

THE COVENANT VISION

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

Denominational doctrines and differences are not our concern, and it is not our intention to enter into such arguments.

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

"But of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

For yourselves know perfectly that the Day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape.

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day. We are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Therefore, let us not sleep, as others do. But let us watch and be sober.

For they that sleep sleep in the night. And they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."

(I Thess. 5:1-9).

As we enter the last half of this fateful year of 1988, I feel that it is vital that we pause to consider the reality of the Hope that lies before us. I write now, not to the nominal Christians who are interested in little more than attending church and 'doing the right thing', or restricting their beliefs and efforts to trying to convert the world before Christ comes back. I write to those who "have eyes to see, and ears to hear". To those who recognise not only the evil that is in our midst, but who also recognise that the end of these

things is now right upon us. To those who recognise that the only Hope of the world, even our Lord Jesus Christ, is literally about to re-enter this world scene in order to destroy His enemies and their Satanic machinations.

Sincere students and teachers of God's Word have for years been warning of what they termed 'the near return of our Lord'. But the Lord has still tarried. With some, this seeming delay has had the effect of causing them to become either disinterested on the one hand, or over-cautious on the other, in respect to their present approach to this all-important subject. Which is a great pity, because the Word of God is very clear in its admonition that we should be ever alert for this great day. Do we really believe that we could look at God face to face and use the excuse that we adopted these attitudes because someone else was over-zealous, and we didn't want to get involved in case they were wrong? I'm not suggesting for one moment that we blindly accept every idea or suggestion that is made these days, especially in regard to the timing of the return of our Lord, but I certainly DO suggest that the fact that the Lord still tarries should in no way detract from our fervor and active anticipation. The return of our Lord cannot ever become "the hope of our calling" if we never exercise that hope.

There is an urgent need today for those who really seek and wait upon the Lord to realise and accept the almost unbelievable fact that we are no longer speaking of Christ's return in terms of years. We are talking about NOW. Those who wish to be numbered among the foolish virgins and remain unprepared and unexpectant, can do so to their own disadvantage.

How many of you find yourself regularly looking up to the skies to see if you can detect some sign? How many of you listen expectantly to the news reports each day for news of some particularly important event which fulfills prophecy for these end days? In other words, how many of you really live now on a day-by-day basis of expectancy for this great event?

We may be wrong, you say. It may not be going to happen as soon as we think. So what? So we may have to wait a little longer. What's wrong with that? Think of how much closer we will have been drawn to the Lord by our rising state of expectancy. Our feeling of anticipation should become so real that we can almost feel His presence already with us.

But if we are of those who accept the 'peace and safety' attitude, then we are in the wrong camp. Is it just coincidence that last December President Reagan announced that his meeting with the Russian leaders would lead to 'peace and safety', (his actual words); and just as our above reading says that at that time sudden destruction would come upon "them", (that is, those in darkness), as travail upon a woman with child, that 280 days later, the number of days of human gestation, brings us exactly to September 12, the day of the Feast of Trumpets? ?

If we are "children of the light", then for goodness sake, let us start getting lit up. Let our whole manner of life be one of such burning anticipation for the return of our Lord that others who come in contact with us will catch the urgency of our convictions. Let us be fully committed Christians. Only then will we be contagious Christians. Let us start now, if we have not already done so, to live in the complete expectation that this Great Day has at last arrived. That "the times for the restoration of all things as spoken by the prophets" has at last arrived.

But what is of the utmost personal importance is that we aim for the prize of the High Calling in Jesus Christ, that we may be found worthy to take our place in the First Resurrection which is about to take place, and be found worthy to attend that glorious Marriage Supper of the Lamb where we will meet and personally speak with our beloved Saviour, even the Lord Jesus Christ, the coming King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. May we meet together around that table.



The Seven Festivals of Israel

A Divine Pattern of Her Redemption

Rev. J. A. B. HAGGART (U.S.A.)

courtesy WAKE UP!

Gathered together with His Apostles on the Mount of Olives Jesus was asked, "What shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world (age)?" Over 1950 years have passed since Jesus was asked that question, and He has not come as yet. So we may join a large crowd of speculators who have scrutinised Matthew 24 and Luke 21 to consider the answers that Jesus gave to these questions put to Him by His followers on the Mount of Olives. First He describes the fall of Jerusalem, which was then 40 years in the future. He then numbered all of the events that will transpire before His return on earth. Bible students agree that most of the "signs" of His coming have been fulfilled. By Jesus' own warning we today know that we approach the climax of the Age and we of this generation should be preparing for His appearing.

But before the words of the prophets of Israel and before the sayings of Jesus that are recorded, regarding the Divine plan for Israel's redemption and the beginning of God's Kingdom on earth, the pattern of the future was deftly hidden within the calendar of the Festivals of Israel. God gave the special feast days to His chosen people at Mount Sinai for a purpose. In each year there were seven feasts to be observed, each one to remind them of the order of events for the future years of their development as a nation.

These feasts were scattered throughout the months of the calendar year, starting with three groups in the Spring, followed by one feast to cover the long months of the Summer, with the third group concluding in the Autumn. (Northern Hemisphere). The three feasts

held in the Spring were "Passover," "Unleavened Bread," and then "Firstfruits." The one central feast is the "Feast of Weeks," which is extended over the Summer months. The final set consists of the feasts of "Trumpets", "Atonement", and then "Tabernacles". These National Feast Days should be familiar to us today, because nowhere in God's Word are we told to discontinue them. But most Christians are unaware of the significance of these seven feasts and their meaning to the national life of Celto-Saxon Israel.

The children of Israel should study them carefully, because they outline the order of events from the time of Jesus' birth to the present day.

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives, disappearing behind a cloud. His followers stood gazing up into the sky. Two angels appeared and asked them, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11). It is significant that the followers of Jesus should see the ascension of Jesus on the exact spot where He had described to them His return to earth. The angels told them that He would return to earth just as they had seen Him go into heaven. According to scripture He will not return alone, but the armies of the elect "which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean" will accompany Him. There is no doubt that those who stood watching Jesus ascend into heaven will be a part of the army of the saints who will return with Him to help set up His Kingdom on earth.

The prophet Zechariah confirmed this when he predicted that "then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle. And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall

be a great valley. And half of the mountain shall remove toward the north and half of it toward the south." (Zech. 14:3-4). From reading other passages in the Bible we know that His return will be accompanied by great earthquakes and cataclysms and a greater atomic power than man is able to use. The day of this majestic, powerful descent to the earth will be different to His quiet ascent into heaven! His return will shake the foundations of the earth's political systems.

When Jesus returned to heaven, sitting again on the right-hand side of the Father, He made good His promise to His followers. He sent the Holy Spirit to them. On the 50th day after His resurrection He sent the wind and the fire, creating such a spectacle that the men in Jerusalem could scarce forget. This was the beginning of the Feast of Weeks, which manifested in the founding of the Christian church and which has been sustained to this day. Without the infilling of the Holy Spirit the Church could not have survived and continued to thrive. The Spirit entered into the lives of the early believers and they were enabled to do the same things that Jesus had done.

The words of Jesus recorded by John, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to My Father" have all been backed up by the Holy Spirit which He has sent. Every believer has been endowed with the Spirit and the Power of Jesus Christ, used for the increase and the building up of the Church. For each Christian, the body has become the holy temple of God, through which God can work to increase His church. "Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do . . ." are words that have inspired many a person to glorious deeds to the strengthening and growth of the Church throughout the period exemplified by the Festival of Weeks. This period lies in the middle of the other two groups of three Festivals, and to this day has lasted over 1950 years. But this period is drawing to a close as we approach the Day of the Lord and His appearing.

This time is described by the prophet Isaiah who addresses these words to the children of Israel, "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord shall rise upon you. Behold, darkness will cover the earth, and thick darkness the nations. But the Lord shall shine upon you, and His glory shall be seen upon you." (Isaiah 60:1-2). We are now living in the days of 'thick darkness' as prophesied by Isaiah, 'darkness over all the nations'. But the light of Christ, at His appearing, will usher in a New Era. As written in I John 3:3, "When He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him, purifieth himself, even as He is pure."

