



THE COVENANT VISION

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

THE COVENANT VISION.

Editor: F.W.Dowsett.

In presenting this little 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 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

When we look back on our Christian lives and experiences, it is surprising to realise just how much we believe as a matter of tradition. Very few Christians really study WHY they believe what they believe. We tend to accept so much without question, seemingly on no other basis than that it is the 'normal' thing to believe it that way. And there is no doubt about the sincerity of the people themselves. They obviously love the Lord very dearly, and would never dream of deliberately misunderstanding His Word. But let me suggest very kindly, that sincerity in itself is no proof of accuracy. We can all be, in one way or another, very sincerely wrong. But it is this sincerity itself which so often creates the barrier to investigating anything that is at variance with our pre-conceived beliefs. And I am not suggesting for a moment that this attitude is necessarily wrong. God's Word tells us that we should not be blown about by every wind of doctrine, but it also tells us that we should examine all things. We are also told very definitely in II Timothy 2:15 to;

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (or handling), the Word of Truth."

So as sincere Christians we just cannot afford to blindly accept everything. It doesn't matter how long a particular belief has been held, or how "theological" it sounds. These criteria in themselves do not prove anything. Now I am not suggesting for one moment that we throw away, or disregard, everything that we have previously been taught, or which we have previously believed. But I AM suggesting that as sincere believers in God's Word, we should not take everything for granted simply because it's the 'normal' thing to do, or because 'everyone else believes it.'

We must realise that the outworking of the purposes of God have continued uninterrupted from the very time when He first pronounced them. And this is, of course, just how God intended it to be. Thus, HISTORY is nothing more than the fulfillment of PROPHECY, which itself is the pre-recorded statement of these Divine purposes.

It thus stands to reason that those who wrote of the Prophetic Word a hundred years ago could only interpret it in the light of history up to, and including, their own time. Anything in the then future remained within the sphere of 'prophecy', and subject to the usual human habit of interpretation and calculated speculation. In other words, those writers did the best, in most cases, with what they had, which was what God had been pleased to reveal up to that time. I do not consider that we should condemn them for being wrong, as so many have the habit of doing, but that we realise that their conclusions were based upon incomplete information.

But as time has progressed, subsequent events have revealed new facts which had not previously been known. Thus, I believe, it is incumbent upon students of God's Word to regularly 'update' as it were, any of their beliefs which have been based upon interpretation of prophecy rather than upon historical events and established facts. Through the prophet Daniel, God revealed that in the last days knowledge would be increased. Nobody can surely deny the fulfillment of this fact in so many areas. But strangely, all too many Bible students have made no attempt to re-assess their beliefs in the prophetic sphere, nor to re-examine these beliefs in the light of this increased knowledge which God has been pleased to reveal in these last days.

The word of prophecy is given us to light our path. Let us then go forward with its light shining bright, not hiding it under an umbrella of pre-conceived ideas and traditional beliefs.

The Birthright Factor.

By F.W.DOWSETT.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and He looked upon it, and saw that it was VERY GOOD. (Gen.1.).

Then He prepared a very special portion of that creation for a very special purpose, and placed therein the very special man Adam whom He had formed from the dust of the earth. From that man Adam He formed the woman Eve. Together they lived in Eden, that special place which was called "The garden of God," (Ezek.28:13), or "The Paradise of God", (Rev.2:7). This was a place of absolute perfection, as distinct from the imperfection of the rest of the earth which surrounded it. It is of interest to note that the word 'Eden' means 'a FENCED garden.' I suggest that this place "Eden" was a 'working model' of THE KINGDOM OF GOD, here on earth where God intended it to be, complete with all its perfection, separated from the rest of the world, and with its direct communion between God and His son Adam whom He had specially formed for this special relationship.

But as in all things that God has planned, Satan stepped in with a deliberate plan to thwart God's purposes. Thus THE ENEMY arrived on the scene, and as a result of his actions, THE GREAT CONTROVERSY began. It is expressed in the first prophecy in the Bible, as recorded in Gen.3:15;

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman (that is, between Satan and Eve), and between thy seed and her seed, (that is, between THE SEED - OR CHILDREN - OF THE WOMAN, and the SEED - OR CHILDREN - OF SATAN.)."

The trouble that this caused to the descendants of Adam throughout their early history is outlined in the opening chapters of the book of Genesis, until eventually we come to the account of the birth of Esau and Jacob, the twin sons of Isaac and Rebecca. We read in Gen.25:23;

"And the Lord said unto her,
Two NATIONS are in thy womb, and TWO
MANNER OF PEOPLE shall be separated
from thy bowels.
And the one people shall be stronger
than the other people,
and the elder shall serve the younger."

