

# THE COVENANT MISSION

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

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## 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

As we now enter the year of 1988, the 200th. anniversary of the first settlement of this great nation of Australia, it is no doubt appropriate that we give some thought, not only to the achievements of the past, but more importantly, to where we are likely to be heading in the future. No one could possibly argue with the fact that we have made amazing progress in many areas. We are a very isolated country, with no direct boundaries to any other country. We have thus been forced, especially in our earlier years, to "go it alone", and this has forged a national character that is quite unique. We have become a very independant people, with a deep seated rejection, and even antagonism, to outside interference.

But there doesn't seem to be any doubt but that this characteristic is being seriously undermined by forces which have no other motive than to destroy our national inheritance, and the justified national pride that goes with it, and reduce us again to the status of convicts. You can't see the chains now, as they could in the days of our forefathers, but they are there all the same, and increasing in quantity and control almost daily. We are now no longer slaves or convicts as a result of an oppresive legal system, but rather as a result of an infinitely worse financial and political system which is spreading over our nation like a giant spider. And it is not something of our own direct making. It is a force, or power that is totally Satanic both in origin and operation. And it is not something which is restricted to Australia alone. It is deliberately directed at all sections of Western Christian Society with the deliberate aim and objective of destroying that society and the Christian Faith and Principles on which it is founded.

So while we rejoice on our "Birthday", let us not for an instant allow our minds to be taken over by all the razzmatazz that is, and will be, dished up to us. We

are fast becoming so blasé as a result of the advertising and theme-songs (wont you be glad when we don't have to listen to them any more?) and all the promises of all the wonderful good times that are supposed to be in store for us, that we are in grave danger of completely losing our perspective on things. In spite of all our achievements, the drug problem is almost out of control, murder is now almost a daily event to which most people's minds appear to have become immune. Rape has now become so common place that it is hardly worth reporting. Sodomy, with its attendant plague of AIDS, is now an accepted alternative life-style. Violent crime is on the increase. Robbery in some suburbs is so bad that some insurance companies will no longer give you burglary cover if you live there. We have become so brainwashed by the "she'll-be-right-mate" syndrome that most people now accept whatever their leaders tell them, whether they be political or religious, without the slightest thought of the effect it will all have on the future. The present is all that counts. And you can be absolutely guaranteed that of all the past events of which we will be reminded, right up there at the top will be all our so-called faults and failings as a white race, and how badly we have treated the indigenous people. We are being injected with a 'guilt complex serum' which is destroying us just as surely as if we were being fed regular doses of arsenic in our food.

And in all this, I wonder what place God will be given? The government are already considering not having Christian prayers at the opening of our new parliament building, much to the commendable outrage of many Christian groups. Their clear policy is to dilute the Christian Faith in our nation as far as possible by the indiscriminate introduction and legalisation of every religion possible. Virtually every major law that is passed through our parliament is contrary to the Law of God. The will of God is NEVER sought by our leaders. We are now totally controlled by supporters of One World Government, and the leaders and lackeys of anti-Christ. So what chance do you think our Christian Faith has of being properly recognised during our bi-centenary

celebrations? I have no doubt that it will receive an odd bit of lip service just to shut up the "wowsers", but we can be assured that the future of our nation will require much more than just this if we are to expect prosperity and the blessings of God.

We no longer have time for pussy-footing national leaders who have apparently no other desire, or even capacity, than self-glorification and kudos. We no longer have time for building our own little 'empires' and following our own dreams, as good, and even 'Christian' as they may seem. God is about to step back into the affairs of men, and there is only one thing that He will be looking for. There is only one criteria on which will be based our acceptance by Him. And that is

### OUR OBEDIENCE TO HIM!

"He hath shewn thee, O man, what is good.

And what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God!"

If the next 200 years follows the pattern being set at the end of our first 200 years, then it is just as well that none of us will be around to see it. But it doesn't have to be that way. God has given us the only way by which we can, as a nation, recover and preserve our self-respect and true prosperity.

"If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face,

AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS;

THEN will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and heal their land."

(2 Chron. 7:14).



# Tolerance.

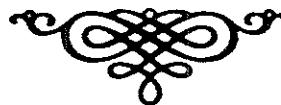
Finally I would like to plead for tolerance among those who study the Bible. It is amazing to me that some Christians can see pollution and over-population threatening the world, starvation and misery settling over millions of people, sin and injustice spreading like a creeping cancer through the community - and yet not raise their voice even in a whisper.

But let someone tread on the toes of a pet doctrine that they hold, and they speak forth with venom and ire! Being Christian, they will not raise their hand to strike you if you disagree. Nor will they take arms against you. That would not be "scriptural".

But they will spare no pains to blacken your reputation, defame your person, and degrade your name.

That's "different".

(Pastor Barry Chant.  
From "The Secret is Out").



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# THE WEDDING SUPPER OF THE LAMB

## The awesome climax of the ages

By Rev. J.A.B. Haggart (U.S.A.)

### The Wedding Garments

THE people of earth approach the greatest single event in history, and it is surprising how few anticipate it. The Bible centres its message around this event, which is still future to us, and it is the central theme of all of Jesus' many parables. In various ways and with differing details most of the prophets of the Old Testament have touched upon it. Yet, many who have studied the Bible and may think themselves devoted Christians do not clearly understand it.

Perhaps the most explicit parable that Jesus gave on the subject was the Parable of the Ten Virgins. These ten virgins of the parable were awaiting the coming of the Groom, but only five of them were wise enough to fill their lamps with oil, while the other five were foolish enough to have insufficient oil in their lamps. When the bridegroom was delayed in his coming, they all lay down to rest. At midnight they were wakened by a shout 'The bridegroom is coming! Come and welcome him!' We can well ask 'Why were five of the ten caught short? Why weren't they all ready?' Jesus directed this parable to all generations in the future, but we can be sure that it was directed especially to this generation. All signs point to the imminent appearing of Jesus Christ, the groom of the parable. This possibility is made plain to all who have, with the help of the Holy

Spirit, sought the meaning of Jesus' Kingdom parables contained in the New Testament.

It is significant that when the five foolish virgins begged for oil from the others, the reply was given to them, 'We haven't enough for that. Go instead to the shops and buy some for yourselves.' Now, we know that the Holy Spirit cannot be bought in a shop, like so much merchandise. But they could buy Bibles, the means by which they could study the Word and be ready for the appearing of the Lord when He should come. This parable is obviously directed to those who are not studying their Bibles today, in this generation, and are not ready for the greatest event of all time. It is the time when the Groom, the Lord Jesus Christ, will appear in the heavens and with a shout beckon His elect, His chosen ones from the earth, to come and sit with Him in His celestial halls in heaven. The invitation to His Wedding Supper has been going out to all peoples for over 1950 years. Only those who receive the invitation and accept it are those who will be privileged to sit with the Lord at His table in the Wedding Hall. It is one thing to receive an invitation, but it is quite another thing to accept it and prepare for the event.

One thing that is required is that the guests shall arrive wearing the proper garments. They are called the ROBES OF

**RIGHTEOUSNESS.** In the 19th chapter of *Revelation* we read, 'Blessed are they who are called (invited) to the marriage supper of the Lamb,' and also 'Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.' This passage implies that all who arrive at the banquet will be wearing their robes of righteousness, a grant that is given them for entrance. Those who have thoroughly studied their Bibles know by this passage the requirements for entry into the Lord's banquet halls. In this respect they are 'chosen' to be His guests.

