



THE COVENANT VISION

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

THE COVENANT VISION.

Editor: Frank W. Dowsett.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(continued on inside back cover.)

Editorial

This issue of THE COVENANT VISION marks the beginning of our fourth year of publication. We are just so grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ for the fact that we have been able to continue our witness in this way, despite a few health set-backs. So we thought it would be appropriate in this Editorial to share with our readers just what we are doing, and our aims for the future.

We started off with a 24 page edition, of which we printed 150 copies. Now, after three years, the size has doubled to 48 pages, and we print just over 400 copies, which are posted to Britain, Ireland, Canada, U.S.A., and New Zealand, as well as most States in Australia. We started printing on a new photo-copier, and in December 1986 purchased a second-hand offset printing machine and associated equipment. Unfortunately, this did not fully stand up to our requirements, and we are now negotiating for the purchase of a much newer fully automated machine which will save a lot of time and worry. We are also looking at a new photo-copier with magnification and reduction, and colour facilities. So instead of continuing with machinery which is now working almost to full capacity, we are hoping to be able to substantially increase our potential output of the printed word without incurring any appreciable increase in strain on our health. So we are looking to the Lord for guidance in what the future holds in this area of ministry. We have also purchased a high speed tape copier which has been a great help in our Tape Ministry, which is also being used quite extensively. We conduct a Bible study in our home every Wednesday evening, and a second Bible study every second Saturday night at another home, as well as occasional preaching on Sundays. So with all this, as well as the usual correspondence involved, we are kept fairly busy.

The continuous flow of letters, offerings, and encouragement from so many of our readers has been a

constant source of blessing to us, and we are so grateful to all those who so faithfully support us. But regrettably, there are a number of readers who don't contact us, despite the reminders which we insert in the magazine from time to time. We make no apologies for reminding our readers that it costs money to carry on, and although we are only too happy to continue sending our magazine free to ministers who wish to receive it, and those who are not in a financial position to support us, we must be faithful stewards of the tithes and offerings which we receive.

So if you find the symbol *** after your name on the envelope of this issue, it means that this is the last issue you will be receiving unless we hear from you before the next issue is published.

We have tried to adhere to a very strict policy in our approach to what we publish. Our main aim is to expound the Word of God as we feel the Holy Spirit leads us. The many letters we receive encourage us to believe that we are having a great deal of success in this aim. Admittedly we lean heavily toward teaching the necessity to return to the Law of God, and the prophetic aspect of the Word, especially as it applies to the national message of the Bible and the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. But this is done quite deliberately, as there are many other Christian magazines published which concentrate almost solely on the personal message of the Bible, with all too often little, if any, teaching on the subjects on which we concentrate.

It is our intention, with the Lord's help, to continue in this direction, as we are convinced that the lack of understanding and teaching in this vital aspect of God's Word has been, and will continue to be, a major cause of the growing apostacy which is becoming increasingly obvious to the sincere student of God's Word. "Churchianity" has become a substitute for true Christianity. The Law of God is rejected in favour of "freedom in the spirit", whatever that means. The return of our Lord Jesus Christ is to all too many just a

church doctrine, instead of the living hope of our calling. In fact, many Christians are scared stiff at the possibility of Christ returning soon.

The task before us is in fact quite daunting. The responsibility which comes with commitment to serving the Lord Jesus Christ can in fact be frightening if it were not for the fact that we know that God is on our side. But one or two people just can't do the job properly on their own. We depend, and have to continue to depend on you, our readers, to support us in every way possible. If we can spend almost three out of every four weeks of our retirement in putting out and teaching the Word of God, then surely it is not too much to ask others to regularly share and help with just a little of their time and resources. If you can do nothing else, you can at least send us names of people whom we can contact. We received a letter only a week ago from America asking us to send up to 20 copies per issue for distribution to prisoners in an American prison. We don't care where we have to send them. The important thing today is that as many people as possible receive the Good News that God is a faithful, covenant keeping God, and that the world is about to witness the greatest event in its long and turbulent history, the return of its King, our Lord Jesus Christ, who will take the government upon His shoulder, remove all the evil and iniquitous systems that are destroying us, and reign in justice and righteousness for evermore. If you don't want to share in this type of ministry; if you don't wish to help the "Watchmen in Israel" sound the alarm, then please do nothing. But if you want to be a part of it, and want to share in this great responsibility and privilege which God has offered us, then please start now. We no longer have the luxury of waiting until it suits us. The cry has already gone out. The Bridegroom is already on His way. Let us all be eager to go out to meet Him. Let us all be found busy and working in His vineyard when He returns. May the Lord God of Israel continue to bless and keep you.



THE LORD STILL TARRIES!

But Not For Long.

By. Rev. J. A. B. Haggart.

One of the most interesting phrases in the Bible is the fifth verse of Matthew 25, in the story of how the Ten Virgins took their lamps "*and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*" Then comes the statement which catches our attention: "While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept." This part of the story had a particular significance for a man who lived in the nineteenth century in New England.

The man who was alerted was William Miller, an avid student of the Bible. He was born in 1782 in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Through his studies of the prophecies of the Bible he became known widely as a religious leader and Bible student. From his study of prophecy he proclaimed that the 2,300 days for the cleansing of the Sanctuary would end between March 21 1843, and March 21, 1844. He and his followers had come to the belief that the Lord would come to earth between these two dates. When He failed to come, men scoffed at his predictions. As Howard B. Rand wrote in his "STUDY IN DANIEL":

"The world looked on and scoffed and even today men point to the time of Miller and his expectancy as evidence of the failure of prophecy. But was it? True, the expected event did not take place, but Mr. Miller was absolutely right as to the importance of the years 1843 to 1844. From a study of chronology he found that the 2,300 day/years of Daniel's prophecy terminated at this time, and he expected, because Daniel was told the

Sanctuary was to be cleansed after the expiration of this time period, that the Lord would come. He failed to see that it was the beginning, not the ending, of the cleansing of the Sanctuary!.

"On what did Miller base his prophetic deductions? He found that 2,300 years prior to 1843-44, Artexerxes Longimanus issued his famous decree which later sent Ezra on his mission to rebuild Jerusalem.

This group, led by William Miller, constituted those who were to go out prematurely to meet the Lord at a time when the Lord would delay His coming, i.e., He would tarry a little longer. So the very expectancy on the part of these men who were looking for the Lord's coming at that time was itself the fulfillment of prophecy. They were those who were to go out prematurely to meet the Lord at a time when the Lord would delay His coming. From 1844 on came the tarrying period in complete accord with the parable of the wise and foolish virgins who, having gone out to meet the Lord, found His coming had been postponed to a later date."

Those who are wise, such as the five virgins of the parable, will take this date of 1844 as the beginning of the 'tarrying period' and be alert for the time of His actual appearing. They will know that His coming is still valid and yet ahead of us! We approach the time in the parable when "*at midnight there was a cry made*, (a shout from heaven), Behold, the Bridegroom cometh. Go ye out to meet Him." That we are close to that time can readily be seen. A close look at the prophecies in Matthew 24 will reveal that we stand close to the Second Advent! Indeed, we stand at the very door!

We have only to count the years that our Lord has tarried to find the answer. From 1844 on came the tarrying period in accord with the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. If we be wise we will wake up to the fact that we are on the very verge of our Lord's return. By simple arithmetic we find that the number of years that have passed since 1844 is 144 years! 144 is

the number of COMPLETION! 1988 could well be the year of the completion of the tarrying period described in the Parable of the Ten Virgins.

