



THE COVENANT VISION

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

THE COVENANT VISION.

Editor: Frank W. Dowsett.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(continued on inside back cover.)

Editorial

So we have entered a new year, and the expectations of 1988 have not turned out as we would have hoped. Some people will no doubt have pointed the finger and said 'I told you so'. Others continue with complete indifference. Unfortunately, there are many who have already given up on the whole subject on the basis that we aren't supposed to know when the Lord will return at any rate. But there are also those who analyse the situation and apply the lessons which we have learned. Because no matter what people might say, or how much they might criticise, the certainty of the near return of our Lord Jesus Christ is an undeniable fact. In a recent letter I received from my good friend Rev. James Haggart of the U.S.A., he pointed out to me that about 50 million Evangelical Christians who were counting on the return of Christ at the Festival of Trumpets last year were now completely disappointed and disillusioned. They had been so taken up with the writings of such books as "The Late Great Planet Earth" that they now simply don't know where to turn.

And this is where the Parable of the Ten Virgins comes in. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind as to the importance of the year 1988 in prophecy, and the fact that we haven't fully understood the finer details of what transpired should not in any way deter our expectation or our study of this wonderful and glorious hope. We have been really blessed by the number of people who have written to us thanking us for the encouragement and hope they have experienced as a result of these studies. So I determined to have a fresh look at this parable as recorded in Matthew chapter 25. In verse five, we find two very important statements. Firstly we are told that "the bridegroom tarried." The Greek word translated 'tarried' means 'to linger, or delay.' In other words, the Bridegroom was expected at a certain time but delayed His coming beyond that time.

This does not necessarily mean that the waiting people were wrong. It simply points out that the one who was expected decided to delay His arrival until a little later.

The second statement is that during this delay, or 'tarrying period', ALL the virgins 'slumbered and slept'. I was reminded that this is exactly the same phrase used of our Lord in Psalm 121 where it says that "He who watches over Israel, neither slumbers nor sleeps." I asked myself, "Why is the Lord repeating Himself by the use of these two words?" So I decided to check their meanings, and the answer was most revealing to say the least. The Greek word translated 'slumber' means 'to nod, or drowse'. But the word translated 'sleep' means 'to lie down to go to sleep'. And here was the answer. The FOOLISH virgins, because of the delay, had given up on the whole subject, put themselves to bed, and deliberately fallen asleep, thus putting the whole thing out of their mind. But the WISE virgins had not done this. They had stayed on their feet, still eagerly watching for this, the great hope of their calling. Oh yes, they might at times nod off a bit, or get drowsy, but they still forced themselves to stay as alert as possible, and at all costs not fall asleep. They were thus able to carefully check their supply of oil, (representing the Holy Spirit), and replenish their stocks as necessary. On the other hand, those who were asleep were totally unaware of the depleted condition of their 'oil', and when the call for action came, woke to find that they didn't have enough to reach the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. When they finally got going, all they received was that terrible word of rejection from their Lord. The door was shut.

The lesson for us is perfectly clear. We are now in the 'tarrying period'. We don't know how long it will last as absolutely no indication is given of this in the Bible. All we know is that on the basis of God's prophetic Word, it cannot last long. But the end is very sure. The great day is fast approaching. Let us be alert and watchful as we face the future. Sleep is a luxury we can no longer afford. Let us be up and doing, for the great day of our redemption draweth nigh. *

The Sleeping Period.

By Rev. J. A. B. HAGGART.

It is obvious to most thinking Christians, those who study the prophecies of the Bible, and especially the Kingdom Parables of our Lord, that we are living in the Last Days. Several of the parables could apply to the times in which we live today simultaneously. But the one parable that has meaning for the present generation is the Parable of the Fig Tree, which identifies the newly-formed nation of Israel as the "Fig-Tree" nation which was accepted as one of the many new nations which have been recognised by the United Nations as legitimate. In fact, Luke in his own version of the United Nations wrote:

¶ "Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the Kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but My words shall not pass away."

(Luke 23:29-34).