### The Wedding Guests

One of the least understood of all events in the Bible is the Wedding Supper of the Lord. It remains a deep mystery to most because we of today do not understand the ancient Israel custom of the celebration of the marriage by the groom with his friends before the actual marriage takes place. The true pattern for the Lord's Wedding Supper in heaven is found in this ancient custom of the groom inviting his friends to gather with him for a full week of entertainment before the marriage at the end of the seventh day. This is the time when the bridegroom shares his joy in the anticipation of the marriage with his closest friends. The bride is not present. She makes her appearance at the end of the celebration and not before. The marriage supper of the Lamb precedes the taking over the Kingdom rule by Christ. It is the induction into office of His friends who are present with Him at the marriage supper. They are chosen to reign and rule with Him in the Kingdom. They constitute the true Church, or His Body, the Spirit-filled people who are 'overcomers' and will sit down with Him in

His throne, just as He sat down with His Father in His throne. It will be a special privilege for those who are called to participate in this wedding feast. All Christians should make this their goal in life, so that when the time comes for this special event they will be found ready with plenty of 'oil in their lamps.'

The difference between the bride and the friends of the groom is made known by John the Baptist, who most certainly will be among the guests at the banquet. In *John* 3:29 we find him protesting that he was not the Christ, or the Bridegroom. 'He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy is therefore fulfilled.' Just to hear His voice was enough joy for him. To hear Christ's voice was all he wanted; just to be His friend was enough for him. We can be sure that John the Baptist will be resurrected from the dead and, at the sound of His Master's voice, will rise to be present at the great banquet supper in the skies!

John the Baptist will be like millions of others who will be waiting to hear the Master's voice Who calls to those in the grave to meet Him in the skies. All those elect who lie sleeping, as it were, will hear His voice like the sound of a trumpet. Those of true Israel will be changed in an instant and rise to meet the Lord as He appears above the earth. Abraham, who lies buried in his cave at Hebron, will be resurrected and escorted by angels up to the celestial banquet halls, long ago prepared for this special occasion. David, the only one in Israel whose body lies in state at Jerusalem, will answer to the same call. The writer has seen his casket there and also visited the tomb of Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi laid within the confines of a large cave carved in the side

of the Mount of Olives which overlooks Jerusalem. As the prophets of God they lie near the place where they know that He will return. They, together with many of ancient Israel, want to be a part of His Kingdom on earth.

### The Resurrection of the Dead

After the saints of Israel and all the Christian dead have been raised up, will begin the ascension of those who are alive at His appearing. This is stated by Jesus Himself in reply to Martha, who stood at the approach to Bethany fearing that Jesus had come too late to restore the life of her brother Lazarus, who had been dead four days and lay in his tomb. In His reply to Martha's query about Lazarus and about the General Resurrection, Jesus put her mind to rest. He assured her that He would raise Lazarus out of his sleep in this life, and then described the manner in which both the dead and the living would be raised up at His coming in the End Days.

Jesus said to Martha, 'I am the resurrection (of the dead) and the life (eternal for those who are alive at my return): he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth (at the time of my appearing) and believeth in me shall never die' Jesus carefully explains to Martha that Lazarus will be awakened from his sleep and be revived. At the same time Jesus explained the character of the General Resurrection, which would not take place for another 1950 years. We can be grateful to Paul who gives a second witness to this in his first letter to the Thessalonian Christians, chapter 4, verses 15 to 18. There can be no doubt in the minds of Christians as to the order of events which will take place when Jesus next appears in the skies above earth. Christians today, whether they be of Israel stock or whether they be grafted

into Israel by their faith, should be alert to the imminent return of Jesus Christ, first to appear in the skies and invite them to the wedding supper as His guests.

The length of time of the wedding supper, we know, will be a comparatively short time. But where in the Bible is the answer to this question? The pattern for this event is to be found in the Old Testament, in the account of the wedding supper which Samson gave for his friends in preparation for his marriage to a young lady he fell in love with in Timnah, a neighbouring town. He invited thirty of his friends to feast with him. According to custom the banquet lasted seven days, at the end of which Samson expected to have his bride. But the Lord had other plans for him. Because his bride revealed the answer to the riddle Samson had given to his guests to solve, he was furious with her and refused to marry her. But this account reveals to us the custom in Israel of a seven-day feast of the Bridegroom with his friends, before the wedding on the eve of the eighth day. According to this established pattern the saints will be with Christ, the Bridegroom, for seven days. On the eighth day the saints, as the bride of Christ, will follow Him to the earth. Their assignments in the Kingdom have all been made and their duties well established. As the marriage supper comes to a close Israel has made herself ready to meet her ancient enemies on earth, in fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy, 'When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and to them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord' (*Isaiah 59:19-20*). The latter are the saints who have returned to the earth to help Christ in establishing His Kingdom on the earth, and to rescue the 'foolish virgins' who had been left behind. When half of the

virgins had been lifted up into heaven to enjoy the banquet, what of the other half that had been left behind? They were not to be forgotten or forsaken. They were still part of the elect!

The great tribulation which the saints find on their return to earth is described by Jesus in *Matt.* 24:21,22 and also in *Mark* 13:19-20. We quote from the latter, 'For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.' They return in the midst of Armageddon. The enemies of Christ who had looked up and witnessed the General Resurrection of the saints (*Rev.* 11:12: 'they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them'), pressed even harder against the Christians who were left on earth. Having seen the bulk of the Kingdom people rise and escape their clutches, the forces of atheistic communism pursue their plan of the complete domination of the earth. Their prime objective is the annihilation of the 'foolish virgins' who had missed the supreme blessing of sitting with the Bridegroom at His marriage supper. But they are not to be forgotten or abandoned. There is a message of hope given to them in *Luke* 12:36-36: 'Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh they may open unto him immediately.' Having missed the supreme attainment of ruling in the Kingdom, they will still have the opportunity to participate in the Kingdom when, at His return, He assumes His throne and begins His rule of righteousness.

As the prophet Isaiah has said the Redeemer shall come to Zion, which will be immediately after the Wedding Supper with the saints who are represented by the Five Wise Virgins. In Zechariah 14 we read of the cataclysmic chaos which His coming will bring, with an earthquake splitting the Mount of Olives in half. His fury and His wrath stems from His concern for the others of His Elect, the Five Foolish Virgins, who failed to be present at the Wedding Supper. As John foresaw it, 'I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war; His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed in a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.' Isaiah also describes this major conflict of the ages. 'The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as a great people; a tumultuous noise of the Kingdoms of nations gathering together.' The battle is engaged (called Armageddon), with Jesus Christ at the head. 'I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones (of the angelic realm), for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness' (*Isa.* 13:3). And verse 9 tells us, 'behold, the day of the Lord has come, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he will destroy the sinners out of it.' This is no longer the meek and gentle Jesus, but the Commander-in-chief of the armies of the Lord. He knows that the earth is the Lord's and He comes to rescue the earth from Satan and his legions. Thereafter He shall set up His Kingdom on earth and no power shall prevail against it. And, then, the Millennium rule of Christ will begin and the earth will be restored to its original purpose. Amen.