There is a parallel proof of the importance of the year 1988 to be found in the Parable of the Fig Tree, which was given by Jesus in His Olivet discourse. He concluded His prophecies given at that time with His reference to a certain "generation" in the future, the far future from that day. If the budding of the fig tree can be identified with the recognition of the revived Israeli nation on May 14, 1948, then 40 years later, (the recognised length of a Biblical generation), brings us to 1988! Here we have the double witness of two important parables given by the Lord Himself to indicate the time of His Second Coming!

There is also evidence that the 50th Jubilee of Israel began on September 22, 1987, and will be completed on September 22, 1988. This brings into focus the importance of this date in Israel's Festival of the Trumpets, which begins the new Civil Year. We of Israel should watch the events which could transpire on that day. If we are among the "wise" of Israel we should be sure to have plenty of oil in our lamps and be ready to welcome the Groom when He appears.

In Revelation chapter 7 we read about the four angels who held back the winds of war until "*we have sealed the servants of God in their foreheads*". These were the tribes of Israel as they passed through Europe on their way to "the appointed place" in England. The number of people sealed was 144,000, a sum designating completion. It appears to indicate that a definite number of people is involved, though it may not indicate the actual number.

The sealing of these people, called "overcomers" in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, has continued down through the years to the present era. Each generation has produced those select number of people who will be used by Christ in the conducting of the affairs of His

future Kingdom. That they are not limited to the exact number of 144,000 is indicated in verse 9 where John declares;

"After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the Lamb, clothed in white robes."

These are described by the Elder standing by as;

"Those which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

In Rev. 14:1 we read of another group of 144,000 who were standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion. The fact that they were seen standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion indicates that they have obtained citizenship in the Kingdom.

"These were the redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God of the Lamb."
(Rev. 14:4).

These are the firstfruits of the harvest which are reaped from the cloud by Jesus Christ in Person, as described in Rev. 14:14-16. The sealing of those to be numbered in this group are among all who are to be reaped, from generation to generation.

We can see in this number "144" the identification of all who will be raised from the dead at Christ's Appearing, as well as those who are alive and remain until the Lord comes. Martha confessed to knowing of this general resurrection when she met Jesus on His way to the resurrection of Lazarus in John 11:25. But Jesus raised Lazarus as an example of how he would raise all that believe in Him, though they be dead, and also those who are alive (and who believe in Him) at His Second Coming.

Jesus describes this in His Olivet discourse with the words;

"And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they shall gather together the elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

(Matt. 24:31).

He also said to His disciples at that time;

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

(Matt. 24:36).

We cannot presume to know the exact day and hour that the Lord will return to earth. But we of this generation can observe the seasons and the Festivals of Israel which are geared to the four seasons of the year. The Feast of Tabernacles always matches the gathering of the harvests each year in October, and is announced by the Feast of Trumpets the latter part of September. We see in the Divine pattern for the harvests on earth a type for the Great Harvest of the Lord as described in Revelation 14. If God has given us these signs in His arrangements of the Festivals of Israel, would we be presumptuous to assume that His harvest of the Elect will occur with the Autumnal harvests? (or Spring Harvests in the Southern Hemisphere).

Due to the many signs that converge in this year of 1988, He may be giving us the nod that this is the time of His return!



"We must not let go manifest truths because we cannot answer all questions about them."

Jeremy Collier.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

By. F. W. DOWSETT.

PART FIFTEEN.

THE FRUITS OF THE KINGDOM.

We now come to the final aspect of the Kingdom of God in this series of studies. By this time, the reader will have realised that the Kingdom of God is a far deeper study, and of far greater implications, than just the spiritual condition which most Christians have been taught to believe. As we have said previously, the Kingdom of God is the grand subject of the entire Bible. God's Word deals with nothing else. It gives us all the information we need to understand its formation, and its history both past, present and future. It gives us all the information we need as to how God intended that Kingdom to operate here on earth. It gives us the conditions on how we obtain entry into that Kingdom. And it gives us everything that we need to know about the King of that Kingdom. It gives us, in unerring detail, the almost unbelievable lengths to which that King was prepared to go in order to retain possession and control of that Kingdom, and to rescue the fallen race of Adam from the hands of His enemy, and restore these appointed "Sons of God" to their originally intended position.

One thing comes across very clearly from the Sacred Record. The Kingdom of God was NOT set up by God just to provide some sort of emotional feeling of righteousness, or self-righteousness in the heart of man. It was formed to be the instrument through which God intended to reveal Himself to the world as the one and only Almighty God. It was through this instrument that God intended to lift the whole of mankind, indeed the whole of creation, back to the state of perfection in which they had been originally created. It is time we

realised that there never has been, nor ever will be, a man-made system which will rescue the human race from utter darkness and oblivion. Despite all the bleatings of politicians and their parties, and theologians and their churches, no other system has ever received the sanction or blessing of God for the recovery of the human race, and the world itself, than the setting up and implementation of the Kingdom of God here on this earth, complete with all its glory and Divine blessings under the rulership and Kingship of no less a Person than our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. That fact is as certain as yesterday's dawn. The promise that the Archangel Gabriel made to our Lord's mother Mary, when he told her of the impending birth of our Saviour, allows for no misunderstanding as to this fact.

"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest.

And the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David:

And He shall reign over the House of Jacob for ever.

And of His Kingdom there shall be no end."

(Luke 1:32-33).

If nothing else can be said to be sure, then the above statement leaves us in no doubt whatsoever as to these three certainties;

1. The Lord is going to reign here on this earth, because that is where the Throne of David is.
2. His Kingdom over which He shall reign is the House of Jacob, or Israel.
3. That Kingdom, Israel, is going to last forever.

Confirmation of this is clearly stated in Isaiah 9:6-7 where we read, in his statement to Israel;

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

And the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His Name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His Kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.

The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform it."

We find that there is a lot said and taught today about the role of the church, or should I say more accurately, the alleged role of the church, in God's plans and purposes. Now there is no doubt at all that the Lord has a real and positive role for the church, which the Bible refers to both in Ephesians 1:22-23, and Colossians 1:18, as His Body. But nowhere in the Bible will you find one solitary statement to the effect that His Kingdom promises are to be established by the church. The church is God's instrument to operate **WITHIN** the nation or Kingdom, not to **REPLACE** it. The following extracts from Isaiah 43 are quite clear as to the position of Israel, as a nation, in God's plans and purposes;

"But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and He that formed thee O Israel, Fear not. For I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name. Thou art Mine."

"Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears.

Let all nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled. Who among them can declare this and shew us former things? Let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified. Or let them hear, and say, It is truth.

Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, and My servant whom I have chosen. That ye may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me.

I, even I, am the Lord; and beside Me there is no saviour.

I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you.

Therefore ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord,

THAT I AM GOD!"

"This people have I formed for Myself. They shall shew forth My praise."

(Isa. 43:1, 8-12, 21)

This promise and predestination of "shewing forth the praise of God" commenced many centuries ago with the call of one man, Abram. One of the things that God promised him was that his seed, or descendants, were to become a blessing to all the families and nations of the earth. We read in Gen. 12:1-2, and 18:17-18;

"And I will make of thee, (Abram), a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee.

And in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

"And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?

Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation,

And all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?"