As we pass the 70th Jubilee of Israel's entry into the promised land of Canaan we should look for the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ in the skies, for the time when the "reaping from the cloud" which will take place. (Revelation 14:15-16). There will be a meeting in the air with those who have been resurrected from among the dead. Together they will ascend to meet the Lord in the air, midway in His descent to the earth. Their change "in the twinkling of an eye" will signal the beginning of their entry into the New Age.

According to this prognostication, what will be the order of events leading to this auspicious occasion? We might find some answers to this question when we turn to the cosmic pattern set up in the final series of three Festivals instituted for Israel's observance. At each of the three major Feasts, every male Israelite was expected to present himself to the Lord. The observance of these Feast Days is clearly stated in Leviticus 23:21, "It shall be a statute forever, in all your dwellings, throughout your generations." In much the same way it is required that every true Israelite be prepared to present himself at this 70th cycle of Jubilees.

But all observations of the Jubilees enjoyed by these people in the past will not compare with the jubilation that will be experienced by this special consummation of Jubilees. For it means that all worthy Israelites

from the time of Abraham to this generation will be raised from the dead, to rise and meet with the Lord at His great wedding banquet. Then, according to scripture, the living who are prepared, shall be raised up to meet the Lord with them in the air. Assuming that the wedding banquet, or Feast of the Groom, held previous to the marriage of the Lamb to His Bride, will begin at the Autumnal equinox, in a year not far hence, (this was written in 1985), we should at least be aware of the possibilities and prepare ourselves for it. In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, five of them were prepared for the Groom when He came, but five were not. By their own negligence they were shut out of the banquet room and did not enjoy the celebration.

This assembly in the skies will surpass any other event in the earth's history. For it means that those who participate will automatically assume their spiritual bodies in which they shall live to serve in the future Kingdom of God. This is a prize beyond all human speculation or earthly understanding. This was the prize set before Paul, for which he gave every ounce of energy and determination. So is it the prize for all overcomers of whatever generation. For many, this will be the climax of the Age.

WE MUST BE READY FOR IT!



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THE 8 MIRACLES of JESUS.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

MIRACLE NUMBER THREE.

THE IMPOTENT MAN.

The account of this third miracle is found in John 5:1-17, and reads as follows:

"After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water. Whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, He saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

The impotent man answered Him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool. But while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

Jesus said unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked. And on the same day was the Sabbath.

The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, *It is the Sabbath day. It is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.*

He answered them, *He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed and walk.*

Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed and walk?

And he that was healed wist not who it was. For Jesus had conveyed Himself away, a multitude being in that place.

Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon thee.

The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus which had made him whole.

And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath day.

But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work."

As with the first two miracles, we will commence our study of this third miracle by analyzing the actual facts and circumstances of what happened. Only then will we be in a position to understand the SIGN for which it is intended.

Following His second miracle at Galilee, our Lord returned to Jerusalem, and He went to a pool called Bethesda. Now this was no casual visit. Jesus knew exactly what He was doing. He always did things for a specific purpose. At this place He was about to show us a most remarkable truth. In fact, what He did was an outstanding rehearsal of the past, present, and future condition of His Kingdom people Israel.

Both this and the sixth miracle with which this third one is paired, as pointed out in our previous study, are the only two miracles which mention "sin", and were both associated with a "pool". We will deal with this later. But it is the name "Bethesda" itself which draws

our attention. It literally means "The House of Mercy". And how appropriate that name is. It was surrounded by five porches. Now in Bible numerics, the number FIVE always indicates God's GRACE. Again, how appropriate. The "House of Mercy" is surrounded by "God's Grace".

Within this 'House of Mercy and Grace' lay what the Bible describes as "a great multitude" of people. Not just normal people, but people with severe complaints and illnesses. Jesus did not choose to perform this miracle among the rich and well. In fact it would have been impossible for Him to have done so. Some might immediately react to this statement by saying that 'all things are possible with God', and this is quite right. But Christ's intent was not just the performing of the miracle, which He obviously could have performed anywhere and at any time. The point of the miracle was not the miracle itself, but the SIGN which the miracle represented. And that could only be accomplished at the pool of Bethesda with the conditions which existed there. Now what was the specific condition of the people there? There are four listed. Some were impotent, or weak and feeble and without strength, some were blind, some were halt, or lame, and some were withered, or dried up. Not at all a happy picture. But the sad truth is that that was the condition of God's people then, and what is sadder still, it is still the condition of God's people today!

This whole scenario opens up before us the wonderful truth that our Lord Jesus Christ deliberately, as an act of grace, stepped into the circumstances and sufferings of His people. The first miracle represented Him as the Saviour and Redeemer. The second miracle represented Him as the Giver of Life. This third miracle represents Him as the Healer. The sicknesses which He came to heal were the result of sin, and as we have already noted, this and the sixth miracle concerning the healing of the man born blind are the only two of these eight miracles which mention sin. But why the pool, which is also only mentioned in these two miracles? Why should 'sin' be associated with a 'pool'? In the early

days of Israel, before the High Priest could enter the Holy Place to offer the sacrifice for sin, he had to wash himself in what was called the 'sea' or 'laver'. This was in fact a small pool. You see, unlike so many people today, Jesus didn't just make things up as He went along. He didn't compromise the basic principles of His will and purposes by adapting Himself to the circumstances of the particular place or time. That's what people do. But Christ just doesn't work that way. He finds the correct circumstances, and uses them to reveal His unalterable truth. Teachers of God's Word today should learn the lesson. Nothing, and I mean absolutely NOTHING, can ever be given more importance in the service of God and the teaching of His Word than TRUTH.

So we see the importance of the pool in the context of this miracle. The sickness was a result of sin, and the sin had to be washed away.

But what was the significance of the specific illnesses mentioned? Let us look at them. The first group were impotent, or weak and feeble and without strength. In describing God's people Israel, Isaiah 35:3-4 tells us:-

"Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence. He will come and save you."

As a nation today, we are indeed weak and feeble. We are indeed without strength. To those with 'eyes to see, and ears to hear', our position is indeed very serious, even unto death. O that those who are charged with teaching God's Word would rise up and proclaim to the people that our time of weakness is about to end. That God, OUR God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, is about to return with vengeance to save us. If that's not 'Good News', then I'm afraid that I don't understand the meaning of the phrase.

Others were blind. They were unable to see. And this is not confined just to physical sight. It applies more seriously to our understanding. To be physically unsighted would be bad enough, but it is a terrible thing not to see with the understanding. Let us read what God's Word says in this regard:-

"And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not. I will lead them in paths that they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye are our gods.

Hear ye deaf, and look ye blind, that ye may see.

Who is blind but My servant? Or deaf, as My messenger that I sent? Who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the Lord's servant?

Seeing many things, but thou observest (or understandeth) not; opening the ears, but he heareth not.

The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness sake. He will magnify the Law, and make it honourable.

But this is a people robbed and spoiled. They are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses. They are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore." (Isa. 42:16-22).

Does all this sound familiar? Is this not exactly what is happening to us today? Aren't we, as God's people, robbed and spoiled? Aren't we in the prison houses of debt and disease and authoritarian control? Are we really in a position much different to our fore-fathers in Egypt? I think not. Yet the Lord, OUR Lord, has promised us deliverance.

*"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped."*
(Isa. 35:5).

And what about those that were lame? Again we turn to God's Word. In Genesis chapter 32:24-32 we read the account of where Jacob wrestled with the Angel of God, after which God changed his name from Jacob to Israel. Within this account we read the following in verses 24 and 25:-

*"And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.
And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh, and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him."*

Thus, lameness became a feature or characteristic of the people of Israel from that day onward. They were always stumbling. We still do. But what does the Lord promise? In Micah 4:6-7 we read:-

"In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, (or is lame), and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted.