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

## PART THIRTEEN.

### 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.

We continue in this issue with our study of the fifth aspect of THE KINGDOM OF GOD, namely:

#### GOVERNMENT AND LAWS.

Sin is not a positive thing. Conditions never get better as a result of sin. They can only get worse. It must therefore be obvious to any thinking Christian that while sin continues to operate, conditions will continue to deteriorate. And whilst it is wonderfully true that we can have our sins forgiven by the Grace of God, it still remains a fact that this forgiveness does not undo or change the damage previously wrought by sin. Every illness we suffer is in one way or another the result of sin. That doesn't for a moment necessarily mean that because we suffer from some illness that we must have committed some terrible sin, as some unfortunately

preach. The results of sin, the transgressing of THE LAW OF GOD, is born in us. We didn't have to do anything special to have it. We inherited it. Thus the Psalmist says in Psalm 51:5;

*"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity;  
and in sin did my mother conceive me."*

Sin is integrally in our blood stream. That is why the forgiveness of sin requires the shedding of blood. That is why our Lord Jesus Christ shed His blood. It was the only option open to Him. There was absolutely no other way. But only a fool would say that because of the shed blood of Christ all the sorrows and troubles and illnesses that beset even Christians no longer exist. Of course they exist. Every one of us is still suffering in one form or another from them, despite the fact that we are forgiven. The shed blood of Christ hasn't done away with sin. What it has done is to save those who accept the sacrifice of our Lord from the CURSE of sin, which is death. We now pass from death unto life. We no longer look to a future of death and everlasting oblivion, but rather to a glorious future of everlasting life and joy.

But until that age dawns, the inexorable march of sin continues, and conditions continue to deteriorate. And as we read on from Genesis 6:1-4, where the results of miscegenation are so graphically outlined, we find that God's people had now reached the final stage of gross wickedness and corruption. We read in Gen.6:5;

*"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."*

The literal Hebrew text puts this in a way that can surely not be misunderstood. It says; "The whole imagination, and the purpose and desire of his heart was evil every day."

Thus we see the difference. God was not simply referring to random thoughts that passed through their minds, as evil as they might have been. What caused the trouble was that the people developed an obsession for things which were evil, and directed their every effort to obtaining those things. God, and the things of God, ceased to be a factor in their lives. Their lives became completely governed by their own desires. And the implementation of these desires, being alien from the ways of God, had its immediate and automatic and devastating effect upon everything around them. In Gen. 6:11-12 we read;

*"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.*

*And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt. For all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth."*

The Hebrew word here translated as 'corrupt' is 'shokhath', and means literally 'to spoil'. Thus we see that the godless actions of the people not only brought suffering upon themselves as individuals, but brought ruin to, or spoiled, the earth around them. Their individual godless decisions and actions grew into corporate decisions and actions, and brought ruin upon their whole society and way of life.

Does all this sound terribly familiar? Does history seem to be repeating itself? Surely, only the willfully blind would not recognise the fact. Our Western Christian Nations today are not being governed by, or even despite, the mistaken ideals of our leaders.

We are being governed today by the deliberate organised intent, purpose and desire of truly evil men!

The enemy of God, the synagogue of Satan, under the leadership of their father the Devil, has so infiltrated the minds and lives of the people, that today even most Christians can't distinguish the 'tares' from the

'wheat'. They are in fact deliberately taught from the great majority of our pulpits that the 'tares' ARE the 'wheat', and have allowed themselves to be completely brainwashed into a fanatical support and defense of God's enemies that can only be called diabolical. Despite all the protestations of 'love', and all the campaigns for 'peace', the earth is still, as then, filled with violence. The earth is still 'spoiled', or corrupt before God. The Tree of Life has been rejected in favour of the Tree of Death. The Word of God has been rejected in favour of The Traditions of Men. And the end result is going to be the same, now as then.

Because in the midst of all this wickedness, which no longer appeared to the people to even be wickedness, God stepped in.

### THEN CAME JUDGMENT!

Many have speculated as to what the conditions were actually like at that time to bring about such awful judgment from God. But there is no need to speculate. The Bible tells us very meticulously, and in great detail, exactly what was going on. If we turn to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in Luke 17: 26-30 we read;

*"As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man." . . .*

*"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot, (which were the days of Sodom and Gomorrah), . . . even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed."*

Now we recognise that we are now living in the very last days, 'the days of the Son of Man'. So if we can find a description in the Bible as to what these days were to be like, then we automatically have a description of what conditions were like in the days of Noah and Lot. And we find such a description in II Timothy 3:1-5, and II Peter 3:1:4. They read as follows;

*"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

*For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.*

*Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof."*

*"This second epistle, beloved, I (Peter) now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.*

*That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandments of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour.*

*Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying,*

*Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."*

Further to these statements, we read in Romans 1:18-32; (N.I.V.)

*"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them. For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and Divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*

*For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but*

their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator, Who is forever praised. Amen.

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way, the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful. They invent ways of doing evil. They disobey their parents. They are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things, but also approve of those who practice them."

\* Like I said, does all this sound familiar? Of course it does! It seems incredible, nay, unbelievable, that the

sons of Adam could have AGAIN fallen into such a state of impurity and rejection of God. If in some obscure corner of our mind we can find some excuse for them doing this the first time, then surely there can be no possible excuse for repeating it in the face of the known judgment that a righteously indignant God poured upon our ancestors. But such is the heart of man.

You see, what is going on today is no new thing. It is a continuation of the same plan of destruction that has been waged for centuries against the same people, by the same enemy. The whole scenario doesn't make sense unless we understand it in this light. The sons of Adam were originally formed to be the Sons of God. This is quite clear from Luke 3:38. They had, and still have, a very special place in the plans and purposes of Almighty God. They were the people from whom God selected Abraham, from whom then came the nation of Israel which God specially chose and appointed to be His Kingdom here on earth. The destructive forces which came against them in their early days did so for the sole purpose of destroying this God-Kingdom. The basic underlying method used to achieve this destruction was to adulterate the purity of this nation in every aspect of its life and operation.

### THESE PRINCIPLES HAVE NEVER CHANGED!

The special nation formed then, is still the same special nation now.

The special purpose for that nation is still the same special purpose now.

The God of that nation then is still the same God of that same nation now.

The enemy of that nation then is still the same enemy of that same nation now.

And the operation and methods of that enemy then are still the same as they are now.

Today, as we see the virtual destruction of that God-ordained kingdom/nation in front of our very eyes, there is absolutely no excuse whatsoever for the continued and obstinate refusal of those in authority, especially among our religious leaders, to restore the LAW OF GOD to its rightful place as the ONLY law of our land. To think otherwise is sheer inexcusable madness. We have already seen from our studies how the earlier judgment of the flood in the days of Noah was brought about by the wilful disobedience of the people to God's Laws. Do we really think that we deserve better today? Do you really think that God is so naive that having already given us the example of what happened the first time, He is going to let us off lighter just to prove how 'nice' He is? Come on!

When we continue on the reading which we started earlier from II Peter 3, we read from verse 5;

*"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water. Whereby the world (or world order) that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.*

*But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same Word are kept in store reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."*

Just as history has repeated itself in respect of man's actions and sins, so will it repeat itself in regard to God's reaction and judgment. The sin in our midst has to be removed. We are not talking about having our individual sins forgiven. We are talking about the removal of sinfulness itself. It doesn't matter how many of us as individuals have our personal sins forgiven. Whilst our nation allows sinful acts and practices to continue unchecked and unpunished, we will never know true peace. Whilst murderers are allowed to live and continue to enjoy the best that our topsy-turvy society can give

them before releasing them again among an unsuspecting public, we will never know true confidence and safety. Whilst we allow these perverted sodomites in our midst to practice their evil filthy ways publically, and may God help us, with the full protection of the law and even some section of the clergy, we will never enjoy the full blessings of God. Whilst we pander to the criminal by protecting him from every form of retribution and discrimination, and ignore the full and proper protection of the innocent which can only be achieved by the proper punishment of the evil doers, then our people will continue to walk in fear. Whilst we continue to encourage the entry into our country of people and cultures which are diametrically opposed and contrary to our Christian Heritage and way of life, and this might I add with the sanction and support of supposed Christian leaders, and in the name of Christian charity, then my friends, we are in deep trouble.

This is what our ancestors did, and they received just and righteous punishment at the hands of a righteously indignant God.

