



THE COVENANT HISTORY

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

THE COVENANT VISION.

Editor: Frank W. Dowsett.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(continued on inside back cover.)

THE TRUMPET SHALL SOUND!

By. F. W. DOWSETT.

"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."
(I Cor. 15:51-52).

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with THE TRUMP OF GOD. And the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words."
(I Thess. 4:16-18).

If someone were to ask me what I considered the greatest thing yet ahead of me, I would have to say without any fear or hesitation, that it is the hope, nay, the certainty, of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some, if not many Christians, don't seem to have this same degree of expectancy. Many Christians are so wrapped up in getting everyone 'converted' that they don't even want Jesus to return yet as it would interrupt their plans and ambitions for the 'unconverted'. Unfortunately, the outworking of this plan, as noble as

it may seem, would simply postpone Christ's return until enough people had been 'converted' to suit the various evangelists, which would essentially mean that the time would never be appropriate for the Lord's return. Others believe that too many events still have to occur. The Russians still have to invade Pakistan. Or the economy has to crash. Or there has to be a mighty revival, or another war, etc., etc..

Now some of these things may yet happen before He returns. Who knows? But one thing is absolutely certain, and it is this. The day and the hour of Christ's return has already been determined by the Father, and nothing that you or I can do or say is ever going to change that fateful date! Christ is not going to return one moment earlier, or one moment later than the time He has set. He is not going to wait for a suitable moment in history. He is going to interrupt history. We can plan, anticipate, forecast, or expect all we like. It will not matter one iota to our Lord. Whenever that great day occurs, it will always interrupt someone's schemes or plans. You see, Christ is not coming back to join us, as so many seem to expect. He is coming back to take personal control. He is going to rule with a rod of iron. He is going to rule with righteousness and justice. And when anyone rules with these motives and principles, someone gets hurt. Things get changed. The Day of the Lord, we are told in the Bible, is going to be both Great and Terrible. For those who love the Lord, and are obedient to Him, it will be Great. But to those who have disobeyed Him, and spurned Him, it will be quite Terrible.

But all this is only the overall picture. What we are now about to do is to have a look at the details concerning the commencement of this wonderful event. I know, even before I write, that I'm going to be in big trouble with some Christians. But what's new? The Prophet Daniel was told that "the wise will understand!" The Apostle Paul makes it equally clear in I Thess. 5 that there would be "children of the light", as well as "children of the darkness," and that the "children of the

"light" would NOT be in darkness concerning the times and seasons of this great event. God has made it quite clear in His Word that there would be "Watchmen" in Israel whose responsibility is to sound the alarm when they see certain events about to happen. If they fail to live up to this responsibility, the watchmen concerned are under severe censure from God. Those who read this and form some reservations about the advisability of my action in giving this warning, had better realise right now that I would much rather say what I believe has to be said and face their criticisms and doubts later on if I'm wrong, than have to face the wrath of God for saying nothing if I'm found to have been correct.

So let me say with every ounce of sincerity and conviction that I have, that I believe that the initial events associated with the return of our Lord Jesus Christ have a very real possibility of commencing with the Day of the Feast of Trumpets THIS YEAR! This comment is not made lightly, as you will see from what follows. But if I am correct in this conviction, then as from September 1 this year, we have just ELEVEN DAYS TO GO! The Feast of Trumpets this year falls on Monday, September 12. (Australian time). If the day in question occurs on the Day of Atonement, which will be discussed later, then that day falls on September 21, and we would then have a count-down as from Sept. 1 of 20 DAYS!

Now at this stage, I'd better start filling in some details as to what I personally believe about this great Climax of the Ages. And I might add that I am by no means on my own in these beliefs. Let me briefly list them for you.

1. I believe that the return of our Lord Jesus Christ will occur at the time of Israel's Feast of Tabernacles, irrespective of which year it happens, commencing with the Feast Day of Trumpets. It was during this Feast of Tabernacles that our Lord came at what we refer to as His first Advent. I have neither the time, space, or inclination to argue about the totally heathen practice of

"Christmas" which, as any serious student of God's Word knows, is NOT when Christ was born. The Feasts of the Lord in Israel give us God's timetable for His dealing with His people, and I see no reason at all to suspect that He would change the very system He inaugurated just to fit in with 'theology.'

2. I further believe that the initial event in this great Climax of Christ's return will be the resurrection and translation of 'THE OVERCOMERS, OR ELDERS, OF ISRAEL!' This event, I believe, will occur some time prior to Christ's literal return to the earth as described in Zechariah 14:4-5 where we are told;

"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 towards the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. . . and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with Him."

3. In regard to this resurrection, I believe that we have to understand its nature and details, and indeed, its essential purpose. The commonly held belief that at this time ALL Christians will be resurrected or translated to go up to meet the Lord in the air, is not one with which I agree. Nor do I believe in the theory of 'the secret rapture'. The word 'rapture' simply means 'a taking away, or taking up'. I don't argue with that, as how else will we be able to meet the Lord in the air, but there will certainly be nothing secret about it all.

Readers will have to prayerfully consider and decide for themselves the acceptability of what I now suggest. When we turn to I Cor. 15:23, we read;

"But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming."

4.

Most students of the Bible know that the punctuation marks we have are not part of the inspired Scriptures, as the original Hebrew and Greek do not contain commas, and fullstops, etc.. Thus, these punctuation marks have been added, in all good faith, by the translators. Mostly they have little effect on the overall teachings of the passages. But there are rare exceptions where their placement is vitally important to a true understanding of what is said. The best known illustration of this occurs in Luke 23:43 where we read of Jesus speaking to the thief on the cross, and saying;

"Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise."

According to the position of the punctuation, Jesus is here saying that the thief would be with Him in Paradise that same day. But if we move the position of the comma from after the word "thee" to after the word "today", He is saying that He is telling the thief today, or paraphrasing it, "I am telling you right now, that you will be with Me in Paradise". Which as you will agree, is quite a different statement. Now if we apply this same principle to our reading in I Corinthians 15, and separate the words "the firstfruits" from the word "Christ" by a comma, which in no way tampers with the integrity or inspiration of the Scriptures, we find THREE stages of resurrection. Firstly, we have Christ, who in verse 20 has been identified as "the firstfruits of them that sleep", then we have "the firstfruits" whom I believe applies to the overcomers or Elders, and thirdly, "those that are Christ's at His coming", that is, the remaining Christians who did not qualify for leadership, but who will be raised at the time of Christ's actual and literal return to the earth. This order of events, I believe, is supported by Revelation 14:4 where we read of the 144,000 being identified as they who "were redeemed from among men, being THE FIRSTFRUITS unto God and to the Lamb." Further support to this conclusion is found, I believe, in Revelation 20:4-6 where we are told that those who had not received the mark of the beast upon their foreheads, or on their hands, "lived

and REIGNED with Christ a thousand years. . . This is the first resurrection. . . Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection. . . They shall be PRIESTS OF GOD AND OF CHRIST, and SHALL REIGN WITH HIM a thousand years."

From all this, I can only conclude that the general sequence of events in relation to our Lord's return will be firstly, the resurrection and translation of the overcomers or Elders of Israel, being those who will be invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb where they will be inducted into their various offices of authority in the Kingdom. Then there will be an unknown period of intense political and economic tribulation and adjustment, through which most Christians still alive will have to pass. I also believe that it will be during this period that the Prophet Elijah will return to fulfil his mission of turning True Israel back to their God and to the knowledge of their identity. This will be followed by the literal return of our Lord, accompanied by those who have been previously taken up to the Marriage Supper, and referred to in Zech. 14 as His Saints. At the time of this literal return, the remainder of those who have accepted Him, but have not qualified for the Higher Calling of rulership, will be resurrected or translated to everlasting life as citizens of the Kingdom, as distinct from the Kingdom's rulers or Elders.

