



THE
COVENANT
VISION
Mar./Apr.
1988

Contents

ISSUE No. **18**

Editorial.	1.
Prophecy in Solomon's Temple.	3.
The Kingdom of God.	8.
The Middle East.	17.
The 8 Miracles of Jesus.	22.
Are These the Last Days?	34.
God is Not Mocked.	37.
Study in Revelations.	39.

“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

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God. And if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (I Peter 4:17).

Christians would surely have to be naive in the extreme not to realise that God is visiting His judgment upon His people in no uncertain manner, and without respect of persons. The fact that most non-Christians don't see what is happening in this light is quite understandable. But therein lies the tragedy. What should be the recognition of the basic flaws at the foundation levels of our society are given Hollywood treatment which has, and will, bring nothing but contempt and disgrace upon the Christian Faith as a whole. Satan will see to that.

We now have another T.V. Evangelist disgraced by immorality. But one wonders at the mentality behind the publicity they give in their international T.V. confessions and repenties and pleas for forgiveness which have accompanied these revelations. Satan is winning every round. The ungodly acts of these ministers are not only exposed, thereby ruining their own ministry, but the people involved give Satan a bonus victory by making a big production out of their exposure, thereby bringing the entire work of God into further public disrepute. One only has to look at the comments made in the various news media to realise that they are having a field-day. And information which I have received from overseas suggests that there could be at least one, if not two more such exposures.

God is not mocked. Those who sow the wind are most certainly going to reap the whirlwind. But this judgment does not stop just with the leaders of the organised church. It is sweeping through every aspect of our society. People everywhere are in revolt against

what they are finally realising to be the organised and deliberate actions of corrupt leaders and leadership. Hardly a day goes by without hearing of new allegations of corruption at the top. It boggles the mind to try to think of where it will all end. To look at their faces and to hear their voices you'd think that butter wouldn't melt in the mouths of these erstwhile leaders who have been exposed. How many more just like them are left? Just who do we trust these days?

From the human point of view this question might seem impossible to answer. But if those of us who claim the Name of Christ were to be completely honest with our handling of the Word of God we would have no option but to have to admit that its leaders have failed miserably in its presentation in this area of teaching.

The first thing we must do is to recognise that we are the literal seed of Abraham, the literal descendants of the literal people of Israel. The second thing we must do is to recognise that as such, God has given us national laws and commandments, the keeping of which would eliminate the present state of confusion which is now plaguing the people. The third thing to recognise is that the present judgment being executed on both our religious and political leaders is directly related to, and caused by, their rejection of the Law of God as the law of our nation. Our religious leaders especially should wake up to the fact that God's Word tells us that real prosperity comes from seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, not through executive-level salaries and flash homes and cars, and all the other accoutrements of worldly wealth that seem to dominate the thinking of so many of them.

We need a return to a fundamental faith in the goodness and provision of God. The humility and God-consciousness which would come with a return to such a dependent humility would remove the very atmosphere which provides the breeding ground for the kind of sin and corruption which is now being exposed by a rightfully and righteously angry God.

THE PROPHECY BUILT INTO SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

By REV. J.A.B. HAGGART of U.S.A.

A Pattern for Today's Church

THERE is a widespread tendency today to separate the Old Testament from the New Testament, as though they were two different entities. Perhaps this practice by modern day Christians comes from the elimination of animal sacrifices at the temple, after the sacrifice of the Lamb of God on the cross at Calvary just outside the walls of Jerusalem, a part of Mount Moriah. At that time the Son of God was offered up as a sacrifice for the sins of Israel and of all mankind, making the sacrifice of animals unnecessary from that time on. But the temple was designed by God, within the very structure of which we can find prophecy, even as men of the Old Testament were raised up to prophesy of things to come. Many do not realize that the patterns of prophecy are built into the very stones of the temple at Jerusalem. Here is the plan of the temple as revealed to Solomon, who was given the honour to build it:

'Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, on the site which David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. These are the foundations which Solomon laid for building the house of God: the length, according to the old standard of measurement, was sixty cubits, and the breadth twenty. The temple was made up of two rooms: the Holy of Holies and the Holy

Place. He made the Holy of Holies twenty cubits long, corresponding to the breadth of the house, and twenty cubits broad. A cubit being 18 inches, the Holy of Holies was therefore thirty feet by thirty feet square. The Holy Place was therefore twenty cubits wide and forty cubits long, or thirty feet wide and sixty feet long' (*2 Chron. 3*). A heavy drape divided the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place, and no one was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies except the High Priest. He entered it once a year, on the Day of Atonement, offering a blood sacrifice for the sins of Israel. No one was allowed to touch the High Priest from the time that he washed himself in the large bowl of the Molten Sea before the entrance to the temple to the time that he parted the veil leading into the Holy of Holies, where he offered the sacrifice.

In front of the temple, which was a simple house with but two rooms, was a porch 20 cubits wide and 10 cubits deep. This was called Solomon's porch and this was the favourite place for Jesus to rest with His disciples and to teach. This fact, in itself, is significant to us. It was only fifteen feet deep, but extended the full width of the front of the temple, thirty feet. This porch, or 'vestibule', symbolizes the years of preparation made by Jesus before the actual founding of His Church at Pentecost. It represents the teaching, the preaching and the healing work of Jesus while He was alive on earth as the Son of man. Jesus had every right

to enter the temple, even the Holy of Holies, for He was descended from David and Solomon. He was the very heir of the temple and everything in it. He was of the House of Judah, and heir to the throne of David. But He did not choose to claim His inheritance at that time. He had come to die for the sins of Israel. He had come as the sacrificial Lamb. The 'Times of the Gentiles' were still in effect, so far as the House of Israel was concerned. The seven 'times' of Israel's punishment lay ahead for the people of Israel, not to be lifted until the full 2,520 years had run its course. In His discourse with His disciples on the Mount of Olivet He alluded to the End Days, the time when the punishment put upon Israel would be lifted and her multitudes of people would begin to receive the blessings of her birthrights. But until that day, Jesus knew that the Gentile nations would prevail.

Jesus is the Door

Entrance into the temple represents the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His entrance into heaven, to sit again upon the right hand side of His Father, Who is in heaven. On Easter morning He said to Mary Magdalene, who suddenly recognized Him, 'Touch me not; for I am not ascended to my Father.' At that time He was the High Priest of Israel. He was on His way to heaven, and dared not let anyone of earth touch Him while on His way to the Holy of Holies in heaven. Otherwise His whole mission would have been spoiled. In heaven He became our Advocate for the propitiation of our sins, standing before the Father pleading for us, His followers.

He returned to earth to comfort His disciples and stayed for forty days before He visibly ascended to heaven, as

described in *Acts* 1:10. But before He left He said to His disciples, 'Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.' These were the last words to be given to Jesus' disciples before He ascended into heaven. This commission that He gave them had kept His followers busy for the last 1950 years and will continue into the future. This work of evangel began for the tribes of Israel as they began to emerge from the 'times of the Gentiles' about the beginning of the nineteenth century. This is marked by the forming of Missionary Societies in London, New York and other Israel communities in Europe. The Israel people caught fire with missionary zeal and carried the Gospel of the Kingdom to all parts of the globe, by land, by sea and by air (radio and television!). Israel has literally taken this commission to heart. We have now passed through the Holy Place of the Temple and approach the Holy of Holies. The Holy of Holies that we approach is not on this earth. The Holy of Holies we approach is in heaven. When we arrive we will find our High Priest, even the Lord Jesus Christ, ready to receive us. In the Bible this is symbolized for us as the Wedding Chamber and the Wedding Feast. 'Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb' (*Rev.* 19:9). Oh, what a glorious day that will be! Words cannot describe the ecstasy we will feel, as we ascend to be with Him and enter into His JOY!