We today are doing the same things. We are committing the same evils. We WILL receive judgment. God's Word absolutely guarantees it. Those who 'have eyes to see, and ears to hear' see it already happening. The current Aids plague IS part of the judgment of God. The present economic crisis IS part of the judgment of God. The present turmoil in national and international politics IS part of the judgment of God. The present unrest in the Middle East IS part of the judgment of God. What more does God have to do to convince us that time has literally run out.

We must return to a righteous relationship with our God! And that can only be done by a national repentance, and return to obedience to the righteous LAW OF GOD.

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# IMPENDING DESTRUCTION!

## A MAJOR ECONOMIC SIGNAL!

By Howard B. Rand. L.L.B.  
Special Alert No.95.  
Destiny Publishers. U.S.A.

One year ago in our Special Alert No. 84 for December 1986 under the title, "A Change of Times Will Manifestly Appear to Every Man," attention was called to the prediction of the coming economic disaster as foretold in the 18th. chapter of Revelation. Special Alert No.84 was written and published at the historical beginning of the final prophetic hour (15 years) marking the end of the present world order. Ten months later after the writing of that article came the Wall Street Crash of Monday, October 19, 1987.

A double witness has been given, with the Wall Street crash of 1929 and now that of 1987, that the prediction of the complete destruction of the economic world structure as set forth in the 18th. chapter of Revelation is now at hand. We are well aware of the expected ultimate recovery as expressed by many economists following a possible depression of short duration. One writer gives reasons why, humanly speaking, such a recovery is inevitable. Thus he stated:

"We do not forecast a world crash or a repetition of what followed in 1929." He thus sets forth his reasons:

"Central governments cannot politically afford it. In 1929 none yet realised the political implications of a

deflationary world slump. Central governments have far more knowledge and experience than in 1929. Military and strategic factors are far more potent than in 1929 at which time no government yet thought such factors were relevant. Even Churchill presumed a peace process for many years to come. Today, even those who believe in a new detente consider it can be underwritten only by vast deterrent armaments. In 1929 Europe's central power (Germany) was in deep economic distress. Today she is vastly rich and economically strong and defended by America for free. In 1929 the American Presidency had not the slightest idea what would be the world consequences of a major collapse of the financial establishment. Today the Presidency is fully aware of the extreme dangers which would follow a crash. In 1929 no Super Power existed on the Planet to rival the combined force of the Anglo-Saxon. Today the Russian Super Power is seen poised to strike should the Western Powers collapse. All the above factors will force the Western governments to avert an economic catastrophe."

Such is the expectation and hope of those who fail to comprehend the Divine as they rely upon human wisdom to meet their daily needs and requirements. From the time Nebuchadnezzar established the gold standard many centuries ago, gold has been the standard of commercial activity. Man's desire has been to possess wealth, power and authority and the acquiring of gold, or its equivalent, giving them that wealth. God intended man's wealth should be measured by his possessions, not in a medium of exchange designated as money.

The cycle of poverty and depression operates as capitalism under our competitive system, throttled by the interest-bearing medium of exchange which increases poverty in the midst of plenty, causing the people to clamour for relief. Aggressive nations turn to war to ease domestic pressure and secure coveted markets for their production. Such relief is but temporary and the new problems that arise bring dictators to power, followed by the socialization of industry. The end of it all is the destruction of private ownership and ultimate

chaos and the enslavement of the individual. The cause is the refusal of the nations to discard an interest-bearing medium of exchange which is condemned by God, for under its operation the poor are oppressed.

Paul set forth the begetting sin of the human race in its adherence to the Babylonian system of economics (which Jesus named Mammon, declaring you cannot serve God and Mammon), when He said, "For the love of money is the root of all evil". (I Tim. 6:10). This incarnate love leads to war while the desire for gold is a lust for power, and the move to establish a controlled economy is for the purpose of perpetuating the present monetary system with all its attaining evils.

John in Revelation declares that all nations have partaken of all the evils of Babylon the Great in the desire of men to posses wealth, power and authority as they strive to acquire gold or its equivalent. When the King of Babylon set up on the Plain of Dura, in the Province of Babylon, the image (likeness) of gold, this standard was established as the medium of commercial activity. The only dissenting voices in that great economic gathering were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-negro, three young Hebrews who knew the Israel standard and would not consent to accept this Babylonian system.

The rejection by these three of the demands of the king resulted in a fiery trial out of which they came forth victorious. Their experience was the forerunner of the experience of all those who throughout the ages have been unwilling to acquiesce in the demands made upon them by this system of Mammon. Business, under the present system, with its destructive competition, is war. The weak succumb under the attacks of the strong. Hundreds of millions from cradle to the grave have lived in fear of want and destitution, while millions of others have existed in abject poverty, with untold suffering and privation as the result of the failure of the system to supply in abundance the needs of life to all men everywhere.

The call has gone forth for God's people to leave the system: "Come out of her My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." (Rev. 18:4).

It would be unjust to call upon Israel to leave the Babylonian methods of commerce if there was not another system already awaiting Israel's adoption in this time of emergency. Now there IS such a system and it was given to God's people at Mount Sinai. Israel departed from its observance and in the adoption of the methods of Babylon acquired the economic evils of the heathen system.

The whole world today is subject to carrying on their commercial commitments in accord with the Babylonian method of activity. No nation has the power to break the hold Mammon has on the human race. Thus Babylon the Great continues to exercise economic world control. We have reached the time and season when such control is to be destroyed. The repeated ups and downs of the market and its periodic disturbances and crashes find no human method by which such can be controlled or eliminated. The present system of commercial activity makes inevitable such fluctuations and disturbances.

Because humanity is unlikely to correct their present economic plight, John in Revelation states that an Angel with great power will accomplish that which the human race is unable to do.

John refers to an Angel coming down from heaven having great power. He declares that the earth was lightened with his glory. (Rev. 18:1). Ezekiel predicts the time to come when the earth will be lightened with that glory. Of the One causing that glory to thus shine Ezekiel states, "His voice is like the voice of many waters." (Ezek. 43:2). But John in Revelation 1:15 declares of Jesus Christ that "His voice is as the voice of many waters."

Matthew declares in the coming day when our Lord appears in the clouds of heaven: "Then shall appear (that is, shine), the sign of the Son of man in heaven". (Matt. 24:30). Thus the glory that will cause the earth to shine is the result of the appearing of the sign of the Son of man in heaven. The Angel of Revelation 18:1 coming down from heaven with great power is none other than the manifestation of Jesus Christ when, according to Revelation 14:14, He appears in the clouds of heaven to rescue the overcomers, both dead and living, to ascend to meet Him in the air. They are to be in attendance at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Following this event the reaping of the vine of the earth takes place, representing those who are cast into the winepress of the wrath of God.

It is during this period of wrath, and while the Marriage Supper takes place, that the judgment which is to bring about the entire destruction of the present world economic system, as depicted in the 18th. chapter of Revelation, will occur.

Malachi refers to the Day of Wrath as the day that cometh which shall burn as an oven. Through this prophet those who gain the goal of an overcomer are designated as;

*"They that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name.*

*And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels, (chosen ones, that is, the overcomers); and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."*

(Mal. 3:16-17).

Thus they will not enter the coming day that will burn as an oven, the Day of Wrath, from which all who

gain the goal of an overcomer will escape. It is of those who will thus attain unto this high calling the Lord is thus speaking;

*"Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."*  
(Rev. 3:10).