Thus, Jacob and Esau, followed by their descendants, became the chief protagonists in the battle for supremacy which has raged ever since. Jacob became the father of twelve sons who in turn became the fathers of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Jacob's name was changed from JACOB, which means 'a supplanter', to ISRAEL, which means 'ruling with God.' The nation which sprang from him, and which was called by his name, ISRAEL, was specially formed by God to be His witness here on earth to the very fact that HE IS GOD, and to be the special vessel through which He would not only bless the rest of the world, (see Gen.12:2-3, and Gen.18:18), but by which He would destroy His enemies. We read in Jeremiah 51:19-20;

"The portion of Jacob is not like them.
(that is, the Babylonian anti-God nations.) For He is the former of all things,
and Israel is the rod of His inheritance.
The Lord of Hosts is His Name.
Thou art My battle axe and weapons of war.
For with thee will I break in pieces the nations,
and with thee shall I destroy kingdoms."

Esau, being the first born of the twins, and thus the elder son, automatically became the inheritor of the birthright from his father Isaac. But it is obvious that he had no respect for the high calling and responsibility which this involved. So we read of how he sold his birthright to his brother Jacob. (See Gen.25.29-34.) Let us be quite clear on this matter, that from this point of time onward, the birthright officially belonged to Jacob. And irrespective of the incidents surrounding the subsequent blessing of Jacob by his father Isaac, in preference to his brother Esau, and despite our own personal opinions of those incidents, THE BLESSING, WHICH WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE BIRTHRIGHT, OFFICIALLY BELONGED TO JACOB, NOT to Esau, and Esau had no right to expect the blessing which he knew was not his. It is obvious from the account that at this time Esau realised the enormity of his error, because we are told that he sought the blessing with tears, but to no avail. (See Gen.27:38, and Heb.12:17).

This was one of the most important turning points in history. From this time onward, Esau sought to retrieve the birthright which he had so foolishly despised and surrendered, and every event in human history since that time has been part of the process to achieve this end !! I venture to suggest that it is the failure of Bible teachers and scholars to realise this fact that has led to much of the present lack of understanding, and the misunderstandings that exist in respect to what is happening in the world today, and the ultimate purposes of God for this earth on which we live. Let me reiterate that God's plans and purposes are for THIS EARTH. He does not intend to set up some form of spiritual kingdom somewhere in the sky, as so many think. His plans are to set up His Kingdom right here on this earth, and He even went to the extent of seeking OUR co-operation in achieving this very goal by requesting that we pray for it.

The Kingdom which He set up was Israel. It was, and still is, a literal kingdom, here on earth. This na-

tion, together with the people who make up the nation, were given the Spirit of God to guide and direct them. Don't misunderstand me. I am not saying that we have always been led by the Spirit of God, or that we, either as a nation or as a people, have always accepted the leading of the Spirit of God, but that the Spirit of God has always been available for us to call upon at any time for the impartation of His blessings and protection.

The passage in Ephesians 6:12, where we are told that we don't wrestle with flesh and blood, but with principalities and powers, does NOT transfer the arena of the battle from the literal or material to the spiritual realm, but instructs us rather that the FORCES that control our battle are spiritually led and inspired, not just earthly.

The people to whom this blessing was promised are descendant from Jacob, who was renamed Israel, and called, or named, through his father Isaac as The Sons of Isaac, or Isaac-sons. They are the descendants of the man whom God said 'he loved.' Which brings us to the following statement in Malachi 1:1-2;

"Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the Lord:
Yet I loved Jacob, and I hated Esau."

The second witness to this is given by Paul in Romans 9:7-14, where he not only confirms what Malachi has said, but puts the statement into its full perspective within the plans and purposes of God.

"Neither because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children. But in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

That is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God, BUT THE CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE ARE COUNTED FOR THE SEED.

For this is the word of promise. 'At that time will I come, and Sarah will have a son.'

And not only this. When Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac, (for the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, THAT THE PURPOSES OF GOD ACCORDING TO THE ELECTION MIGHT STAND, NOT OF WORKS, BUT OF HIM THAT CALLETH);

It was said unto her, 'The elder shall serve the younger.'

As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."

Just as Jacob/Israel grew into a nation, so did Esau, and they became the two opposing camps, or forces within the world, IN FULL ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATED PURPOSES OF ALMIGHTY GOD!

But whilst Israel retained her name for many centuries to come, and until the time that God said that she would become known by another name which He would give her, (see Isa.62:2; Isa.65:15; Hosea 1:10), Esau on the other hand, soon became known by a different name, a fact that has misled many Bible students, and hidden the real identity and purposes of God's real enemy, and the enemy of His people Israel.

Returning to Genesis 25 to which we previously referred, we read in verse 30;

"And Esau said to Jacob, 'Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage, for I am faint.

Therefore was his name called EDOM."

The meaning of the word "Edom" is RED.
Remember it.

Following the accounts of the transfer of the birthright and the blessing from Esau to Jacob, we are then given details of the beginnings of Esau's descendants.

"When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan-aram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, 'Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan';
And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padan-aram;
And Esau, seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father;
Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son."

The rebellious nature of Esau is very clearly expressed in Gen.36:1-3, where he is revealed not only as a rebel against his own family, but as a rebel and enemy against God:

"Now these are the generations of Esau,
who is EDOM.

Esau took his wives of the daughters of Canaan;
Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite,
and Aholibamah the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite;
And Bashemath, Ishmael's daughter."