Only time will tell whether or not the above analysis is correct or not, but at least it will have given the sincere student of God's Word something to really think about.

The big question at this stage must of course be, will this all start this year? I have to say in all honesty that I am not certain. I can only read the signs about us and apply them to the best of my ability, and trust to the leading of the Holy Spirit. As a rule, I'm not in favour of "date setting"; as has been the custom of so many in the past, but by the same token, I don't want to have the responsibility on my shoulders, as I have said previously, of having said nothing in the face of so

many signs, should the time for which we have looked for so long have at last arrived.

Imagine that you are walking along the footpath. As you know, about every three feet there is a groove which was deliberately put there by the workmen as they poured and finished off the concrete. Now if you found a coin laying across one of these grooves, you would naturally pick it up, and probably think little more about it. What would you think if there was another coin across the very next groove? Probably that it was a bit of a coincidence. What then if you found another across the third groove? That would be a bigger coincidence. But what would you think if you found a coin placed neatly across five or six grooves as you walked along? Would you still say it was a coincidence? I'm sure that you would come to the conclusion that they had been deliberately put there. There would be no more talk or thought of coincidence, I'm sure. With this in mind, consider the following.

A few weeks ago I received from my good friend Rev. James Haggart of the U.S.A. a little booklet written by a friend of his, a gentleman by the name of Hart Armstrong, entitled "Till There Is No Remedy". It is a great book. It only has 12 pages, but the quality of its contents makes up for the lack in quantity. I am not going to reprint it here, but I am taking the liberty of relating to you its main thrust, and I acknowledge the use of even some of Brother Hart's expressions. The first thing that I should explain is that Hart and I are at what could be termed the opposite ends of the spectrum when it comes to our understanding and teaching of prophecy. He believes in the Futurist interpretation, together with the view that the present Jewish Israeli State is the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. On the other hand, I believe in the Historicist interpretation of prophecy, and that the present Jewish State of Israeli, together with the present Zionist Jewish people, have nothing whatsoever to do with God's covenants with Abraham. But the strange thing is this, that we both agree, albeit for different reasons, and from dif-

ferent points of view, that the present setting up of the Israeli State is the fulfillment of Christ's prophecy regarding the Fig Tree putting forth its leaves. It has been a real lesson to me. God is not in any way dependant on theological beliefs or differences. The "bottom line" as far as God is concerned is absolutely constant and unalterable, and irrespective of what we conclude, or how we arrived at those conclusions, His purposes and plans will be carried out exactly how and when He has determined. What has been so exciting is that we have both arrived at the very same conclusion in regard to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, despite the fact that we have arrived at that conclusion from virtually opposite directions. Which makes their testimony and witness all the more relevant.

Brother Hart referred to the number of "last" generations which had already existed. There was the generation of Noah which was given 120 years. To those who were alive at that time, they were the "last" generation. Then there was the generation at the Tower of Babel which was probably also 120 years. They were also a "last" generation. Then we had a shortening of the length of the generations from 120 to 40 years, and we come to the generation of Israelites in the wilderness which lasted 40 years. The next "last" generation was that at the time of Nebuchadnezzar. They were in their day a "last" generation which lasted exactly 40 years. Then of course, we have the generation of Jesus' day which was also a "last" generation of 40 years. He goes on to point out that in every one of these preceding judgments of God - Noah's flood, the Tower of Babel, the Israelites in the wilderness, the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, and the further destruction of Jerusalem by Titus - God showed no mercy to the sinful people who had rejected His salvation. Thus all these "last" generations became a "last/lost" generation, all of which perished under the wrath and judgment of God.

He asks the question, "Are we today, who see the fulfillment of the prophecy regarding the fig tree put-

ting forth its leaves as Jesus said would happen just prior to His return, another "last/lost" generation?" He goes on to say;

"As we have seen, God seems to have been particularly, specifically and exactly accurate to give to each of the "last/lost" generations a certain number of years before His judgment came. . . . So it would seem only right and to be expected that the sixth "last/lost" generation, which we believe began at the formation of the new Jewish nation in Palestine, on May 15, 1948, should also be given a period of time of exactly 40 years. We have every right to believe that if God five times in the past has been explicit and accurate in His timing of each "last/lost" generation, to expect Him again to show the same accuracy and exactness the sixth time. If our generation is the "last/lost" generation before the coming of Jesus Christ and the end of the present Age, and if our generation had its beginning when the fig tree put forth leaves, (Israel became a nation in 1948), then we have only to add the normal length of a generation (40 years) to 1948 to bring us to 1988 as the year in which it may be possible that Jesus Christ will come again. And since the Festival of Trumpets falls upon Sept. 12-13 in 1988, we have this date as Christ's possible return."

The year of 1948 is extremely important in the context of Christ's return, whether we look at it from the point of view expressed by our brother, or as the fulfillment of the prophecy in Ezekiel 11:15 where it is recorded that the whole House of Israel are ordered out of the land by 'the inhabitants of Jerusalem' on the grounds that it is their land. From our point of view, this is the historic meaning of the events of 1948, but either way, the end result is the same. As we have said, God is neither interested in, nor controlled by, our differences in 'theology' in the outworking of His plans and purposes. We can only fully agree with our brother that 1948 was the beginning of the "last/lost" generation of which our Lord spoke would see His return.

There is also another interesting factor tied up with this date of 1948. The deliverance of Jerusalem from the heathen and its return to its rightful Israel owners in 1917 by General Allenby, is exactly 31 years prior to 'the inhabitants of Jerusalem' kicking us out again in 1948. "31" is the numerical value of the Hebrew word for God, "EL". Thus we see God's hand in this event. Nine years later, the number associated with judgment, the Common Market was formed in 1957. Is it just coincidence that another 31 years from that date brings us again to 1988, giving us a cycle of 31 - 9 - 31 associated with God and judgment?

We also find that 70 years (another important Biblical time period) from 1918 when the Balfour Declaration was signed allowing the Jews possession of Palestine, comes again to 1988.

For many years, many students of prophecy have realised the importance of the year 1844 as the possible beginning of the tarrying period associated with the parable of the Ten Virgins. Space does not allow us to include the full details here, so we just state the fact. Is it another coincidence that just 144 years later we reach 1988? The number 144 in Bible numerics represents COMPLETION, and its association with the Revelation number of 144,000 is obvious.

We should also take into consideration the "70 weeks prophecy" given to Daniel. This applied to the length of time until the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Students usually leave this prophecy at the year of Christ's crucifixion, which was in the middle of the last "week". But the end of this prophetic period came in A.D. 34. This was a Sabbath Year (7 years) after our Lord's baptism in A.D.27. If we add 279 Sabbath years to this date, (and take careful note that $279 = 31 \times 9$ as discussed a few paragraphs back), we arrive at 1987 which many students of prophecy regard as the beginning of the 50th. Jubilee Year of Israel. This Jubilee Year would thus run from Sept. 1987 to Sept. 1988. The important aspect of this is that the

Jubilee Year was the 'year of release'. That release was proclaimed on The Day of Atonement, and was marked by the sounding of ONE TRUMPET! (see Lev. 25:9-10). In Numbers chapter 10 we read of God's instructions to Moses regarding the sounding of trumpets. He was told to make two trumpets. When BOTH trumpets were sounded, it was a call to all the congregation of Israel to gather. But when only ONE trumpet was sounded, (verse 4), then only the ELDERS were being called! The Day of Atonement this year falls on September 21.