The Wall Street crash of 1929 was followed 58 years later by that of 1987, constituting a double witness that we have reached the time in history when the Day of Wrath is about to begin, with the announcement of Jesus Christ, the Angel from heaven, that the fall of Babylon marks the beginning of the Day of Wrath. Prior to the beginning of this day, the overcomers ascend to meet the Lord in the cloud and thus accompany Him to the Marriage Supper. Between 1929 and 1987 the two major Wall Street crashes of this 20th. century are 58 years. Of this number (58) it is stated in "The Language of Numbers", page 16: "This factor is 29 + 29 and signifies Expectancy of Judgment doubled." The years of waiting are now ending. There are now but weeks or months only remaining for all who are striving to attain unto the status of an overcomer.



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

Noah Webster

THE KINGDOM DIGEST

# *Do You Act Justly?*

SARAH T. DUNCAN  
*National Message*

*"What doth the Lord require of thee, O man, but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Mic. 6:8)*

This seems to be the prophet's answer to the question, 'How shall man worship?' The man who asked the question was probably a priest. Priests and ministers are constantly asking how worship should be conducted. Concerned so often with elaborate ritual, lovely vestments, antiphonal choirs, candles, soft music, chants, litanies, prayers and responses — all the beauty, drama, glory and mystery of an elaborate liturgical service, the priest might often ask himself — 'Is this what God wants?' Is God pleased with the lamb sacrificed morning and evening, and if, instead of one lamb, 1,000 lambs were sacrificed on the Holy Altar, would God be pleased with that? If, instead of a lamb, I were to sacrifice my own son, would God be pleased with that? Would God be pleased if I gave my first-born for my transgressions — the fruit of my body for the sins of my soul? Just how can I worship God acceptably?

How shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before the Most High? Back comes the answer — *"What doth the Lord require of thee, O man, but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?"* If the priest had expected some pointers on public worship, he must have been disappointed, for the answer simply does not deal with worship at all but with life's requirements. It introduces an entirely new idea of worship: it takes the mind off such things as ritual and ceremonies, and focuses it on the basic demands God makes on a man who wants to worship.

It is as though God says: How a man worships depends on how he lives. What he does in church is only significant as it is related to the kind of life he lives outside church. The kind of life he lives is infinitely more important than the kind of ritual he follows. For true worship is not so much a matter of religious acts and ceremonies as it is a matter of justice, mercy and humility.

If a man's life is full of shady deals and deceit, will it make any difference if he recites the Apostles' creed publicly? If a woman's life is snarled up with hate and envy, what will it signify if she repeats the Lord's prayer in public worship? It can make no difference to the liar and

cheat or the gossiping busybody whether prayers are extempore or read, or the psalms chanted or read alternately. For, unless worship comes from a pure and upright heart, it is worthless, no matter what the ritual, as the requirements of life are really the prerequisites of Worship.

When I was a child in Scotland, Sunday started on Saturday night. Shoes had to be shined, best clothes laid out, and the whole family bathed and made clean for the Lord's day. Mother prepared Sunday dinner so that she also could attend church, and it never entered our heads that any one of us might stay home from church.

God, however, is more demanding than my mother was. He insists that preparation for Sunday begin not on Saturday night but on Monday morning. How a person behaves from Monday till Saturday qualifies or disqualifies him for public worship on Sunday. How a person thinks during the week — the kind of secret thoughts and desires he harbors in the innermost recesses of his mind — decides whether his worship is acceptable or not.

In a book called '*Hard Facts*' by Howard Spring, an unusual clergyman is introduced who discouraged people from attending his ugly, dismal little church in a Manchester slum. Instead, he invited all to come to his house which remained open all night to the broken wreckage of the streets. A young curate came one day, jubilant because a rich man had given him a magnificent offering of money to the church. The rector became very angry and said to the astonished curate, 'Do you know how that man makes his money? He has a factory where he sweats his work-people who receive a miserable pittance. Tell him to take his money elsewhere, for God does not want it. It is blood money; his factory conditions lead to sickness and death!'

Worship, then, is infinitely more than religious ceremonies. It demands a background of righteousness, honesty, justice, mercy and personal integrity. Worship is supremely important, but it is only significant insofar as it is the expression of an upright and good life. A friend told me recently of an aunt who was widowed two days after she had married. She was in her early twenties, but immediately adopted widow's mourning and dressed in sombre black all her life. She became hard and bitter, and all her nephews and nieces were afraid of her. She was rigid in religious duties and utterly uncompromising with everything she called sin. But of what value was her worship, if all the goodness, sweetness, graciousness and joy had been squeezed out of her? Jesus met such people in His day who were hard, censorious and punctilious in their religious observance, but blind to the reality of the important things of

life. Jesus told them it was right to attend religious ceremonies, but it is wrong to ignore the infinitely more important matters of justice, mercy and humility. Only when religious observance is backed by a life of moral uprightness and overflowing sympathy and profound humility, has it any value whatsoever. St. James said — Pure religion and undefiled before God, is to visit the fatherless and the widows, in their affliction and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

**Our text touches every area of life:**

**To do justly:** Here we move in the area of morals and ethics. It has to do with how an employer deals with his employees, how a woman handles her servants and a teacher her pupils. It has to do with a businessman and his contracts, with buying and selling, and all the affairs of public life. God demands that he who bows down before Him on Sunday be scrupulously honest and uncompromisingly just in all his dealings and transactions with his fellow-men.

I once bought two folding card tables from one of our church deacons to use in our Youth suppers. He said they had cost him \$6.00 or \$7.00, but he would let me have them for \$5.00 each as they were second-hand. When I turned them over I found the original price which was \$2.50. God demands integrity from every one of His worshippers. Do justly — honestly — squarely.

**To love mercy:** Here we enter a different area of life — a much more intimate yet no less demanding area. To love mercy is to show sympathy and compassion to those who make mistakes; to be tender to those who have sinned grievously; to forgive those who have hurt us by their words, by their harsh criticism or their destructive gossip. It is relatively easy to do justly; it is hard to be merciful. It is comparatively easy to be honest in business — it is very difficult to be kind to one who has done you wrong. It is easy to be as censorious as the Elder Brother, referring to the dissolute Prodigal Son, but it takes the Grace of God for a father to embrace a wayward son and welcome him home with loving words of forgiveness. It is easy to denounce those who wrong us; it is hard to say "Father forgive them," even while the nails are being driven through quivering flesh. This is what it means to love mercy. It is hard but absolutely basic to worship. Jesus taught that it is useless to ask God to forgive us, if we cannot find it in our hearts to forgive those who have harmed us.

**To walk humbly with God:** As high as mercy is above justice, higher still is the area of life epitomised by walking humbly with God. To do justly is moral, to love mercy is social — to walk humbly with God is

spiritual and intensely personal. The opposite of humility is pride, and it has been said that no one exists without some kind of pride. Your position in any society engenders Price of Place. Personal beauty, and sometimes even the lack of it, may be named Pride of Face, but probably the worst kind of pride is Pride of Grace — a holier-than-thou attitude based on spiritual achievements, experience or knowledge. Again and again I come back to the Patriarch Job, who was one of the spiritual geniuses of all ages. His knowledge of God was wonderful; his arguments about the ways of God were profound, and yet when God speaks to him and reveals something of His Awful Majesty, Job is utterly broken and confesses. *'What a fool I was to boast of my knowledge of God. I am abysmally ignorant and repent of my pride in dust and ashes.'*

St. Francis was once asked what right he had to go about preaching and teaching since he was a nobody. He replied, 'God chose me because He couldn't find a more worthless individual'. If we are to worship God acceptably, we must have this kind of humility in some degree.

I wonder how many of us would enter church to worship if we were asked at the church door three questions:

- (1) Do you act justly?
- (2) Do you love mercy?
- (3) Do you walk humbly with God?

Indeed, I wonder if there would always be a preacher?