Thus, the descendants of Esau would be Ishmaelites, Canaanites, Hittites, and Hivites, the very people which God commanded Israel NOT to marry!

And in order to emphasise the enormity of Esau's offence, we are told in Gen.36:6;

"And Esau took his wives, and his sons, and his daughters, and all the persons of his house, and his cattle, and all his beasts, and all his substance, which he had got in the land of Canaan, and went into the country from (or away from) his brother Jacob."

It is therefore evident that the descendants of Esau would not marry Hebrews, as required by God, but that they would marry the Ishmaelites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, and the Hivites among whom they lived, and that they would become, and be known as, these very people, who in turn would be referred to collectively as EDOMITES, the name which means RED.

It is of interest to note that FOUR TIMES in the 36th chapter of Genesis we are told that ESAU IS EDOM.

The territory in which they dwelt became known as Idumea, (the Greek form of the name 'Edom'), and thus the Edomites were also known as Idumeans.

The Bible repeatedly informs us of the enmity and opposition of the Edomites towards Israel, and we readily see how this enmity grew between these two opposite camps or people. Esau's sole aim was the destruction of his brother Jacob's descendants, Israel, and the restitution to himself of the blessing or birthright which he had forfeited.

If this birthright was so important that Esau should go to such extreme lengths to recover it,

THEN HOW DO WE STAND BEFORE
GOD, WHO SO LIGHTLY TREAT, OR
EVEN TOTALLY DISREGARD, THIS
SAME BIRTHRIGHT WHICH IS OURS BY
THE GRACE AND ELECTION OF
ALMIGHTY GOD!!

What is more, WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS BIRTHRIGHT THAT IT SHOULD BECOME THE MOTIVATING FACTOR OF HUMAN HISTORY??

The all-important feature of this birthright is that the nation who possesses it has the Divine Right to RULE THIS EARTH WITH GOD!

That's what the name of this nation, ISRAEL, means; RULING WITH GOD.

This is ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF GOD.

But because they no longer hold the birthright, Esau/Edom is trying to obtain world control by means of setting up a ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT by their own endeavours under the authority of Satan.

THERE CAN BE ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT BUT THAT THE BIBLE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT THE REAL ENEMY OF GOD AND OF HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL, LED AND INSPIRED BY SATAN HIMSELF, IS ESAU-EDOM.

The battle-lines have been drawn. The SONS OF GOD, ISRAEL, under the leadership of their Great Commander Jehovah/Jesus, ARE AT WAR with their mortal enemies THE CHILDREN OF THE WICKED ONE, EDOM, under the command of their leader, Satan.

We praise God that the Battle is the Lord's, and that victory is ours. As we read in Isaiah 54:17;

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord."

Prayer, Baptism and the Work of the Holy Spirit

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(Courtesy 'Kingdom Digest')

Prayer, which is such an important part of our Christian life, seems so little used (judging from results?). Watching with Prayer is the order. See Luke 21:8, Cf 12: 15, 35-40! Many prayers are 'said', 'record fashion', but Jesus did not promise that such would be heard. He said, "*They think they will be heard for their much speaking!*" But, "*This is the confidence that we have concerning him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us. And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*" I John 5: 14. See also I John 3:18-22, "*Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence towards God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*" It says in another place, "*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: but verily God hath heard me; He hath attended to the voice of my prayer.*" Psalm 66:18, 19. Cf I Sam. 15:22, 23.

If we walk carefully we shall 'sense' the will of God in the common things of life, about which the Word may be silent. Are such for His glory, and for our spiritual benefit, and that of others, or are they to be consumed on your own lusts? I heard of one who desired to be healed so as to be able to travel the world! Alas! the partial healing which was given was taken away.

All prayer should be made to God, through Jesus Christ. Jesus himself said, "*When ye pray say, Our Father.*" But some persist in addressing themselves direct to Jesus, when there is no scriptural warrant to do this. Actually, Jesus is at His Father's right hand making intercession for us, and so on. There is a sense in which He cannot thus receive our prayers: for remember that all activities and communications are by the instrumentality and agency of the Holy Spirit. Whilst we recognise the Unity of the Godhead, we should also recognise the personality and dignity of each. It is, of course,

true to say that the Lord looketh upon the heart: but He also expects us to study His Word to know, for instance, how to pray, and to whom. (Even business men make rules as to how, and when, they be approached!).

All ministering servants should in this be unblamable patterns, because the flock will be sure to copy them. Paul said to Titus, "*In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity* (of motive), *sound speech which cannot be condemned*," Titus 2:7, 8; also Heb. 4:12, 13.

The Lord's Prayer, so-called, in Matt. 6:9-13, is suggestive of how our prayers should be constructed — short and to the point! Jesus said, "*Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask Him*." We cannot inform God of our needs, but maybe we like to inform others! I well remember someone who used to detail all activities in prayer, so-called: this would be better said in Testimony. But God is not deceived. But how merciful He is to usward — Praise Him!