The Book of the Revelation gives us a graphic account of the events associated with the return of our Lord. I feel I can do no better than to quote them here, as they are the words of our Lord Himself:

"And THE SEVENTH ANGEL SOUNDED (his trumpet). and there were great voices in heaven saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, saying, We give Thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come, because Thou hast taken to Thee Thy great power, and hast reigned.

And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldst give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.

And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ark of His testament. And there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

Let me add this final word in conclusion. I am not trying to set dates. All I am trying to do is to sound the alarm based on the evidence before me. I make no guarantees. I have neither the right nor the authority to do so. Let me paraphrase and expand on a statement made by Hart Armstrong. When the Weather Bureau has reason to believe that a tornado is coming, they sound an alert. This gives everyone the chance to put up their shutters, and make provision for whatever protection is needed. If they haven't made any previous preparation, they can start now. But if the tornado doesn't eventuate as expected, do they ridicule or chide the weatherman? Of course not. Any reasonable person is only too glad to be assured that he is on the alert and doing what he's paid to do. At the worst, many of them are now much better prepared for when the tornado does strike. But it's a strange thing, that when a Christian sounds a warning, and things don't work out exactly as he anticipated, out come the claws, and he is branded as a fanatic, and often shunned by the very people he has tried to warn. Such is the present position. I believe that there is enough evidence to support the warning that is being given. I am not saying categorically and dogmatically that it is a certainty to happen within a few weeks. But I believe that the evidence is too strong to be ignored. I will not feel the slightest bit of shame or embarrassment if things don't develop as I think they might. I will simply know that I have been faithful in what I consider my responsibility under God. If I'm wrong and you do nothing, then you have lost nothing. But if I'm right and you do nothing, then don't blame me. The decision is entirely yours as to whether or not you will ready for the trumpet whenever it does sound.

As far as I'm concerned, I'm on a countdown, as from September 1, of 11 days to the Feast of Trumpets. If it doesn't happen this year, then I'll simply be on a countdown of 394 days to the Feast of Trumpets on September 30, 1989. One thing I know for sure.

JESUS IS COMING BACK REAL SOON!!!



The Day of Atonement - As a Type for, Christ's Glorious Appearing

Rev. J. A. B. Haggart.
courtesy Kingdom Digest.

In the great cosmic theme of things, it is obvious to those who study their Bible that there is an overall timetable. This timetable pertains particularly to God's chosen people Israel, represented by the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic race today, those who have descended through the blood lines from Jacob and his twelve sons. By His infinite skill and creative ability, God has woven His eternal plan of redemption into the fabric of His Holy Word. And the Word becoming flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, we see how closely and intricately woven into the plan is the Lord Jesus, who gave His blood for our redemption. This act of God in giving the blood of His Son for the forgiveness of our sins is represented by one of the seven festivals given to Israel by the Almighty. Yes, seven in all.

They begin with Passover and Unleavened Bread. Then follows Firstfruit and Pentecost which led us into the Church Age. These four Festivals for Israel have all been manifested in history beginning with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, His ascension into heaven, the wave sheaf, followed by 50 days of waiting for Pentecost. The Son of God honoured the day of Passover by His death and the shedding of His blood. The Father honoured the day of Firstfruits by resurrecting His Son and bringing Him back to His side. The Holy Spirit honoured the Feast of Pentecost by His descent among the Apostles and the people gathered at Jerusalem. All of these have outpictured. But we now await the outpicturing of the Feast of Trumpets, which will affect the whole earth, when the sound of the trumpets will be heard coming from the heavens. This has not been heard

yet, but is described in Joel 1, Daniel 12:1, and I Cor. 15:52. Daniel implies that the blowing of the trumpets will herald not only the glorious appearing of Christ in the heavens above the earth, but also the "time of Jacob's trouble" with its dire consequences to the children of Israel who remain behind on earth. Others will ascend to His side.

Let us notice that there are two loaves resulting from the waving of a single sheaf of grain (represented by Christ). In the Festival of Trumpets there were two blasts of the trumpet at the ancient feast. Why two loaves, and why two blasts of the trumpet? To get the answers we must go back to Zechariah 4:14 and Rev. 11:4. In these passages we can identify the qualities of these people who will be accepted by the Lord Jesus into His Banquet Room in the heavens. Zechariah saw in his vision two olive trees standing on either side of the candlestick. He is told;

"These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth." (Zech. 4:14).

The olive trees are the emblems of Israel and Judah, who have been set apart for His service in a special way. The candlesticks are the Churches, seven of which are referred to by John in Rev. 2 and 3 as emblematical of the seven churches. Two here are associated with the olive trees, thus defining at least a portion of the Church as active in this time of witnessing. The two loaves and the two blasts of the trumpet apply to these two witnesses, who are ready to ascend into heaven as guests of the Groom. They hear;

"A great voice from heaven, saying unto them, Come hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them."
(Rev. 11:12).

This is, then, one group of people who, because of the presence of God in their lives, and being Spirit-filled men and women of Israel, God said to them;

"Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, and My servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe Me, and understand that I AM He."
(Isa. 43:10).

As an example of one witness to Christ who will be among this elect group is Paul, who was of the tribe of Benjamin in Israel. There is no doubt whatsoever that Paul has won his salvation as a Christian, but Paul was not content with that. He was thinking of his place in the Kingdom to come! He compared himself to a runner in a race.

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize?"

Paul knew what the prize was for which he was racing and put every effort into the race which he was running. That is why Paul is such an example to all Christians throughout the Church Age. Those who have caught the vision, as he did, will strive to do their best for Christ and His cause. The rewards will be handed out in heaven.

The Day of Atonement was the most solemn day in the whole circle of Feasts in Israel. It came every year on the 10th day of the 7th month, or Tishri, and was observed as the annual time for cleansing from sin. The sacrifices made in the Temple on that day represented atonement and forbearance for the whole nation of Israel. It was meant for Israel by God, because God had something special in mind for Israel to do for Him. As written in Leviticus 23:27;

"Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement. It shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord."

On this special Day of Atonement the High Priest first laid aside his glory robes and put on a linen coat

and breeches. He meant to dress like any ordinary man on this occasion. Then it was written that he was to slay a bullock and, upon entering the Holy of Holies, he was to sprinkle blood from the bullock on the mercy seat and seven times before the altar. Only by virtue of the blood was he allowed to stand in the Holy Place.

Next came the important ritual of the two goats. Here the symbolism of the two loaves and the two blasts on the trumpet merges with this symbolism of the two goats. The one goat was slain and the blood sprinkled before the altar exactly as the blood of the bullock. This time, the blood was not for himself, but for the people of Israel, making them acceptable unto the Lord. This represented the Israel aspect of the benefits of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. His mission was first to His own people, in the temple of God in Jerusalem. The priest then laid his hands upon the second goat and made a confession of the sins of the people. That goat was then led away into the wilderness, never to be seen again. This goat has been called "the scape goat".

But this animal represented the Israel mission to the world through the Church, and especially through the select tribe of Benjamin. Most of the Apostles of Jesus were of the tribe of Benjamin and living around the Sea of Galilee. Jesus selected His missionaries from among them and sent them out two by two to proclaim the 'good news' of the Gospel. The twelve Apostles went out, like the 'scape goat' into the wilderness, never to return to Jerusalem again. Their particular mission was to the scattered sheep of Israel. Already these scattered sheep were in Britain and the Scandinavian countries. Joseph of Arimathea led a special group of twelve Benjamites to Glastonbury in England, where they built the first Christian church in Britain. Subsequently they fanned out and brought the Christian message to Ireland, to Scotland, and to the continent of Europe, chief among them being Boniface. The seed-bed for Christianity had already been prepared among the settling Israelites as they arrived in Europe and England, with the seed of the faith being brought

directly from Jerusalem and Galilee. It was a fresh and personal witness these men made among the scattered sheep of Israel.