As we have seen from our studies, God developed from this humble beginning a mighty nation, just as He promised. He gave them His own Law, through the keeping of which untold blessings were to be experienced. When the nation of Israel was obedient to these Laws they prospered to such an extent that other nations became envious of them. They provided an example of happiness and prosperity in every aspect of daily life which no other nation or system of government could equal. And this is as it should have been. That is what God formed the nation for in the first place. They eventually grew into the Great Nation and Company of Nations which the Lord had promised Abraham, but which he, in his lifetime, never saw. But despite this, Abraham never wavered in his faith toward God's seemingly impossible promise, and his faith was counted unto him for righteousness. Oddly enough, and sadly enough, the basis of faith seems to have changed. The basis of faith today seems to be merely on our personal relationship with Him, and our acceptance of the alleged fact (?), or premise, that God has changed His mind now that Abraham is dead, and has substituted something else, which they grandly call 'the church', for His original promise regarding a NATION. What an insult to the Majesty of God!

Whatever we might think of the actions of individual people over the years, and the decisions of man-made governments and agencies, the fact cannot be denied that the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people of the world have been the champions of the Christian Gospel down through the centuries. It is they, not the anti-christ forces of Edom/Jewry, who have distributed the Scriptures to virtually every country in the world, translating them into thousands of languages and dialects. These Christian nations have provided some 90% of all missionaries to nations which otherwise would have never heard of the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. And with the missionaries came the Law of God, as weakened as it might have been, with teaching and medicine, and training to such a degree that many of these people now enjoy a degree of civilisation and lifestyle that would have been otherwise impossible to attain. It would be

absurd to deny that many things happened which were terribly wrong. But I get sick and tired of hearing the constant hammering that the "white, colonial, Christian" people get. You'd think that we never did anything right. It's got to the stage now that we are being brain-washed into 'apologising' to all these people whom we have helped to raise up, and of paying them reparation for the 'harm' we're supposed to have done them. Well, pardon me for breathing!

The simple fact is that if we had been allowed to remain in charge of many of these counties, they wouldn't be in so much trouble today. If you study the course of those nations that used to be, but are no longer under the rule or influence of our Commonwealth, you will find that as soon as we withdrew our colonial presence, the missionaries started to lose ground. Whilst the Law of the Lord was present, despite the fact that it was in a very watered down state, the missionaries were able to present the Word of God without let or hindrance. But once we left, they no longer had the protection of the Law, and these dedicated and devoted servants of God truly began to labour with great and increasing difficulty. The 'enemy' has done a superb job on us. To put it bluntly, we have been conned. The 'nation' has been discarded as God's instrument, and the 'church' has been substituted. But the church was never formed or intended by God to function independantly in its own right. Its place, and its function, is within the nation, or Kingdom. It is now struggling to survive in an atmosphere which is foreign to it, and it will never achieve its purpose under God until it seeks and resumes its proper position within the kingdom.

But what lies ahead for the Kingdom of God? Is it to continue to flounder along at the whim and fancy of every theologian, or every politician, who gets another brainwave, until suddenly, quite out of the blue, someone stumbles upon an answer that works? Is its future dependant on the plans of man? Is God just anxiously waiting for someone, somewhere, to start some great revival that will solve all the world's problems for Him?

I'm afraid not. Sadly, there seem to be so many today whose ambitions go no further than this. It saddened me recently to hear of one pastor who told his congregation from the pulpit that he believed that the return of our Lord Jesus Christ was very near, possibly this year, but whose assistant pastors were overheard later to say to the people that they hoped it wasn't going to be too soon as there were too many people still left out there whom they had to get saved. It makes you wonder, doesn't it?

That we are to very shortly experience the greatest revival in the history of our nation and people is a fact of the Word of God. But it will be achieved through the personal intervention of Jesus Christ, not by man-made organisations and ambitions.

The fruit of the Kingdom is not bigger congregations, and bigger churches, and bigger salaries and benefits for those who operate them. The fruit of the Kingdom of God is Life, ABUNDANT LIFE through its King, the Lord Jesus Christ. His servants will be those who humble themselves before Him, and are prepared to depend entirely on His goodness and provision. I say without any fear of contradiction that those who seek and obtain the luxuries of this world in their service to God need not look for further rewards in the Kingdom. They have already sought and been given their reward. What damage has been done to the Word and Cause of God by those who have not in truth 'sought first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.'

God's Word tells us that we will know what a thing is by its fruit. Let me say with all sincerity that the 'fruit of the Kingdom' is not 'the fruit of the Spirit.' The 'fruit of the Spirit', as set out in Galatians 5:22-23 applies to the individual within the Kingdom. But the 'fruit of the Kingdom' goes far beyond this. The 'fruit of the Kingdom' is intended to be manifest, not just on an individual scale, but on a national scale. In Matthew 25:32 we are told that when our Lord Jesus Christ returns, He is going to separate NATIONS, not

individuals. And it will be done on the basis of NATIONAL works and attitudes, not just those of individuals. The Kingdom Age which lies immediately before us will be governed by our Lord Jesus Christ, sitting on the throne of David, and ruling over and through His people Israel. The results of this government will be totally beyond the experience of anything which has ever happened. The New Covenant, which our Lord made specifically with the Houses of Israel and Judah, will be fully in operation, and the Law of God will no longer be an option, but a fully accepted necessity. His Laws will be written on our minds and on our hearts. There will be no desire to do anything else but to obey His Laws. The entire life-style of the nation of Israel, now operating as Christ's Kingdom here on earth, will be so dramatically changed for the better that it will become the talk and envy of the entire world. But more than this, it will become the desire of the other nations to share in this life-style of previously unseen blessing. The Word of the Lord through His prophet Micah will then come to pass;

*"But in the last days it shall come to pass,
that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established in the top of the moun-
tains, and it shall be exalted above the hills;
and people shall flow into it.*

*And many nations shall come, and say, Come,
and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
and to the House of the God of Jacob; and He
will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His
paths.*

*For the Law shall go forth of Zion, and the
Word of the Lord from Jerusalem."*

(Micah 4:1-2).

- The Kingdom Age, the beginning of which is now at the very doors, will see the reversal of all systems in Israel which are now destroying us, and the re-introduction of the perfection of THE LAW OF GOD which will, by the conclusion of that Age, see us in perfect relationship again with our Heavenly Father, and His Son,

our Lord Jesus Christ. The Book of the Revelation tells us that in that day;

"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. For the former things are passed away." . . .

"And He shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the Throne of God and of the Lamb.

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there THE TREE OF LIFE, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

And there shall be no more curse. But the Throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him."

(Rev. 21:4, 22:1-3).

But all the knowledge in the world about this wonderful Kingdom will be absolutely useless to us if we neglect to accept and obey the only condition laid down by which we may enter it. Jesus set out this condition many centuries ago when He said to a man named Nicodemus, as recorded in John 3:3 and 5, (Amplified Version);

"I assure you. Most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person is born again, or anew, from above, he cannot ever see, or know, or be acquainted with and experience, the Kingdom of God."

"I assure you. Most solemnly I tell you, except a man be born of water and even the Spirit, he cannot ever enter the Kingdom of God."

The night is far spent. Even now the cry is going forth, "Behold, the Bridegroom Cometh!" The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is now prepared for the guests. The Angel of God is about to sound the Trump of God. We are about to hear the shout of the King as He returns to reign over His Kingdom with justice and righteousness for evermore.

May He come quickly, and may we all be prepared for that Great Day when it dawns.



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Sonship

RANDALL WALTON
Courtesy, *Prophetic Herald*
Spokane, Washington

Divine sonship is a term which seems nearly incomprehensible to us poor mortals who are so aware of our very obvious earthiness, and when we contemplate the subject in earnest sincerity, we usually conclude that this is a highly spiritized state of being which is only used as a friendly gesture toward the followers of Jesus Christ, but is actually an unattainable goal — the impossible dream.

