 43, which reads;

"And when He had thus spoken, He cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, Come forth!'"

The preceding verses show that Lazarus had been dead for four days by this time, and that Jesus knew that he was dead. In fact He deliberately waited a few extra days before going to the grave in order to leave no doubt as to the fact. We then find that our Lord gave a very specific reason as to why He was performing this miracle. He said to them;

"Said I unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?"

One would have to be blind indeed to miss the parallel here with what is to happen in regard to the resurrection of the dead at the First Resurrection. It will most certainly give final and definite proof of the glory of God. But it is the manner in which it happened that we note specifically. Jesus did not walk up to the tomb and whisper to Lazarus so that no one else would hear Him. The Word of God tells us that "He cried with a LOUD VOICE!" Everyone there, including the dead Lazarus, heard Him. This is the exact same shout which will be heard as the Lord returns. "He will descend with A SHOUT!" The raising of Lazarus is a perfect illustration of just how the dead in Christ will be resurrected. And those from among the dead who have qualified to hear that voice in death will immediately come forth, just as Lazarus did. It happened so quickly that he didn't even have time, nor in fact was it necessary, to remove his grave clothes. He was still wrapped in them and couldn't even walk. Such is the certainty and the power of the resurrection.

But what about the translation of those who are still alive when this great events happens. Well, the Bible is not silent on this either. "There is nothing new under the sun" as our opening scripture tells us. God has already shown us how this is to happen. The Bible records two incidents where a living man has been translated so that they would not see death. The first is Enoch. In his case, only the fact is stated, but no details are given as to how it happened. We are just told in Gen. 5:24 that "he was not, for God took him". How-

ever, Hebrews 11:5 confirms that he did not die, but was translated. But the second incident of translation leaves us in no doubt as to how this happens. In II Kings 2:11 we read;

"And it came to pass . . . that behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; (that is, Elijah and Elisha); and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Again, this was not done in secret. We are told that a group of the prophets viewed these proceedings, as well as Elisha. Here was something the like of which they had never seen. Can you just imagine it? The thing that staggers me is that these other prophets were among the religious leaders, and they knew that this was going to happen. Furthermore, they obviously knew WHEN it was to happen. But they were not a part of it! Is there a message in this for the modern-day prophets and teachers in Israel? I'm sure there is. We can only pray that they will take heed before it is too late.

But for those who look forward to this great event which is even now right at the doors, what a glorious experience lies before us. How can we possibly describe what it will be like for the sky to suddenly fill with the horses and chariots of Israel, as, with the shout of the King, and the Trump of God, they hurtle through the air to escort those who are to join the dead who have already risen, to meet the coming King of Kings. Truly has God said;

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, the things God has prepared for them that love Him, and wait for Him."



ANTI-CHRIST and THE MAN OF SIN.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART SEVEN.

THE CHURCH OF ROME.

In this, our final chapter in this series, we take a brief look at the position which we believe the Church of Rome occupies in relation to anti-Christ and the Man of Sin. The prefix 'anti' in 'anti-Christ' can mean both 'to be AGAINST Christ', or to be 'a SUBSTITUTE for Christ'. If we use the word 'Christ' only in relation to Jesus, then the Roman Church can hardly be said to be against 'Jesus'. This meaning applies more correctly to Esau/Jewry, as we have previously studied. But the 'substitute' aspect most certainly applies to the Roman Church. It must not be overlooked either, that the Greek word translated in our Bibles as "Christ" means "anointed", and can apply not only to the anointed PERSON of our Lord, but also to the anointed PEOPLE of our Lord, that is, Israel. So to be 'anti-Christ' can mean to be AGAINST or a SUBSTITUTE FOR the anointed SON of God, or the anointed PEOPLE of God. So the subject is not as simplistic as most Christians seem to think.