"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not in the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matt. 10:5-6).

Without doubt, He sent His great uncle, Joseph of Arimathea to Glastonbury, England, with these same instructions.

Jesus knew, even before His crucifixion and resurrection, what would be the most effective plan for the spreading of the Gospel throughout the world. The people of Israel had already been prepared two thousand years for the work they were destined to do in founding the Church and spreading the Gospel. The Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples were the principle pioneers of the unknown and unexplored regions of the earth. It was their special commission to carry the "Good News" of Christ wherever they went in the world. Through the good work of the missionary societies of England and the United States of America this commission has been effectively carried out. It is they, and no other people, who have translated the Bible into 1500 different languages in the world, so that the natives of every clime receive and accept the salvation offered.

This work has been done not without some sacrifice and much rigorous endeavour. The slaying of the first goat on the Day of Atonement typified the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, which was accomplished at Golgotha just outside the walls of Jerusalem. God's demand for the atonement for the sins of Israel was met in the agony of His Son upon the cross, once and for all. Included in that forgiveness were the sins of all who would accept that sacrifice as the saving grace of God, and believe in the Son of God as their Saviour. The second goat typified those of Israel who left Jerusalem and

went out into the 'wilderness' of the world, offering themselves as a 'living sacrifice' for the use of Jesus Christ in the establishment of His Church. All of Jesus' Apostles eventually left Jerusalem (typifying the 'scape goats'), carrying the Gospel to the far corners of the earth, and in particular, to the far-off isles of Britain. All of these men, with the one exception of John, were crucified in a manner similar to their Master, Jesus Christ. The twelve were followed by a countless multitude of saints who, because of their dauntless faith, were slain and martyred, as described in Rev. 11:3;

"And I will give power unto My two witnesses, and they shall prophecy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sack-cloth."

In history, this was a period of 1260 years in which true Christians were killed for their faith. But this is the same group who;

". . . heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud." (Rev. 11:12).

Many Christians have been called upon to give up their lives because of their faith. But many of the 'scape goat' Christians like John, have been allowed to live out their lives and to complete their witness to the world. As Rev. 11 indicates, all of them, at the call of the trumpet, shall be raised from the dead, and lifted into heaven to attend the Wedding Banquet for the Groom and His bride in the skies. Many Christians who are alive at that time will not know death, but will follow the other witnesses into heaven.

In the great cosmic calendar of God's redemption plan, this Banquet of the Atonement is still future to us. This will be the time of the separation of the "wheat from the tares" as described by Jesus in one of His parables. The time of the Atonement is also foreshadowed in the parable of The Ten Virgins. This para-

ble indicates that some will be prepared to attend the Lord's Banquet, and some will not. For those who qualify, (wearing the white robes of righteousness), there will be indescribable joy. For those who do not qualify, there will be much 'gnashing of teeth'.

The Atonement at this time will be truly an "at-one-ment" with Christ in His plan for the establishing of God's Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven". At that time will be manifest our Lord's Prayer as Christians have been praying for centuries. Atonement will also be a time of instruction for the saints as to the part they will play in the Kingdom.



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THE 8 MIRACLES of JESUS.

By. F. W. DOWSETT.

MIRACLE NUMBER FOUR.

FEEDING THE 5,000.

The account of our Lord's fourth miracle in this series is recorded in John 6:1-14;

"After these things, Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.

And a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His miracles which He did on them that were diseased.

And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. And the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

When Jesus then lifted up His eyes, and saw a great company come unto Him, He saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

And this He said to prove him: for He Himself knew what He would do.

Philip answered Him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto Him,

There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes. But what are they among so many?

And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

And Jesus took the loaves; and when He had given thanks, He distributed to the disciples,

and the disciples to them that were sat down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

. When they were filled, He said unto His disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world."

Once again, we will commence our study by having a look at the details and circumstances of this miracle. It is the only one of these eight miracles, by the way, which is recorded in all the four Gospels.

Jesus had just come from the Pool of Bethesda, and His subsequent confrontation with the Jews who were determined to slay Him. Things have not changed, have they? What they couldn't do then in a physical sense, (remembering that although they eventually had our Lord crucified, He rose triumphant from the grave), they are now attempting with propaganda and false doctrine. Tiberias, the place to which our Lord went, (John 6:23), is at least 70 miles from Jerusalem, so He had quite a journey. It is interesting to note that from that time onward, He seems to have restricted most of His ministry at least to the country of Galilee, (see John 7:1), the area from which came all His disciples except Judas the traitor. This was the area in which at least a large section of the tribe of Benjamin had settled after returning from the Babylonian captivity.

But the Lord's fame had spread far and wide, and He was followed by a great multitude wherever He went. The reason they followed Him is most important. They followed Him because they saw His miracles. As a matter of fact, they had, in the main, become completely obsessed with seeing miracles. They didn't necessarily

want Jesus for what and who He WAS, they only wanted Him for what He DID. Free feeds were just as popular then as they are now. And as for being healed of illnesses, that was even better than Medicare. They even arrived at the stage where, as stated in verse 15, they tried to force Him into becoming their king right there and then. Then, as now, the people had absolutely no idea of what the Lord Jesus Christ was all about. Today we have the same thing. People are drawn to large meetings to see miracles. I know, because I've been there. Rarely do you see these meetings advertised in such a way that people are encouraged to come to see Jesus Christ. Mostly it is the evangelist's name that receives all the pre-eminence. And when Jesus IS presented, it is in the context of being King of our lives now, and of the kingdom the theologians teach is already in our hearts. Isn't this basically what the people tried to accomplish all those years ago? The reason that Christ refused these attempts to make Him king was because the full benefits of His Kingship could only be attained within the context of the establishment of His Kingdom, for which the time had not at that time arrived. The secret of our relationship with Christ must be based, not on what He can do FOR us, but what He can do THROUGH us.

So Jesus went up the mountain with His disciples, and obviously followed by this great multitude, which, by the way, was a lot more than 5,000. The account in Matthew 14:21 records that there were "about 5,000 men, beside the women and children." So it is more than probable that the crowd numbered in total closer to 10,000. Now that's a lot of people to feed. No wonder Philip got such a shock when the Lord asked him where they would get enough food to feed them. In his surprise he quoted an amount of 'two hundred pence' as not being enough, and that was a lot of money in those days. Just think of the comparison in today's terms. If we allowed the small amount of only 50 cents per person, that would total \$5,000. It's time we fully realised that when Jesus acts, He doesn't do things by halves. He was not only about to perform a miracle, but it was going to

be of truly gigantic proportions. How often do we lose sight of this fact. Even the disciples had no idea at all of the immensity of what our Lord was about to do. Andrew made a very tentative suggestion of which it is certain he didn't realise the potential. We can almost imagine the almost embarrassed tone of his voice as he commented that there was a young lad there with five loaves and two fishes. Not for a moment could he have thought that Jesus would take his remark seriously. So can you imagine what must have been going through the disciples' minds when Jesus told them to arrange for the orderly seating of that vast crowd?

We must realise that everything our Lord did and said here was of the utmost importance. In the first place, the crowd were not to approach Him. He was going to offer what He had to them. They were to 'sit still and see the glory of the Lord' as it were. Then He took in His hands the five loaves and two fishes, the only food available. He stood there, in front of that great throng, seated and expectant, and one of the greatest moments in history was re-enacted before them.

JESUS SPOKE THE WORD!