But Paul stoutly defends the doctrine of Sonship, not as an illusory concept, but as a viable, real, present reckoning of God: "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father*" (Rom. 8:14-15).

Then Sonship is a reality for those who are led by the Holy Spirit; in fact, it is a state which is confined to those who are Spirit-led, and they, the sons, are thus identified.

There are several Greek words from which the English word "son," or "child," is taken. Jesus stated, "*Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven*" (Matt. 18:3). This truly designates a small, young child, or an infant, and this is where we all start when we first come to God. No one becomes a Peter or John instantaneously. If any would wear *their* shoes, they must grow into them, and that takes time, experience, and growth.

But there are two other words which are used to refer to sons or children. *Tekna* is a general term which is translated either "child" or "sons," and seems to indicate a child who, through training and discipline, has reached manhood. Consider the following references, for example:

"*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons (Tekna) of God, even to them that believe on his name*" (John 1:12):

"*That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons (Tekna) of God, without rebuke . . .*" (Phil. 2:15).

"*Beloved, now are we the sons (Tekna) of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: . . .*" (1 John 3:2).

The other Greek word for "son," which seems to have an even

greater significance for us, is *Hwe-ose* ('Uios). This term is always used in connection with Jesus as the Son (*Hwe-ose*) of God. He is never referred to as Tekna. The saints of God are known as both Tekna and *Hwe-ose*, but the *Hwe-ose* Son seems to be a superior state to that of the Tekna Son. Thus we read in Romans 8:14, "*As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons (Hwe-ose) of God.*" True, they are also Tekna of God, for the "*Spirit beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children (Tekna) of God*" (Verse 16).

But Paul speaks of more for us than as Tekna of God. He refers to "*the glory which shall be revealed in us,*" verse 18, and then says that creation (the creature) is waiting for the manifestation of the sons (*Hwe-ose*) of God (verse 19). Not the revelation of the Tekna of God, but the revealing or making known of the *Hwe-ose* of God.

Let us be mindful of the original state of God's creation, Adam. He was made in the image and likeness of God, and when God beheld His handiwork, He said it was very good. He gave Adam dominion, power and authority (Gen. 1:26-31), and commanded him to live in obedience to the word of the Lord. Adam's failure to believe and obey God's voice cost him the loss of his privileges and his God-likeness, and man has fallen heir to a life of inferiority ever since.

However, the Father sent the Son, the pattern, the mold, to be the exact copy of Himself as an example to all of humanity of the image He desires them to be. He offers Sonship to all who are willing to be conformed to the image of His beloved Son, Jesus, who are willing to submit themselves to the necessary process to reform, rejuvenate, remodel, rehabilitate, renew, renovate, reproduce, reconstruct, revolutionize, repent, or whatever is needed to be reconciled to God. (Hebrews 1:3; Romans 8:29; Titus 2:12-14).

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son (Hwe-ose) whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons (Hwe-ose); for what son (Hwe-ose) is he whom the Father chasteneth not?"

This is God's method of dealing with His sons, His *Hwe-ose*. Jesus Himself as the *Hwe-ose* of God, experienced the same dealing of the Father, for "*Though he were a Son (Hwe-ose), yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered*" (Heb. 5:8).

There is a very definite purpose in the correction of the Lord. He does it "*for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness*" (Hebrews 12:10). This is the process He has chosen for us to be conformed to the image and likeness of Jesus Christ, to return to that place or position of

glory which Adam enjoyed and so foolishly lost.

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son (Hwe-ose)" (Rev. 21:7). Notice that the promise of Divine Sonship is very discriminatory — it's not for just anyone. Overcoming is a call to battle, the same as "getting the victory," to conquer, destroy, overpower. There is nothing passive in overcoming. One does not "conquer" by spending hour after hour being mesmerized with entertainment, whether it be secular or religious. One does not overcome by refusing to become involved with Sword-of-the-Spirit, the Word of God — the Bible. Man cannot gain the victory without being in close contact with the very source of all power, the Living God.

Those who expect to gain the state of Sonship must be overcomers! They must gain and hold the victory over the flesh, the world, and the devil. They must submit, willingly, to God's process of purification and discipline, and putting on the whole armour of God, go forth to *meet* the enemy. Too long, the church has sat back and conceded victory to the flesh, the world and the devil. Age-old excuses such as "I'm just too weak," "I've got too many problems," etc., etc., must be rejected, and a new determination to serve God with one's whole being regardless of the cost must be adopted. It is time now for all who claim the name of Jesus to become serious about their profession.

Playing Church has not produced any overcomers. There must be a return to the old paths, the old ways, the God-values: *"If my people . . . shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

This is a good starting point for those who desire to be overcomers, but it certainly is no stopping place. Divine Sonship is only acquired when the overcoming is complete. Jesus demonstrated this in His own life. As He faced the Cross, that final moment of complete surrender to the Father's will, He victoriously proclaimed, *"the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me"* (John 14:30). He had so triumphed over every enemy that Calvary was a reflection of glory, triumph, and victory.

God has determined to make a formal display of His sons (Hwe-ose). The "*manifestation of the sons of God*" will be a public vindication of the righteousness, the ability, the power, the justice, and integrity of God and His word. It will be a testimony to the world, principalities and powers, that God in His infinite wisdom was able to take of the dust of the earth, creatures who so loved Him and believed Him, that they

willingly devoted themselves to His plans and purposes, and used the means He provided to become partakers of His own Divine nature, thus fulfilling His desire and bringing everlasting glory to His Majestic Greatness, and He will be *their* God, and they will be His Sons.

But remember the key is "*He that overcometh.*" In a day when people are being taught self-expression, self-esteem, self-exaltation, "how to learn to love yourself," etc., it is difficult to grasp the importance of self-denial, self-mortification, self-humiliation, all of which the Bible states are vital remedies for the ills of the soul. The good news for modern man is that the road to heaven is paved with lots of nice things, all of which can be yours for naming and claiming. Very few sermons are preached on 1 Tim. 6:8 as the text, "*Having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*" You can't build up a large following with such a radical message as that.

But that message is the *need* of the hour. Modern man is selling his right to Sonship for a "mess of pottage" that has about as much value as Esau's. Yes, "*the voice is Jacob's, but the arms are those of Esau.*" Materialism and the pride of life (ego) have become the tools of Satan to allure the sheep of the Lord astray. The "arms of Esau," the ministry, has catered to the desires of the flesh for filthy lucre's sake and the true gospel, the Gospel of the Kingdom, has been pushed aside.

Yet, God has not given up hope, for "*Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him*" (1 Cor. 2:9)

May we encourage you to seek the Lord as never before, to lay aside all unnecessary activities, and study God's Word; ask God to *fill* you with His own sweet Spirit, and show you how to become an overcomer. Prayerfully consider these words from Paul's letter to the Romans: "*For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify* (put to death) *the deeds of the body, ye shall live*" (Rom. 8:13). This is one of the steps toward overcoming, and it is available to all who will have it. Also read Colossians 3:1-15.



Think of any great non-natural disaster and somewhere, as instigator of it, you will find an expert, a man who was paid big money to stop such disasters happening. It's not a fact of theology but a fact of history that God's amateurs have always been more successful than man's professionals.

Victor Dunstan

THE 8 MIRACLES of JESUS.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

MIRACLE NUMBER TWO.