Repetitions are ineffectual: When a number meet for prayer, each should take notice of what the others are praying, and not cover the same ground unnecessarily. Another experience that comes to mind, is that the Pray-er should have full faith in the prayer offered, so that the general "Amen" shall be effective: for, once, several days after such an apparent prayer of faith for someone's healing, the Pray-er expressed doubts. This brought forth the Word of Exhortation!

Prayer is earnest desire, and there is no need to "beat about the bush", scattering our energies on mere generalities (which may be interesting to those present: true Prayer is addressed to God. One must speak out on these vitally important matters, for so much depends upon a right approach to God). Amen? Yes! Hallelujah!!

Let everyone, then, concentrate the thoughts upon the subjects to be prayed about. In one place the Fishermen were having a bad time. Prayers were asked — the order was given to just pray for fish: and one brother was 'going all round the world' (and not after fish either!) and the Leader shouted, "Keep to the fish brother!"

Another brother would repeatedly confess his particular failures, asking God to sweep the cobwebs off his soul. His brother cried, Lord! kill the spider!!

When one is praying others should be as 'quiet' as reasonable. Ejaculation should not be of such a length and nature as to interfere

with the thoughts of the Prayer. Yet this often happens (in some gatherings), that the pray-er has to shout to make himself heard (not that God is deaf!), and this causes a slight uproar! Some, also, it has been noticed, have a habit of murmuring a prayer, or even singing, etc., while another is leading in prayer. In the natural this would be reckoned rude: but what liberties we take with God and one another! God is a God of order. If the old-time method of praying with up-lifted hands and arms were practised prayers would certainly be shorter!

It can be but hoped that these words of exhortation will not offend, but have the desired effect. For Prayer being our only means of communication with God, we each should see that we are functioning properly and praying according to the principles laid down in the Scriptures which, in these last days, instructs us to pray in secret (certainly not before the world, as in an open-air meeting, etc: pray before going out). Preach Openly: Pray Secretly.

"When thou prayest thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are; for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men . . ." Matt. 6:5-18.

Mr. George Muller, late of Bristol, England, proved to the world the power of prayer. The great Orphanages stand to this day upon the top of a hill, a monument to the glory of God. The funds for their erection and the feeding of the orphans were received solely in answer to prayer, without solicitations (for it is feared that many imitators broadcast their needs, or that they are "out on faith," so not being in the same category).

Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, nevertheless he prayed! Then why should we be silent? Because we are defiled at times with sin, or evil imaginations which are so often forced upon us by evil spirits, we may feel unfit for prayer. *"But if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse . . ."* Resist the devil and he will flee from you! Why should we flee?

Prayer being 'desire' may best be expressed in inarticulate sounds, such as a sigh, or the deep affection of the soul relieved in tears. In such a state the sincerest motives are usually expressed.

"When thou prayest before others, observe on what thou bestowest thy chief care and zeal, whether in the externals or internals of prayer, that which is exposed to the eye and ear of men, or that which should be prepared for the eye and ear of God . . . the pomp of thy words, or the power of thy faith; the agitation of thy

bodily spirits in the vehemency of thy voice, or the fervency of thy spirit in heart-breaking affections." "If our prayers had less of the tail-feathers of pride and more wing, they would be all the better."

A Christian should shut both the door of his closet (inner room) and the door of his lips so close, that none should hear without what he says within. "*Enter into thy closet, says Jesus, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray.*" But what need a man shut his door, if he may pray with a clamorous voice, if he make such a noise as all in the street or house may hear him? . . . Oh, it is a childish thing so to pray, cry, sigh and sob in our rooms, as to tell all the house where we are, and about what work we are. See Dan. 6:10 — this method was pre-Christ.

Prayer enlarges the vision. With Prayer and Faith mighty things can be accomplished. There are no difficulties with God! Look up Mark 16:17, 18 — here is all a missionary requires: healing for every disease and demon possession; the water evil: and even snakes have to be obedient to the Name of Jesus! It says, these signs shall follow — or accompany — them that believe, not only God's servants. Now, here then is a mighty power given into the hands of faith to all who will simply believe!

Therefore, whatsoever you need, ask in the Name of Jesus, and the Father will grant it. Though it tarry, wait for it (don't go before the Lord, in unbelief).

Once we have learned the secret of believing, orderly, prayer, there seems to be no limit as to what may be accomplished in the Name, and for the Sake, of Him who so loved us, as to give Himself for us. And who prayed, "*I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil . . . Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth . . . Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us.*" What a partnership!!



"... Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father."

John 6:65

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The First Resurrection.

By F.W.DOWSETT.

It would be fairly safe to say that all Christians accept the doctrine of the Resurrection of the dead. Admittedly, there are very strong differences of opinion as to the details of this doctrine. And unfortunately, probably because of all these different views that are taught, most Christians seem to shy away from any detailed study of the subject, preferring to leave it all in God's hands to work it all out in His own good time, and in His own way. One very popular approach seems to be, "As long as I'm ready for it, that's all that matters." In other words, 'please don't confuse me with the facts.'