It happened just the same as recorded in Genesis 1. It was only when "GOD SAID" that creation began. We read that "when He had given thanks", that is, when He spoke the word, that He handed out the food to the disciples, who in turn handed it on to the people. And it didn't stop until they were filled. Now I'm sure that the people themselves were not at all aware of what was really happening. All they were interested in was the free meal that was being provided. But just for a moment, put yourself in the shoes of the disciples. It must surely have been a mind boggling exercise for them. They saw the original five loaves of bread and two fishes, yet the Lord kept on placing heaps of food into their hands, or more likely in the baskets which they had by this time obtained, and every time they emptied the baskets among the people and went back for more, there WAS

more. There was so much more, in fact, that after the people were all completely filled, there were still TWELVE baskets full of food left over. Where on earth did it all come from? How had their Lord done this miraculous thing?

You see, they had not yet realised what many Christians even today don't realise, that Jesus Christ was, and is, the creator of all things. What they were seeing in front of their very eyes was the Creator in action! Jesus was not proving to them so much what He could do, but WHO HE WAS! And whilst something of this wonderful, shattering truth may have become apparent to His disciples and those who were nearest to Him, it meant nothing more to those who had actually benefited from the revelation than a free meal. The tragedy still continues. People will still go to their churches, or flock to special rallies to see and partake of the miracles, but not too many of them really get to see beyond the emotion of the moment to the real Jesus, the Creator of all things. I can't help thinking of the words of the second verse of that famous hymn by Kipling;

"The tumult and the shouting dies,
The captains and the kings depart.
Still stands thine ancient sacrifice,
A humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget; Lest we forget."

We must at all times look beyond the shouting and the emotional self-satisfaction, and see and understand and experience the quiet humility through which alone comes the glory.

But there was one other detail which must be considered. Why are we told, in verse 4, that "the Passover was nigh"? It really isn't difficult to understand why the Jews were so antagonistic to our Lord, is it? He continually hit the nail right on the head. Jesus never compromised the truth, and He certainly never pandered to those who were content to do so. The Passover

included the act of partaking of the Passover Lamb, which ever since its inception, prefigured Jesus' sacrifice for His people as "the Lamb of God." What more appropriate way could He use to demonstrate the fact that here in person was "The Bread of Life" than to personally feed them from His own hands with that inexhaustable supply. Would these people recall this fact when they went to the synagogue to celebrate Passover? Almost certainly not. But the example had been given. The fact had been recorded for all eternity.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had manifest His glory, and proved in their sight to be exactly what He claimed to be, the Great Creator and the Great Redeemer.

Now what was the significance of this miracle, or sign, both in its prophetic and timing application? I have grouped the first four miracles together in what I would refer to as "the pre-resurrection/second advent signs". They apply as follows

Miracle 1. Water Turned to Wine.

The wine represents the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and represents the time of Israel's redemption at our Lord's first advent.

Miracle 2. The Ruler's Son.

This marks the beginning of the period of the Ministry of the Word, covering most of what is referred to as the Church Age.

Miracle 3. The Impotent Man.

This represents the final period of the wandering of God's people preparatory to entering The Promised Land, or the Kingdom Age. This, I believe, applies to the period of 1948 to 1986/88, being the last generation from the setting up of the Israeli State in accordance with the Lord's prophecy.

(Continued on Page 36).

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. Overseas Airmail subscriptions are; NEW ZEALAND, \$20; U.S.A., U.K. & EUROPE, \$25.

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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. Write to us today.

THE PRIZE SET BEFORE US: The Goal Of The Overcomer.

by Howard B. Rand.

In Judges 20:16 a reference is made to seven hundred chosen men of the tribe of Benjamin:

"Every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss."

The Hebrew word translated 'miss' is 'chata', and means 'to sin'. Thus, the passage could read:

"There were seven hundred chosen men left handed; every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not sin."

This, then, is the true import of the word 'sin'. To 'sin' is 'to miss the mark.' It is interesting to find that the Persian expression signifying sin, or a mistake, is used by the Mohammedans to express the same idea; to miss the mark. In the New Testament the Greek word translated 'sin' actually means "to miss the mark", for it is the negative of the Greek term which means to hit the mark.

"To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17).

Such an one has missed the mark. The Lord has set before every individual a goal to be attained. If we miss it, we sin.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

Let us contemplate the goal set before those who are to inherit the Kingdom of God; that is, to become

its rulers. The Apostle Paul lists these targets as the fruit of the Holy Spirit:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." (Gal. 5:22-23)

Happy indeed are those whose aim is accurate so that they miss not the mark. To attain perfect marksmanship, they must not miss, even by an hair's breadth. Let us, therefore, deal briefly with each of the component parts of the 'cluster' of the Fruits of the Spirit.

LOVE.

What does Paul have to say about this virtue?

"If I can speak the languages of men, and even of angels, but have no love, I am only a noisy gong or a clashing cymbal. If I am inspired to preach and know all the secret truths and possess all knowledge, and if I have such perfect faith that I can move mountains, but have no love, I am nothing. Even if I give away everything that I own, and give myself up, but do it in pride, not love, it does me no good. Love is patient and kind. Love is not envious or boastful. It does not put on airs. It is not rude. It does not insist on its rights. It does not become angry. It is not resentful. It is not happy over injustice, it is only happy with truth. It will bear anything, believe anything, hope for anything, endure anything. Love will never die out".

(I Cor. 13:1-8,
Smith & Goodspeed Translation.)

Is our aim perfect in all these respects, or are we missing the target? Remember, to miss is 'sin'.

JOY.

This is a state of perfect happiness regardless of

environment or situations one may face. Paul spoke from experience when he confessed:

"I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Phil. 4:11).

He declared further:

"I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation." (II Cor. 7:4).

Are we able to be joyful in adversity? Paul was. Have you a steady aim in hitting this target when everything around you is at sixes and sevens? If we miss, it is 'sin'.

PEACE.

Men and women far too often fall short of this goal of true happiness - enduring, inward peace - when they seek the satisfaction of physical appetites, whether by eating or drinking, or by insatiable desire for the pleasures the world offers. That which contributes to the gratification of the flesh seldom nourishes the needs of the spirit. Paul explained:

"To be carnally minded is death. But to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

(Romans 8:6).

LONGSUFFERING.

This means to endure offences without retaliation, willingly awaiting God's time for vindication. Longsuffering denotes patience and forbearance, as well as self-restraint. Longsuffering is a Divine attribute.. When Moses went up into the Mount to get the second tables of stone (after he had broken the first):

"The Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the Name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him,

and proclaimed, *The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty.*" (Ex.34:5-7).

Few indeed acquire this spiritual virtue of long-suffering. Yet it is a target set before the Christian striving to overcome.

GENTLENESS.

This denotes kindness, an attribute that is akin to godliness. The Psalmist says of the Lord:

"Oh how great is Thy goodness (i.e. kindness), which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee; which Thou hast wrought for them that trust Thee before the sons of men."

(Ps. 31:19).

How few are kindly at all times and under every circumstance. Nevertheless, if we miss this target, we 'sin'.

FAITH.

It was said of Abraham that "he believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." (Gal.3:6). Faith is a paramount Christian virtue. We must believe and trust God in all things and have unwavering convictions concerning the truth of His Word. There must at no time be any doubt in our minds in regard to all of His pronouncements and promises. By such a faith we are justified and may be assured of our salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All those who hit this mark may call God their Father and are in a position to become co-heirs with His Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

MEEKNESS.

This is self-effacement, Christian humility. It is humility in spirit, freedom from pride and arrogance. This needs no comment, although not many, comparatively speaking, are able to hit this mark on centre. Pride is a besetting sin of the human race and humility is seldom in evidence.

TEMPERANCE.

This is moderation in all things. Self-control is its watchword, restraining the Christian from every kind of harmful indulgence. The majority falls short of this mark in daily living, failing to seriously consider Paul's admonition:

*"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,
and the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any
man defile (destroy) the temple of God, him
shall God destroy. For the temple of God is
holy, which temple ye are."*

(I Cor. 3:16-17).