## THANK YOU!

As we move into this new year, Betty and I would like to take this opportunity to pass on our sincere thanks to all those who have written to us and supported us financially and with your prayers during the past year. We have also received quite a number of Christmas cards, with expressions of love and blessings for us. We appreciate this so much, and ask that you will accept this as our expression of thanks for your kindness and thoughtfulness. The possibilities of this year are enormous. We trust and pray that you will all take special care to be prepared for the sounding of the Trump of God, as it calls those who are ready and invited to the great Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

## RECOMMENDED IDENTITY READING.

We feel that in these very last days that it is important that Christians obtain as much information about God's Word and its relevance to present world events as they can. So for the general information of our readers, we list below some publications which we have no hesitation in recommending, on the understanding that the views expressed in the various articles therein are those of the authors concerned, and not necessarily those of THE COVENANT VISION. But please note. We are NOT agents for these publications!  
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# The Curse of the Law!

by E. B. CLEMENTS.  
(Courtesy "Monthly Notes",  
B.I.W.F., VICTORIA).

One must be very careful to read Scripture aright, and not assume or misinterpret. And in this respect, stress must be laid on the importance of keeping God's Laws, and the fact that they have not become redundant through anything Jesus said or did.

Galatians 3:13 states;

*"Christ hath redeemed us from the CURSE of the Law, being made a CURSE for us".*

Some teachers have read into this verse that the law was a curse, and that Jesus redeemed us from the law, but such a contention is NOT "rightly dividing the Word of Truth". The above text DOES NOT say Christ was made a law for us, but that He was made a CURSE for us. He did not redeem us from the law, but from the CURSE of the law.

The Bible is emphatic in its statement that "the Law of the Lord is perfect", and as its Maker is perfect, so must His Law be.

Nothing "perfect" can be considered a curse. Our Lord did not come to abolish the law, (it is perfect), nor to redeem us from it. But He came to redeem us FROM THE CURSE that was attached to the law in the event of disobedience to it. He came to redeem us from THE CURSE OF DEATH which is THE WAGES OF SIN.

And note particularly that "SIN" is the transgression of the law. So if we get rid of the law, we can get rid of sin. We can then eliminate Satan, through whom

sin originated. It is thus not far to the elimination of God Himself; and this many have done.

So these few sentences show how imperative it is that God's Law needs to be retained, and enforced.

Jesus came that all who would believe in Him;

*"should not perish (in death) but have everlasting life".*  
(John 3:16).

Jesus came to abolish the curse,  
NOT to abolish the law!

No one can come to Christ and accept Him as personal Saviour without acknowledging and establishing the law. No one can accept Him as Saviour without acknowledging the need of a Saviour, acknowledging that one is a sinner, a transgressor of the law, and that under such law we are justly condemned to death. But He died in our stead in order that the law might be fulfilled, and that we might be forgiven and partake of everlasting life.

*"Do we then make void the law through faith?  
God forbid; Yea, we establish the law."*  
(Romans 3:31).

Dr. Schofield's note on this verse reads thus; "The sinner establishes the law in its right use and honour by confessing his guilt and acknowledging that by it he is justly condemned. Christ on the sinner's behalf, establishes the law by enduring its penalty, death." And here we would again refer you to Matt. 5:17-19; "Think not that I (Jesus) am come to destroy the law etc.."

Almighty God definitely forbids anyone "adding to" or "taking away from" His laws. In Deut. 4:2 readers are instructed;

*"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from*

*it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."*

Jesus likewise warned in His sermon on the Mount;

*"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven."*

(Matt. 5:19).

Perhaps now it can be understood why "the way of truth is evil spoken of" in these troublesome times, because so many of our clergymen are unwilling to call "sin" just what it is - "the transgression of the law". So many of them are "fencesitters" when it comes to murder, adultery, homosexuality, etc.. We even have 'churches' for the latter, and clergymen administering in them. Shades of Sodom and Gomorrah! To which the "end of the age" was likened, followed by the return of Jesus Christ in judgment.

So much for our permissive society. But in its neglect or unwillingness to give the law its proper place, the churches and the clerical leaders have much for which to be blamed, and cannot escape the judgment that is almost upon us.

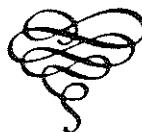
The final warning of the Bible is so awesome that it should have deterred Christian leaders from meddling with the Word of God and allowing unrighteous laws to be added to those of the Almighty by politicians or prelates, becoming a yoke around the neck of the ill-informed masses of people they control. The warning occurs in Rev. 22:19;

*"And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the Holy City, and from the things which are written in this book."*

Although St. John did the recording, Jesus Christ was the author of the Book of the Revelation. (Rev.1:1). In fact, the writers of the various books of the Bible testify that the words (in the original tongues), and not the ideas only, are inspired by the Holy Spirit. The reader would be wise to read I Cor. 2:7-15, and II Peter 1:21. Likewise, the New Testament recorders treat the Old Testament as authoratitive and inspired.

So there will be no excuse for misrepresenting what the Bible actually states when the time for judgment comes!

Make no mistake. Although Jesus redeems us from "the curse of the law", we ignore or break that law at our peril!



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# The Missing Years.

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Our four Gospels, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, tell of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. That of Matthew traces Him from His birth through the short sojourn in Egypt, then back to Nazareth, still as a baby. He next appears in this Gospel in chapter 3, at the time of His baptism just before His 40 days of temptation at the beginning of His ministry. In Mark, the baptism, temptations, and the beginning of His ministry are all in chapter 1. In John, as in Mark, His childhood is not covered, and chapter 1 covers His baptism and the beginning of His ministry.

In Luke we have more details given. Chapters 2 and 3 trace Him from the return in Nazareth through His baptism, temptations and the beginning of His ministry, which 3:23 tells us occurred at the age of 30 years. Luke 2:41-52 traces Him on one visit to Jerusalem when He was 12 years old. But all four Gospels are silent on the 18 years between His 12th and 30th years. Where was He, and what was He doing during those years? It can be well demonstrated that He was absent from Palestine for at least most of this period. Let us trace this absence.

Luke 1:32 tells us that Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. There was a very close, friendly relationship between the two families, for immediately after Mary was told by the angel that she was to bear Jesus, she went to the home of her cousin Elizabeth, and stayed in Elizabeth's home for about three months. See Luke 1:39-56. It is only natural that this close friendship would endure through the years thereafter.

Now the law required that all the men and male children must come to Jerusalem at three feasts in each year. Deuteronomy 16:16 states it;

*"Three times in a year shall all the males appear before Jehovah thy God in the place which He shall choose; in the Feast of UNLEAVENED BREAD, and in the Feast of WEEKS, and in the Feast of TABERNACLES."*

The Feast of Unleavened Bread was the week-long feast following Passover, in the Spring. The Feast of Weeks was held 50 days after Passover, and in our days it is called "Pentecost". While the Feast of Tabernacles was a week-long feast, the last of the autumn festivals.

The families of Jesus and of John the Baptist had to bring them to Jerusalem these three times every year; and the families being such good friends, they surely met and the children played together on these occasions, so Jesus and John the Baptist were very well acquainted. But between Jesus' 12th and 30th years, the scriptures nowhere even hint that Jesus was in Palestine; and we find in them evidence that He was absent from Palestine throughout the greater part, at least, of that period.

In John 1:29-33 we have the record of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, in these words;

*"The next day, John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me, for He was before me. . . And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him. AND I KNEW HIM NOT. . ."*

That is, John received the vision by which he identified Jesus as the Lamb of God, but he didn't recognise Him as a person, a relative of his, for he says "I

KNEW HIM NOT." If John the Baptist had seen his cousin Jesus 3 times each year to that time, he certainly would have recognised Jesus, and if Jesus had been in Palestine during the last 18 years, John would surely have seen Him. Therefore, Jesus must have been absent during those years.