This is not good enough. Let me say quite emphatically, that the resurrection of the dead and the accompanying translation of the living at the Second Return of the Lord Jesus Christ will be the greatest miracle that this world will have ever seen to this date. And you and I can, and I trust will, be part of it!! If that fact alone doesn't warrant an earnest and expectant examination of the subject, then there is something radically wrong with our Christian faith.

So let us have a brief look at what the Bible has to say on this subject we refer to as 'The First Resurrection.'

It will no doubt come as somewhat of a surprise to most Christians to find that the phrase 'The first resurrection' only appears twice in the entire Bible. We read in Revelations 20:4-6;

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them.
And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and

for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands, and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. THIS IS THE FIRST RESURRECTION.

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in THE FIRST RESURRECTION. On such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

From the above, one thing is absolutely certain. Those who take part in the FIRST RESURRECTION will be those who will rule and reign with Christ as Priests of God for the thousand years of His Kingdom reign. They constitute the RULERS or ELDERS of the Kingdom, not the citizens over whom they will rule.

One of the basic principles of Bible study is that there is nothing in the New Testament that does not have its foundations in the Old Testament. And this subject is no exception. Let us take a look at some of these foundations.

In I Cor.15:35-50, Paul gives us the most detailed description of the manner of the resurrection in the entire Bible. One of the important factors to note is that there are to be different levels of resurrection. Different people are to be raised to different levels of glory. As a matter of fact, there will be those who will receive bodies which will be capable of operating within the heavenly, or 'celestial,' sphere, whilst others will be restricted to the earthly, or 'terrestrial,' sphere. (see

verse 40). In verses 51 and 52 he then makes this statement:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at THE LAST TRUMP. For the TRUMPET shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

Two very important things are mentioned here. Firstly, the phrase 'in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye', is not a repetition regarding the speed of the incident. The Greek word translated as 'moment' is 'atomos' and refers, I suggest, not only to 'atomic speed', but to 'atomic structure.' Thus we are to be "changed in our atomic structure in the twinkling of an eye." This is exactly what happened to our Lord Jesus Christ when He passed through the solid walls to appear before His disciples as recorded in Luke 24:33-43, and John 20:19-20. And I John 3:2 tells us that "when He shall appear, we shall be like Him." Secondly, we are told that this event will happen at the last TRUMP, or TRUMPET. The word is in the singular. There is only ONE trumpet sounded. This is also stated in I Thess.4:16 where we are told that the Lord will descend with the TRUMP (singular) of God.

If you are wondering why I am emphasising the fact of the SINGLE trumpet, then turn with me to Numbers 10:1-4 where we read:

"And the Lord spake unto Moses saying, Make thee TWO trumpets of silver. Of a whole piece shalt thou make them. That thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly.....

And when they shall blow with them, all the assembly shall assemble themselves

to thee at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

And if they blow but with ONE trumpet, then the princes, WHICH ARE HEADS OF THE THOUSANDS OF ISRAEL, shall gather themselves unto thee."

In other words, the sounding of a SINGLE TRUMPET is the call to the LEADERS, or RULERS, of the Kingdom, not to the citizens as a whole.

It should be noted that in the third chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus was instructing Nicodemus as to the conditions of entry into the Kingdom, not as to the conditions of rulership over the Kingdom. To be a citizen of the Kingdom we must be born again, or more literally, born anew, or born from above. But entry into the Kingdom does not automatically give us the right of rulership OVER the Kingdom. This is something else again.

When we turn to Exodus 24:9-11 we read:

"Then went up Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the ELDERS of Israel.

And they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire-stone, and as it were the body of heaven in clearness.

And upon the nobles of the children of Israel He laid not His hand.

Also they saw God and did eat and drink!"

As according to our Lord Jesus Christ "no man hath seen the Father at any time," (John 1:18), it is apparent that the One with whom the Elders of Israel ate and drank was no other than our Lord Jesus Christ

Himself.

Then again, when we turn to Luke chapter 22 we read the account of the Last Supper which our Lord had with His disciples. In verse 30 we read this statement which Christ made to them:

"That ye may eat and drink at My table
in My Kingdom, and sit on thrones judg-
ing the twelve tribes of Israel."

These disciples were here clearly designated as RULERS or ELDERS in Christ's Kingdom. And these Elders at the Last Supper were again "eating and drinking with God," the same God with whom the earlier Elders of Israel ate and drank.

God's Word makes it quite clear that there is to be a third occasion when the Elders, or RULERS of the Kingdom, meet the same God and eat and drink with Him. In Revelations 19:9 we read:

"Blessed are they which are called unto
the marriage supper of the Lamb."

This is not a reference to the citizens, but to the RULERS of the Kingdom. These will be the Priests of God who will reign with Christ over His Kingdom for one thousand years prior to the final general resurrection and the Judgment Age.

Entry into, or citizenship of the Kingdom is absolutely essential for us all if we are to inherit eternal life. And the only way in is through Him who IS 'the way'. But rulership over the Kingdom; to be Priests of God, and ruling with Christ, is a far different and a far greater thing. This is what Paul was aiming for, and which he exhorts us to aim for, in his statement in Phil. 3:14:

"I press towards the mark for the prize
of the high calling of God in Christ
Jesus."