Jesus is the Light

In the symbolism of the temple you can see what it means to us in the Christian dispensation. You can see the Church in the symbolism of the golden

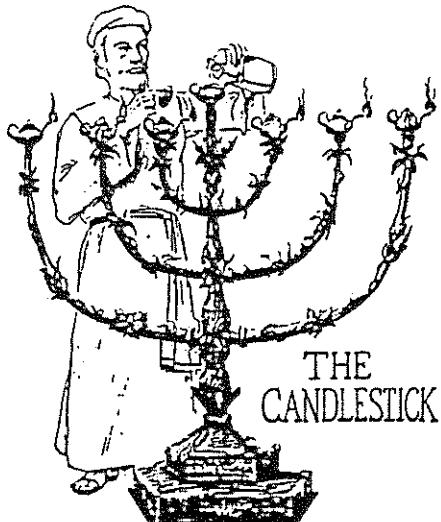
candelabra standing on the left side as you enter the front of the Holy Place of the temple. It is emanating the light by which you can see your way through the room. It gives us the light whereby we can see our way through the world! Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world' (*John 8:12*). He is the Light by which we may see our way in this world. He is the Christ Who appeared to John on the Isle of Patmos and, he wrote, 'I turned and saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle . . .' And Jesus said to John, 'The seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches' (*Rev. 1:12,13,20*). These seven candlesticks are actually seven lamps set upon one stand with seven conductors of oil to each of the lamps, which are level and lined up in a row. The same candelabra which was shown to John was shown to Zechariah who saw 'A lampstand all of gold with a bowl on it; it holds seven lamps, and there are seven pipes for the lamps on top of it, with two

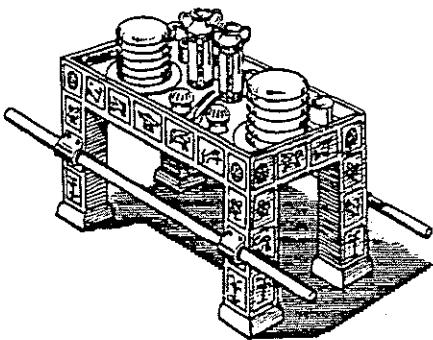
olive trees standing by it, one on the right of the bowl and another on the left.' The two olive trees supply the lamps with oil. The central lamp is a little higher than the other six, into which the oil is poured. The oil travels to all the lamps, providing oil equally to each lamp. The oil is the Holy Spirit and the light is the light of Jesus Christ, which enlightens the lives of Christians. This feeding of the lamps with oil has been going on since the day of Pentecost until the present day. The light of Christ doesn't go out because of the constant flow of the oil to the lamps. Jesus Christ told John very plainly that the seven lamps are the seven churches which he has served in Asia Minor. Each church represents an era of the church in history. These are the seven churches and the time intervals they represent:

The Church at		
Ephesus	30 to	64 A.D.
Smyrna	64 to	313 A.D.
Pergamos	313 to	529 A.D.
Thyatira	529 to	1529 A.D.
Sardis	1529 to	1739 A.D.
Philadelphia	1739 to	1914 A.D.
Laodicea	1914 to the End of the Age.	

Jesus is the Bread

Opposite the candelabra, standing on the left, was the Table of Shewbread, which held twelve loaves of bread known as the 'Bread of the Presence.' The twelve loaves represented the twelve tribes of Israel, also prefiguring Jesus who refers to Himself as the 'true bread from heaven' (*John 6:31-33*). In verse 35, He says 'I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.' In 2 *Chronicles* 29:18 we read that other vessels for the drink offering of wine were placed on the Table of Shewbread, which foreshadowed the Communion service so common to





the Church Age to follow. The Shewbread and the Wine stood on the table to typify the mystical body and blood of Christ, later offered by our Lord at the Last Supper. Each Sabbath, the priests partook of the sacrament when they ate the old loaves, after they had been replaced by the new and drank the drink offering of wine (*Lev. 24:5-9*).

The third article of furniture in the Holy Place was the Altar of Burnt Incense, placed against the western wall opposite the door of entrance on the east. This was also called the 'Altar of God,' because it was covered with gold. In *Rev. 8:3,4* we read the purpose of this Golden Altar. 'And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer: and there was given unto him much incense that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.' In addition to this scripture another parallel between the offering of incense and prayer can be found in *Psalm 141:2* and *Luke 1:10*. The fragrance of the incense represented the prayers of the faithful as they ascended acceptably unto God. 'Let my prayer be set before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice' (*Psalm 141:2*). It is plain to see that the Altar of God (prayer), the Table

of Shewbread (holy communion) and the seven fold candelabra (Holy Spirit) all foreshadow the principle ingredients of worship in the Christian Church, which replaced the worship in the temple at Jerusalem.

Jesus is the Way

In terms of time, to walk through the Holy Place is to walk from the day of Pentecost to the end of the Age, which is now upon us. We are ready to walk through the door into the Holy of Holies, which represents Heaven, where we will worship with our High Priest, even Jesus Christ who ascended to His high position more than 1950 years ago. In the past 1950 years we have walked through the seven different eras of the church and find ourselves in the seventh era as represented by the Church at Laodicea. We are now ready for the appearing of the Lord in the heavens and the trumpet call to come up and join Him at His table, and we shall rise (both the dead and the living) to the great wedding banquet in heaven.

Throughout the age the pattern for the church meeting places has been derived from the Holy Place, where the children of Israel joined together in Christian worship services wherever they found themselves on the surface of the earth. The foundation measurements of thirty feet by sixty feet for the church buildings became the pattern for the church everywhere. There can be no doubt that Joseph of Arimathea, when he built the first church in Glastonbury, of wattle, that its wall conformed to the divine dimensions set by the Lord in the building of the Temple by Solomon at Jerusalem. No longer need Israel comply with the requirement to worship in the temple in Jerusalem. But now, as they travelled to all parts of the world and

settled, they built a church of wood or stone to worship the God of Israel with the same faithfulness in which they were accustomed to worship in the one temple at Jerusalem.

Jesus indicated this change to the woman of Samaria, when He said to her, 'The time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem . . . but the time approaches, indeed it is already here, when those who are real worshippers (as Christians) will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Such are the worshippers whom the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth' (*John 4:21-25*). Jesus knew that the time was coming when His followers would worship the Father in small churches set up in all parts of the world, beginning with the first Church erected at Glastonbury in England around 37 A.D. This was only a few years after He talked with the woman of Samaria at the well at Sychar.

In His last discourse with His disciples on Olivet He described the coming destruction of the temple at Jerusalem, even as He was leaving the temple, 'Jesus was leaving the temple when his disciples came and pointed to the temple buildings. He answered, "Yes, look at it all. I tell you this: not one stone will be left upon another. All will be thrown down"' (*Matt. 24:1,2*). According to His prophecy, forty years later Titus came with the Roman legions and destroyed the city, not leaving one stone upon the other.

In the Bible we can clearly see that the foundations of the future Church were laid at Jerusalem in 1007 B.C., just 480 years after the Exodus. (*1 Kings 6:38; 2 Chron. 5:3*). The pattern for the Church

is found in the Holy Place (called the 'sanctuary') which was 30 feet by 60 feet in dimensions. Joseph of Arimathea, being of the Sanhedrin, was thoroughly familiar with these things. In fact the youthful Jesus helped build the Church at Glastonbury, when He accompanied His great-uncle on one of his voyages to England for tin and lead, according to the church records. Certainly the early churches in America were erected to these same dimensions, as were others throughout the world, wherever Israelites carried the Gospel and formed colonies.

Jesus is our Coming King

It is significant that the Hebrew word, Qahal, is translated in the Bible as 'Church,' that it was used hundreds of years before the Christian era to mean 'the congregation of Israel.' We see this anticipation of the Church in the very measurements of the Holy Place in the Temple (30 feet x 60 feet) and in the three items of furniture which it contained. It is therefore easy for us to understand why Israelites were chosen to propagate and sponsor the Church and to spread Christianity wherever they travelled into the four corners of the earth. When the Almighty chose Abraham and his descendants to create a new race we can now read in His Mind the use of that race in spreading the Gospel amongst all peoples of every clime.

Since His ascension over 1900 years ago Christ has been our High Priest in heaven, gathering our prayers and presenting them to the Father there enthroned. We of Christian Israel should be reminded that the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies annually in the month of Tishri (September) to sprinkle the blood of a goat upon the Mercy Seat. The Holy of Holies was, typically, the place of

(continued page 16).

THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART FOURTEEN.

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 the final section of our study of the fifth aspect of THE KINGDOM OF GOD, namely:

GOVERNMENT AND LAWS.

We have seen from our previous studies that modern Israel, the Anglo-Saxon Celtic peoples of the world, have suffered just as God said that they would suffer, as a result of their disobedience to the righteousness of THE LAW OF GOD. One could write volumes proving this, but I'm sure it would achieve nothing. There are many sincere and dedicated people and organisations sounding forth in no uncertain manner about the evils in our midst today. We commend their efforts as far as they go. But we must realise that knowing about the evils in itself does nothing at all to overcome them.

What is needed is firm and positive action. Evil people have to be replaced. Evil laws have to be replaced. Evil practices have to be replaced. Evil agreements have to be replaced. And by 'evil', I mean anything that is contrary to the well being and prosperity which God intends for His people!