THE RACE.

What is not stressed by many pastors and evangelists is the fact that when a young convert accepts Christ as his Lord and Saviour, he is just entering the Way. Paul likens this to a race, with a prize to be won by those who meet the rigorous requirements and finish the course:

*"Know ye not that they which run in a race
run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run,
that ye may obtain. And every man that striv-
eth for the mastery is temperate in all things.
Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown;
but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not
as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beat-
eth the air. But I keep under my body, and
bring it into subjection, lest that by any*

means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." (I Cor. 9:24-27).

THE PRIZE.

Why should Paul have written about the risk of being disqualified when he had testified to Timothy:

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

(II Tim. 1:12).

In the one instance Paul was speaking of eternal life and he was certain he possessed this gift of grace through his Lord and Saviour. In the other case he was referring to the race to be run for much higher stakes:

"I want to know Him in the power of resurrection, and to share His sufferings, and even His death, in the hope of attaining resurrection from the dead. Not that I have secured it yet, or already reached perfection, but I am pressing on to see if I can capture it, because I have been captured by Jesus Christ. Brothers, I do not consider that I have captured it yet, only, forgetting what is behind me, and straining towards what lies ahead, I am pressing towards the goal, for the prize to which God, through Jesus Christ, calls us upward."

(Phil. 3:10-14).

Smith & Goodspeed Trans.)

Paul was aiming not to miss, even by a hair's breadth. He did not want to fail to win the prize, which is to 'inherit all things', including rulership with our Lord in His Kingdom.

With this glorious prospect in view, our faith being the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1), we are further counselled in the Book of Hebrews:

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."
(Heb. 12:1).

The exhortation of the Apostle Peter, addressed to all those striving to overcome, is to "give diligence to make your calling and election sure." His whole discourse is very effectively translated by Smith & Goodspeed:

"To those who, through the uprightness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ, have been given a faith as privileged as ours; God bless you and give you perfect peace through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. For His divine power has given us every requisite for life and piety, through our coming to know Him who, through His glory and excellence, called us to Him.

Thus He has given us His precious and splendid promises so that through them you may escape the corrupting influences that exist in the world through passion, and come to share in the Divine Nature.

For this very reason make every effort to compliment your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with steadfastness, steadfastness with piety, piety with a spirit of brotherhood, and the spirit of brotherhood with love. For if you have these qualities in their fulness, they will make you neither idle nor unproductive when it comes to the understanding of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is blind or near-sighted, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his former sins.

Therefore, brothers, make all the greater

efforts to make God's call and choice of you certain. For if you have these qualities, you will never stumble, for then you will be triumphantly admitted to the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

(II Peter 1:1-11).

Are we taking pains to perfect our aim? Will we hit, not miss, the mark? Can we say with Paul in Phil. 3:13-14;

"This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press towards the mark (goal) for the prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus."



THE 8 MIRACLES OF JESUS.

(Continued from Page 27).

Miracle 4. Feeding the 5,000.

The 5 loaves and 2 fishes constitute a barest minimum of food, and represent the famine of the Word of God which we are told would exist in the last days. But just as the cruse of oil and barrel of meal did not fail in the days of Elijah the prophet, so the Word of God will not fail in these last days, but will always be sufficient for all who seek it, and who wish to partake of it.

But an even greater feast awaits those who seek to attain to the Prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus. Those who are privileged to attend that feast will in actual fact partake of "The Bread of Life" Himself. So will we be like Him. So will we become joint-heirs with Him of all that the Father has prepared for us. And that day is now at hand. May we be ready to respond to the Trumpet Call, and to go forth to meet Him as He returns.

Elizabeth: Name of Destiny

In the Rebirth of Israel

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

courtesy WAKE UP!

Thirty five years ago Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in Westminster Abbey in London, England, seated upon an ancient stone called the Stone of Destiny. It was an event towards which the eyes of the world were turned, and for those with discerning minds there was an inner spiritual meaning in the historic ceremony. Most certainly it was a significant milestone down the road of British history. Likewise it was a high point in the rebirth of God's servant people Israel - as was the coming of the same throne of Elizabeth I - out of their time of punishment into the fruition of His blessings.

The accession of the Roman Catholic Mary I to the Throne of England on 16th July, 1553, was hailed with great joy in Rome, and Pope Julius III appointed Reginald Pole, a relative of the Queen, as legate with far reaching powers. (Pole himself had missed being elected Pope in 1550 by a single vote). To mark the restoration of popery in England, Julius gave a special chair to Mary for her coronation and so she was not crowned upon the Stone of Destiny. Her reign was, as we know, fateful, as the great desire of reunion with the Papal See resulted in no less than 286 men, women, and children being burnt for their Protestant faith.

Upon the early death of Mary, it was Elizabeth I who took the throne, her accession taking place on 27th November, 1558. She preferred to remain unmarried, rather than to marry Phillip II of Spain, who had been the husband of Mary Tudor and the willing tool of the Pope. Elizabeth I started the English policy of non-entanglement in wars with the continent of Europe and

she preserved peace for England after the defeat of the Spanish Armada sent to conquer and punish her.

Under the first Elizabeth, God's servant people began to emerge from a long period of punishment which had been laid upon them because of their disobedience. At the foot of Mount Sinai God had entered into a covenant with them, and they had said, "All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient." (Ex. 24:7). The term of God's punishment was lifted when, as related in Revelation chapter 10, God sent a "mighty angel" who came to assist His people in throwing off the yoke of the Roman Church. This was effected first during the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI, and became fully effective with the destruction of the Spanish Armada under Elizabeth I.

During the time that had elapsed between the reigns of the two Elizabeths, all that God promised to Jacob and his seed has been fulfilled. His promise that his seed would become "a great people" and "a multitude of nations" has been manifested in the forming of the United States of America and the former Old British Commonwealth of Nations.

Under Elizabeth I an era of colonisation and expansion began, and English trade covered the earth. Bibles were printed by the thousand. The common man began to read the Bible, withheld from him by the power of an arrogant Papacy. English ships carried English goods to every land, and most important, disseminated the truth of the Gospel wherever they went. A great awakening had come to the servant people Israel who over many centuries had "spread abroad" to their reformation in the west. At last came a mighty fulfillment of Jesus' admonition, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations", and England was blessed with a prosperity and a new national power which she had never previously known.

The Israel of God, or the Kingdom of God in the Scriptures, is symbolised by a stone. There is no dichot-

omy, for the two are one, and Jesus Christ Himself as "the stone which the builders rejected" is to take the Throne upon the earth, the House of Jacob (Bethel), which is symbolised by a stone. (Luke 1:30-33). There can be no spiritualisation here of the Kingdom, a Roman Catholic practice which sadly has continued through the Reformation to maintain the blindness of modern-day Israel in the West.

Tied to the story of God's everlasting promise to Israel is the story of the stone of Bethel. When Jacob awakeden from his dream;

"... he took the stone which he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel. But the name of that city was called Luz at the first." (Gen. 28:18-19).

So the place just outside the city of 'light' or 'en-lightenment', where Jacob had slept, he called Beth-el, or "House of God". The long stone of Beth-el he turned upright, symbolising the establishment of God's house on earth.

Throughout Israel's history this stone was preserved, carried from one place to another in the wanderings of the people. Rings of iron were anchored in the stone, and it was carried on a long pole between two men, for it weighed between three hundred and four hundred pounds. The people preserved it and kept it as a token of God's promise to their father Jacob. It was the symbol of their inheritance. Having no monetary value, the stone was left unharmed by the Babylonians in the sacking of the temple. The prophet Jeremiah fled with it into Egypt, and from thence to Northern Ireland around the year 580 B.C. With him came other symbols of the Royal Davidic Throne, such as the harp of David, which was to figure so prominently in the Coat of Arms of Ireland. Also the sceptre of Judah and the standard of Judah, which is a red lion placed upon a golden field. This is the national flag of Scotland.