Entry into the Kingdom as a citizen is a matter of our own choice, and can only be attained by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as our own personal Saviour. This is guaranteed by God Himself, through the shed blood of Christ. Thus we are 'born again', and become 'babes in Christ' as the writer to the Hebrews tells us. But there is no reason, and in fact no excuse for Christians to remain as 'babes'. We are specifically commanded in Hebrews 6:1 not to stay on the 'milk of the Word', but "to go on to perfection." We are commanded to get on to "the strong meat" of the Word.

It is not enough for us to just run in the race. Anyone can do that. All you have to do is to put your head down and go. But it takes a special kind of person, one with dedication and conviction and determination to set his eyes on the prize at the end of the race and give everything he has in an effort to achieve that prize.

This is the type of Christian that God is looking for. He wants people whom He can put in charge of His Kingdom affairs. Look around you at your fellow Christians. If you owned a large world-wide business, how many of them would you be prepared to put in charge of its affairs? Not many, I'll wager. If they were to run your business like they ran their lives, even as a Christian, you'd be broke in no time. Do you really think that Christ is going to be any less careful and demanding in His choice? Not likely!

You can run to be in it, or you can run to win it. It's entirely your choice. Remember, the winners are to 'reign with Christ.'

THIS IS THE FIRST RESURRECTION!!

Watch Jerusalem!

ALBION S. GAUNT
Nottingham, England

The controversy concerning Jerusalem is the signal to watch. The Mount of Olives, in the midst of the greatest geological upheaval ever, will be the scene of our Lord's literal return. In order to evade the issue, some contrive to spiritualize the subject of our Lord's return, but an honest appraisal of these prophecies demands a literal interpretation. Our Lord's Own statements concerning His return for the purpose of establishing His Kingdom upon earth, leaves us no doubt about the literalness of His coming (Mt. 24: 27-31, Lk. 21: 25-28). This coming to set up His Kingdom is the whole outlook of the prophets (Isa. 2: 1-5).

When our Lord ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives, *"Two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, Who is gone up into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven"* (Acts 1:11). Such a statement defies any attempt to spiritualize its clear content. There is no answer to the present world situation and escalating collapse of human control apart from our Lord's literal return. Communism cannot possibly prevail. Indeed, it is doomed to be utterly destroyed as a political power by the brightness of His coming.

In the light of the perilous times in which we live, St. Peter poses the following question: *"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night . . . What manner of persons ought we to be in all holy living and godliness?"* (2 Pet. 3: 11). He further urges, *"Give diligence to make your calling and election sure, for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"* (2 Pet. 1: 10-11).

None can gainsay the fact that the present situation is exactly as the prophets said it would be. We know that the nation and its kindred peoples are faced with "the time of Jacob's trouble" and all that that involves, and they "shall be saved out of it", but what about you and me as individuals? Have we a personal relationship with the coming Christ, Saviour and coming Judge and King?

●

If God seems far away, guess who moved?

Studies In Hebrews.

By. F.W.DOWSETT.

STUDY No.1.

THE AUTHORSHIP AND GRAND DESIGN AND PURPOSE OF THE EPISTLE.

INTRODUCTION.

This is the first of six studies of the Epistle to the Hebrews which we hope to present in successive issues of THE COVENANT VISION. It is not our intention to present a full study of the entire Epistle as this would take many issues of the entire magazine. What we hope to achieve is a basis upon which you, the reader, can study the Epistle for yourself. It's all very well to have someone work everything out for us when it comes to understanding the Word of God, but nothing is so exhilarating and uplifting as studying The Word for ourselves. All that most people need is a 'helping hand' as it were.

We have divided the Epistle into six main subjects, which will form the basis of each succeeding study. These are by no means exhaustive, and there will be many things that more advanced readers and students of The Word will no doubt think of. These main subjects are:-

1. The Authorship and Grand Design and Purpose of the Epistle.
2. The six 'Foundation Doctrines' of our faith.
3. The High Priesthood of Christ.

4. The New Covenant.
5. Faith.
6. Looking Unto Jesus.

May you allow the Holy Spirit of God to lead you as you study, and may you be blessed accordingly.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." (II Tim. 2:15.).

WHO WROTE THE EPISTLE?

This is what is called an "anonymous" book, in that the author's name is not specifically stated. Other New Testament books in the same category are Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, The Acts, and I John.

Some authorities ascribe it to the apostle Paul. But when we look at the method of writing used in those days we find that the writer usually placed his name at the beginning of a letter, not at the end as is the present-day practice. Check all the Epistles by Paul, Peter, James, Jude, and The Revelation.

The Epistle to the Hebrews commences with the Name "GOD." It is my personal opinion and belief that the author of this epistle was GOD THE FATHER, as distinct from it being inspired by The Holy Spirit, and that He gave this account almost certainly to Paul to record, exactly in the same way that our Lord Jesus Christ gave His Revelation to John to write down.

TO WHOM WAS THE EPISTLE WRITTEN?