The weakness in the present uncovering of this evil in our midst, as necessary as it is, is that the only alternatives that are being suggested or offered is either the eradication of the evil with no stated alternatives, or the introduction of other human methods or organisations controlled by different people with no guarantee as to whether or not these new rulers or methods will turn out in the long run to be any better than those which they have replaced.

For argument sake, will every child be given a FREE block of land as a birthright? Will the charging of interest be abolished? Will all debts be completely cancelled every seventh year? Will capital punishment be re-introduced for such crimes as murder, rape, treason, sodomy, etc..? Will thieves be required by law to fully reimburse their victims? Will our health system be revised so as to abolish the eating of incorrect and dangerous foods? Will our defense forces be built up to the stage that any would-be enemy would be too frightened to attack us? Would our parliamentary electoral system be changed so that people would be elected to office solely on the strength of their honesty, qualifications, and faith in God, and not upon their party political convictions?

You see, the answer to our problems today does not depend on what man can do, or upon what organisations and principles man can institute or initiate. The ONLY, and I repeat the ONLY, answer lies in the re-introduction of the principles initiated by God, i.e., THE LAW OF GOD, which contains every one of the above initiatives! The well-being and prosperity of His people was the reason why God codified His Laws to Israel in the first place.

The Law was never given to Israel to put them under bondage. It was given to them to bring them true freedom. It is not the Law which puts us under bondage. It is our disobedience to God's Law which puts us under bondage. I really get quite upset when I hear Christians talking about what they call 'the bondage of the Law'. If God gave us the Law, and we'd better believe that He did, then it was perfect, and we'd better believe that as well. It was never God's intention to give us anything less than LIFE ABUNDANT. If we have anything less, then it is our fault, not God's. Both as individuals, and as a nation, we have a colossal impudence to blame God for what is no less than our own stupidity. And we are no less stupid and impudent if we seek any other means of obtaining His blessing and prosperity than by that which He has already given us.

In the early days of Israel, God codified His Laws which were already in existence, into a complete system of jurisprudence by which the nation could live in complete safety and prosperity and communion with their God. And so came into operation the first of the two great LAW COVENANTS.

This is referred to as THE OLD COVENANT. You will find it recorded in Exodus 24:3-8, as follows:-

"And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice, and said, 'All the words which the Lord hath said will we do.'

And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

And He sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the Lord.

And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

And he took the Book of the Covenant, and read in the audience of the people. And they said, 'All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient'.

And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, 'Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words'."

Let us be very clear in our minds as to the full implications of what actually happened at that great gathering of the people of Israel. This was no ordinary gathering or meeting.

This was the marriage ceremony when Israel became the Bride, or Wife, of Jehovah!

This is when the bride said "I do" when she was called upon to 'obey' her husband. The present and increasing practice of deleting this requirement from the modern marriage vows is a violation of what God intended for the happiness of his people in their marital relationships.

And as God's Word tells us that at marriage a man and woman become one flesh, so the Divine Bridegroom and His earthly bride became 'one flesh', and the means by which this was accomplished, the Law of God, became THE LIFE BLOOD OF THE NATION! Just as the Groom was totally bound to and by His own Laws which He Himself had written, so was the new bride. The relationship was never intended to operate in any other way, nor could it.

Now God's Word clearly tells us in Leviticus 17:11 that "The life of the flesh is in the blood". The next two verses give the express instruction that we are not

allowed by God to eat the blood of the animals that may be eaten. This was not just a religious requirement. It was a health requirement, because disease or sickness is carried in the blood stream. Let us look at the sequence.

1. When we transgress, or break, God's Law, we sin. (I John 3:4).
2. The end result of sin is death. (Ezekiel 18:4).
3. Sickness is simply the process of dying, and is carried in the bloodstream.
4. Therefore, the only way to eradicate sickness and death is to completely remove the contaminated blood and to replace it with a pure uncontaminated blood stream.

It is this principle which requires that the blood be shed. This was the purpose behind the shedding of the blood of the animal sacrifices, and ultimately, the shedding of the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself as the final and everlasting sacrifice.

But as the Law was the life blood of the nation of Israel in their relationship to Jehovah, so, when they broke His Laws, they automatically contaminated this blood stream. The individual blood stream was contaminated and the individual suffered. But worse than this, the national blood stream was contaminated and the nation itself suffered.

The only treatment for this condition is to remove the present blood stream and replace it with the Life Stream of God Himself.

THIS IS GOD'S ONLY PRESCRIPTION.

It was this requirement that brought into effect the second of the great Law Covenants, THE NEW COVENANT.

Now for some strange reason, it appears that Christians generally do not recognise this basic feature of THE NEW COVENANT. Quite frankly, I don't know what they think it is, if it is not a Law Covenant. Let's read it as it is originally recorded in Jeremiah 31:31-34, and repeated in Hebrews 8:8:11;

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel, and with the House of Judah.

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which My covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord.

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the House of Israel. After those days, saith the Lord, I WILL PUT MY LAW IN THEIR INWARD PARTS, AND WRITE IT IN THEIR HEARTS; and will be their God, and they shall be My people.

And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord. For they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

It is obvious from the above reading that the second, or NEW Covenant is just as much a LAW Covenant as was the first, or OLD Covenant. But there is one most important difference. In the Old Covenant, the onus rested on the people. They said, "All that the Lord hath said WE WILL DO! But when we come to the New Covenant the onus no longer rests upon the people. It has been taken over by God Himself. It is now HIS will, not ours. He has said, "I WILL PUT MY LAW IN THEIR MINDS AND HEARTS".

This Divine Prescription was applied in a twofold way. Firstly, it was applied to the individual.

You see, the original requirement for the shedding of blood for the remission of sins has never changed. The sacrifice is still required. The only difference lies in the sacrifice itself. Originally, man chose an acceptable lamb, and it was slain for the remission of his sins. Now however, the Lamb of God has been slain as an everlasting and final sacrifice. What is today termed as 'personal salvation', (and I do not use the expression lightly), comes about from the recognition and acceptance of the sacrifice of God's Lamb for the forgiveness of our sins instead of the earlier recognition and acceptance of the sacrifice of man's selection of a lamb. In every other way, nothing has changed. Yet how complicated so many preachers make it out to be, with all their "do's" and "don'ts", and all the emotionalism in which they surround it. The unfortunate fact, and I believe that it is a fact, is that people are seldom instructed as to what sin actually is, and what forgiveness really entails. Let us tabulate it for simplicity.

1. We are born sinners, simply because we inherited the condition from our forefather Adam. The result of this sin is manifest in our blood stream, and eventually causes us to physically die. This was the judgment pronounced upon Adam, that "Dying, he (and his descendants), would surely die". (Marginal reading of Gen.2:17).
2. We continue to commit sin every time we break any one of God's Laws. (I John 3:4). This is the only method stated in the whole of God's Word whereby we can commit sin, yet few, if any preachers ever tell their congregation this fact when they make an appeal for personal salvation at the end of their service.
3. Thus, those who respond to that appeal, while recognising the need for forgiveness, don't really know what they are forgiven for.

4. What then so often happens is that in their ignorance of what it is really all about, they continue to brake God's Laws, (which incidently they have usually been told are now done away with and replaced by grace), and thus continue to unwittingly sin, and then can't figure out why they are not receiving the extent of blessing they were told to expect. No wonder so many of them end up by falling away.

5. But the acceptance of this eternal sacrifice of the Lamb of God qualifies them, at the Resurrection, to have their contaminated, disease ridden blood stream completely replaced with the Life-Stream of God. You will remember that when our Lord appeared to His disciples after His resurrection He referred to Himself as having "flesh and bone", not "flesh and blood". The human blood stream no longer existed within Him. And the promise to us is that when we see Him, we shall be like Him.

Secondly, the Divine Prescription is to be applied to the nation. Contrary to what most Christians seem to think, our Lord Jesus Christ did NOT just die for the individual sinner. He died also, and in fact primarily, to REDEEM ISRAEL. As set out so plainly in the parable of the Treasure in the Field, in order to buy the treasure, which is Israel, He purchased the whole field, which is the world. Thus, in becoming the Redeemer of Israel, He became the Saviour of the world.

And that nation which was redeemed, Israel, under the terms of the New Covenant, by the command and covenant of God Himself, WILL be His people, and He WILL be their God. In other words, and as unbelievable as it might seem, our entire nation is going to turn back to God, as a nation, and we will ALL know Him as our God.

What a glorious day that will be. Church services will no longer be based on the necessity of conviction of sin. They will be continuous choruses of praise to our Great God and Saviour, even our Lord Jesus Christ, as

He reigns upon the Throne of David in justice and righteousness for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform it!

May He come quickly, and may we be ready for that great day when it dawns.