The movement of the stone within the British Isles has taken place in the perfect timing of Almighty God, so that, from the year 1296, it was in place for the coronation of Elizabeth I in Westminster Abbey on 25th January, 1559. The restoration, or rebirth of Israel, was truly symbolised by the presence of the same stone upon which Jacob laid his head when he dreamed of the fullness of the Kingdom of God upon earth established with a global spread and a direct supernatural authority. (Gen. 28:12-14).

Realising that Elizabeth II does occupy the throne of the House of David reigning over the House of Jacob, and that Jesus, when He appears again will take up that throne, we should pay special attention to the significance and meaning of the name Elizabeth, which contains within it the words "Beth-el" and "Elijah". In English, the letter "j" may easily be substituted for the letters "z" or "s". Thus, in the first part of the name "Elizabeth", we obtain "Elija" which is, in fact, "Elijah".

Let us remember that Elijah was the only prophet in the Bible of whom we have an account of his ascension into heaven before the eyes of man. Elisha, his disciple, witnessed the event, a demonstration prefiguring what the Lord will do for all overcomers or "Witnesses" when He returns to the astonishment of an unbelieving world.

By a close study of the eleventh chapter of the Book of the Revelation we come to the realisation that the resurrection of the Witnesses (overcomers) will occur before the sounding of the seventh trumpet - they hear a great voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up hither". This trumpet cannot be any other than that which marks the final acts of judgment upon the earth.

The coronation of Elizabeth II on 2nd June 1953, augured more for the world than most imagined. During the five periods of seven years that have elapsed since that great event, the "death" of the witnesses has been coming to ultimate fruition and the point where the Div-

ine spirit of rebirth and resurrection becomes a reality. The enthronement of "Elijah" at this Age-end period of history was a portent of the fact that the climax period of the Age had come for the Kingdom.

Those who at this time have their attention upon the words of God's prophets will understand the tremendous import in the name of the two Elizabeths being linked with 1988 in chronological timing. In particular, the 430 years, the Exodus number, linked with the accession of Elizabeth I in 1558, and added to which brings us to 1988, should cause us to understand that the House of David is on the point of tremendous disruptive events. A total reconstruction and cleansing is to be accomplished under the direct authority of the King of Kings and Lord of lords.



"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience Godliness; and to Godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness love.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure. For if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

(II Peter 1:4-11).

Seven Churches of Revelation

1 THE 7 CHURCHES OF Ephesus	2 Smyrna	3 Pergamum	4 Thyatira	5 Sardis	6 Philadelphia	7 Laodicea
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"	"POWER OF THE LAITY"
PERIOD IN CHURCH HISTORY:-	A.D. 96	A.D. 100 - 313	A.D. 313 - 606	A.D. 606 - 1517	A.D. 1517 - 1739	1739 - 1850 1850 - 1917+ END OF AGE
CHARACTER OF EACH CHURCH:-	EFFORT RELAXED	MARTYRDOM TRIBULATION	UNION OF CHURCH AND STATE	COUNTERFEIT; ANTI-CHRISTIAN	REFORMATION; MISSIONARY.	MODERNISM; SPIRITUAL POVERTY
CHRIST'S TITLE AS JUDGE:-	WALKS IN "MIDST OF CANDLESTICKS"	"WHICH WAS DEAD AND IS ALIVE"	"HE WHICH HATH THE SHARPMOUTH"	"THE SON OF GOD"	"HE THAT IS HOLY AND TRUE"	"THE FAITHFUL, WITNESS"
GOOD POINTS; PATIENCE	LABOUR & PATIENCE	ENDURED TRIBULATION	THE FAITH NOT DENIED	FAITH & PATIENCE	A NAME THAT IT LIVED	KEPT THE WORD
FAULTS; FIRST LOVE	LEFT	BALAA'M'S DOCTRINE. IDOLATRY	RULED BY "JEZEBEL"	BUT DEAD SPIRITUALLY	NONE	LUKEWARM
RWARD TO OVERCOMERS	"PARADISE"	THE FIRST RESURRECTION	"A WHITE STONE"	"NAME WITH CHRIST CONFESSED"	"THE NEW JERUSALEM"	WITH CHRIST ON DAVID'S THRONE

STUDY IN REVELATIONS.

By. F. W. DOWSETT.

PART FOUR.

THE MESSAGE TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES.

(Continued).

We now continue our study of THE MESSAGE TO THE CONGREGATIONS AND CHURCH PERIODS, with the FOURTH period, namely;

4. THYATIRA.

"And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath His eyes like unto a flame of fire, and His feet are like fine brass.

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce My servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am He which searcheth the reins and hearts. And I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

And he that overcometh, and keepeth My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations.

And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers. Even as I received of My Father.

And I will give him the morning star.

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

We see from our chart, (which we have reprinted in this issue for your convenience), the historic period covered by this "church" was about 606 to 1517 A.D. The name 'Thyatira' actually means, 'Ruled by a Woman', and leaves us in no doubt as to the main feature of this period in our history. The 'woman' is specifically referred to as 'Jezebel', so it surely follows that if we wish to understand just what the Lord was referring to, we must go back to the account of Jezebel in the Old Testament. She is first mentioned in I Kings 16:31, where it is recorded of King Ahab that the rest of his sins were surpassed by his act of marrying Jezebel, whereby he accepted and promoted the worship of Baal. In I Kings 21:25 we read;

"But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up."

The worship of Baal, which was Jezebel's religion, was basically the worship of Astarte, (pronounced 'easter'), the so-called "Queen of Heaven". Around the period of A.D. 820, Theodora, the wife of the eastern Roman Emperor Theophilus, caused a revival of image worship. Through this, the people were guided into spiritual

fornication by the false pagan worship of Venus, the Roman 'Queen of Heaven'. Thus the woman, the 'Queen of Heaven' was elevated above "The Word made flesh" of John 1:14. The 'Christianising' of this pagan custom was achieved by the simple expedient of endowing the virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord, with all the characteristics of 'the Queen of Heaven', and she thus became the central figure in the Papal religion which arose. Christianity was thus dominated by this 'woman' for something like nine centuries, a period which has been given the title of "the dark ages", until the beginning of the Reformation in the 16th century, which started the breakdown of this 'rule of the woman'. Although this domination still continues to a degree, we can praise the Lord that there are many within this church today who are opening their eyes to the truth of God's Word, and coming out of this system.

The promise to those who do not become entangled with this system, or who come out of it, is that they will be given power and rulership with Christ in His Kingdom.

It is also of the utmost importance that we notice that in the message to this church, we have the first reference in the message to the churches of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The injunction, in verse 25 is; "Hold fast till I come". It is stated in this and each of the remaining three church periods in a progressively urgent tone. And the warning is the same. **HOLD FAST!**

5. SARDIS.

"And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars. I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain, that are ready to die. For I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Remember therefore how thou hast received

and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." (Rev. 3:1-6).

The name "Sardis" means "a precious stone", and the message to this church covers the historic period of A.D. 1517-1739. The 'Dark Ages' continued, but on October 31st. 1517, Martin Luther nailed his famous "95 theses" to the door of Wittenburg Cathedral, thus commencing a great shaking within the Church of Rome which culminated in what history refers to as The Reformation. But whilst this brought a great deal of freedom from the yoke of Rome, it did not bring real spiritual revival. Our Lord referred to the fact that there were only "a few names in Sardis which had not defiled their garments."