And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation. And the Lord shall reign over them in Mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever."

This is wonderfully confirmed in Zephaniah 3:19:-

"Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee. And I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out. And I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame."

Finally, there were those who were withered, or dried up. Isaiah 5:13 tells us:-

"Therefore My people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge. And their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst."

And as we read in Ezekiel 37:11:-

"Then He said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. Behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost. We are cut off for our parts."

Could the Lord have painted a more perfect picture of the condition of His people? Could He have illustrated this condition more drastically and more perfectly than by stepping among the people gathered round the pool at Bethesda? Indeed, is there anyone else who could take His place among those people? Is there anyone else who can remedy and reverse those conditions? Is there anyone else who can save His people? NO! There is nobody else. The Lord Jesus Christ is the ONLY answer to our present ills. He alone can save us. Praise His name that His Word tells us that the day will come when we will entreat Him to do just that. And what is more wonderful, He has promises that when we do, He will hear and answer us, and save us from the hands of our enemies, and from the hands of all those who would destroy us. May that day come quickly!

Now the forgoing has only been the background or backdrop to the real event. In the midst of this 'great multitude' of people, Jesus picked out one particular man. Again, He knew exactly what He was doing. There was something about the circumstances of that particular man which was absolutely crucial to what He was illustrating. And it was this. This man, we are told in verse five, had suffered from his infirmity or weakness for a period of 38 years. I have never believed in the word 'coincidence' in relation to the Word of God, and I'm not about to start now. If we turn to Deuteronomy 2:14-15 we read this statement:-

"And the space in which we (Israel) came from Kadesh-barnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years, until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the Lord sware unto them.

For indeed the hand of the Lord was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed."

Thus we realise that the 40 years of Israel's wanderings were comprised of an initial period of two years, followed by the actual time of their journey of 38 years. It was this impotent man at the pool of Bethesda who typified this period in Israel's history.

This is why our Lord Jesus Christ deliberately and directly approached this particular man. And He did so knowing two specific details. Firstly, He knew of this man's inability to be healed for this specific period of time. And secondly, He knew it was the Sabbath.

The Lord came straight to the point. He asked the man, "Do you want to be made whole?" Now it is interesting to note that it is not recorded that the man said "yes" to Jesus. All that we are told is that he complained of his own inability to fulfil the required conditions whereby he thought he could be healed. This made no difference to our Lord. He had come to this place to perform this sign, and His Sovereign Will was not dependant on this sick man, any more than it depends on any of us. This whole episode was being used of God to show forth His glory, and to give proof of His statement in Ezekiel 36:22:-

"Therefore say unto the House of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God.

I do not this for your sakes, O House of Israel, but for My holy Name's sake."

So without any act or profession of faith or belief on the part of the man in question, Jesus spoke the Word! He just said:-

"Rise, take up thy bed, and walk!"

Immediately, the man was made whole. If we could only understand the full import of this. This is not just the record of a miracle. It is the demonstration of a promise. Here was the proof not only to the individual, but on a far grander scale to the whole nation, of God's great promise as set down in Exodus 15:26:-

"FOR I AM THE LORD THAT HEALETH THEE!"

And why did Christ do this on the Sabbath? Because He wanted to further demonstrate the fact that the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. The Sabbath represents God's rest for His people, and He fitly demonstrated that a part of that rest was to be their healing and restoration.

But what was all this a SIGN of. We need to know, because that is why Jesus performed the miracle in the first place. How was it that this incident 'manifest His glory'?

The answer is given in verse 4 with which we have not yet dealt. It reads:-

"For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water. Whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had."

Some translations of the Bible delete this passage as being spurious. Others retain it, but place it in brackets so as to keep the record whilst at the same time acknowledging the uncertainty of its origin. I'm glad, personally, that they did this. Without this passage we lose the main import of Christ's message. There is

no doubt that the action of an angel coming down and stirring the waters and the subsequent healing result to the one who won the lottery is not of God. It is not supposed to be. But whether it was right or wrong makes no difference to the fact that this is what the people believed.

The teaching or belief was fallacious, but the recording of it revealed the contrast between the false 'Bethesda doctrine', and the true teachings and doctrine of Christ. The 'Bethesda Doctrine' was a SUBSTITUTE for 'The Truth of God'. It influenced and controlled the actions of the people, and stood in the way of their knowledge and acceptance of the TRUTH. It substituted man-made doctrines and philosophies and traditions for God's True Way of Life. In fact, it eliminated the necessity of the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on our behalf. It taught deliverance by works, not by faith.

And what was the great truth of which the 'Bethesda doctrine' was a substitute? It was simply this.

That healing in all its aspects, whether individual or national, whether physical or spiritual, comes only from and through our Lord Jesus Christ. He alone is the Lord that heals us! We read in Exodus 15:26:-

"If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and will give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians.

For I am the Lord that healeth thee!"

Today, both as individuals and as a nation, we wallow in the 'Bethesda pools', not realising that we should be under the porches, covered by God's grace.

The day is fast approaching; in fact it is right upon us; when this same Lord will again enter in among

His people as they lie in their 'Bethesda pools', and with all the authority at His command, will take them by the hand and say,

"RISE AND WALK!"

"They shall not hunger nor thirst, neither shall the heat nor the sun smite them. For He that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall He guide them. And I will make all My mountains a way, and My highways shall be exalted. . . .

Sing, O heavens, and be joyful, O earth, and break forth into singing, O mountains. For the Lord hath comforted His people, and will have mercy upon His afflicted. (Isa. 49:10-13).

"For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid My face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.

For this is as the waters of Noah unto Me. For as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee.

For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee". (Isa. 54:7-10).

"Human expertise is not always to be trusted. The EXPERTS in their wisdom chose the best man for one job - he was Captain of the Titanic."

J. Kesner Kahn. Chicago.

COVENANT WATCH!

We are pleased to be able to offer to our readers this new service. It is published each month, and is sent by PRIVATE SUBSCRIPTION ONLY, of \$12 per year, posted in Australia, or \$20 per year airmail overseas.

We will be happy to send ONE sample copy on request, but further copies will depend on receipt of the subscription application.

Material contained therein is mostly photo-copied from local and overseas journals to which we subscribe, and is intended for those of our readers who seek extra information about the various issues, political, economic, and religious, which are happening throughout the world, and which are having such an impact on our lives and the overall welfare of our nation.

Some of the material may be contentious, and not everyone will agree with all that is stated. But we present it because of the basic information contained therein, and because we consider that the time for compromise and 'middle-of-the-road' policies and approaches to the evils within our community is over.

The Bible teaches us that "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Our aim, in these very last days of this age, is to try to awaken our people to the vision, not only of the enemy and their machinations, but of the only true remedy as revealed in our Lord Jesus Christ and His soon return to this earth, when He will take the government upon His shoulders, destroy all evil practices, evil forces, and evil men, and rule in righteousness and justice for evermore.

Don't put it off. Post the enclosed coupon today.

“Is There Not A Cause?”

Defending The Honour Of God

PASTOR F. W. C. NESER (South Africa)

Courtesy Christian Identity Newsletter.

There are not many interpretations of Scriptural prophecy, but only one, that is, one infallible interpretation that can never go wrong, and which, for that reason, will honour God and bring glory to His Name and to His Word. The only interpretation worth holding is a Scriptural interpretation concerning which the Apostle Peter declared, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation". We are not therefore permitted to interpret the Bible apart from the Bible and its Israel context. This article, which was condensed from a sermon by Pastor Neser, is commended for its completely Scriptural orientation.

The battle between the Philistines and Israel, and particularly between David and Goliath, as recorded in I Samuel 17, is one of the best known historical accounts in the Bible. Yet amazingly, its true significance is hardly recognised. This is because the Bible and its Israel treatise is seldom understood, or else dismissed from any consideration.