THE RULER'S SON.

The account of this second miracle is found in John 4:46-53, and reads as follows:

"So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where He made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

Then said Jesus unto him, 'Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.'

The nobleman saith unto Him, 'Sir, come down ere my child die.'

Jesus saith unto him, 'Go thy way; thy son liveth.' And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, 'Thy son liveth'. Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, 'Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, 'Thy

son liveth! And himself believed, and his whole house."

As we turn now to a study of this miracle, it is interesting, and indeed important, that we have an understanding of the circumstances leading up to it. After the wedding in Cana of Galilee, we are told that Jesus went back to Jerusalem, which was in Judea, his own country, or district. But soon after joining in the Feast of Passover, He decided to return to Galilee, which required that He pass through Samaria, the district which lay between Judea and Galilee. It was during this journey that the incident with the Samaritan woman at the well took place. He stayed there only two days before passing on to Galilee. We note several most important factors associated with this journeying. Firstly, He was not well received in His own country. In fact, He was almost completely rejected. Jesus said Himself;

"That a prophet hath no honour in his own country."

But when He came to Galilee, what a difference. We read in John 4:45;

"Then when He was come into Galilee, the Galileans received Him."

Secondly, it is most important that we understand the reason for this difference in attitude and acceptance. You see, His own country of Judea had by this time been inundated with the seed of Esau/Edom, those whom He said were "not My sheep". Samaria also had a very high admixture of non-Israel people, as a result of the forced resettlement of the area following the captivity of the original Israelites from that area several centuries previously. But the district of Galilee was where most of the real Judahite/Israelite people settled when they returned from the Babylonian captivity. This is where Paul, and all the disciples except Judas came from. How important it is for us to learn from this incident that true fellowship and service in God lies within

the people of God, not necessarily among our own families and friends. As much as we might love them, we MUST put God first.

So just as the first miracle showed our Lord Jesus Christ as the Redeemer through the Blood, so this second miracle shows Him as the Giver of Life through the Word. Let us look at the details of this wonderful event.

1. Jesus did not seek out the ruler, as He did the impotent man in the next miracle. The ruler sought out Jesus when he heard that He was in the district. Now why did the ruler seek out Jesus? Was it because of the fact that He was the Son of God? No! It wasn't. It was because of His reputation for performing miracles. Things have not changed. If you want to draw big crowds to a meeting, then just advertise the fact that miracles are going to happen. That will draw the people every time. But try advertising the fact that the miracles will be done by and through Jesus Christ as THE SON OF GOD, and see what happens. People will stay away by the thousands. Millions of people today, I'm sure, would be prepared to accept Jesus Christ solely on the basis of His ability to perform the miraculous. We live in the age of the spectacular. But as soon as we try to convince them that salvation only comes through acceptance of Him in His position as the SON OF GOD, then that's a different matter altogether.

The sad fact today is that people are more interested in the GIFTS than in the GIVER. They must be a part of the spectacular. Many have even arrived at the stage where they don't accept that God is even present unless everyone is shouting and jumping all over the place and making a great display of human activity and emotionalism. What ever happened to "the still small voice"? What ever happened to "stand still and see the salvation of the Lord"?

What happened to the Lord's injunction in Isaiah 30:15;

"For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel. In returning and rest shall ye be saved. In quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

2. Jesus Himself recognised this factor. Nevertheless, at the insistant plea of the father of the sick child, He exercised His wonderful mercy. You see, He can tell the genuine plea. And He responds, not just because of the manner of our approach, but in spite of it. So even among the spectacular religious "shows" that so many get caught up with, the earnest plea of those who are really and truly seeking the SON OF GOD, as distinct from the worker of miracles, does not go unheeded or unanswered by God.

3. The Lord replied to the simple plea with the simple answer. He didn't call His disciples together for a prayer meeting. He didn't make any fuss or bother. He just spoke the Word! That Word had the same power then as the first recorded Words of God as recorded in Gen. 1:3 when He said, *"Let there be light!"* And that Word has just as much power today, if we would only believe it as God wants us to believe it. The Bible is full of incidents where men just simply BELIEVED GOD. I'm not talking about believing IN Him, or believing ABOUT Him, but BELIEVING Him. This is what our fore-father Abraham did, and God's Word tells us that this simple act was counted unto him for righteousness, and that furthermore, God referred to him from that time on as His friend! It was just the same kind of simple faith that this ruler used. He had asked the Lord to come to where the sick son was in order to heal him. But he didn't show the slightest concern when Jesus just spoke the Word instead of coming to his home. He accepted in simple faith the fact that all that he had to do was to BELIEVE ON THE WORD. Nothing else mattered.

4. And finally we find that as a result of his faith, not only he himself believed, but the whole of his household also believed. His first faith was that of one still searching. He was literally living in the sphere of

believing "things not seen". But when Jesus spoke the Word, his faith found a completely new dimension. He now had a new-found faith of one who KNEW. He could now join Paul in his statement to Timothy;

"For I KNOW whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day".

(II Timothy 1:12).

Thus did our Lord Jesus Christ manifest, or show forth, His glory.

Having now studied the details of this miracle on the personal level, let us study it as to its SIGN, or what it is intended to convey regarding Christ's Kingdom, Israel. As we pointed out in our previous study, the whole of these eight miracles are SIGNS which God has given us with a special relationship to this Kingdom.

It is also important to note that in the context of the 'pairing' of these miracles, as set out in our previous study, this second miracle is paired with the seventh, and that they are the only two miracles that mention death. Now what does this subject of 'death' signify in relation to Christ's Kingdom?

When we recognise the importance of the symbology used, it is quite easy to see the relationship. The ruler's son was sick to the point of death, and in this situation was a perfect example of what had happened to Israel. God's warning to His people, as set out in Deuteronomy 30:15-20, is quite clear and to the point;

*"See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;
In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply. And the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.*

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

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

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

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

The sad truth however, is that instead of choosing good and obeying the Law of God which would have brought us life, we chose to disobey God's Laws, thus choosing the way of evil and death. Like the ruler's son, the nation is dying, and near unto death. The rulers of the enemy nations and the enemy powers are blatantly rejoicing over the apparent demise of God's Witnesses, in accordance with our Lord's prophecy in Rev. 11:10. But these enemies would be advised to read and understood, and believe God's Word as expressed by the Psalmist in Psalm 2;

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed, saying,

'Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.'

He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh! The Lord shall have them in derision.

Special Notice!

Dear Reader,

For many years we have been receiving various overseas journals and magazines which either specialise in, or contain, vital information and 'behind-the-scene' news relative to the present-day political, religious, and economic situation, especially as it relates to what is happening within the Anglo-Israel nations. Our experience over many years of Christian witness has convinced us that the key to the understanding of the present and rapidly increasing apostasy within our Christian nations is not just the recognition of our identity, but the conviction of active responsibility that goes with that recognition. It is no use moaning ad nauseum about how bad things are unless we are prepared to offer some worthwhile alternative to the problems. And we will never be able to offer the correct alternative unless we properly diagnose and understand the problem.

Those who talk of 'conspiracy' become the instant butt of ridicule and insult. Yet the more we study the Word of God in conjunction with the information which is available to those who seek, the more we realise that this is in fact the only viable conclusion. It is only as we understand what is really happening, and what is really being planned by the "One World" proponents, that we become aware of the seriousness of the present position, and the enormity of Satan's activities. Those of us who have access to this material are constantly overwhelmed by the depths to which God's enemies have gone, and intent to go, in order to destroy not only God's people, but the very name of God Himself.