Again, this is not stated. The Title is 'man-made.' But a study of the epistle reveals that it has a very

strong and specific message and application to the descendants of Abraham. He was NOT an Israelite of course, that title commencing with his grandson Jacob, who was renamed Israel. Abraham was a Hebrew, and thus the epistle has been very accurately named.

WHAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THE EPISTLE?

The grand subject of the epistle is THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. Here we have the most exhaustive account of the person and ministry of our Lord in the entire Bible. And this account is given to us by THE FATHER, in a way that only a father can describe a son. Here, the FATHER authenticates His SON. We note the similarity of expression in Heb.1:2, "Hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son," with that in Rev.1:1, "The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto Him."

In Hebrews we are instructed how and why Christ has been given the authority to speak. In The Book of the Revelation, we find Christ exercising that authority, and speaking to us through His servant John.

I have listed below the various titles and aspects of our Lord Jesus Christ contained within the epistle. It should be noted that these are not just the ATTRIBUTES of our Lord, such as love, life, way, truth, etc.. As you study the epistle yourself, you may find more. The important thing is that you study each point, and find other passages of Scripture which bear out and describe in a fuller sense the various titles and aspects quoted. If you persevere with such a study, you will end up with a wonderful knowledge of our Lord, and will have truly 'grown in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,' as enjoined by Peter. (II Peter 3:18).

THE TITLES AND MINISTRIES OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

1. The last and final prophet. 1:1-2.

Here is our authority upon which we can base our assessment of any religious organisation. Nowhere are we given the authority to accept the word of any person since our Lord Jesus Christ, alleging to be a prophet of God. Jesus Christ Himself told us that the prophets were until John. (Luke 16:16). And since John, God tells us that in these last days He speaks to us through His Son. Jesus is the ONLY one that we now follow. He is the ONLY one who reveals to us the Father.

2. The Son of God. 1:2,5.

There are many Scriptures regarding the wonderful truth that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Read John 1:1-5, where Jesus is referred to under His title of The Word. Also read I John 2:18-23 where we are told that anyone who denies that Jesus has come in the flesh as the Son of God is anti-christ.

3. Heir of all things. 1:2.

Romans 8:17 tells us that we can be not only heirs of God, but joint heirs with Christ. Everything that belongs to the Father, He has placed into the hands of His Son, who in turn will share it all with us.

4. Creator of all things. 1:2,10; 2:10.

John 1:3; and Colosians 1:16 both tell us that it was Jesus who actually created everything.

5. The brightness of God's glory. 1:3.

Christ Himself confirmed this in His prayer to His Father, as recorded in John 17:5, when He asked to be glorified with the Glory which He had with Him before the world was.

6. The express image of God's person. 1:3.

Christ is not the 'reflection' of God. The word means 'something that corresponds exactly with the original.' Thus Christ could say that if we have seen Him, we have seen the Father. See also Col. 1:15.

7. The upholder of all things. 1:3.

Just as Christ created all things by the Word that He spoke, ("let there be light"), so He keeps everything going by the same Word. Note that the centurion requested Jesus to 'only speak the word.' When Jesus speaks, everything happens.

8. The purger of our sins. 1:3.

This means that Christ has cleansed us from our sins by a 'ceremonial purification.' The lamb still has to be slain for the remission of sins, but Christ, as the Lamb of God, became our everlasting sacrifice.

9. Seated at God's right hand. 1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12.

Thus He occupies the seat of power and authority as 'God's Right-hand Man.' He said Himself, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth."

10. Higher than the angels. 1:4,6.

What a distinction from what is said of our Lord in Heb. 2:9, where we are told that He was made a

little lower than the angels for the suffering of death. That is now our status. But praise God, we will one day be like Him, and we too will be higher than the angels. See I Cor. 6:3.

11. Everlasting King. 1:8.

He will not come again as a babe. When He returns next time, it will be as KING, and as we are told in Luke. 32-33, His Kingdom, and thus His Kingship, will last forever.

12. Anointed of God. 1:9.

This anointing is always symbolic of the bestowal of the Holy Spirit. We read a wonderful example of the 'anointing' of Christ in Isaiah 61:1-2 and Luke 4:18, in order that He might preach the gospel to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and open the prison to those who are bound.

13. Eternal. 1:11,12.

Just as our acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ brings us eternal life, so the Giver of that Life must also be eternal.

14. Unchanging. 1:12; 7:24; 13:8.

He is the same, yesterday, today and forever. We are also told in Mal. 3:6 that "I am the Lord, I change not. Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

15. Crowned with glory and honour. 2:9.

In Rev. 19:12 we read that "His (Christ's) eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns." All glory and honour will be centred on Him.

16. The captain of our salvation. 2:10.

This does not refer to Jesus just as our leader, but to the fact that He is the ORIGIN, or FOUNDER of our salvation.

17. Our Brother. 2:11,12,17.

Our 'brotherhood' with Christ is so complete that we are told in Rom. 8:17 that we will be 'joint heirs' with Him.