As David listened to the words of Goliath the Philistine, his anger was provoked. The Spirit of God was stirred up within him because this Philistine was actually mocking God and comparing the God of Israel with his gods.

The "Giants" of Human Activity.

We who believe in the Living God, know from Scripture that there are evil powers which have inspired the enemies of Israel throughout the Ages. There are

satanically inspired 'giants' in the three spheres of human activity - in politics, in economics, and in religion. And these agents of evil are still manipulating affairs and events in order to defeat the Israel nations in the world today. In Romans 15:4 we read:

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

So this event in Israel's history of the battle between God's nation and the Philistines - and especially the bragging, swaggering attitude of Goliath in challenging and defying not only Israel but the God of Israel and His Holy Army - was indeed written for our learning. What then can we learn.

We are informed in I Corinthians 10:11 that the things that happened to Israel of old were to be evidenced as examples or types *"for our admonition, upon whom the end of the world (age) is come."*

Most certainly we are the people today upon whom the end of the Age is come. We need this message desperately, for if we have the situation now in which circumstances are almost too much for us, what is the prospect to be for our children? Is there a solution? Yes! We surely can have hope. It is a message of a covenant keeping God and the honouring of His oath, even in the death and resurrection of His Son to redeem Israel and restore her "as at the first". (Jeremiah 33:7).

Israel's History Book.

The Bible is the most important history book for our Israel peoples of the Western World, for it is their history in a continuous flow. If we think of history, we think of a continuous flow of events through the centuries. History is not chopped up into separate small portions. And God's Word, the history of His nation, is the same.

. In the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares, the enemy came at the beginning, from the time of Adam, and sowed the tares among His people Israel. Jesus also spoke of the harvest time. But in general, people never connect the fact that in the continuous flow of history, those who are involved at the sowing (the ancestors of ancient Israel), are part and parcel of the harvest.

In the days of David, one of the last remnants of the Rephaim, (the ancient giants), was to be in Goliath. He not only manifested his origin in the size of his body, but in his defiance of God and in his hatred of Israel, God's servant people. That hatred is still with us today.

God Was Being Mocked.

Israel's position had become desparate, especially in the light of her high and holy calling. But, more desparately still, Israel was in a backslidden and fallen state. They feared only for their bodies and for the wholeness of their skins. It did not matter to them that the Name of God was being blasphemed; that God was being mocked.

It was left to little David, a boy with a tender heart who walked close to God, to take up the challenge.

In his declaration of defiance to the armies of Israel, the voice of Goliath must have been deep and terrible. But David spoke out saying:

"What shall be done . . . who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the Living God?"

This, we must understand, is OUR history, the history of the Celto-Saxon people of today, a people who know not from whence they came nor where they are going. It is a grief to the heart that, as a people, we do not know who our fathers were.

Israel is a chosen people unto the Lord - God's chosen people - and David reminded his brethren that Goliath was not defying them, but the Living God.

We Care Only For Ourselves.

Today we are interested only in the wholeness of our own skin and in how we are going to survive. How many of our people today think of the honour of the Living God? We think only how we can protect and preserve ourselves and better our situation. And most people will work night and day to achieve that objective.

But where is the family altar? Where is the worship of God? Where is the inner closet for that close communion with God? They are hardly to be found and seldom to be seen. No wonder these "tares" are rampant today! There is no one to challenge them. Have we any Davids today who have their spirits so stirred up within them that they have a holy wrath, not for their own safety, but for the Lord's Honour and Glory? When, as a people of God, a holy wrath comes up in us again, then will the Spirit of God come back to us and His power will be manifested in us once more.

David said to King Saul: *"Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the Living God."* If we read this in the Spirit, we shall see that the Spirit of God was upon David. There was a holy wrath in David's heart because the Name of the Lord was being blasphemed and not one of those thousands of Israelites, Saul the King included, even gave that a thought. They were just thinking of their own safety. And that is our problem today.

David was already on his way to attack Goliath, and all were watching from both sides. As David began to swing his sling, it was not poor David, but poor Goliath. David returned the verbal defiance of Goliath with these words:

"Thou comest to me with a sword and with a spear and with a shield. But I come to thee in the Name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel whom thou hast defied."

We Are Being Challenged.

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah was there at David's side. Goliath did not stand a chance. All this is for the learning of Israel today. We are being challenged. The God of Israel is being challenged. May God grant that we shall soon begin to see this challenge for what it is. Compared with the multitudes, we may only be a Gideon's Band, but let the Spirit of the Lord come upon a few of us Israelites, again and see what we can do for God. Let us, in the final hour of this Age, destroy the "Goliaths" of our day, and for His Name.

It might perhaps seem as if our case is hopeless, and that the enemy is about to stream all over us (in the form of 'Big Brother' with surveillance and licensing, registration and other totalitarian controls). But the history of David will be repeated. God just waits for that holy wrath to come upon the hearts of His chosen servants.

The message of this article is that history is indivisible. It started in the Garden of Eden, and it will end in Revelation and a restored earth with the King of Kings upon the Davidic Throne. It is the same enemy then and now. It is the same battle, and God has ordained that in the consummation now come upon us, our Lord is going to govern this world through Israel. Romans 13:4 confirms:

"For the promise, that he should be heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith."

Abraham and his posterity are destined and ordained to be the heirs of the world. The Goliaths and

their family, no longer in physical stature but giants in iniquity, are defying the armies of the Living God, the peace-loving nations of Celto-Saxondom.

There is no complete destruction awaiting the Israel nations, only an awakening. And what a glorious battle it will be! The Davidic battle will be won, for the Davidic promise of Luke 1:32-33 is sure.

Who of us has ever been able to measure our potential? What can any of us not do when the Holy Spirit of God begins to stir in our hearts as we see the Name of the Lord being trampled underfoot in the world? It is time for us to get our priorities in the right order, and priority number one is the honour of our God, the Creator of Israel. Anything that touches that honour and glory should touch an holy wrath within our hearts.

Proverbs 29:18 declares that *"Where there is no vision, the people (of Israel) perish."* We are perishing today because we do not have vision. We do not know our God. We do not see that the Bible is ONE book telling ONE story. There is no holy anger and no holy pride. We fail to realise that a conflict is being fought out here upon the earth for possession of a literal kingdom. A high price was paid by Christ on the stake for the redemption of this, His Kingdom upon earth, and we shall live a full life as a nation again only when we have come to the fulness of the promise of Almighty God for Israel.

We Need A Holy Wrath.

We must be concerned about the honour of God and the helplessness of the Church in the face of the defiance of the 'giants' of unbelief and worldliness. Instead of saying, "I know where I'm going; let the world go where it deserves," we should have again a holy concern and a holy wrath about our impoverished and enfeebled state, so that the wrath of God can come in our hearts and the Spirit can take it up and use it for Israel's sake.

Then, in the river and in the brook of a Holy Spirit encounter, we shall again pick up the five smooth stones that David picked up. We can define them as the offices of the Living Christ; the Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Teacher, and Evangelist. Where is the preaching today from these that will move the nation? That kind of spoken word must come again and we must believe God will give them back to us. We are a sinful people and a wayward people. God must give us one of those stones with which we will hit the Goliath of deadness and selfrighteousness in the head. We need the power of the Apostles to put the fear of God and of His judgment into those who defy His Israel Nations and their covenanted peoples.

The story of David's defeat of Goliath is so good to tell the children, but what is the meaning and the real significance for our learning as mature Israelites? Goliath was specially planted to overcome Israel and pollute the Holy Wheat of God's Plan and Purpose. He was the uncircumcised, an alien of mind and alien false gods.

There Is A Cause.

Where, today, is the teaching of the covenants and of the Identity to bring forth a Godly pride in our nation's history? How many even know today that God even MADE a covenant? Where is the honour of God? The feeling of pressure today upon Israel is such that many say they have ceased to speak of the Identity to others for they are trampled on. Where is the honour of God in this? There is no Holy Ghost wrath.