Please do not be deluded or lulled by either religiously or politically motivated emotional feelings. If we are to stand in the gap in these last days, and even

pray sensibly for our present national, as well as individual position, we MUST understand what is really going on around us.

To this end, we have decided to produce a second publication in addition to THE COVENANT VISION. This will be sent out monthly under the title of "COVENANT WATCH!" It will consist of 12 pages of specially selected material photo-copied from various sources. As our new copier has enlarging and reducing facilities, we hope to retain an acceptable presentation level without the need to re-type most articles. We realise that some of our readers already receive some of the sources from which we will be obtaining this material, but it is almost certain that the majority of you do not. So if you wish to receive this publication, which will be posted in plain envelopes by normal mail services, please fill in and return the attached application. This service is intended only for those who are sincerely interested, and will be sent out by subscription only of \$12 per year for 12 issues, payable, if you wish, after you have received and approved of the first issue. We hope to post this out about mid June, so please let us know your wishes as soon as possible by marking the appropriate instruction below. We trust that you will give this new venture your prayerful and active support.

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Then shall He speak unto them, and vex them in His sore displeasure. . . .

*Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron.
Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."*

Just as Jesus manifest His glory to the ruler when He spoke the Word in regard to the sick son, thus gaining the victory over impending death, so He has gained the victory over the deathly illness which has beset His people by the Word which He spake on the cross;

"IT IS FINISHED!"

The price of redemption had now been paid, and His people were now bought back from the curse of the law under which they would have died.

Just as the son's life was spared by the intercession of his father, the ruler, so will Jehovah's son's life be spared by similar intercession. We read of this promise in Ezekiel 36:32-33, and 37 as follows;

"Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord, be it known unto you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.

Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. . . .

Thus saith the Lord God; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them."

And what will be the result? It will be just like what happened to the ruler's household who, on seeing the miracle wrought by the Lord, turned unto Him and believed Him. The above reference in Ezekiel tells us;

"Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate. I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it. . . .

As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with the flocks of men.

And they shall know that I am the Lord."

But there is one other aspect of the prophetic nature of these miracles which we should not miss. This was pointed out to me very recently by my good friend Rev. James Haggart of the U.S.A. Each of these miracles has not only an application to prophetic events, but there is also a very definite prophetic TIMING incorporated in them, which can be applied to God's people Israel. On this basis, I suggest that we could profitably look at the following 'time frames' for these miracles.

The prophetic time factor associated with the first miracle of turning the water into wine was the period covering our Lord's first advent when the REDEMPTION of Israel was accomplished.

The time frame of the second miracle is thus shown to be the period following this until the time of the fulfilment of God's covenants with Israel, during which time THE WORD has gone forth, revealing the faithfulness of God. As He said through His prophet Isaiah;

"So shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth. It shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

This period in our history has seen the rise of Israel into the promised Company of Nations, and the Great People, as fulfilled in the British Commonwealth of Nations and the United States of America, right up to

the time when Palestine returned into the possession of its true and rightful owners when General Allenby entered the city of Jerusalem at the head of the British forces in 1917. It then continued a further 31 years until the time of the fulfilment of the final prophecy regarding the land of Palestine prior to the return of our Lord, when 'the inhabitants of Jerusalem' forced the House of Israel out of Palestine, falsely claiming the land to be theirs. As we read in Ezekiel 11:15;

"Son of man, thy brethren, even thy brethren, the men of thy kindred, and all the House of Israel wholly, are they unto whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Get you far from the Lord: unto us is this land given in possession.' " (emphasis added).

We know from the study of the Word that the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, preceded by the resurrection and translation of the 'overcomers', is very, very close indeed. Many Bible students and teachers see this year of 1988 as a very probable time for this to commence. But irrespective of which year it happens, this miracle confirms the specific time of the year to which we can look. We are told that the sick son 'began to recover in the seventh hour.' Applying this in a prophetic sense, it surely cannot be without significance that the first day of the seventh month of the Israel calendar is the Feast Day of Trumpets, announcing the forthcoming period of The Feast of Tabernacles. This was the time of our Lord's first advent. There is no reason to ignore the almost certain conclusion that it will again be the same period during which He will return the second time.

Let us be ever watchful that this great event does not take us unawares. Let us continue to pray that we may escape all those things coming upon the earth, so that we may stand before the Son of Man at that great Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

(to be continued.)

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Fiddling while Rome Burns

(Courtesy 'National Message'

by DOROTHY ABRAHAM

MANY reading this will remember hearing in school days, of Nero, who it is said, fiddled while Rome burned.

Today, many are acting in exactly the same way, quite oblivious to the fact that our civilisation is disintegrating. We may not be burning as Rome was, but we are in great turmoil, and as H.G. Wells said many years ago, 'There is no way out or round or through; homo sapiens is finished . . .' I wonder what Wells would say of today? Thank God we know 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME.'

While some are frantically trying to find a way out, others say, 'We have had this

kind of thing before, we shall get over it.' THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY OUT — WE MUST GET BACK TO THE BIBLE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. THE BIBLE HAS THE ANSWER TO EVERYTHING.

Our national life of today, seems almost a parallel with that of Rome in her day. Nero, at that time was looked up to by everyone, then he changed completely. Many think he was responsible for the burning of the city that blazed away for six days and nights. Nero put the blame for the fire upon the Christians who were terribly persecuted. After a time Nero's reign came to an end and I read that he finished his life in a peasant's hut.

Rome was a great Empire with wealth untold. Never again, until the British Empire appeared, was there anything of such security and prosperity. **ROME WAS THE WORLD — THE WORLD WAS ROME — BUT ROME FELL.**

About sixty years ago, the British Empire was looked up to by everyone — the greatest Empire in the world (read Arthur Mees *Book of the Flag*). At the time of the Coronation, we looked forward to a great future, but today the Empire is no more — like Rome it has fallen.

Everyone should read *The Obituary of The British Empire* by General Hilton. It is a sad story, although it has a happy ending for General Hilton when asked if he thought the Empire would rise again, said 'Yes, but first the British Nation must be converted.'

No one living in Rome at the time of the Fall, could have imagined all that really happened, and many of us sixty years ago, living in peace and happiness could not have imagined all that is going on today.

Read the first chapter of *Nehemiah*. It is very true of our Nation.

There are several reasons for the Fall of Rome. The breakdown of family life — we have the same thing in our nation today. The sanctity of life has almost disappeared in spite of all our Churches. There was tremendous increase of travel. Sixty years or so ago, people went to the Park or Seaside for holidays, but today they go all over the world at fantastic speed. Sport

was almost a god in Rome's day as people would stay up all night to be in on time and fortunes were made almost overnight. Sport comes first in our land today.

Rome increased her productions of armaments as we are doing — to fight the increasing fear and threat of war, but armaments will not save us. The Bible says, 'THEY THAT CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.' The increasing taxation and unemployment in Rome's day was prevalent as in ours. Also the lack of uniform religion. What of our religion? One can look at the advertisements for Sunday and wonder. What must unchristian people think of religion or so-called Christianity offered to them by all the different denominations?

In the early days of Rome, the family was the unassailable rock of the nation with the husband the head of the family. It was the same in Queen Victoria's reign. Women in Rome were making their voices heard. We have Womens Lib. Women have done and are doing a great work. How they worked in war time. Some years ago, Sir Arthur Bryant writing in the *Illustrated London News* said, 'We look to the women of the Realm.' Women have great power they can make or break a man or a nation. It has been said that a nation rises as high as its women. They have a great destiny!