18. The destroyer of Satan. 2:14.

This promise was first made to Adam and Eve, as recorded in Gen 3:15, and the destruction of Satan and his works is one of the main subjects throughout the Bible. Finally, even death itself will be destroyed, as stated in I Cor. 15:26.

19. Our deliverer. 2:15.

He can, and will, deliver us from ALL trouble, whether it be spiritual or material. Zacharias, speaking under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, said in Luke 1:74 that He would deliver us out of the hands of our enemies.

20. The seed of Abraham. 2:16.

We note that Christ did not take upon Himself the seed of Adam, and thus of the Adamic race generally, but that He came of the seed of the specially chosen Abraham, and thus had a very special relationship with his seed, or descendants, who were called Hebrews, and particularly with the Israel people who came from the Hebrews. Read Deut.7:6; Amos 3:2; Psalm 147:18-19; Matt. 15:24.

21. Merciful & faithful High Priest. 2:17; 3:1,2,14;
7:3.

As our high priest, He pleads for us, not on legal terms, but in His boundless mercy.

22. Sinless. 4:15.

Being conceived of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was not 'born in sin' as we are. He was tempted in all things, yet remained without sin, and only thus could He qualify to be the Lamb of God, without spot or blemish.

23. Melchisedec. 5:6,10; 6:20;
7:1,10,11,etc.

As Melchisedec, He is not only OUR High Priest, but He is THE PRIEST OF THE MOST HIGH GOD. He not only reaches up to God on our behalf, but He reaches down to us on God's behalf.

24. Obedient. 5:8.

God has made it quite clear that the thing that He wants most of all from us is not rituals, and offerings, and the things that please us, but rather OBEDIENCE. We must be obedient to the Law of God in order to please God. Christ Himself set us the perfect example of this in everything that He did.

25. Author of eternal salvation. 5:9.

The blood of bulls and goats could only render temporary protection from destruction, as they had to be continually offered. But Christ was the 'originator' of everlasting protection and safety through the shedding of His own perfect blood on our behalf, which only had to be shed once.

26. Eternal Intercessor. 7.25.

Because of His perfect sacrifice, He has now become our intercessor, the ONLY mediator between God and man. And because His sacrifice is eternal, then His position as our intercessor is also eternal.

27. Holy. 7:26.

We are commanded to be 'holy', or consecrated and separated, even as He is 'holy.'

28. Harmless. 7:26.

This word means 'to be devoid of evil.' There was not a single evil thought or action in our Lord.

29. undefiled. 7:26.

Because He was devoid of evil, He was completely unsoiled, and without stain of any kind.

30. Separate from sinners. 7.26.

This does not mean that He separated Himself from the presence of sinners, but that He did not allow Himself to become influenced and contaminated by them.

31. Higher than the heavens. 7.26.

Because of His faithfulness, He is now exalted to the highest position, even to the Throne of God Himself, where He now sits at the Father's right hand.

32. The only and everlasting offering. 7:27; 9:12,26.

There is now no more offering for sin. Christ became 'The Lamb of God', and thus completely, continually, and eternally fulfills the role of the sin offering.

33. Consecrated, or perfect. 7:28.

This means that Christ has now made everything complete in the sense that nothing more is needed in order to make everything perfect.

34. The minister of the sanctuary (or holy things). 8:2.

The word 'minister' as used here does not only refer to one who serves, but more especially to one who 'worships.' Thus our Lord not only serves in the things that are holy, but He Himself worships, or stands in reverence of, these things.

35. The mediator of the New Covenant. 8:6; 12:24.

Our Lord Jesus Christ now mediates on our behalf on the basis of God's Unconditional Covenant, rather than on the terms of the Old Covenant which was based on the degree of our own obedience.

36. The author & finisher of our faith. 12:2.

Christ not only originated our faith, but He is the One who brings us through to the final goal so that we can win and receive the prize.

37. The great shepherd of the sheep. 13:20.

He is not just a shepherd, but He is the greatest of all shepherds. And note, a shepherd does not go behind the sheep and drive them. He goes in front of His sheep to lead them. With the confidence of knowing Who our GREAT SHEPHERD really is, we can follow Him without fear or worry of any kind.

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
(John 14:27).

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, **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.

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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TOUCH NOT!

"Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm" (1 Chr. 16:22).

I would rather play with the forked lightning, or take in my hand live wires, with their fiery current, than speak a reckless word against any servant of Christ, or idly repeat slanderous darts which thousands of Christians are hurling on others—to the hurt of their own souls and bodies.

You may often wonder, perhaps; why your sickness is not healed, your spirit filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, or your life blessed and prosperous.

It may be that some dart which you have flung with angry voice, or in an idle hour of thoughtless gossip, is pursuing you on its way as it describes the circle which always brings back to the source from which it came—every idle and evil word.

Let us remember that when we persecute or hurt the children of God, we are but persecuting Him, and hurting ourselves far more (Matt. 25:31-46; Acts 9:1-5).

Lord, make me as sensitive to the feelings and rights of others as I have often been to my own, and let me live and love like Thee!

A. B. Simpson.

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