After the Lancaster House peace pact of 21st. December 1979, a black minister in the Zimbabwe Parliament stated that their (alien) gods were stronger than OUR God and that is why they had gained the victory in the guerilla war in Rhodesia. This defiance of God's honour hardly caused a ripple in South Africa or elsewhere among the Israel nations.

Where has been the message and authority of the Church today while all this has gone on? The answer is, Nowhere. "As long as I get to heaven, that is all I'm concerned about" is the theme today.

IS THERE A CAUSE? Indeed there is! And God is depending on the 'little flock' to defend His honour, the 'little flock' whom He told to fear not, for it will be His good pleasure to give unto them the Kingdom! (Luke 12:32).



A SPECIAL WORD TO OUR READERS & SUPPORTERS.

Since the publication of our last issue of THE COVENANT VISION, Betty and I have been away for a few weeks *holiday*, the first we have been able to take for just over two years. So this, together with the time taken to prepare and publish the first issue of COVENANT WATCH, together with this issue of THE COVENANT VISION, has really taken most of our time. During this period however, the amount of letters we have received has been greater than we have ever had for a similar period. It has always been our policy to personally answer every letter we receive, but because of the increasing amount of time involved in doing this, we have decided that in order to ease the burden a bit, we will from now on sent a standard "Thank You" note and receipt for letters not requiring special comment, and where appropriate to include these with the next issue of THE COVENANT VISION following receipt of the letter by us. We just ask that those of you who have not received a reply as yet to your last letter be patient a little longer. We hope to be able to catch up with all the outstanding letters within a few weeks, after posting this issue of THE COVENANT VISION, and the next issue of COVENANT WATCH.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers.

Marks of Israel

DURING THE CHRISTIAN DISPENSATION LOST ISRAEL WERE TO POSSESS CERTAIN MARKS OF IDENTIFICATION

A great and mighty nation.	<i>Gen. 12:2; 18:18; Deut. 4:7,8.</i>
Named 'Great'.	<i>Gen. 12:2.</i>
The chief of the nations.	<i>Gen. 27:29; Deut. 7:6; 15:6.</i>
A maritime nation, having command of the seas.	<i>Gen. 49:25; Num. 24:7; Deut. 33:13,19; Psa. 89:25.</i>
A company or commonwealth of nations.	<i>Gen. 35:11; 48:19; Eph. 2:12.</i>
A missionary nation.	<i>Gen. 22:18; Isa. 43:21; 49:6; 66:19.</i>
The custodian of God's Word.	<i>Psa. 147:19,20; Isa. 59:21.</i>
A just nation.	<i>Gen. 18:19; Lev. 19:15; Deut. 1:17; Zeph. 3:13.</i>
God's instrument in destroying evil.	<i>Jer. 51:20; Dan. 2:34,35.</i>
An undefeated nation.	<i>Isa. 54:17; Micah 5:8,9.</i>
Blind to their identity.	<i>Isa. 29:10-12; 42:16,19,20; Rom. 11:7,8,25.</i>
Have an island home north and west of Palestine.	<i>Isa. 49:1-3,12; Jer. 3:18; 31:8.</i>
Occupy islands and coastlands.	<i>Isa. 24:15; 41:1,5; 49:1-3; 51:5; Jer. 31:8,10.</i>
Possess the gate of his enemies.	<i>Gen. 22:17; 24:60.</i>
Have multitudinous seed.	<i>Gen. 13:16; 15:5; 22:17; 24:60; 26:4,24; 28:3,14; 32:12.</i>
Colonise and spread abroad.	<i>Gen. 28:14; 49:22; Deut. 32:8; 33:17; Psa. 2:8; Isa. 26:15; 27:6; 54:2; Zech. 10:8,9.</i>
Lose first colony and then expand, demanding more living space.	<i>Isa. 49:20.</i>
Irrigate the deserts and build the waste places.	<i>Isa. 35:1; 43:19,20; 58:11,12.</i>
Possess the wealth of the earth.	<i>Gen. 27:28; 49:25,26; Deut. 33:13-16.</i>
Possess the heritage of the heathen.	<i>2 Sam. 22:44; Psa. 2:8; 111:6.</i>
Receive strangers and refugees.	<i>Lev. 19:33,34; Isa. 11:10; 14:1; 55:5; 56:6-8; Zech. 8:22.</i>
Set free slaves and prisoners.	<i>Psa. 72:4; Isa. 42:7; 49:9; 58:6.</i>
Have a descendant of King David reigning over them.	<i>2 Sam. 7:13; 1 Chron. 22:10; 2 Chron. 13:5; Psa. 89:35-37; Jer. 33:17.</i>
Lose all trace of their lineage.	<i>Hos. 1:9,10; Isa. 42:16; Rom. 11:25.</i>
The British Commonwealth of Nations possesses every one of these marks — therefore they are lost Israel. The United States of America possesses some of them.	

The information on this and the following page was compiled by the British Israel World Federation. For information regarding their excellent publication "WAKE UP!" incorporating "THE NATIONAL MESSAGE," write to Christian Israel Foundation, 11 Seagate, Irvine, Ayrshire. KA12 8RH, Scotland.

Israel, Judah and the Jews

'THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL' is not synonymous with the 'House of Judah'. The House of Judah and some of the Jews are of Israel, that is, descended from Jacob. The distinction we wish to emphasise is that while some Jews are Israelites, all Israelites are not necessarily Jews. In a similar way, all Scots are British, but all the British are not Scots. When the general blessings were apportioned at Jacob's death, the Messiah was promised, with the sovereignty, to Judah; but the 'multitude of nations' and the temporal grandeur of the birthright were given to Joseph. The House of Israel was to obtain these in the latter days, or the Christian era. Ten-tribed Israel was to be divorced from the Mosaic law and its identity temporarily lost to history, but known to God: it was to be recovenanted in Christ to enjoy the Israel birthright in the Isles of the Sea, to be His nation of evangelists in the world, and the inheritor of the Kingdom of God. The prophets display meticulous care in their address to the 'House of Israel', the 'House of Judah' and 'the inhabitants of Jerusalem' (the Jews). To apply to one 'House' a prophecy which refers to the other is clearly to misapply the message and confuse the issue. A careful regard of this distinction is prerequisite to the correct understanding of the prophetic Scriptures.

PROPHECIES CONCERNING

ISRAEL

- Israel to have a change of name
(*Isa. 65:15*).
- Israel to be called by a new name
(*Isa. 62:2*).
- Israel to be called after Isaac
(*Gen. 21:12*).
- Israel to be blind to their identity
(*Rom. 11:25; Isa. 42:16-19*).
- Israel to be a multitudinous people
(*Gen. 13:16; 15:5*).
- Israel to become known as the righteous Nation that keepeth truth (*Isa. 60:21; 26:2*).
- Israel to become a Nation and a Company of Nations (*Gen. 35:11*).
- Israel to make a new home in the Appointed Place — the Isles of the Sea
(*2 Sam. 7:10; Isa. 24:15; 49:1; Jer. 31:10*).
- Israel to be a Nation for ever (*Jer. 31:35, 36*).
- Israel to have a perpetual monarchy
(*Jer. 33:17*).
- Israel to come under a new covenant
(*Jer. 31:31-34*).

THE JEWS

- The Jews to be known by a change in physiognomy* (*Isa. 3:9*).
- The Jews have retained their old name unchanged.*
- The Jews' name to be a curse to them* (*Isa. 65:15*).
- The Jews still claim to be the chosen people.*
- The Jews to be bereft of children* (*Jer. 15:7*).
- The Jews to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse* (*Jer. 24:9*).
- The Jews to be scattered in all the kingdoms of the earth for their hurt'* (*Jer. 24:9*).
- The Jews have been strangers in all lands* (*Jer. 15:4*).
- The Jewish Nation was broken in A.D. 70* (*Dan. 9:24-27; Jer. 19:11*).
- The Jews have no king.*
- The Jews have remained under the old law.*

Extra Ammunition.

By Thelen Paulk.