There is little time left, we are almost at the end of this dispensation, but many are still fiddling while our civilisation is falling apart. We must go forward with renewed effort, and FIRE DIVINE.



THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD.

"Men will have God anywhere except on His Throne."

Rev. Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

CHRISTIAN CLERGY

CENSORED

courtesy "New American View."

As the Palestinian uprising continues to flare in occupied Gaza and the West Bank, evidence of increasing brutality and even atrocities on the part of Israeli troops is beginning to mount. One case, only recently revealed to the outside world, involved Israeli soldiers firing into a Roman Catholic church in Ramallah during the celebration of a mass, forcing the worshipers to flee for their lives.

According to Our Sunday Visitor, the respected U.S. Catholic national weekly newspaper: "The purpose of the attack (in late January) was to prevent members of the parish from participating in a planned peaceful demonstration." The parishioners were attempting to protest "the attack by Israeli troops earlier in the week on their pastor, Father Faisal-Hejazin, who was beaten as he left the church, although he was wearing clerical garb. Later in the week, a Greek Orthodox priest was also beaten by Israeli troops at Beit-Sahur near Bethlehem."

As a result of these incidents, a statement was issued by the seven major Christian leaders in Jerusalem, including the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox patriarch. But the Israeli government prohibited the statement, which called for a week of prayer and fasting, from being published in the occupied territories, where the majority of the Christians live.

The statement, which is the first such joint message to be issued by all of Jerusalem's Christians in recent decades, said: "The recent painful events in our land, which have resulted in so many victims, both killed and wounded, are a clear indication of the grievous suffering of our people on the West Bank and in the Gaza

Strip. We, the heads of the Christian community in Jerusalem, would like to express in all honesty and clarity that we take our stand with truth and justice against all forms of injustice and oppression.

"We stand with the refugees and deported, with the distressed and the victims of injustice."

In addition to the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox leaders, the statement was signed by the spiritual heads of the Armenian Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, Greek and Syrian Catholic communities in Jerusalem, where the majority of the 200,000 Christians in Israel live.

As soon as the statements were released on January 22, the bishops and patriarchs who signed it began receiving calls from the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs, threatening them with reprisals. One high official of the Ministry told the Anglican Bishop, "You will pay for this".

Although Jerusalem's two major Hebrew and two leading Arabic language newspapers agreed to publish the statement, none actually did so. Both Arabic language newspapers informed the Roman Catholic patriarch's office that the Israeli military censors prohibited them from published it.

A copy of the statement was then sent to the World Council of Churches in Geneva, which released it to the European news media. Later, it was broadcast by the BBC, Jordanian and Syrian radio networks, and the PLO's Voice of Palestine. Following the broadcasts, the Israeli military censors allowed the Arabic language newspapers to publish short excerpts from the statement. The week of prayer and fasting called for in the statement, however, did not occur.

Moreover, no report of the statement or its antecedents ever appeared in the U.S. news media, said Father Kamal Farah, a spokesman for the Roman Catho-

lic patriarch. Father Farah blames the suppression of the statement on the Israeli government's policy of attempting to depict the Christian Arab population as being non-supportive of the Palestinian uprising. But the truth is quite the opposite.

Catholic patriarch Michael Sabbah said, "The text (of the statement) was strictly religious, and we refrained from saying anything on any political move on any side." But, he said, the call to prayer for peace was interpreted as a political move by the Israeli government.

The 55-year-old patriarch, who is a native of Nazareth, told Our Sunday Visitor in an interview that he went to great lengths to emphasise that the church leaders' concern was for all the people of the region - both Palestinian and Israeli. He said, "When I speak of suffering, I speak of everybody."

Patriarch Sabbah believes the uprising in the Israeli occupied territories will end only when full equality is granted to the Palestinian people. The Israeli's are "on top" now he said. "They have the right to have their own land, their own state, to be free. And they have the right to have people who represent them, who speak for all the Israelis."

"But", he added, "The Palestinians must have the same rights. They must have their land, their state, and people who can speak for them. That's our right."

New American View.
132 Third St., S.E.
Washington. D.C. 20003.
U. S. A.

* * * * *

"And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people!"

(Zechariah 12:3).

STUDY IN REVELATIONS.

by F. W. DOWSETT.

PART TWO.

OVERVIEW.

In our introduction to our study of the Book of The Revelation which appeared in our previous issue, we pointed out the absolute importance of recognising and applying the SYMBOLISM used in order to arrive at a correct understanding of the message God has recorded for us therein.

We now look at a second factor which is also of the greatest importance in understanding its message. It is this.

The Book is not one continuous succession of events starting with the first chapter and ending with the last chapter. For instance, the events recorded in the 4th. chapter do not follow in chronological order after the events recorded in the first three chapters. The events set out in the Book of The Revelation are recorded in cycles, each cycle recording a different aspect of the history of Israel over the same period of time, that is, from the Lord's first advent to His second advent, and even beyond that into the Kingdom Age. So in order to simplify our studies, and to give us an ordered foundation on which to build our studies and our understanding of this, the final recorded message from our Lord Jesus Christ, I am listing the major subject matter contained in each successive chapter, followed by a short list of the cycles into which the various chapters fall. They are as follows:-

THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION.

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER.

<u>Chapter.</u>	<u>Major Subject Matter.</u>
1.	Messages to the 7 churches. Introduction.
2.	do. No.'s 1 to 5.
3.	do. No.'s 6 and 7.
4.	The Throne of God. - The 24 Elders & the 4 Living Creatures.
5.	The Book with the 7 seals presented.
6.	The opening of the seals No.'s 1 to 6.
7.	The sealing of the 144,000.
8.	The 7th. seal opened. - The sounding of the first 4 Trumpets.
9.	The sounding of Trumpets 5 and 6, which are the first 2 Woes.
10.	The Little Book and the seven Thunders.
11.	The Two Witnesses - The 2nd. Woe finishes - The 7th. Trumpet sounds, which is the 3rd. Woe.
12.	The Woman in the Wilderness - The "Man-Child" - War in heaven, Satan cast out and makes war with "the seed of the woman".
13.	The beast from the sea - the beast out of the earth. - The Mark of the Beast, 666.
14.	The 144,000 with the Name of God in their forehead. - The announcement of the coming fall of Babylon. - The two reappings.

15. The Song of Moses. - The 7 Plagues and the 7 Vials introduced.
16. The 7 Vials poured out. - The 3 unclean spirits. - "Behold I come as a thief". - Armageddon.
17. Judgment on Babylon the Great. - The 8th beast.
18. The Fall of Babylon.
19. Subsequent rejoicing. - The Marriage Supper of the Lamb. - The Return of Christ.
20. Satan bound. - The First Resurrection. - Satan loosed. - The Great White Throne Judgment & the 2nd. death.
21. The Holy City, the Lamb's Wife.
22. The Tree of Life restored. - Final exhortations and warnings.

All the above subjects fall into, and are recorded within the following groupings or cycles, forming the different aspects of the national development and life of the nation of Israel, the Kingdom of God on earth.

<u>Group.</u>	<u>Aspect.</u>	<u>Chapter.</u>
1.	Religious.	1 - 3.
2.	Political.	4 - 11.
3.	Parenthesis.	- 12.
4.	Economic.	13 - 18.
5.	Kingdom Age & Beyond.	19 - 22.