(to be continued).

THE PROPHECY BUILT INTO SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.

continued from page 7.

God's throne and seen only by the High Priest during the Day of Atonement. The Holy of Holies also represents the Kingdom of God on earth, being a perfect cube of 30 cubits in all its dimensions. This sacred room also prefigures the Millennium, the thousand-year rule of Christ on earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. He will at the same time come as

our High Priest and as Judge who 'shall judge both the quick and the dead.' Those of Christian Israel should be alert to the possibility of the return of our Lord at the turning of the autumnal equinox and the Day of Atonement this year. Just think, this could be the beginning of the Millennium, the reign of Christ on earth 'as in heaven!'

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The Middle East.

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During the Second World War, those parts of Europe occupied by the Germans produced an underground movement which was encouraged by Britain and her allies to resort to every sort of sabotage against the Germans. The killing of Germans was lauded as a patriotic achievement helping to drive out the hated invader. But when desperate Palestinians, who lost their native home when the Zionist State of Israel was created, resort to violence against the occupying Israelis, they are generally charged with being terrorists. Such is the power of propaganda. During the 1967 "Six Day War", deliberately precipitated by Soviet strategists, Israel further expanded its territories, taking over the West Bank and the Gaza strip. Defying every form of international protest, and ignoring the rights of a mass of Palestinian refugees, Israel has pushed forward with a steady programme of colonisation.

Current violent protests among the Palestinians were inevitable. Oppressive military action by the Israelis merely helps to stir the whole Muslim world, generally against the Western nations, which are seen as puppets of the international Zionist machine. The Reagan administration has gone through the motions of protesting to the Israelis about their harsh methods in dealing with rock-throwing young Palestinians, but these protests have been greeted with contempt. Former terrorist leader, Israeli Prime Minister Shamir, even refused to meet Mr. Marrack Goulding, the United Nations under-secretary responsible for the Middle East.

No understanding of the far-reaching implications of the deepening Middle East crisis is possible without a picture of the historical background. During the First World War, Britain and her allies found themselves in

such a desparate military situation by 1916 that unless the U.S.A. could be brought into the war, a peace settlement with Germany was inevitable. Zionist leaders exploited the situation by offering international support to Britain in exchange for a promise to establish a "National Home" for the Jews in Palestine at the conclusion of hostilities. In an attempt to appease the Arabs, who had previously been promised their independence from Turkish rule if they assisted Britain, the infamous Balfour Agreement specifically stated that the promised National Home was not to interfere with the natural rights of the Palestinian people.

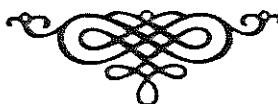
Some of the strongest critics of the Zionist project were Western Jews, who feared that the best long-term interests of the Jewish people were threatened by Zionism. One of those critics was the first Australian-born Governor-General, Sir Isaac Isaacs, whose memory has been blackened by vitriolic Zionist smearing.

Britain found it increasingly difficult to police its League of Nations mandate over Palestine, with the Palestinians becoming more militant in their opposition to a growing Zionist invasion. At the beginning of the British mandate, only a very small percentage of the Palestinian population were Jews who, together with the Christian minority, had lived in harmony with the Moslem majority for years. In an attempt to curb Arab fears, the Chamberlain government adopted the recommendation of the 1939 White Paper that Zionist immigration into Palestine be curbed. There was an immediate international Zionist campaign against the British government.

During and after the Second World War, the Soviet Union backed the Zionist policy of moving an increasing number of illegal Jewish migrants into Palestine. Growing terrorist tactics against the British, and pressure from the U.S.A. eventually forced the British to inform the U.N. that it was giving up the Palestine mandate. In one of the most immoral acts in modern history, the U.N. decided that Palestine should be partitioned

without the Palestinians being consulted. Dr. H. V. Evatt, Australian Attorney-General, and a Fabian, presided over the U.N. General Assembly which, following the use of international financial pressure to several reluctant nations, just managed to produce the required two-thirds majority. The Soviet Union strongly supported Zionist policy and later supplied vital military assistance to the Zionists, who not only seized power as the British pulled out, but who used frightful terror tactics to drive the Palestinians out of the areas allocated to the Zionists.

Moscow immediately recognised the newly-proclaimed State of Israel, and has continued to exploit the massive refugee problem it has helped to create. It is too late to reverse history, but it is not too late to provide the dispossessed Palestinians with a national home. Zionists, and those misguided Christians who support them, must accept the major responsibility for what is happening in the Middle East. Where is Western Christian concern for their fellow Palestinian Christians?



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(Ezekiel 11:15.)



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THE 8 MIRACLES of JESUS.

By. F. W. DOWSETT.

INTRODUCTION.

"And there are also many other things that Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written." (John 21:25).

Out of all the things that our Lord Jesus Christ said and did, there must be some special reason why the Holy Spirit led the Apostle John to record only eight of the Lord's miracles in his Gospel. And why eight? Why not nine, or some other number? It is clear therefore that we need to carefully study these eight miracles very carefully and prayerfully in order to determine and understand their full significance.

Those readers who are familiar with Bible numerics will immediately recognise the importance of eight being selected, as it is the number always associated with our Lord, ("Jesus" in Greek having the numeric value of 888), with resurrection and restoration, and with the beginning of a new order or cycle. Remember that there were 8 people saved in the ark at the time of Noah's flood. The eighth day is the beginning of the new week. The eighth note in music is the beginning of a new octave. So the first thing of significance which we see is that these 8 miracles speak to us of resurrection, restoration, and new beginnings through our Lord Jesus Christ.

An understanding of the meaning of some of the words used is also important. The word 'miracle' means 'a sign'. Specifically, it refers to the significance of

what is done, that is, the teaching intended to be conveyed, as distinct from the act itself. So we must always keep in mind as we study the miracles, the significance of what is happening, and not get carried away simply by the miracle itself.

The reason why Jesus performed these miracles or signs is given in John 2:11 as being "to manifest forth His glory". The word "manifest" means "to make apparent or known", as distinct from "causing to be seen", and could be best illustrated by the 'manifest' of a ship which sets out, or makes known, the contents of the cargo, as distinct from actually seeing the cargo. The word "glory" does not refer to "reputation or fame" as we would use it. It refers to Christ's splendour and majesty, especially in relation to His Kingdom.

But there is one other most important feature about these eight miracles of which we should be aware. They were performed, and are interconnected, in a very special way. When we pair them together in the following way, we find these outstanding features.

1.	Water into Wine.	<u>The Redeemer and Saviour.</u>
8.	Fishes & Bread.	
2.	The Nobleman's Son.	<u>The Life & Resurrection.</u>
7.	The Raising of Lazarus.	
3.	The Impotent Man.	<u>The Healer.</u>
6.	The Blind Man.	
4.	Feeding the 5,000.	<u>The Creator.</u>
5.	Walking on the Water.	

As we continue our studies, we will find that whilst each pair has a connecting theme, the second of the two miracles in each pair is of a higher order than

the first of the pair. This is a very wonderful and important feature, and provides a key to the fuller meaning to this overall ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So with these basic facts in mind, let us now turn to our study of "THE EIGHT MIRACLES".

MIRACLE NO. 1.

WATER INTO WINE.

The account of this, the first miracle, is found in John 2:1-11;

"And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there.

And both Jesus was called, and His disciples, to the marriage.

And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus said unto Him, They have no wine.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.

His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it.

And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

And He saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew): the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse. But

thou hast kept the good wine till now.

This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifest forth His glory, and His disciples believed on Him."

In order to understand the meaning of this miracle, let us look at some of the details.

1. The 'third day' mentioned could have been either the third day of the week, or the third day of the wedding feast. The custom in those days was for the wedding feast to be held prior to the wedding itself. This feast is also referred to as 'the marriage supper', as in Revelation 19:9. It usually took place seven days prior to the wedding itself, and often lasted for the entire seven days.

The importance of understanding this procedure cannot be over-stated, as it gives us the order of events associated with the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The only people who attend the 'marriage supper', or wedding feast' are 'the friends of the BRIDEGROOM', NOT the Bride or her friends! At the completion of the marriage supper, the bridegroom and his friends then proceed to meet the bride, at which time the actual wedding takes place. I have no reason to believe that the imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ and His re-marriage to His Bride Israel will be any different. Why should it be? Christ's personal and close 'friends', i.e., those who will be given positions of authority and rulership with Him over His Kingdom, will be called to the marriage supper of the Lamb. The remainder of those who will be in the Kingdom WILL NOT BE THERE! They will, I believe, be 'the friends of the Bride'.