It is certain from a study of this religious system that many of its actions and beliefs can be associated with these two identities. There is no doubt of this. But, as stated in an earlier chapter, I do not believe that the Church of Rome is the full or final fulfillment of these powers. There can be no argument with the fact that she is the ecclesiastical portion of what the Bible refers to as "Babylon the Great". But I seriously question the conclusion that such phrases as 'The Man

of Sin', 'anti-Christ', 'the Little Horn' of Daniel's prophecy, the 'beast' of Revelation' and similar phrases, are synonymous terms all relating to the same thing. Certainly, there will be areas of similarity, which can only be expected seeing that all these things stem from the same Satanic source, and are part of the same Satanic kingdom. But we cannot afford, if we are to really understand God's Word, to accept these similarities at the expense of the differences. One of Satan's main attributes is DECEPTION, and I believe that he has used this attribute for centuries to deceive God's people into concentrating their efforts against just one portion of the enemy in order to protect the other, and much more dangerous portion.

This is not an attempt to white-wash the Papacy, or the religious system over which it rules. I trust that the reader will understand and accept this. I gratefully rank among my friends and fellow-servants in the Lord many who have taught for years that these entities are fully manifest in the Roman Church. I can only pray their indulgence and prayerful consideration of what I am proposing. It is not easy to go against the tide, and if I was not sure of at least the principles of what I am teaching, I would certainly not have risked people's enmity. But almost without exception, books written to date on this subject have been either written before, or based on other books written before, recent historical events which have thrown a completely new light on the position of world Jewry. Prior to its public rise to prominence since World War I, there was no other discernable alternative to the Papacy/anti-Christ conclusion, and thus no reason to question a belief that had been honestly held by many very sincere and God-fearing teachers of God's Word. But accepting as we do that history is only fulfilled prophecy, then we must also accept the responsibility of continually up-dating our understanding and application of prophecy as time progresses. If we fail to do this, we simply fail to grow, or develop, in our knowledge of God's prophetic Word, and thus our subsequent teaching in these areas becomes out-dated and misleading. There is no disgrace in adjust-

ing our beliefs in accordance with this principle. We may just as well be ashamed of growing up from childhood into adulthood.

I would also point out that what I am saying relates to the Roman Catholic system. It is NOT intended as a personal attack on individual Roman Catholics. I have many friends who are members of this church, most of whom I would much prefer as friends than some of the Protestants of my acquaintance.

As I have studied this subject through both the Old and the New Testaments, I have noted one common factor which constantly occurs in regard to Israel's relationship to her God. And that is that every time Israel turned from the worship of her True God, she turned to the worship of Baal. This was always Israel's downfall and sin. But can we now say that this habit totally disappeared in the present 'New Testament' days simply because it is not expressed in the same words in the New Testament? I think not. I repeat what I have said many times before. The New Testament is a continuation of the Old Testament. There is nothing new in the New Testament that is not mentioned in the Old Testament. What are now called the 'New Testament' days are simply a continuation of the 'Old Testament' days. We, as modern Israel, still commit the same sins as our forefathers. We still break God's Laws. And we still follow Baal.

Put very briefly, and to the point, I sincerely believe that the present Papal/Roman ecclesiastical system is nothing more than A CONTINUATION OF BAAL WORSHIP! Baal is still alive and doing very well thank you. The enemy within today is still the same enemy that was within Israel in the old days. Nothing has changed except the names. To paraphrase a modern saying, only the names have been changed to protect the guilty.

So we find that the Roman Catholic System is not so much a substitute for Christ, as a substitute for

the true worship of Jehovah/Christ. I'm afraid that millions of sincere people have been deluded over a period of centuries into thinking that they are actually worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ, when in fact they have been worshipping Baal. When one considers the execution of the prophets of Baal under the ministry of Elijah, the mind is staggered at the enormity of what will be almost certainly the same future judgment on the present prophets of Baal.