From the above, it will be obvious to the reader that if we study just one chapter per issue, it will take about four years to complete our studies. This would be

quite impractical. So what we intend to do is to study each of the above five aspects or cycles as separate subjects within the context of the entire Book. Obviously we will not be able to cover every detail these subjects contain, but we trust that you will be given enough information on which to continue your own studies. The blessings you will receive as you do this will be quite unsurpassed.

So let us now turn our attention to the first of these cycles in the history of Israel, namely;

THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT.

THE MESSAGE TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES.

In Rev. 1:4 we find the message addressed to "The seven churches which are in Asia." So the first logical question which we must settle is, "What is meant by the word 'churches' ?" If we don't understand this, then we are not going to be able to properly apply the message. We may just as well write a letter to a friend, and post it with only his name on the envelope with no address.

The word 'Church' used here is translated from the Greek word 'ekklesia'. It means literally, 'the congregation of the called out ones'. It was primarily used of the nation or 'congregation' of Israel as the 'called of God'. For example, in Acts 7:38 we read;

"This is he, (Moses), that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the Mount Sinai . . ."

From this it is clear that the original application of the word 'church' was to Israel as a nation. Then when we study the locations of the seven churches nominated in Rev. 1:11, we find that they are all in the geographical area occupied by the dispersed twelve tribes of Israel at that time. So we find that the messages to the "seven churches" were in fact addressed primarily to congregations of Israelites. But while the

messages may have been literally sent to the Israel congregations in each of these seven areas, the SYMBOLISM of the situation is the important thing to understand. It is apparent from the subsequent descriptions of the various "churches" in chapters 2 and 3 that the "churches" represent different consecutive periods of time starting from, and future to, the time the Revelation was given.

We thus have before us a description of the spiritual condition of Israel in its various stages from that time onwards right up to the time of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here we have the pre-written history of Israel's relationship with her God from that time to the present day.

But a study of chapter one reveals another very important detail. It reveals the Lord Jesus Christ in His very special relationship to these people of Israel. Look at the descriptions given of Him in verses 1 to 6.

1. The One which is, and which was, and which is to come.
2. The faithful witness.
3. The first begotten of the dead.
4. The Prince of the kings of the earth.
5. The One who loves us.
6. The One who has washed us from our sins.
7. The One who has made us kings and priests unto God, His Father.

Then in verses 8 and 11 we have three other descriptions given of our Lord. They are;

1. The Alpha and Omega.

2. The Beginning and the Ending.
3. The First and the Last.

It is important that we understand the full meaning of these three last titles. They are as follows.

1. "Alpha" and "Omega" are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Thus our Lord Jesus Christ is shown to encompass everything that can be written or said. He is literally THE WORD, whether written or spoken.

2. The word "beginning" means "the origin". The word "ending" means "the fulfilment or completion of anything. Its end or issue. NOT its cessation. It denotes strictly, not the ending of a departed state, but the arrival of a complete or perfect one."

This means that in being "the beginning and the ending", our Lord is showing that He is not only the origin, or originator, or creator of all things from the beginning, but that He is also the originator of the final state of perfection and completeness for which we are all looking.

3. The word "first" means "Foremost. The first of place, order, time, and dignity." The word "last" means "the extreme or most remote. That which concludes anything."

Thus He can say that He is "from everlasting to everlasting".

(Definitions from "A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament" by Dr. E. W. Bullinger).

Put together, we have this wonderful and powerful description of the ministry and position of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"He is THE WORD, embracing everything said or written. From the beginning, He created all things, and will continue in this work until total and complete perfection is finally reached. He is the first, the highest, and the foremost in all things."

What a wonderful Lord and Saviour we have. No wonder we are warned in Hebrews 2:3;

"How shall we escape of we neglect so great a salvation."

We note that following the above description of Christ's ministry and Person, the very first promise and the very first prophecy made, (verse 7), is that Jesus Christ is to return to this earth, and that everyone, both from the present and the past, will see Him. This is the culminating factor of the entire prophecy. Without this grand conclusion, the rest of the book would be absolutely superfluous. The tremendous fact that we must accept is that the whole of history is heading towards, and has been ordained by God for, this one great event. Every event which has occurred, or which is yet to occur, is inescapably tied into this pattern and programme. Nothing that man can do, nor any decision that man can make, will alter the decision and intent of Almighty God to this end. It is already recorded in the annals of eternity. It is as certain as the very existence of God Himself. The very presence of Christ in the unbelievable glory which will accompany Him as He sits upon the Throne of David, and with His glorified Elders takes the reins of government, will completely shatter the rest of the world. Every man-made system upon which man now depends will come under the immediate judgment and sentence of the King of Kings. Men shall wail, or beat their hands on their breasts in sheer grief, at the destruction that comes upon them. But what is to be, will be. Amen. It is as inescapable as yesterday's dawn.

Thus does the beloved disciple John introduce and record the revelation which his beloved Lord gave him.

And as he was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, a voice suddenly sounded behind him, with the clarity of a trumpet. As he turned to see who it was who spoke to him, he saw a sight which no other person had to that time, nor has since, seen. He saw a vision of the Priest, complete in His linen robes, all gleaming white, standing in the Tabernacle, as evidenced by the seven golden candlesticks. But this was no ordinary priest. This was the new High Priest. Here was Jesus Christ, the High Priest of the Order of Melchisedek, consecrated to all eternity, standing there in all the glory and purity of His exalted position. He stood in the midst of the seven candlesticks, which we are told in verse 20 represent the seven churches, or congregations, of Israel. And here was the great truth which He showed forth. That throughout the entire period of the seven stages of the future religious and spiritual life of His people Israel, He was going to be there, as God's High Priest, interceding on their behalf. John was told to write down what he saw. Let us invite the Holy Spirit to open our understanding, and the eyes of our heart, as we share together this glorious sight;

"In the midst of the seven candlesticks was one like unto the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the breast with a golden girdle.

*His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow;
and His eyes were as a flame of fire.*

*And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace;
and His voice as the sound of many waters.*

And He had in His right hand seven stars.

*And out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword.
And His countenance was as the sun shining in his strength.*

And when I saw Him, I fell at his feet as dead.

And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, FEAR NOT. I am the first and the last. I am He that liveth, and was dead. And behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen. And I have the keys of hell and of death."

(Rev. 1:13-18).

As we dwell upon the glory of our Great God and Saviour, let us continue to await His return in the expectancy and in the full assurance of the promise of protection and victory which He had given us.

(to be continued).

MINISTERIAL MAGICIANS!

Always remember that a conjurer, whatever he may lead his audience to believe to the contrary, never leaves the stage with more rabbits than he had when he came on.

You may employ whatever 'tricks' you like to bring people into your church but, despite what you may lead people to believe and despite all your 'tricks', you will have no more truly 'born-again' believers in your church at the end than at the beginning.

Christians are born of God not of 'tricks' or 'techniques'. If you really want to fill your church get in touch with the Holy Spirit not an advertising agent.

By the way – the Holy Spirit can be contacted. –
FREEPHONE!

Victor Dunstan.

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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"AND NOW, ISRAEL, WHAT DOETH THE LORD THY GOD REQUIRE OF THEE,
BUT TO FEAR THE LORD THY GOD,
TO WALK IN ALL HIS WAYS,
AND TO LOVE HIM,
AND TO SERVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART AND WITH ALL THY SOUL,
TO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD,
AND HIS STATUTES,
WHICH I COMMAND THEE THIS DAY FOR THY GOOD."

Deuteronomy 10:12-13.

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