It must surely be time that Christians woke up to the fact that just to be saved, and to have consequently gained admittance to the Kingdom, as set out in John 3:3 and 5, does not automatically give us the right to be Kings and Priests ruling OVER the Kingdom as portrayed in Rev. 20:4 and 6. This is the "prize of the High Calling of God" to which the Apostle Paul is directing

our attention in Philippians 3:14. I'm afraid that many Christians are in for a very rude awakening. It is only the 'overcomers' who take part in the First Resurrection prior to the actual and physical return of our Lord to the earth. I believe that they are "the armies that follow Him, upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean" of Rev. 19:14. The great bulk of Christians will be resurrected or translated to eternal life as citizens of the Kingdom at His coming, or physical return, as stated in I Corinthians 15:23, as distinct from those who will have previously been raised to the position of Kings and Priests ruling OVER the Kingdom. I suggest that an understanding of this fact will immediately eliminate the differences of opinion that presently exist among teachers of God's Word as to whether or not there is a period of time between the initial resurrection and the actual return of Christ.

2. We also find that Mary was there, either because of her relationship with the bridegroom, or because of her royal standing as a direct descendant of King David. In either case, she certainly had a recognised authority, as attested to by her directions involving the provision of more wine. It was this authority to which our Lord was referring when He said to her, after she told Him that the wine had run out, "What's that got to do with Me?" He recognised that this matter lay within her authority, not His. The time for Him to initiate the exercise of His own authority had not yet arrived. But we notice that she immediately delegated her authority in this matter to her son, Jesus, by instructing the servants to obey Him in whatever instructions He gave, and so He accepted this delegation. One can only conjecture at the amazement in the minds and on the faces of the servants when they heard His instructions, and saw what happened as a result. I hope there was no one there with all their money invested in brewery shares. They'd have had a fit.

3. The next thing we notice is that our Lord commanded the water vessels to be filled 'to the brim'. In this condition they could not be used for the purpose of

purifying, as they would have overflowed. But the great lesson which the Lord was revealing was that there was no more room for the physical ritual of purification. It was about to be superceded by the blood of the Lamb of God, as represented by the wine which was about to appear in place of the water.

4. And finally, we notice the difference between the wines. The ruler of the feast expressed his amazement at the fact that the wine at the end of the feast was so much better than that at the beginning of the feast. How appropriate. And what a wonderful example of the fulfilment of Hebrews 8:6;

"But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises."

But having examined the details of the event, what was the real meaning of what happened? How did our Lord "manifest His glory"?

Firstly, the wine represents the blood of Christ, in which is sealed the New Covenant, as stated in I Cor. 11:25;

"This cup is the New Testament (Covenant) in My blood."

And it is totally appropriate that the first of these specially recorded miracles should embrace the wine, representing the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, whilst the final, or eighth miracle should embrace, as well as the fish, the bread which represents our Lord's broken body. (see John 21:13). Thus, the whole of these eight manifestations of Christ's Glory were bound up in, and encompassed by, the bread and the wine, the symbols of the New Covenant as expressed in the highest order of Priesthood, that of the everlasting Melchisedec.

One of the little realised aspects of this great act of Redemption and Salvation was its effect upon Christ's marriage relationship with His wife Israel. Under His own Law, a divorced wife could not legally remarry until her former husband was dead. To do otherwise placed the wife in a situation of adultery. The only way by which this requirement could be fulfilled was for the former husband to die, and this is exactly what happened. The death of the Husband, our Lord Jesus Christ, Jehovah, freed the wife, Israel, to legally remarry, whilst the shedding of His blood paid the required price for the forgiveness of the wife's sin which had brought about the divorce in the first place.

This leads us to an understanding of the second aspect of this miracle, in that it involved a wedding. The miracle could have been performed at any kind of feast or celebration. The fact that the Lord chose to exercise His authority under these specific circumstances is most significant.

There can surely be no doubt but that one of the greatest ceremonies yet to be experienced on this earth, apart from our Lord's actual return, is to be that of His re-marriage to His Bride. The final revelation which our Lord gave to His servant John was that regarding the Bride, the Lamb's wife, and the glorious abundant life which would follow that majestic wedding. It is recorded in Revelations chapters 21 and 22. The most simple reading of this passage reveals that the Bride, or Wife of Christ is Israel. If this is not so, then one wonders why the entire description of the Bride is based on the twelve tribes of Israel. If the Bride is the Church, as is almost universally taught, then why did our Lord choose not to simply say so. He referred to the church earlier in the first few chapters, so why not here? The belief that the Bride of Christ is the church comes as a result of the teaching that the literal promises made to Israel have now been revoked by God and that they are now being 'spiritually' fulfilled in 'the church'. I'm sorry, but this is a direct insult to God Almighty. I'm not saying for one moment that people who accept this belief are

deliberately trying to insult God. Far from it. The great majority of them love the Lord very dearly, and would be shocked by such a thought. But the facts must still be faced. We can just as easily be sincerely wrong as we can be sincerely right. Sincerity is no guarantee of correctness. We are not right simply because we are sincere. We are only right if we accept and believe what God says. And what are some of the things which He has said on the subject of Israel's continuance as a literal nation?

1. The seed of Abraham would become a great nation, not a great 'church.' (Gen. 12:2.)
2. Abraham was to be the father of many nations, not 'the church.' (Gen. 17:2-5).
3. The promise of the land was made to a nation, not 'the church.'
4. Israel was promised by God to be a nation before Him, not 'the church', whilst the sun, moon and stars continued to function. (Jer. 31:35-37).
5. If the above statements are not fulfilled literally as the Lord has spoken them, then the following statement in Malachi would make God to be a liar, and that is totally unthinkable, and quite impossible. Malachi 3:6 reads; "For I am the Lord, I CHANGE NOT! Therefore ye sons of Jacob are NOT consumed."
6. And for those who prefer something from the New Testament, what about Paul's statement in Romans 11:1-2;

"I say then, Hath God cast away His people? GOD FORBID! . . . God hath NOT cast away His people which He foreknew!"

It is to be to this same nation, Israel, that our Lord Jesus Christ is to be remarried. It is of this same

nation of Israel that He said through the prophet Isaiah;

"For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of Hosts is His name; and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. The God of the whole earth shall He be called." (Isa. 54:5).

The sequence of events in the marriage relationship between Jehovah and Israel is clearly and simply set out in the prophets Hosea and Isaiah;

"Plead with your mother, (speaking of Israel), plead. For she is not My wife, neither am I her husband." (Hosea 2:2).

"Thus saith the Lord, Where is the bill of your mother's divorce, whom I have sent away? Or which of My creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away." (Isa. 50:1).

BUT!! Speaking of the same people, God says;

"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. . . .

And it shall be at that day, saith the Lord, that thou shalt call Me HUSBAND, and shall call Me no more lord. . . .

And I will betroth thee unto Me for ever; Yea, I will betroth thee unto Me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

I will even betroth thee unto Me in faithfulness: AND THOU SHALT KNOW THE LORD. . . .

And I will say to them which were not My people, 'THOU ART MY PEOPLE.'

And they shall say, THOU ART MY GOD."
(Hos. 2:14, 16, 19, 20, 23).

Can we honestly say after reading these Scriptures that God has changed His mind, and is not to be remarried to His former wife? Surely not! God has NOT changed His mind one iota. His Word shall NOT return to Him void. It WILL accomplish what He has purposed.

Is it just a coincidence that the Age of Grace opens with a wedding, and closes with a wedding? I think not. Herein is expressed the great purpose of God's plans and purposes. Israel was originally formed to have this Husband/Wife relationship with her God. The whole of the future plans and purposes of God for the future ages depend upon the everlasting continuation of this relationship, because it is only in the marriage relationship that He can have sons and daughters, those who are to be literally THE SONS OF GOD.

That a marriage supper or feast should be the setting for the first of Christ's miracles wherein He shewed forth His glory is no coincidence. It is deeply significant not only of what is to take place in the very near future, but of the absolute necessity for every one of us to constantly reach out and strive for the "high calling of God", the attainment of which will qualify us to attend the greatest of all wedding suppers, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, which is even now at the very doors.

May we be found ready and worthy. May we be found daily expectant of this great hope that lies before us, that His glory shall be manifest in us. May we be numbered among those of whom it is promised;

"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father." (Matt. 13:43).

(to be continued).



Cowards, Crooks, and Fools.

By Thelen Paulk.
(copyrighted 1987).

To all good Christian Patriots,
the remnant of the strong,
You may be a minority,
but that's where you belong.