Now it is not my intention to go into detail about the various aspects of 'The Little Horn' of Daniel's prophecy, nor the 'Beasts' of Daniel and Revelation as they apply to the Roman Catholic System. These aspects have been very well covered in other books by other well known and respected writers, and are no doubt quite familiar to most readers. My object is simply to point out the relationship between ancient Baal worship and the present Papal worship, and to show how this relationship continues to be manifest. Let me state as clearly as I possibly can, that the Roman Catholic Church did NOT start the Christian Church. Their own records in the Vatican library clearly show that the Christian Church started in Britain centuries before the Church of Rome came into being. Their own records prove that their delegate Augustine, when he landed in Britain in the sixth century, was met by a delegation of English Bishops! He didn't go there to convert the British to Christianity. He went there to convert them to Roman Catholicism. The Bishop of Britain was ALWAYS given pride of place at all subsequent conventions involving the Church of Rome because they recognised and accepted the earlier existence of the Christian Faith and Church in Britain.

Augustine's entry into Britain in fact marked the re-introduction of Baal worship amongst God's Israel people after they had eventually fulfilled God's promises to them in regard to their dispersion and westward migrations and ultimate settlement in the place God had appointed for them. Thus began the "falling away" or apostasy, mentioned by the apostle Paul in II Thess. 2:3,

which set the stage for the period of 'great tribulation' which subsequently came upon God's people, and which is even now reaching its shattering climax.

What is it in the worship of Baal that makes it such a serious offence in God's sight? Why does God pick out Baal as distinct from other heathen deities? To understand this, we must recognise a very basic principle in the relationship between God and Israel. Throughout the Bible we constantly read of how Israel is referred to as "Jehovah's wife", or that Jehovah is referred to as "Israel's Husband". This was, as I have said, a very special and fundamental relationship. Jehovah was not only Israel's God, but was her Husband. Thus, He occupied the position of God/Husband to Israel. He was Israel's Husband BECAUSE He was her God. So when Israel turned to other gods, she in fact turned to other husbands, and it was for this terrible sin that Jehovah eventually divorced her. Thus it is significant to find that the name "Baal" means "husband".

Now 'Baal', also referred to as 'Bel', was the chief among the Babylonian deities, and sprang from Nimrod (Gen. 10:8-10), who was the founder of Babylon. 'Bel', by the way, means 'the confounder'. One of the main aspects of this Babylonian religious system was the worship of "The Queen of Heaven", upon which all other aspects of their religion were based. It continues right up to our present day. In Jeremiah 7:18-19 we read of God's utter condemnation of Israel's involvement with this worship;

"The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger.

Do they provoke Me to anger? saith the Lord.

Do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces!"

Next time you think of buying and eating 'hot cross buns', just give some serious thought to where the practice originated. To put the matter quite bluntly, you will be worshipping 'the Queen of Heaven'.

This 'Queen of heaven' was known by the name of 'Astarte', one of the titles of Beltis, and the Assyrian name of 'Ishtar'. Both of these words are pronounced as the English word 'easter'. Our present celebration of easter was introduced by the Church of Rome as a replacement for the original Israelite feast of Passover.

In fact, virtually every "Christian" (?) festival that we now celebrate is nothing more than various aspects of Baal worship which were adapted by the Church of Rome and introduced into the Christian faith as Christian doctrine. God's people were completely deluded, and it passes all understanding how people today, and especially those who claim to be ministers of Christ's Gospel, can so blatantly disregard these facts and continue to offend God Almighty by their support of these pagan customs rather than risk offending the sensibilities of people. I don't know how long it is going to take these religious leaders to realise that "Loving God" has priority over "loving people", and that loving God, according to no less an authority than our Lord Jesus Christ, is directly related to obeying HIS commandments.

The role of this 'queen of heaven' was simply carried over as that of 'the Virgin Mary'. Those who believe that the Roman representation of the 'Mother and Child' is founded on the Christian belief of Mary and her child Jesus should note the following illustrations from page 19 of "The Two Babylons" by Bishop Hislop, showing the pre-Christian use of this belief.