But this is not the only evidence of Jesus' absence, for He was required to pay the 'Strangers Tax'. In the original Greek, Matthew 17:24-27 reads;

*"And they, having arrived at Capernaum, the collectors of the didrachmas came to Peter and said, 'Does not your teacher pay the didrachma?' He says, 'Yes'.*

*And when they came into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, 'Which to thee seems right Simon? The kings of the earth: from whom do they take custom or head-tax? From their sons, or from aliens?' To Him said Peter, 'From the aliens'. Jesus said unto him, 'Then the sons are exempt. But that we may not offend them, going to the sea, cast thou a hook, and the first fish ascending take up; and opening the mouth of him, thou wilt find a stater; taking that, give it to them for me and thee! "*

Here is clear proof that Jesus was regarded as a stranger in the land. And remember that this took place at Capernaum, in His home district of Galilee. First, note the tax which He was called upon to pay: the DIDRACHMA, which was a head-tax levied by the Romans on all strangers.

This tax of a DIDRACHMA , a Greek silver coin, was not the Jewish Temple tax of a half-shekel, paid by all who were of the Jewish religion. Merely to ask if He paid the Temple Tax would have been an insult, as doubting His citizenship. Also, if this tax had been the Temple Tax, this was not levied on an alien, but only on the Jews: in which case, He could not have said that

this tax was levied on the aliens and the sons were exempt. Therefore, it clearly was the Roman Didrachma head-tax, levied only upon strangers. Also notice how Jesus said to pay it: a fish would be caught, having in its mouth a STATER, which was another Greek coin; the Jewish Temple Tax could only be paid with a Jewish half-shekel coin, not a coin issued by pagans. Again Jesus spoke of "the kings of the earth" collecting the tax; while the Temple Tax was collected by the priests, not by the king. So we see that Jesus had been gone so long that, in His own home district of Galilee He was not recognised as a local resident, and was asked to pay the stranger's tax, the Didrachma.

If Jesus Christ was absent from Palestine for many years, between the ages of 12 and 30, where was He during that time? Numerous legends have originated in the East to the effect that Christ studied in various lamasaries in Tibet and in ancient oases in the Gobi Desert, there learning their teachings. Of one thing we can be absolutely sure: that He, who was the Son of God, did not draw from humans any of His teachings.

But where did He spend these years? Before we can go into this, we must lay a foundation for it. We must learn some facts as background, which shall show how likely our explanation is the true one.

A fairly prominent character in the New Testament is Joseph of Arimathea. Arimathea was 8 miles, or nearly 13 kilometers north of Jerusalem, the first stopping place of north-bound caravans, and an important commercial centre in its day. Matthew 27:57 tells us that Joseph of Arimathea was rich, while Mark 15:43 and Luke 23:50-51 tells us that he was "an honourable counsellor" or member of the Great Sanhedrin of Jerusalem. All four gospels praise him as a good man and Matthew and John further tell us that he was one of Jesus' disciples - although during Jesus' life he remained a secret disciple, for fear of the Jews, who would have persecuted him much more savagely than just a poor nobody had they known that he was a follower of Jesus.

Palestinian tradition all through the centuries has been that he was an uncle of Jesus Christ.

This tradition is evidently well founded, for Matthew 27:57-60 records that Joseph of Arimathea went to Pontius Pilate, asked for the body of Jesus, and was given it, and he then buried Jesus' body in his own tomb. This seems like a highly dangerous thing to have done - to thus show reverence to the remains of one who was so bitterly hated and who had been condemned and killed as a criminal. There were two cemeteries outside Jerusalem reserved for the bodies of condemned criminals; but a man who, during Jesus' lifetime, had not dared openly admit that he was Jesus' disciple, now openly shows reverence and affection for the remains of the One they had killed that very day. Since Pontius Pilate had consented to the murder of Jesus, after officially adjudging Him completely innocent of any crime at all, and had done this astonishingly evil act to avoid offending the Jews, it is unlikely that he would have authorised an honourable private funeral for Him if the leaders of the Jews had not consented to it.

Only one explanation of this can be found. Under both Jewish law and Roman law, it was the duty of the nearest relative to provide burial for anyone, regardless of how he died. Therefore, despite all their hatred, the Jewish authorities could hardly refuse permission to the uncle to bury his nephew. So the Palestinian tradition of this relationship was very probably correct.

Then what if Joseph of Arimathea was our Saviour's uncle? Again, Palestinian tradition is that his wealth came from his being an importer of tin, from mines which he owned in Cornwall in the British Isles. Naturally, he would have frequently gone with his ships to Cornwall, to inspect his properties there. And what would be more natural than that he would take this wonderful nephew of his along? If this did occur, there must be some record or tradition of it in the place to which they went. So let us next look for such evidence.

First, a little review of what was then known about the tin trade. The ancient writers agree that the Phoenicians were the earliest traders who brought tin from the lands beyond the Straits of Gibraltar. Without tin, it was impossible to make bronze; and copper alone, without the tin to harden and strengthen it, was not good enough. So tin was quite valuable. Ships of many other nations tried to follow the Phoenician galleys, to find where they were able to get the tin. But the Phoenicians were such expert sailors that they were usually able to get away from their pursuers. Other records tell of one who could not shake off a Roman ship which followed him, and who finally wrecked his own ship to avoid being traced to the source of the tin. This record tells how his countrymen reimbursed him for the loss of his ship, being grateful to him for his having protected the valuable secret for so great a cost. Ezekiel 27:12, written about 595 B.C., mentions the tin trade of the ancient city of Tyre;

*"Tarshish was thy merchant, by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches. With silver, iron, tin and lead, they traded in thy fairs."*

This tin trade originating in Britain was very ancient, going back to at least 1,500 B.C. A tremendous amount of bronze (mis-translated 'brass' in the King James Version of the Bible), was used in the construction of Solomon's Temple, and most of the tin for this bronze was probably supplied from the mines of Cornwall. Remember that Ezekiel mentioned "tin and lead". Both of these metals, as well as some copper, were mined in Britain in those days. In fact, an ancient 'pig' of lead has been found, bearing the stamp of Britannicus, the son of Claudius, showing that the mining of lead in Britain was in progress during the time of our Lord. (The word 'pig' is the name used of an ingot of lead).

Despite all Phoenician efforts to keep it secret the Greeks discovered the source of tin in Britain in the year 330 B.C. So in Jesus' lifetime, His uncle Joseph of



The Banner of the Parish Church of Pilton,  
Somerset, England.

Arimathea was the owner of tin mines in Cornwall. Did he take the young Jesus there? The first tradition that he did so is found in Cornwall. In Baring Gould's "Book of Cornwall" he writes; "Another Cornish tradition is to the effect that Joseph of Arimathea came in a boat to Cornwall, and brought the boy Jesus with him. And the latter taught him how to extract tin and purge it of the wolfram. When the tin is flashed, then the tinner shouts, 'Joseph was in the trade'." We find it again at Priddy, a little village lying at the top of the Mendip Hills, right in the centre of the ancient lead and copper mining area.

We next find the tradition that Jesus was brought to Britian by His uncle Joseph of Arimathea at Somerset, where the tradition says; "They came in a ship of Tarshish to the Summerland, and sojourned in a place called 'Paradise'." The 'Summerland' is Somerset, of course. At the mouth of the River Brue, which runs down from Glastonbury, lies Burnham, and old Ordnance Survey Maps give the name of the area around Burnham as 'Paradise'. It is still known by that name. Ancient writings have said that Glastonbury was once known as 'Paradise'. About a mile from Glastonbury traditions are more concerned with Jesus Christ's visit during His manhood.