The lessons learned through hard-knocks,
in life's corrupted schools,
Alone; because your countrymen
are cowards, crooks and fools;

Have caused you to grow stronger,
and wiser in the mind.
You stood the test of fire,
as gold you've been refined.
Apart from the majority,
who rule this sinful nation,
Count yourself as blessed
when you suffer tribulation.

The coward dares not take a stand
against the hordes of hell;
To hide his glaring yellow steak,
in shadows he must dwell.
The crook will play an active part,
and roll corrupted dice,
He's loyal to the highest bid,
as Judas had his price.

The fool; most numerous group of all,
so easy to deceive;
Big Brother, Bankers, Media,
such lies; they still believe.
While others play in Babylon,
with all her broken rules;
The persecuted stand apart,
from Cowards, crooks, and fools.

Endure with faith and Patience
when you suffer tribulation.
For He endured it all before;
THE ONE WHO GIVES SALVATION.
When HE returns to take HIS Throne,
in the Kingdom where HE rules,
Don't get caught outside the gates
with cowards, crooks, and fools.



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Are These The Last Days?

By DOROTHY ABRAHAM of Canada

(Courtesy 'National Message')

MANY people today are asking the question, Are these the last days? If we study the Bible we will find the answer. Day after day we use our calendar to mark off events as they take place, but God has given us a divine calendar, absolutely correct, with everything happening in time and on time, in the fulness of time of God's countdown: and from this calendar we who have studied it believe that we are in the last days: almost at the end of this dispensation and looking for the coming of Christ in great power and glory.

From the beginning of time there have been many ages through which we have passed, six in fact:

1. The Antidiluvian
2. The Patriarchal
3. The Noahic
4. The Mosaic — the giving of the Law to Israel.

Many people think the law began with Moses, but he merely codified it at God's command. Law was in force at the beginning of time, we are told that Abraham kept the law and statutes, and law will exist as long as man lives.

5. The Age of Kings
6. The Christian Age

The Christian Age has developed into the Space Age, and will eventually be superceded by the seventh period of time, the Millennial Age, when Christ will come and rule with equity and 'out of Zion shall go forth the law.'

The Bible has such a wonderful story to tell, but how few know it, or want to know it. First the Creation, and I mean creation, not evolution. I do not believe that man developed from 'slime that turned to mud, insect, and reptile, fish which produced young, followed by monkeys, and finally man! This was a sermon that I once heard in an Anglican Church, given to young people. I refuse to claim monkeys for my ancestors, but believe the Bible which says that man was made in God's image. Today man is trying to make God in man's image.

The Bible gives the whole Plan of God: After creation, the choosing and training of a nation, and their wilderness experience, the seven times of

punishment, the coming of Christ, His ministry, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, and Coming again, when man will be reconciled to God in covenant relationship, and 'Paradise Lost' will be 'Paradise Regained'.

Only by a study of the Bible can we get an overall picture, and see prophecy being fulfilled in these last days. Unfortunately, at times, the Bible is incorrectly quoted: for instance, not too long ago an Evangelist was heard to say that 'date setters' for the end of the world are speaking without Biblical sanction and we would agree. Our British-Israel Movement has at times suffered from over enthusiastic people giving dates which have not materialized. We must stay with the Bible only.

But it was quite amusing to find that this same Evangelist, speaking to a great crowd, said that the end of the world would come, as the Bible said, without warning, like a thief in the night, and he warned people to pack up and be ready to go.

He himself was not speaking with Bible sanction, for the Bible does not say 'the end of the world', but the end of this world order, which is quite different. If it is to be the end of the world, why go on praying, as we have done for centuries, 'Thy kingdom come, on earth, as it is in heaven'? Why sing, as we do, 'World without end'? And what about the Kingdoms of this world which are to be handed over by Christ? What of the fifth Kingdom of Daniel, which is to fill the whole earth? and why pack up, and where on earth would we go? Knowing as we do that the Kingdom is to come on earth, we have the most glorious time to look forward to. 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the

heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him' (1 Cor. 2:9). Without the Plan of God the Bible cannot properly be understood, and that may be the reason why so many have given up their faith.

We know, however, that Jesus is coming, and this is our only hope in a chaotic world. We read of Paul saying: 'But of the times and seasons brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the Day of the Lord (not the end of the world) so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape'; but there is nothing to be afraid of, for we are told that 'whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

God has given us a wonderful plan; we might have lived an entirely different life had it been taught by the church. It is said that 95 per cent of prophecy has been fulfilled, leaving very little for the last days. There are always 'last days' in every life — yours and mine — no man lives for ever, as Shakespeare says, 'All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players; they have their exits, and their entrances', . . . the infant, the schoolboy, the lover, the soldier, and the justice; and as we get older the slipped pantaloon with spectacles; but of course, Shakespeare did not live in a day of artificial aids, which abound today, he sees man in his second childhood, 'sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.'

Now I turn to 2 Timothy 3, which says, 'This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come . . .' Can any one deny that we are today living in

perilous times? It is like sitting on the edge of a volcano, as nations stock up war missiles.

Timothy speaks of men 'lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, without natural affection . . .' This is a true picture of life today. He goes on, 'Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.' Hundreds of churches, sects and isms displayed before us: which one has the power of healing?

Timothy says, 'Of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins . . . ever learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.' This is true, many people say they believe, but they run after every voice that comes along.

Then Timothy gives good advice to hold on to what we have been taught. How thankful we should be for the knowledge given to us. One feels so sorry for the young people, many who have not been taught, and have not had the home life you and I were brought up in, who say, 'Let us eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.' I am sure that I would say the same if I had no faith. I am also sure that many a young person must have had a deep longing for security, and a faith that would help them through life.

There are many signs and wonders pointing to the last days, especially the prophecy of Noah. 'As it was in the days of Noah': isn't it exactly the same today, people going their own way, refusing to listen to the truth: marrying and giving in marriage; hundreds of unwanted children, and a sinister force gaining power; people going to crystal gazers, teacup readers; idol worship, witchcraft, and the earth filled with violence.

In Noah's day women tried to rise above men, today we have Womens' Lib. It is said that a nation never rises higher than its women. 'Women have great power to make or break a man or a nation.' A crusade of holy women could do much to put the world right.

In Noah's day the population was on the increase, building on the increase, as it is today, crime and violence rampant, marrying and giving in marriage.

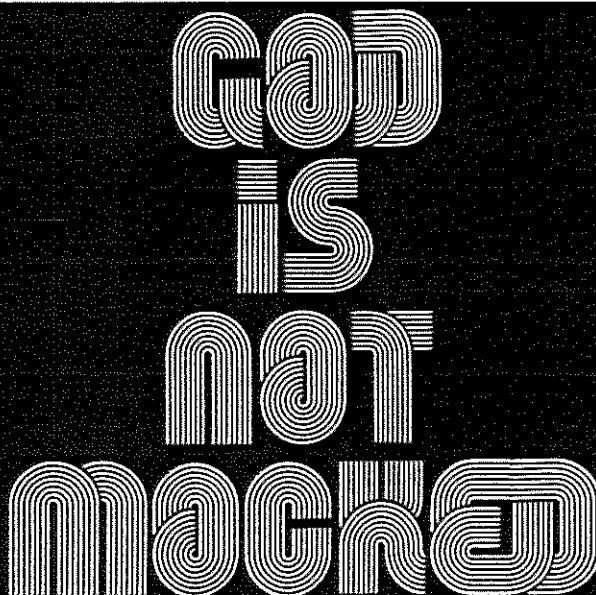
Noah spent 120 years preaching to the people of the coming disaster, all to no avail. What tremendous faith he had, he must have walked with God, and his family followed him. We, too, must walk with God.

We can imagine the intensity of Noah's preaching to the very last moment, but no one would listen. Not many will listen to our message today, as we try to preach God's Word to mankind.

Another prophecy relating to the last days is the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. *Luke 17* says. 'As it was in the days of Lot, they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be when the Son of man is revealed.'

How Abraham pleaded with God to spare the righteous, saying, 'Peradventure there be 50 (40, 30, 20, even 10) righteous within the city,' but not even ten righteous people could be found. 'Righteousness alone exalteth a nation.'

Surely we are in the Last Days, and with Amos we say, 'O Israel, prepare to meet thy God.'



Signs of the Times

AT the present time our nation is engrossed in a systematic progression of permissiveness. Almost every day new and more horrifying acts of depravity surface. All are victims, young and old alike. The sickening statistics reveal that no-one can claim immunity. The growing catalogue of crimes against morality are recorded daily in the national media. Our people ask why our nation is being ravaged by such disgraceful perversion.