Space does not allow a fully detailed account of the development of Baal worship into that of the Church of Rome, but the following aspects of Papal worship are presented as conclusive evidence of this fact.



Below : From Foxe. "Heretics," after being condemned by the Madrid Inquisition and garbed with dresses covered with figures of demons, being led to the fiery stakes.



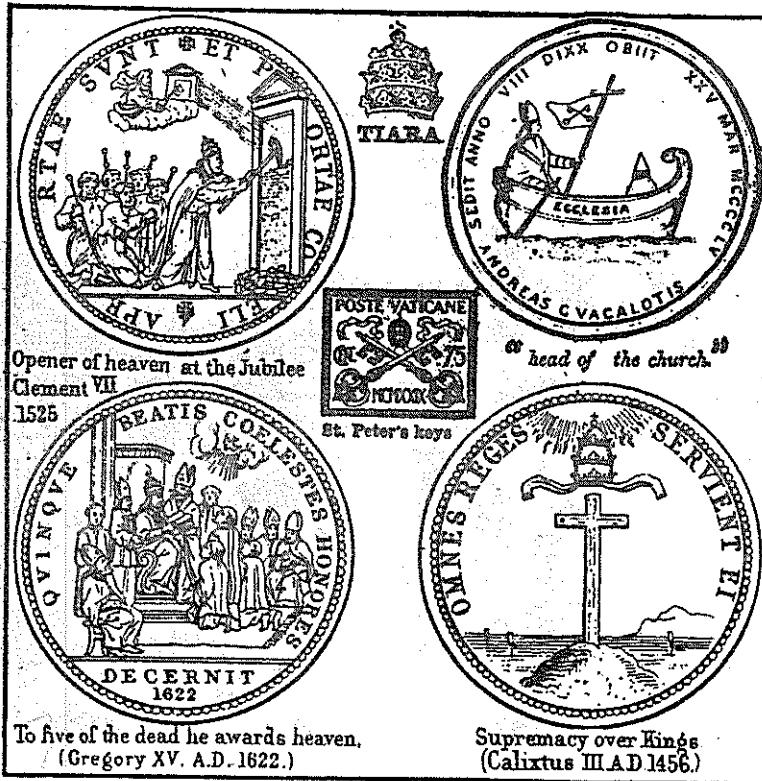
1. The Papal mitre, or head-dress, is totally different to that worn by Aaron. It is the same mitre as worn by Dagon, the fish-god of the Philistines and Babylonians, as shown in the accompanying illustration from "The Two Babylons". This god was represented as being half man and half fish, with the fish's mouth forming the mitre on the head. The scaly body and tail fell at the back as a cloak, revealing the human limbs and feet exposed. This, by the way, is the origin of mermaids. This fish-god mitre can be also seen in the other illustrations shown.

2. The burning of incense is clearly associated with the worship of 'the queen of heaven' in Jeremiah chapter 44, beginning at verse 15. This is too long a passage to quote here, but special attention is drawn to verse 19. This refers to 'burning incense' to the queen of heaven, pouring our 'drink offerings' to her, which I believe is a direct reference to the Mass, and the making of 'cakes' to her. The Hebrew word translated as 'cakes' means 'buns'. The evil that befell the people in Jeremiah's day as a result of their Baal worship is no different to that which is befalling their descendants today because they continue in the same sin. God said;

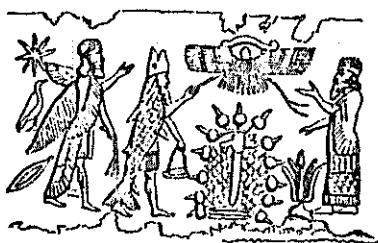
"I will watch over them for evil, and not for good." (Jer. 44:27).