Teachings such as 'that Paul was a false prophet', or 'that you shouldn't resist evil government', or a truth learned, (e.g., Sabbath), being used as a stumbling block against one who is doing the Father's will; such is dividing the house, and not fruitful. If you are nourished by them, or see others nourished by them, then they are fruitful. Leave the fruitful trees alone. If they are not giving nourishment, (being bad fruit or thorns), dividing the house, or cutting down a fruitful tree, then they are not fruitful. Remember what the Messiah did to the tree bearing bad fruit, (or no fruit)?

Do we not all grow at different rates, and develop our seeds at different seasons? Is not the body made up of eyes, ears, hands and feet? Does not the Spirit of the Almighty lead and nurture each, and give each their own function and ability? Who are we then to say that another servant is not doing what he ought to be doing, just because he does not follow our own strict, rigid opinion or tradition? Shouldn't we take the beam out of our own eye first before we condemn our brother? Or don't we believe that the Almighty is in control of the situation? As though HE needed us to do HIS job for HIM. No! Better to do the job HE gives each of us personally and leave others alone, if they are doing something else. Remember, the Harvest is Great, but the labourers are few. And since many of the seeds planted will not take deep enough root to nourish them, and will thus wither in their time of tribulation anyway, why should we persecute them more by blowing out the little light they did have. Yes, we are each one guilty and responsible. We become so puffed up over the little knowledge that we do have, that we often attack those who are doing something else. The key word here is "doing", as most are not doing anything! Remember, Great Harvest, but few labourers. So be humble, not

haughty. Do we think we have all the answers? How often have we persecuted HIS real church, HIS elect, HIS called out ones, simply because they did not believe the same way we did? Or in other words, their level of growth was different than our own, and through our own puffed up, blinded condition, although meaning well, we caused one of HIS little ones to stumble? Is a six year old responsible for deliberately tripping his two year old brother down the stairs just to prevent him from sticking his hands in the fish bowl? So come on, you who are the elect! You have a duty and a responsibility to be loving one another, and getting understanding, NOT causing a stumbling block to go in the way of your brother!

In humble obedience to our Father do we grow. How can we be growing if we are not seeking new truth by proving all things in HIS Word? Is there growth if we are hung up or standing still on a doctrine or accepted teaching of man? How can we grow in faith, if we do not personally walk in faith? How can we be walking in faith, without being persecuted by the same world systems that persecuted our Master? If we assume that others ought to act like us, aren't we then expecting the hands and the feet to be like eyes? Pray for forgiveness. Repent of your wicked ways. Yes, that's right. Even with all that truth which we thought we learned, we still have wicked ways from which we need to repent. There IS growth! So many are not even reading their Bibles, being content with partaking of sins with the evil governments of this world's age, dipping their hands in the blood of beautiful babies who won't be born, and through silence, apathy, or support, assume that they will be excused for this act simply because they play church.

The elect must realise who they are, and who their Master is! Because it is for you that these days will be shortened. Fear not, you called out ones. Yes, it is for you, little flock, that the Kingdom is promised! Constant fight is our calling. We might as well get used to it, and be willing to show our faith by our

works. So study and learn and heed what HE gives HIS to heed, for HIS sheep know HIS voice.

Keep each other and us in your prayers as we will you in ours. May Almighty YAHWEH Bless, and keep on keeping you. May YAHWEH walk by your side throughout your life! Hall-EL-u-YAH ! ! ! ! in HIS service. Amen.

Dear Frank,

Everything is happening so fast, but the Victory is ours through our King!

Your brother,
Thelen Paulk.

Betty and I appreciated our brother's letter so much that we have reproduced it here in its entirety, with the prayer that it will also bless our many readers.

Thank you Thelen, and God bless you mightily.



We have just received a supply of two magnificent books by Bonnie Gaunt of U.S.A., entitled,

STONEHENGE . . . A CLOSER LOOK.

and

THE MAGNIFICENT NUMBERS OF THE GREAT PYRAMID AND STONEHENGE.

We have read them both and highly recommend them to you. They are a real eye-opener, and a real blessing.

Return the enclosed order form for your copies.

For A Witness

A.J. FERRIS

It is most important to realise that the prophesied worldwide preaching of the gospel is not intended to convert the world. This was realised as early as 1829 by Bible and Missionary Societies, who saw that it was not a matter of converting all the heathen, but of giving all nations the witness of the gospel as a paramount duty to prepare for the coming of Christ whose advent alone will bring the whole world to know God. When asked by His disciples what would be the sign of His second advent, Christ quoted this world-wide mission of Israel in blessing all nations with the gospel as a paramount duty to prepare for the coming of Christ whose advent alone will bring the whole world to know God. When asked by His disciples what would be the sign of His second advent, Christ quoted this world-wide mission of Israel in blessing all nations with the gospel as a prominent sign of His coming. Matthew 24:3, 14:

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives the disciples came to him privately saying, Tell us . . . what shall be the sign of the coming, and of the end of the age?"

"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come."

Thus we see here that though individuals of all nations would be blessed, the nations as such would remain unconverted. Moreover, it is God's plan at the second advent of Christ to use the results of this missionary effort as His witness, or basis of judgment, to determine the continued existence of the Gentile nations into the millennium or otherwise.

— From: *The British Commonwealth and the United States of America*



It seems the America -v- Russia confrontation was designed by providence for the advancement of the underdeveloped nations — they get their food and medical supplies from the Americans and the explosives, to create the casualties upon which to use the medical supplies, from the Russians — now that's international co-operation for you!

Victor Dunstan

A PATRIOT OR NOT?

What is a Patriot you ask, and well you may!
He loves his country very much, and knows he's here to stay.

No compromise for him, it must be said,
his indestructive spirit of devotion, this zealot knows where he is "being led"!

Perhaps it was the battlefield, the anguished cry
that stirred our patriot's blood and yet, did he ever ponder WHY?

Defend he will Democracy and CONstitution,
this patriot will go for broke, oh yes, including revolution.

Obsessed with "Country, Queen and Flag"
no files on this old hand you see, old soldiers never die or lag.

This patriot can do it all, can do it every time,
with Rallies, Anthems, fiery speeches, our orators sublime.

Petitions East, Petitions West, we've lost the count
but Onward Patriotism, hang the cost; the money will be found!

Our man will fight for honour, glory, even emptiness
Indeed, the media crooks will set him up, we know it as "The Press."

"Laws of the land" this patriot gets,
the "laws" which make him slave, and delusion him besets.

The scoff and scorn of traitors, tyrants, crims,
oh patriot why don't you listen, read, observe, from early morn till sunlight dims.....?

Observe the signs and thines our God gave IsraEL,
to get yourself out of this mess, but will you ever hear the BELL?

How can you love your country, but not your Living God,
Why are you not aware it seems, of Yahweh's terrible ROD?

Why don't you know HIS WORD enough HIS PROMISE made to you,
don't you trust HIM, don't you care, why can't you say "I do"?

Don't you know that HE is POTTER, and you are ONLY CLAY
It means that YOU don't have a choice, HE has the final say!

Consider, foolish patriot, WHO's MAKER of it ALL,
the land came long before you did, so did HIS LAW, recall?

Patriotism's MAKE BELIEVE, when in GOD you do not trust,
the "golden age" went long ago, or was it "boom or bust"?

Learn to love your MAKER first, and seek HIM very early
the rest is humbug, folderol, there are no "gates" called "pearly"!

A patriot? Without a God? who NEVER HIM INVOKES;
is DEAD my friend STONE DEAD, and NUMBER ONE among the Jokes!

Our land is full of "patriots", who fight for FLAG and QUEEN
BUT FIGHTERS FOR OUR LIVING GOD
ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN!!!