Tradition also attests that much of Jesus' sojourn in Britain was spent at or near Glastonbury. There was later built at Glastonbury a great Abbey. For almost a thousand years the greatest kings, bishops, saints, and heroes of the British Empire were buried there, as it was in its day the greatest Abbey in Britain. Royal Charters were solemnly signed in the church. Two of these are still in existence: one signed by King Ina, in A.D. 704, and the other signed there by King Cnut in A.D. 1032. In 1184, the Abbey buildings, and the famous library of Glastonbury, covering a thousand years of history, were burned. Therefore, we have today only scattered references to these things in the works of various historians of the early days. But there are many of these.

Taliesin, the Druid, the great Welsh Prince and Bard of the sixth century, wrote that:

"Christ, the Word from the beginning, was from the beginning our teacher, and we never lost His teaching."

The great Church historian, Hugh Paulinus de Cressy, writing in 1668 A.D., said:

"This our land of Brittany, though called by the Romans another world, as being divided from the whole then discovered habitable earth, yet by the riches of Divine mercy received the beams of the Sun of Righteousness before many other countries nearer approaching to the place where He first rose."

Further support is lent to these ancient reports by what happened later, after Jesus' crucifixion. The Jews bitterly persecuted the Christians, as we know, and John 12:10-11 tells how even during Jesus' lifetime, the Jews plotted to murder Lazarus, because Jesus had raised him from the dead. Cardinal Baronius, a very careful Church Historian, who was librarian to the Vatican, quotes a Vatican manuscript dated A.D. 35, which reports that in that year the Jews had arrested Joseph of Arimathea, Lazarus, the Virgin Mary, Martha, and two other Christians, put them into a boat and set them adrift in the Mediterranean without oars or sails. They finally reached land and went to Britian. Many early historians confirm this. St. Gregory of tours, in his History of the Franks, written shortly before A.D. 600; Haleca, Archbishop of Saragossa; and the Chronicon of Pseudo Dexter; all agree that Joseph of Arimathea was the first to preach the Gospel of Christianity in Britain. Hugh Paulinus de Cressy says; "Now the most eminent of the primitive disciples, and who contributed most to this heavenly building, was St. Joseph of Arimathea, and eleven of his companions along with him, among whom is reckoned his son of the same name. These, towards the latter end of Nero's reign, and before St. Peter and St.

Paul were consummated by a glorious martyrdom, are by the testimony of ancient records said to have entered this island, as a place for the retiredness of it, the benevolence of the British Princes, and the freedom from Roman tyranny, more opportune and better prepared for entertaining the Gospel of Peace than almost any country under the Romans".

Various historians of those early times, such as St. Gildas and William of Malmesbury, record that the British King Arviragus granted to Joseph of Arimathea a considerable area at Glastonbury, to be held forever, free from all taxes, as a site for a church and its accessory buildings and fields. That this no mere legend is proved by one of the greatest official records of all British history. After conquering England in the year 1066 A.D., William the Conqueror had a survey made of all the lands of the kingdom, as to what taxes they had paid. This record, called "Doomsday Booke", was completed in 1088 A.D. It contains this record:

"The Domus Dei, in the Great Monastery of Glastonbury, called The Secret of the Lord. This Glastonbury Church possesses in its own Villa 12 hides of land which have never paid tax." Note that this official record names this early church "Domus Dei" - "The Home of God" - and "The Secret of the Lord."

Joseph of Arimathea and his companions erected a mud and wattle church at Glastonbury, and among their first converts were members of the Royal Family, children of Caractus, cousin of King Arviragus of South Wales. Still existing royal charters granted by King Ina, dated A.D. 704, and by King Cnut, dated 1032 A.D., attest that they were signed by the kings in this church. Ancient records tell of its being preserved by a shell built around it by boards covered with lead. Then later, a stone church building was erected, enclosing the original church. St. David erected a large stone church as an addition to this, in A.D. 546. A record he made of this on a bronze tablet was still in place at the time of the Seizure and dissolution of the Monastery under orders

from King Henry VIII. (A post with a brass plaque marking the corner of this church is still in existence to this day at one side of the ruins of the Glastonbury Abbey).

Even in Ireland is found the tradition of Joseph of Arimathea having founded Glastonbury Church; the record no doubt having been brought to Ireland by St. Patrick, who had spent considerable time at Glastonbury, and who returned there for the last years of his life.

This great Abbey was the one destroyed by fire in A.D. 1184. Immediately thereafter, King Henry II of England issued a Royal Charter for the rebuilding of Glastonbury Abbey, which the charter called "the mother and burying place of the saints, founded by the very disciples of our Lord."

Well-substantiated ancient records tell of the death and burial of Joseph of Arimathea at Glastonbury. The epitaph on his tombstone read, "I came to the Britons after I buried Christ. I taught. I rest." Between 1345 and 1367 A.D., the body was placed in a silver casket, with a beautiful stone sarcophagus which was still in position in the year 1662 A.D. when the St. Joseph's Chapel containing it became partly ruined. Later, out of fear that Puritan fanaticism would result in its being destroyed as an object of idolatry, the sarcophagus was secretly removed by night to the Parish Churchyard, and its identity concealed by saying that the initials "J.A." carved on it stood for "John Allen". Thus it escaped destruction. In 1928, it was found nearly buried in the soil, and removed into the church, into the North Transept of the ancient St. Katherine's Chapel. Its construction indicates it was made to hold the silver casket. It bears the initials "J.A." with a caduceus between them. The caduceus - a winged staff with two serpents twined around it - is used today as the emblem of physicians. Originally, it was the badge of Mercury, the Messenger of the gods. It had been assimilated into the symbolism of some Christian churches even today. (Perhaps because it could be also symbolic of the "Bronze Serpent" that Moses made and set on a

pole. Anyone who looked at it was healed). In our own times, the Patriarchs of the Eastern Church have a caduceus, not a crozier, carried between them in official processions. It was an official badge, which would not have been put on a mere private person's tomb.

So we see therefore, that not only ancient legends and ancient historical records, but the official acts of kings of the Middle Ages, have recognised the close connection of Joseph of Arimathea, the uncle of Jesus Christ, with Cornwall and Glastonbury, in Britain. All of these lend strong support to the ancient legends and records of these places that it was here that Jesus Christ spent those 18 years of His life which the Bible does not account for. And where else would we expect Him to go, but to what was to become the principle home of His own people, ISRAEL?



THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN BRITAIN



### AN OLD GLASTONBURY COLLECT

ALMIGHTY, everlasting God, Who didst entrust Thy most blessed servant, Joseph, to take down the lifeless body of Thine Only-Begotten Son from the Cross, and to perform the due offices of humanity, hasten, we pray Thee, that we, who devotedly recall His memory, may feel the help of Thine accustomed pity, through the same, Our Lord. Amen.

### THE GLASTONBURY HYMN

AND did those feet in ancient time  
Walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the Holy Lamb of God  
On England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the Countenance Divine  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
Among those dark Satanic mills?  
  
Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold!  
Bring me my Chariot of Fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight,  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
Till I have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant land.

WILLIAM BLAKE, 1757-1827



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.

Frank and Betty Dowsett.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

## COVENANT VISION MINISTRY.

97 Brisbane St..

St. Marvs. 2760.

N.S.W. AUSTRALIA.

Phone: 02/623-4691.

"If My people, which are called by My name  
shall humble themselves,  
and pray,  
and seek My face,

AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS;

THEN

Will I hear from heaven,  
and will forgive their sins,  
and heal their land."

(II Chronicles 7:14).

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