The city of Sardis was well known for its craftsmen and its fine jewellery. It boasted the mighty temple of Cybele, and historic records indicate that it had a state of society which was saturated with the bacchanalian lusts which characterised this worship. At the time when our Lord first gave this revelation through John, the then-present church at Sardis, whilst presenting itself as 'Christian', was in fact spiritually dead, "having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof". Christ's warning to them that He would come as a thief was literally fulfilled on them. There was nothing secret about it either, just as there will be nothing secret about the return of our Lord for which we eagerly await. History records that in one day of sudden, shat-

tering noise, the whole city was destroyed in an earthquake which changed the whole topography of the region. From that day to this, it has been a wilderness of ruin.

Here was a perfect example of the prophecy in Ezekiel 37, where we are introduced to the Valley of Dry Bones. In Ezek. 37:7-8 we read;

". . . and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them".

Here was the picture of Sardis. They came alive, but there was no spirit in them. "Thou livest, and art dead".

But the promise to those who overcome was that they would not be blotted out of God's Book of Life. They would be found worthy to walk with our Lord in white, and to have their name confessed before the Father. Our Lord will read out the name of such an overcomer to His Father, and say, 'That person is Mine'.

And again, we are told to HOLD FAST. But now the reference to the return of our Lord has altered somewhat. To the previous church He said, "Till I come". This time He says, "I WILL come!"

6. PHILADELPHIA.

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.

I know thy works. Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it. For thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied My name.

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Behold, I come quickly. Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and He shall go no more out. And I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from My God. And I will write upon him My new name.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." (Rev. 3:7-13).

The name 'Philadelphia' means 'brotherly love', and the message of this particular church covers the historical period of A.D. 1739 to 1914. (As explained in our previous issue, the chart shows 1850, but some authorities prefer this later date. It does not in any way affect the application).

The first thing we notice about the message to this church is that there is not one word of condemnation contained therein to the people of this period. And noticeably, the city of Philadelphia itself has never been destroyed. Its name however has been changed, and it is known today as Allah-shehr, which means, 'the city of God'.

Under the yoke of Rome, the Christian faith, as described above, was characterised by deadness. They did not have the power which was available with their faith. Thus there was very little, if any, possibility of true 'brotherly love', certainly on any but the narrowest of scales. But suddenly the entire scene changed. We

then saw the Wesley Revivals, which was the beginning of an unparalleled era of missionary outreach, both inside and outside the emerging Anglo-Israel nations. In the years that followed, God literally opened doors that no man could shut, and closed doors that no man could open. The spreading of the gospel of the love and faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ went to every corner of the globe. In 1792 we saw the rise of the Baptist Missionary Society; In 1795, the London Missionary Society; In 1797 the Wesleyan Missionary Society; In 1800, the Anglican Church Missionary Society. We also saw the launching of the British and Foreign Bible Society in 1804; the American Bible Society in 1816; the National Bible Society of Scotland in 1861; and the Hibernian Bible Society of Ireland in 1806. This all happened in conjunction with the fulfillment of God's promises to our forefathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as we came into the fulfillment of His promise that Israel were to be a blessing to all the nations and families of the earth. All this occurred under the blessing and rule of the Throne of David, which was the 'key' to the success of these activities. People don't mind accepting the fact that God opened a door which no man could shut, but they seem very reluctant to accept that this period of intense evangelisation had, in the plan and purposes of God, only a specific time to run. There came the day when God shut the door; a door that by His own decree, no man can open. The days of these nation-shattering revivals started to dwindle with the commencement of World War I, and since that time, the spiritual condition of the Anglo-Israel nations, despite attempts by well known, and well meaning evangelists, has deteriorated to a stage where we are now virtually living in a cess-pool of sin and vice. We have turned our back on God. We have compromised on virtually every issue of His Word. And we are paying the price.

Those who have been faithful during this period have the promise of our Lord Himself that they would be kept from temptation. They will be rulers with Christ in His Kingdom, and they shall be named with His name.

But here for the second time, we have mention of God's enemy about which we are solemnly warned, the synagogue of Satan, being those who claimed to be Judeans, but who are not. That is, a group of people who would claim to be God's chosen people, but were in fact not the 'temple of God', but are 'the synagogue of Satan'. As we saw previously, they were active during the persecution period of the church of Smyrna, and as history has revealed, have been again most active during the period of our great missionary work, and in fact ever since, in their vitriolic attacks on every Christian virtue in their final all-out attempt to destroy both God, His Word, and His People.

And once again we are enjoined to HOLD FAST! But look at the difference in Christ's statement relating to His return. In His first warning He said, "TILL I come". In His second warning He said, "I WILL come". But this third time He says, "Behold, I come QUICKLY". The time to His return is growing obviously shorter.

7. LAODICEA.

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God.

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot. I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked;

I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Be zealous therefore, and repent.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with Me.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.

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

(Rev. 3:14-22).

Thus we come to the final period of the history of the congregations, or churches. It began about 1914, or even as far back as about 1850, and will last until the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The meaning of the word 'Laodicea' is 'the power of the laity', and is associated with judgment. It is certainly most apt. This whole period has been characterised by the rise of every man-made institution and organisation possible for the so-called purpose of bringing about world wide peace and unity. The results of all this have been, to say the least, catastrophic. The faith of millions of people has been destroyed by modernism, humanism, traditionalism and ecclesiasticalism. The rise of such organisations as the World Council of Churches, the United Nations, Socialism, and Zionism, have wrought havoc within the Church of God. The "Faith once delivered to the saints" has been so watered down that people have turned from the worship of the only True God in complete disillusionment. An increasing number of churches today seem to be almost paranoid in their attempts to become 'big'. So many of them think that they are wealthy, but our Lord has a different opinion. They are in fact poor and wretched. Poor in spirit, and wretched in faith. Christ is pleading with them to come out of this condition. He does not picture Himself, as so many seem to think, as standing only outside the doors of our hearts asking to come in. He is also standing at THE DOOR OF THE CHURCH trying to get in. What a sad commentary on our nation and people today. But it is

one of the final signs which our Lord gives us regarding His return. No longer does He say, "I come quickly". Now He says, "I am standing at the door". The end of this age is really very nigh. No longer is the door open to great evangelistic campaigns, and because He can't get into the churches, the Lord is now searching for His sheep one by one. Those who respond have the promise that they will rule with him as overcomers in His throne when He returns to take the Throne of David, and rule over His Israel people with justice and righteousness for evermore.

But whilst these messages initially apply to the various periods of our history, they have a real application to people in all these periods. There would be those who would be persecuted in all ages, just as there would be those who are faithful. So the injunctions of all these messages apply equally to us all today. God is no respecter of persons. We can all suffer the penalties set forth in these messages, or we can enjoy the untold blessings that are there for those who overcome. Our prize will be to meet our Lord as 'the friends of the Bridegroom' when the call to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb goes forth. It will be the unbelievable privilege of all such to become Priests and Rulers with Him over His everlasting Kingdom.

Our prayer is that we may attain to this Prize of the Higher Calling of God in Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour.



"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in good time.

Casting all your cares upon Him;
For He careth for you."
(I Peter 5:6-7).

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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"So will I make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel; and I will not let them pollute My holy name any more. And the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord God. This is the day whereof I have spoken.

And I will set My glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see My judgment that I have executed, and My hand that I have laid upon them. So the House of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward.

And the heathen shall know that the House of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against Me, therefore hid I My face from them, and gave them into the hands of their enemies.

So fell they all by the sword.

According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid My face from them. . . .

Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide My face any more from them. For I have poured out My Spirit upon the House of Israel, saith the Lord God."

(Ezekiel 39:7-8; 21-24; 28-29).

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