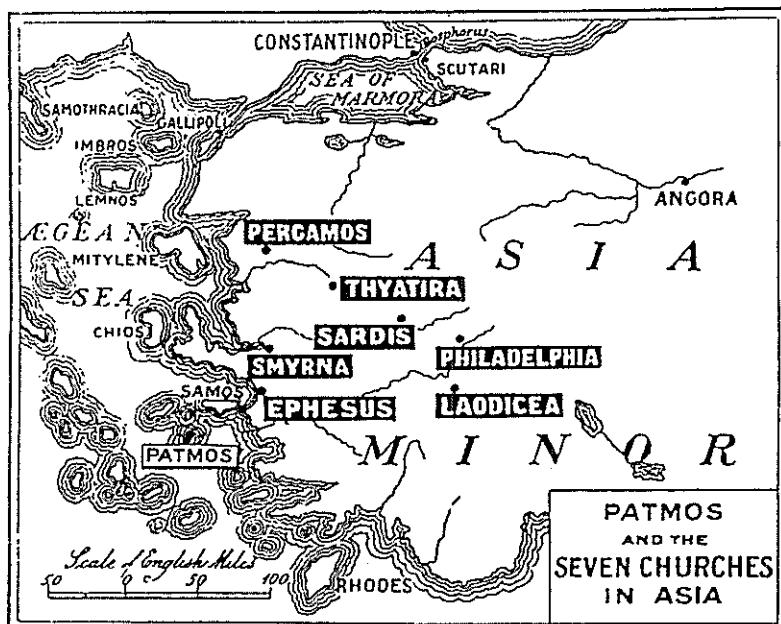
STUDY IN REVELATIONS.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART THREE.

THE MESSAGE TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES.

In our previous study we found that the various "churches" mentioned in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 in fact represent seven different consecutive periods of time starting from, and future to, the time at which the Revelation was given. We also found that these periods related to the religious condition of the "congregation" of God's people Israel, that is, their spiritual relationship to their God throughout this period of time between the first and second advents of our Lord Jesus Christ.



It is not our intention in this series to burden the reader with so much detail that he becomes lost. This, unfortunately, has been all too often the result of some attempts to explain the meaning of this wonderful Book. But there are a few basic rules which should be kept in mind as you study. Firstly, the entire Book of the Revelation is presented in SIGNS AND SYMBOLS. Whilst there could be a legitimate literal application, the primary application of everything that is stated is symbolic, and this symbolic meaning and application is the one which we must seek and understand. Secondly, in relation to the message to the seven churches, these periods which are represented do not have clearly defined starting and finishing points of time. Each period overlaps the other to some degree. The dates quoted are only indicative of the time frames concerned. And thirdly, and most interestingly, the specific conditions applied or related to each period, whilst being the main feature of their respective period, are found to exist in differing degrees throughout other periods. For example, whilst the final period is that of the 'lukewarm' church as the predominant condition, there was a degree of 'lukewarmness' in some of the other periods. So we find that as well as studying these periods separately, we must also recognise this aspect of integrated and intertwined conditions.

On the following page we have reproduced a chart which shows the main characteristics of each of these periods. The dates given can only be approximate, as mentioned earlier, as they vary slightly with different writers depending on the emphasis they place on certain events. But the overall patterns and time frames are close enough to give the student a realistic appreciation of the periods involved. The most noticeable difference seems to lie in the dating of the last two periods where with some writers that of Philadelphia is extended to 1917, with the final Laodicean period operating from 1917 to the end of the age. My own preference is to the latter, but it makes little difference to the overall picture. So for convenience of reference, we will use the dates in the chart.

Seven Churches of Revelation

1 THE 7 CHURCHES	2 GILGAL	3 Smyrna	4 Verdun	5 Thyatira	6 Sardis	7 Philadelphia
SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:	REV. 2: 1 to 7	REV. 2: 8 to 11	REV. 2: 12 to 17	REV. 2: 18 to 29	REV. 3: 1 to 6	REV. 3: 7 to 13
MEANING OF NAME:-	"TO LET GO"	"ANointing Oil"	"TO BE MARRIED TO POWER"	"TO BE RULED BY A WOMAN"	"PRECIOUS STONE"	"BROTHERY LOVE" "THE LAITY"
PERIOD IN CHURCH HISTORY:-	A.D. 96	A.D. 100 - 315	A.D. 313 - 606	A.D. 606 - 1517	A.D. 1517 - 1739	A.D. 1739 - 1850 END OF AGE
CHARACTER OF EACH CHURCH:-	EFFORT RELAXED	MARTYRDOM & TRIBULATION	UNION OF CHURCH AND STATE	COUNTERFEIT; ANTICHRISTIAN	EVANGELICAL; MISSIONARY	MODERNISM; SPIRITUAL POVERTY
CHRIST'S TITLE AS JUDGE:-	"WALKS IN MIDST OF CANDLESTICKS"	"WHICH WAS DEAD AND IS ALIVE"	"HE WHICH HATH THE SHAPESWORD"	"THE SON OF GOD"	"HE THAT HATH THE SEVEN SPIRITS" AND TRUE"	"THE FAITHFUL WITNESS"
GOOD POINTS:-	LABOUR & PATIENCE	ENDURED TRIBULATION	NOT DENIED PATIENCE	FAITH & PATIENCE	A NAME THAT IT LIVED	NONE
FAULTS:-	LEFT FIRST LOVE	NONE	BALAAM'S DOCTRINE IDOLATRY	RULED BY JEZEBEL	BUT DEAD SPIRITUALLY	LUKE WARM
Reward to Overcomers	"PARADISE"	The FIRST RESURRECTION	"A WHITE STONE"	REIGN WITH CHRIST	"NAME CONFESSED"	"THE NEW WITH CHRIST ON DAVID'S THRONE"

(Charts reproduced in this series are taken from "The Book of Revelation" by A. J. Ferris B.A. whose work we thankfully acknowledge.)

THE MESSAGE TO THE CONGREGATION AND CHURCH PERIODS OF

1. EPHESUS.

"Unto the angel (messenger) of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them that are evil. And thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars.

And hast borne, and hast patience, and for My name's sake hast laboured and hast not fainted.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the Tree of Life which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." (Rev. 2:1-7).

As we see from our chart, the period covered by this 'church' was the 1st. century of the Christian dispensation. Ephesus itself was a great commercial city at that time, and the centre of the worship of the heathen

goddess Diana. The Temple of Diana or Artemis, was recognised as one of the original seven wonders of the world. A good insight into the extent of the dedication of the people of Ephesus to this goddess is outlined in Acts chapter 19:21-41. At one stage, we are informed, (verse 34), the people all with one voice cried out for a solid two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians". Now that's a demonstration! It was into this scene that the apostle Paul entered, and to which he wrote his epistle. The fact that the Christian Gospel gained a foothold at all in these circumstances must in itself be a miracle, but such was the power of God in that place through the ministry of His faithful servants, and especially the apostle Paul. But despite the early zeal for God, it started to 'let go', which is what the name means. A.D. 64 marked the beginning of the persecution of the Roman Emperor Nero, and marked the beginning of the end of that church period. Obviously they did not obey the Lord's admonition to repent, and their candlestick was removed. The city of Ephesus was totally destroyed in about 262 A.D., and the site is now covered with ruins, the only inhabited portion being a small Turkish village.

The 'Nicolaitanes' refer to a system of religious hierarchy which was established at that time and which was intolerant of all doctrines other than those formulated by recognised institutions, and which exercised authoritarian control over the people. They could see no wrong in the practice of integration and miscegenation which arose from the doctrine of Balaam.

The parallels with this church period and our present day are frightening to say the least. We reject the lessons of history at our own peril. The punishment of a righteously indignant God is already upon His people because they have refused to repent of their evil ways. The candlestick of the present-day church has been removed because they have allowed themselves to be compromised with heathen and ungodly practices and teachings. The message for today from the messenger to Ephesus is to those who "have an ear to hear" what the Spirit of God is saying. It is to those who will hear with

their understanding, not just with their ears, and who are prepared to come out from among all the evil practices which are now saturating and destroying our land. It is to those who are prepared to separate themselves unto God and to be a living sacrifice acceptable to HIM that the promise is directed. Such will be given the unbelievable privilege of eating of the Tree of Life which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. Such will be those who will become kings and priests, ruling with our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, when He returns to take the Throne of His father David, and rule over His Kingdom, the House of Jacob, or Israel, for evermore.