3. What about the rosary? I quote again from "The Two Babylons", pages 187-188 as follows;

"Everyone knows how thoroughly Romanist is the use of the rosary; and how the devotees of Rome mechanically tell their prayers upon their beads. The rosary, however, is no invention of the Papacy. It is of the highest antiquity, and almost universally found among pagan nations. The rosary was used as a sacred instrument among the ancient Mexicans. It is commonly employed among the Brahmins of Hindustan; and in the Hindoo sacred books reference is made to it again and again. Thus, in an account of the death of Sati, the wife of Shiva, (the Hindoo god), we find the rosary in-



The Vatican stamp shows the Papal seal with the two keys claiming the right and power to unlock heaven and hades. The Tiara or triple crown of the Pope symbolises the claims to be king of heaven, earth and hades. The four Papal medals show the claims of the Papacy to be able to dispense heaven's blessings, to give eternal life to the dead, to be "head of the church" and "king of kings."



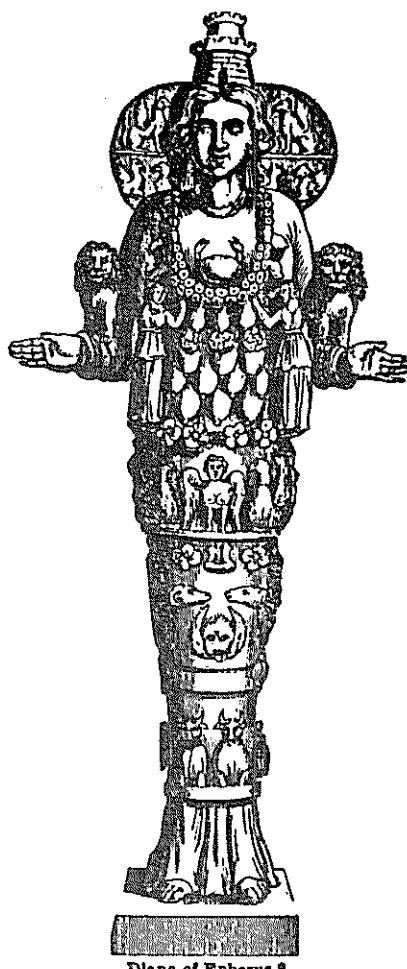
troduced: 'On hearing of this event, Shiva fainted with grief; then having recovered, he hastened to the banks of the river of heaven, where he beheld lying the body of his beloved Sati, arrayed in white garments, holding a rosary in her hand, and glowing with splendour, bright as burnished gold.' In Tibet, it has been used from time immemorial, and among all the millions of the east that adhere to the Buddhist faith. The following, from Sir John F. Davis, will show how it is employed in China. 'From the Tarter religion of the Lamas, the rosary of 108 beads, has become a part of the ceremonial dress attached to the nine grades of official rank. It consists of a necklace of stones and coral, . . . descending to the waist, and distinguished by various beads, according to the quality of the wearer. There is a small rosary of 18 beads, of inferior size, with which the bonzes count their prayers and ejaculations exactly as in the Roman ritual.' In Asiatic Greece, the rosary was commonly used as may be seen from the image of the Ephesian Diana."

The accompanying illustration of this image also shows the origin of the Papal Tiara.

4. Another popular aspect of Papal worship is 'The Sacred Heart'. The 'sacred heart' was venerated in both the Babylonian and Egyptian religions, and was one of the sacred symbols of Osiris. The boy-god Cupid, the god of love, the son of Nimrod the mighty hunter, was shown equipped with bow and arrow, with the arrow aimed at the heart. However, he was frequently represented as having a heart in one hand, and his true character is revealed as the son of Venus, who together were none other than the original Madonna and child. The heart became the symbol of the child of the great mother. The 'heart' in the Chaldean language is 'BEL'. So we find that the worship of the sacred heart is nothing more than the worship of 'Bel' or 'Baal'.

(from "The Two Babylons")

5. Let us look at the Roman tonsure, or circular shaven head. Bishop Hislop informs us that this cannot have the slightest pretence to Christian authority. It



Diana of Ephesus.*

was originally the visible inauguration of those who submitted to it as the priests of Bacchus. It was spoken of by Herodotus centuries before the Christian era as being associated with Bacchus and Urania, another name for the queen of heaven! The shaven head was a sign of the priesthood in Babylon, India, and China.