The answer to this lingering question is obvious to anyone who can discern Bible truth. We are experiencing the results of national lawlessness. Our people have rebelled against the sovereign law of God. The law as instructed by Moses informs us how to live properly and the necessity of obedience to the commands of the Lord. Sadly the Scriptures are no longer regarded as being divinely inspired, but rather we are told that it is a book of nice

stories with very little value. The shepherds of our land have dismantled the Bible and tell us that the law has been abolished and that grace abounds. Our only obligations, they tell us, are to love our neighbours and live according to our conscience. What utter rubbish!

Queen Victoria when questioned as to the secret of Britain's greatness, replied, 'The Bible, the greatest possession we have.' The secret of Britain's decline and desolation is the rejection of the Bible. The law of God totally condemns and proscribes sexual immorality along with all the other evil devices and desires of the wicked hearts of unregenerate man.

The law states that 'man shall not lie with man' (Lev. 20:13), 'man shall not lie with beast' (Lev. 20:15). Both these carry the penalty of death. The Scriptures are uncompromising, there is no room in a just society for these crimes against humanity. Rape, prostitution, adultery, seduction,

fornication are all the result of the evil which we have permitted to develop in this land. Nothing that man can say or do will justify these actions. God is supreme and His Word is righteous, He will not be mocked. Paul writing to the Galatians stated, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption" (*Gal. 6:7,8*). Moffat in his translation renders the latter part of this text: "... he who sows for his flesh will reap destruction from the flesh." Lawlessness may abound in our land, but let us not be mistaken, the price of disobedience will also burst forth in our land.

Sowing and Reaping

Moses declared to our forefathers as they sojourned in the wilderness, the blessings for obedience, and the redress of disobedience, and the violation of the commandments. "If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law which are written in this book . . . moreover he (God) will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of and they shall cleave unto thee. Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the Lord bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed" (*Deut. 28:58-61*). Let there be no mistake; what a man soweth that also will he reap. The mummified bodies of the ancient Egyptians stand testimony of the truth of God's Word.

History records the licentious life style of the Egyptian people. Sex became a religion of its own, worshipped amidst the perverted festivals of debauchery; a rite in the service of the heathen gods. Homosexuality, prostitution, child-molesting, bestiality and incest plagued that ancient land. The result; sickness, disease and death. Scientists have examined the bodies

of these immoral people impeccably preserved through embalming; their findings reveal a host of diseases which existed. Several have been identified and relate to diseases prevalent today, whilst others remain a mystery. These are mainly diseases which are sexually transmitted: the consequences of their immoral activities.

Modern Examples of Judgment

God's Word stands true and is witnessed by the sudden emergence of new diseases. The latest to shock the world is A.I.D.S. — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Almost 85 per cent of those who have contracted this sexually transmitted disease have died within three years. No one has ever recovered. It is spreading. Where did it originate? — amongst the homosexual community. Some 1,500 cases have been reported since 1980 in the United States, and as nothing can be done at present to prevent it spreading an epidemic is feared. When the effects of AIDS and other sexual diseases take full effect the words of the Lord will certainly ring home: 'them will the Lord bring unto thee until thou be destroyed.'

Repentance

The only answer to our present dilemma is a return to the law of God on a national basis, and the implementation of the divine statutes in every sphere of our society. The sexual decay is only one aspect of our national sin; politically, religiously and economically, we are a sick and dying people. Those in Israel who know the truth have a duty to proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom of God; warning our people and defending the faith. Only when we acknowledge our wrong doings and seek to obey, will our children and old people be safe from the wild lusts of those who are perverted in our community.

STUDY IN REVELATIONS.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART ONE.

INTRODUCTION.

If there is one book in the Bible which causes divisions of opinion more than any other, it must surely be the Book of the Revelation. Many and varied have been the teachings expressed as to its meaning. Yet I dare to believe that approached from the correct basis, and studied with the correct co-relationship with "The Scriptures", it becomes a book of unsurpassed blessing and elation as we realise that it is in fact quite a simple book to understand. That is not to say that there are no difficulties in studying it. It certainly requires that we fully commit ourselves to its study. But it is certainly not the 'impossible-to-understand' book which so many Christians think it is, or are taught it is. I remember some years ago when I was giving a series of studies of this book in my home. One of the folk who was attending these talks was approached by his church minister with a very strict warning not to come to the studies as, according to him, we weren't supposed to understand it. Thankfully, he didn't heed that particular advice. But I'm afraid that this impression is far more prevalent than we imagine. It looks difficult, so people are encouraged to leave it alone, never realising, and certainly never being taught, that once we find the key to it, it throws such a flood of light and understanding upon God's Word as to completely fulfill Peter's definition that 'prophecy is like unto a light that shineth in a dark place.' (II Peter 1:19).

I can't help asking the question, that if we are not supposed to understand it, then why is it that in verse 3 of the very first chapter we are told;

"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things that are written therein."

The word 'readeth' means 'to learn'. The word 'hear' means 'to understand'. The word 'keepeth' means 'to watch over and observe attentively'. Now why on earth would our Lord Jesus Christ promise that those who learned it, understood it, and watched over and preserved what they had learned would be blessed, or happy, if we were not supposed to understand it in the first place? And how on earth would the same Lord expect us to understand it if He didn't provide the KEY to its understanding?

But before going into this, let us first paint in the background to our studies with a few pertinent details.

The book itself was written about 96 A.D., during the reign of Dometian as Emperor of Rome. It was not accepted into the full Canon of Scripture until the Council at Carthage in about 397 A.D., or nearly 300 years after it was written. So we see that it took some 300 years before it was even accepted as inspired Scripture. It had to fight to be recognised in the first place, and has had to fight ever since to be understood.

The author was NOT the apostle John, as stated at the heading of the book in many translations. The author was our Lord Jesus Christ, as stated in chapter 1 verse 1 of the book itself. John was only the scribe who wrote down what Jesus Christ told him. As such, we will refer to him as the 'writer'. And the circumstances which led to John becoming the writer of this wonderful book are quite fascinating. John, who was by this time about 90 years of age, had been arrested under orders from the Emperor Dometian who has gone down in history as having one of the worst reputations of any of the Emperors for his persecution of Christians. Under his directions, Christians were soaked in oil, and tied to poles where they were set alight to provide lighting to the arena so that the people could more easily watch

other Christians as they were fed to the lions. Dometian did not like Christians at all. According to some records, John, the Apostle whom Jesus loved, was sentenced to death by being boiled alive in oil. The records maintain that he was lowered into the boiling oil, and after an appropriate period of time lifted back out. But John was completely unaffected by this ordeal and walked away unscathed. Now some will say that this is a bit fanciful, but may I remind the reader that a similar incident is recorded in the Old Testament where three of God's servants were cast into a fiery furnace which was so hot that the guards who threw them in were killed by the heat. Yet they survived this ordeal without any harm whatsoever. If we can accept this evidence of God's protection of His servants on that occasion, why should it be difficult for us to accept that the same God could do exactly the same kind of thing again. Or has God lost His power over the centuries?? So being unable to kill John as he intended, Dometian had him exiled to the Isle of Patmos. It was there that the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him and gave him the Revelation which forms the final book of the New Testament. As far as is known, that is where John eventually died, one of the few disciples not to meet a violent death.

Now as we turn to a study of the book itself, there are a few factors, I believe, which we must have clear in our minds. Studying this book is no different to studying any other subject in this regard, that we must set ourselves a proper and solid basis on which to build. I am going to set out the first three verses in such a way as to emphasise the relevant points which we need to understand.

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ;

Which God gave unto Him;

To shew unto His servants;

Things which must shortly come to pass;

And He sent and signified it;

By His angel;

Unto His servant John;

Who bare record of the Word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw;

Blessed is he that readeth;

And they that hear the words of this prophecy;

And keep those things which are written therein;

For the time is at hand."

So we see firstly that the sequence of revelation was that God gave the revelation to Jesus Christ, who as the angel or messenger of God, transmitted it to John, who in turn shewed or transmitted it to us as the servants of God. Which was a total waste of time and effort if He didn't intend us to understand what He was transmitting to us.

Secondly, we see that God "sent and signified" the revelation. Now these are two very important words, especially the word 'signified'. The word 'sent' means not only to despatch the message, but also includes the authority of the one who sent it.

But the word which absolutely MUST be understood is the word 'signified'. I cannot place too much stress and importance on this fact. The word means;

TO SHEW BY SIGNS AND SYMBOLS.