2. SMYRNA.

"And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write. These things saith the First and the Last, which was dead, and is alive.

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich), and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, (Judeans), and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Fear none of these things which thou shalt suffer. Behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." (Rev. 2:8-11).

The meaning of the word 'Smyrna' is 'anointing oil', and history shows that if anyone ever needed the anointing oil and protection and comfort of the Holy Spirit, it was those who lived in this period. Although our chart shows a general dating of 100 to 313 A.D., There can be no doubt that this period of persecution and tribulation began as early as 64 A.D. under the rule of Nero. It was nothing short of a reign of terror.

Christians today just don't know they are alive. One can't help but wonder just how many of them, or perhaps more accurately how few of them, would be prepared to physically suffer for their faith the way these early saints did.

There is a two-fold application of the 'ten days' mentioned. Firstly, there were ten literal and distinct persecutions carried out against the Christians during this period by ten different Emperors. They are:-

1.	Nero.	64 A.D.
2.	Domitian.	95 A.D.
3.	Trajan.	107 A.D.
4.	Hadrian.	127 A.D.
5.	Marcus Aurelius.	165 A.D.
6.	Septimus Severus.	202 A.D.
7.	Maximus.	235 A.D.
8.	Decius.	249 A.D.
9.	Valerianus.	257 A.D.
10.	Diocletian.	303 A.D.

We can possibly understand something of the terror and suffering of this period as we read what Foxe had to say in his "Book of Martyrs" regarding the seventh persecution in about 235 A.D.:-

"The Christians were in all parts of the empire driven from their habitations, and tormented in their bodies. Racks and prisons, axes and halteres, fire and wild beasts, scalding pitch and melting wax, sharp stakes and burning pincers, were some of the methods of their treatment."

The second application of the 'ten days' is seen in the prophetic use of the 'year for a day' scale, because the final or tenth persecution by Diocletian was fulfilled during the ten years from 303 to 313 A.D. This was the period of the fiercest persecution of them all. The edict of the Emperor Diocletian required the burning of all Christian churches and scriptures, and the death of Christians by any and all means possible. This terrible period of persecution only came to an end in 313 A.D. when Constantine, newly converted to Christianity, became the Emperor of Western Rome, and officially adopted Christianity as the state religion.

It cannot be without significance that within the account of these terrible persecutions, our Lord chose, of all places, to introduce "those who call themselves Jews, but are not, but are of the synagogue of Satan". This subject had been dealt with quite extensively in our previous series in THE COVENANT VISION entitled "Anti-Christ and the Man of Sin", so we will not repeat it here other than to highlight the fact that these people are deliberately associated by our Lord with this awful period in the life of His people. It surely gives great emphasis to His earlier condemnation of these same people when He said in Luke 11:49-51:

"I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute.

That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; (or race);

From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple. Verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation. (race)."

It is wonderful to note that the Lord did not find any fault with the people of this period, or for that matter, with the people of any period who are willing to lay down their lives for their witness to Him. The tribulation itself bred a commitment to the Lord which confounded Satan and his plans. And this principle has re-

mained constant down through the centuries ever since. It is only the committed and the obedient who are willing to suffer the persecution. Their reward is commensurate with their dedication. They had no fear of the first death, or the death of their mortal body. So those who "have an ear to understand" what the Spirit of God is saying, from that time onwards, have the assurance that they will not be subject to the second death, described later in Rev. 20:6.

3. PERGAMOS.

"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, These thing saith He which hath the sharp sword with two edges.

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is. And thou holdest fast My name, and hast not denied My faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Baalam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

Repent, or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."

(Rev. 2:12-17).

Following the period of intense persecution, and the succession and conversion of Constantine, history

records that within the space of some 24 years, half the Roman population professed an acceptance of, or conversion to, Christianity. In view of the call for repentance, and the evils which our Lord said would exist and develop during this period, it is beyond the bounds of credibility that we should accept that this degree of acceptance of Christ's gospel should have been genuine. It is patently obvious that this so-called conversion was based on two things. Firstly, it was a matter of political expediency so as not to incur the wrath of the Emperor who had introduced it.

But there was a second, and much more important factor involved. The pagan worship of the time was basically what was referred to in the Old Testament as Baal worship. This covered virtually all worship that was contrary to the worship of Israel and the God of Israel. But in these early years of what became known as Christianity, it was found that there were certain aspects of the old pagan beliefs which could be adapted into the Christian beliefs with a minimum of trouble. For instance, the pagan belief of the mother of god, as the Queen of Heaven, which originated with Nimrod, was highly adaptable to the Christian belief of Mary as the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Thus we find that many of the pagan beliefs accepted at that time were easily adapted into the Christian faith by the simple expediency of giving them Christian names. Thus, the 'conversion' to Christianity was quite simply achieved by the fact that there was in fact NO conversion. It was simply, in many cases, a merging by compromise of one faith into the other. Christianity thus became an 'acceptable' religion. Being accepted and authorised by the state, there was no requirement to personal commitment as we know it. People became Christians simply by virtue of the fact that the nation now called itself, by decree of the Emperor, a Christian nation. There were certainly those who were sincerely committed to Christ and His true gospel, but because the nation and its leaders were not similarly committed, the national laws allowed a multitude of practices which were the very antithesis of Christianity.

Foremost among these were the doctrines of Baalam and the Nicolaitanes which we have previously mentioned.

Pergamos means, 'married to power' or 'to be exalted or elevated'. It was what is referred to as a 'University city', or a seat of learning. But in fact, history records it as being full of depravity and idolatrous practices. Thus, the 'learning' that was dispensed was quite contrary to the Law of God and the Way of Life taught by our Lord Jesus Christ. Foremost among these teachings was what is now referred to as 'multi-culturalism'. This was the very basis of the doctrine of Baalam. By this practice, the true worship of the God of Israel was perverted by being mixed in with the heathen worship of other nations. The results then were the same as today. They were intended to be. Satan's plans have not changed one iota. In this context it is very sobering to realise that Christ referred to Pergamos as "the seat of Satan, the place where Satan dwells". It was at this time that the great tragedy happened. The church joined the state. It should have been the other way round. By joining the state, the church became subject to the directives of the state. Whereas, if the state had placed itself under the direction of the church, (by which I mean the true body and teachings of Christ, not any denominational church), the state, or nation would not have so easily fallen for the deception of this evil marriage with Baal. The result was a degree of impurity that has well nigh destroyed the true gospel of Christ, even to the present day. Even dedicated Christians, who have a sincere love for the Lord, still live in a large degree of delusion and error in their religious doctrine. It is only those who overcome and put aside these delusions for the purity of the Truth who are promised the blessing of the 'hidden manna', or the 'Bread of Life'. We will "know as we are known". Our names will be written on the very stones of the New Jerusalem. It will be our own name, not that of another, or of some group or denomination. And it will never be taken from us. Praise His wonderful Name.

(to be continued).



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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IF THOU TURN AWAY THY FOOT FROM THE
SABBATH,
FROM DOING THY PLEASURE IN MY HOLY DAY;
AND CALL THE SABBATH A DELIGHT, THE HOLY
OF THE LORD, HONOURABLE;
AND SHALL HONOUR HIM, NOT DOING THINE OWN
WAYS, NOR FINDING THINE OWN PLEASURE, NOR
SPEAKING THINE OWN WORDS.
THEN SHALT THOU DELIGHT THYSELF IN THE
LORD.
AND I WILL CAUSE THEE TO RIDE UPON THE HIGH
PLACES OF THE EARTH, AND FEED THEE WITH
THE HERITAGE OF JACOB THY FATHER.
FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HATH SPOKEN IT!

Isaiah 58:13-14.

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