6. Even the celibacy of the Roman priesthood does not originate in the Roman Church. The practice goes right back to Semiramis, the original Chaldean Queen of Heaven, and today has caused the same degree of depravity and lack of virtue as it did then.

The reader will hopefully realise that the subject is one of tremendous scope. And its presentation is not made any easier by the fact that some of what has been presented is contrary to generally accepted belief.

In conclusion, I can only repeat what I have previously stated. Nothing of what has been said in this series has been done to offend any individual. If offense has been given, then I ask your indulgence. But one must write and teach what one feels genuinely convicted of by the Holy Spirit. The Word of God has become emaciated today by the refusal of so many of its teachers to place its TRUTH before the feelings of men. As a result, millions of people are living in false hopes, and sadly, many more are living with no hope at all.

The Word of God is a LIVING WORD. It was given to us to be "a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path". How can it show us the way if we continue to place it under the 'bushel' of denominational doctrines and personal ideas and fancies? How can it light our way if we disguise it in popular theories, and make it a thing of no offense? How can it guide us if we refuse to seek from it that which is new, as well as those things which are old. We can readily accept that God is the God of yesterday, today, and forever, yet so often we relegate His Word to being that of only yesterday.

I can only pray that the eyes of God's people

will be opened to the terrible danger in which we have, both as individuals and as a nation, been placed. Anti-Christ and The Man of Sin are now well and truly here and established. The Synagogue of Satan has a strangle-hold upon us that only the return of our Lord Jesus Christ will be able to break. And the prophets of Baal have never been so active in their attempt to woo God's people from the true worship of the True God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. One of the greatest miracles of all times must surely be that despite all this evil in our midst, evil which we have so foolishly, even if in many cases unknowingly, embraced, God has continued to preserve us in fulfillment of the Holy Covenant that He made with our fathers, and through them, with us. He is still prepared, nay, it is His Divine intention, to forgive us our sins. Truly can we say with the great apostle Paul;

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor? Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things. To Whom be glory for ever. Amen."

(Romans 11:33-36).

* * * * *

I gratefully acknowledge the following sources from which I have obtained information and illustrations in the foregoing series. Agreement with my personal conclusions by the various authors is not implied.

"The Book of Martyrs." by John Foxe.
"The Two Babylons" by Bishop Hislop.
"The Great Tribulation" by A.J. Ferris B.A.
"Spotlight on the Great Conspiracy" by Conrad Gaard.
"Know Your Enemies" by Col. Jack Mohr U.S. Army Ret.

which can only come through the infilling 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.

The production, publication, and distribution of this magazine, THE COVENANT VISION, is being undertaken as a faith ministry. It is sent out without any charge to all who wish to receive it. Naturally, it costs money to do this, and whilst we have dedicated our own personal resources to the continuation of this ministry, the support of those who read it, and are blessed by it, is vitally necessary for its continuance and growth. To this end we invite your prayerful consideration and support.

We also invite you, our readers, to send us the names and addresses of any whom you think could be blessed by receiving a free copy. In this way you can share in the proclaiming 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 Betty Dowsett.

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ZACHARIAS' HYMN OF PRAISE

*Let the Lord, the God of Israel,
be blest!
Because He has regarded and
freed His people;
And has raised up for us the
horn of deliverance
In the house of David His son —
As He declared through the mouth
of His holy prophets for ages,
Deliverance from our foes, and
from the hand of all who hate
us;
To show mercy, as toward our
forefathers;
And to remember His holy covenant,
Which He sealed by oath to our
forefather Abraham:
To grant us, fearless, freed from
our enemies' hand,
To serve Him in beneficence
and goodness,
Before His presence all our days.*
Luke 1:68-79—Ferrar Fenton

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