I cannot emphasize too strongly the absolute importance of remembering this definition at ALL times

whilst studying this Book of the Revelation. It is a book written in signs and symbols, just like the codes that are used during war time, or for secret messages, and which can only be interpreted and understood by use of the correct keys. The book was NOT written to be interpreted literally. That doesn't mean to say that there are not incidents recorded therein in which can be seen literal interpretations or fulfillments. But when this occurs, we must be very careful to firstly understand the symbolic meaning associated with the particular statement, as this will take precedence over any literal meaning which might be seen to apply. I am convinced that the present confusion and lack of true understanding of what this wonderful book is actually teaching us is caused by a lack of appreciation and application of this simple rule. Let me give you a few examples of what can happen. Some years ago I heard that a certain local church was holding a series of meetings on the Book of Revelations, so a friend and I decided to go along to hear what they had to say. On that particular night, the minister was discussing chapter 18 and verse 21 where it recorded that "A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, etc.." Those present were mostly young people, and they sat there with rapture on their faces as this minister went to great lengths to describe the time when they would see some enormous rock hurtling through the air and landing in the sea. The symbolism was not applied, and thus the teaching of what our Lord was actually saying was completely lost to them.

The second incident happened only recently. I was listening to a tape recording of a well known evangelist who was speaking of the present, and near future, world position from what he considered to be the teachings of the Book of Revelation. I'm not mentioning names in these incidents, as it is not my intention to cause any harm to these ministers in their ministry which in other areas is being mightily used of God. I only recite these incidents as illustrations of the principle which I have enunciated. He was referring to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, and was expounding the church theory of

'the secret rapture'. Put very briefly, the main points he made were as follows.

'Seven years before the actual return of our Lord, every Christian who had ever accepted Him would be raptured up into heaven to be with Him. But those left on the earth would still have a chance for eternal life. Whilst they had now missed out on the offer of Christ's life being offered as a substitute for them, they could still receive eternal life by making a stand for Christ during what he termed 'the great tribulation' and literally laying down their own lives then for their convictions. And how were they to lay down their lives and be killed? Well, the Book of Revelations had the answer. If we turn to chapter 20 and verse 4, we read of "the souls that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their forehead or in their hands, etc.." This verse was quoted in conjunction with verse 9 of chapter 6 which says that these souls were under the altar. So here we have the answer. All those people who, during 'the great tribulation' were prepared to give their lives themselves in order to gain eternal life would be 'beheaded'. And how do they get beheaded? Well of course, how else but by a guillotine. The congregation was told that the original guillotine that was used in the French Revolution was still preserved in some shed in France and would be re-commissioned. But for those who lived too far away, this is what would happen. One day you would be sitting at home and there would be a knock on the door. When you answered it, you would be confronted by an official who would advise you that you were listed as one who had not submitted to having the 'mark of the beast' tattooed on your hand and forehead. You would be asked whether or not you were now willing to submit to this requirement, and that refusal to do so would mean instant execution. You had now reached the final point of decision. You could now decide to continue living and forfeit your second chance for eternal life, or choose to die immediately, and by your own death gain eternal life. If you refused to obey, the off-

icial would say, "Would you mind stepping this way sir?", and you would be taken out to the footpath where there would be a portable guillotine, and you would immediately be beheaded. This activity, we are told, would be going on all over the world, and there would be a constant stream of headless bodies floating up into the skies from all over the place with their heads tucked under their arms, heading for underneath the altar in heaven. The Lord then turns to the angel Michael and asks him what all the noise is about that is coming from under the altar. Michael then tells God that it is the cry coming from all these under-arm heads asking how long they had to wait before being reunited with their bodies. The Lord then tells Michael to go over and tell them to be quiet, as they still have some time to wait.'

Now when you've picked yourself up off the floor, and have stopped laughing, please remember friends that the above is an accurate precis of the talk which was given recently to a large congregation in a church here in Australia which holds at least 4,000 people, (I've been inside this particular church), a taped copy of which I have in my possession. I repeat. I am not trying to embarrass the preacher, nor am I in any way trying to bring disrepute upon his ministry in general. But what do you make of such nonsense. How can we expect people to understand the Word of God with this type of fanciful rubbish being taught. The whole situation arose simply because the speaker broke the cardinal rule of understanding and applying the SYMBOLISM of what was recorded. It arose because he was left with no other alternative but to make up a Hollywood production to fit what he interpreted to be a statement intended to be taken literally. Yes, it is quite laughable, but how pathetic it is. The only picture that all those dear people in that congregation were left with was that of hundreds of Porta-guillotines being towed everywhere, and (hopefully) thousands of headless bodies floating up into the air from all points of the compass with their heads under their arms. As I have said, it is really quite pathetic.

We MUST understand that the Lord is using 'signs and symbols' in what He is saying, and the very first thing we must do is to look for the KEY to unlocking and explaining the true meaning of the particular sign or symbol which we are studying.

But where do we find these 'keys' which will unlock the meaning of the symbols used? It must be obvious that if God promises such blessings to those who understand what He has recorded, then He would not leave us without the means of interpreting the various symbols, or 'code', which He has used. It would be ludicrous for Him to say that He was going to bless us if we understood the code He used and then refrain from giving us the key to understand and interpret that code. So where do we find this 'key'. The answer is quite simple. We find it in the writings of 'The Scriptures', or as we now call them, the Old Testament. When the Book of the Revelation was written, there was no New Testament, only what was referred to as The Scriptures. They constituted the only Word of God available to that time.

I have found no exception to this rule:- Every symbol used in the Book of the Revelation is contained, and explained, in the Old Testament, and supported by historical events subsequent to Christ's First Advent!

Which brings us to the next important factor. The Revelation was NOT given mainly to describe events still in the future, as most Bible teachers would have us believe. This is the fallacy of what is termed the 'futurist' interpretation of prophecy in which most of the events quoted in the book are still to occur at some unknown time in the future. It is this theology which gives rise to the ridiculous story, (and that's all it is), which I quoted above. Obviously, there are still a few prophecies, and I emphasise the word 'few', which are still to occur, but the great majority of events foretold have already passed into history long ago.

The Book of the Revelation is primarily A HISTORY BOOK. And it can only be properly understood as

the events described therein are applied to history. It covers the period from the First Advent of our Lord, up to and beyond His Second Advent. The wording contained in verses 1 and 3 of the first chapter surely leave no doubt as to the truth of this principle. Jesus Himself tells us in verse 1 that He is showing us "Things which must SHORTLY come to pass." In verse 3 He says that the time for us to understand and watch attentively over what we learn is "AT HAND". How could these two statements possibly be construed to mean that we don't have to worry about these events happening for another two thousand years from when they were written? The statement 'at hand' means that whatever is being spoken of is 'about to commence immediately'. In fact, when we turn back to the book of the prophet Daniel, we find the lead up to this. In Daniel 12:9, Daniel is told;

"Go thy way Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

John, on the other hand, is told to write down what he sees, that is, not to seal it, for;

"The time is at hand."

The Book of the Revelation is an HISTORICAL book, not a FUTURISTIC book as is almost universally taught today. This doctrine of 'Futurism' is of Satan, and was inspired by him to destroy the true understanding of God's Word by God's people. How successful this action has been can be gauged by the results whereby millions of sincere Christians have been deluded into accepting a lie, and have been left not only in ignorance, but with absolutely false hopes, of what lies in the immediate future.

The other important aspect to understand in conjunction with the fact that this book is an historical book, is that it deals almost exclusively with the history from the time of writing onward, of the nation and people of Israel in their position as the kingdom of God here on earth. And I'm certainly not referring to the

people know today as the Jews. But more on that aspect later.

We cannot close this introduction to our studies without paying special heed to the warning given by our Lord Jesus Christ as stated in Rev. 22:18.

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.

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."

This is a very solemn warning, and one which Jesus Christ did not make lightly. He means us to take very careful heed of it. The penalties, especially the second one, for the violation of this warning are horrific. Please be assured friends, that Jesus was not joking. He means exactly what He said. Our responsibility as we study this wonderful book is enormous. But please think and pray about the much greater responsibility placed on those who teach it. I ask for your constant prayers that the Holy Spirit will guide me at all times as I endeavour to bring the Revelation of Jesus Christ to you in succeeding issues.

(to be continued).

'In the midst of pealing thunder, when the lightning will not cease, as the storm still rages round me, I can hear Him whisper, "Peace."

In the midst of darkest midnight, when the moon and stars are dim, for my light and consolation I draw closer unto Him.

C.S. Lewis

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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Mrs Bates
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Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: But they shall serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them." (Jeremiah 30:1-9)

Printed and Distributed by
COVENANT VISION MINISTRY.
97 Brisbane St.,
St. Marys. 2760.
N. S. W. AUSTRALIA.
Phone: 02/623-4691.

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NAR7378.