For the alert reader of the Bible there can be little doubt that this passage described by Jesus in this parable described the forming of the United Nations in 1945 in San Francisco, which, three years later, (in May 1948), declared the new Israeli state as one of the new and legitimate nations on planet earth. In 1970 Hal Lindsey published his book, "The Late Great Planet Earth", which sold in the millions and became popular among the vast Christian community termed "The Evan-

gelicals". On the basis that a Biblical generation consisted of 40 years, the coming of the Lord was predicted in 1988. But 1988 has come and gone without the appearing of the Lord. Members of the orthodox churches throughout the world have smiled and cast this prediction into a pile of other prophecies of the Lord's coming which have accumulated in the passing years. They point to the words of Matthew 24:36 which says;

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

These words were spoken at a time before the ascension of our Lord into heaven. But in chapter 5 of Revelation we read of how an angel asked in a loud voice;

"Who is worthy to open the book (of the future) and to loose the seals thereof. . .

And one of the elders said unto me (John), Weep not. Behold, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."

Beginning with chapter 6 we read of the opening of the seven seals, one by one, with the events of seven future eras all revealed to John. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ has unveiled these mysteries directly to John in Revelations, and subsequently to devout Christians who have sought answers to prophecy as contained in the Bible.

There is no doubt that the two parables, one the Parable of the Fig Tree, and the other the Parable of the Ten Virgins, apply simultaneously to our day. Although Christ did not appear in 1988 and millions upon millions of Christians were disappointed, there may be an extension of the time period through a study of the Parable of the Ten Virgins. Let us remember that the error in judgment made by William Miller in expecting

Jesus to come in 1844 was the beginning of a period of 144 years which ended in 1988, when likewise Jesus should have appeared. That 144 years was the time of the Cleansing of the Sanctuary, which we may assume is now completed. Like William Miller, many Christians were disappointed when He did not come. William Miller failed to see that 1844 was the beginning, not the ending of the Cleansing of the Sanctuary. Also Mr. Miller got busy, and with his group of followers organised the Seventh Day Adventist Church during this time of delay. Admittedly, they are the fastest growing denomination of the last century and have built churches and hospitals all over the world. Through his work, the church has not been allowed to forget the future second Advent of the Lord.

For the millions of Christians who were disappointed in His failure to appear in 1988 we recommend a further study of the Parable of the Ten Virgins for the answer. They should not all fall into the category of the Foolish Virgins. Let's not forget that the Parable of the Ten Virgins describes five of the virgins who were wise, and five who were foolish, who did not have enough oil (of the Holy Spirit) in their lamps to find their way to the Banquet Chamber.

We must not fail to see that following the Tarrying Period there is the Sleeping Period for all ten of the virgins. In terms of the Parable of the Fig Tree, the Lord should have come at the end of the 144-year Tarrying Period. But there is the additional Sleeping Period. This Sleeping Period for the virgins cannot be as easily identified as the Tarrying Period. It might be measured in months rather than years. This should come as a warning to the many Christians who have given up looking for the return of Christ. Christians should not now "fall asleep" to the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let no Christian neglect the possibilities of the next few months or years, remembering this part of the parable;

"While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept."

Since the Lord still tarries, all Christians should have their lamps trimmed, and plenty of oil, (the Holy Spirit), on hand. No Christian should be caught napping when Christ comes, but all should be alert and ready when He truly appears.

And that time could be very near!



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THE VOICE OF THE WATCHMAN!

For some time now, we have been aware that the time, money and effort associated with our publications has a very limited range, and reaches a very limited readership. Whilst these efforts are proving a real blessing to readers, as intimated by their many letters, we still feel frustrated in the knowledge that thousands of people are still living in either ignorance or error as to what is actually happening, and what is about to happen. Our present political parties are a joke, and totally dominated by the powers behind the scenes. Sadly, our churches don't seem to be any better with their almost universal support for God's enemies, and their refusal to recognise our Israel Identity and the great responsibility which that position carries. The only thing that can bring us back, as a nation, to the paths of peace and prosperity, THE LAW OF GOD, is mainly disregarded by the churches as having been done away with, and our people now perish for a lack of true vision as to THE WAY in which our Lord Jesus Christ told us to walk. We became absolutely convinced that something had to be done about this situation, something that would warn our people of the terrible trouble that we are in, and of the only way out of it.

Recently we received the Sept./Oct. issue of WAKE UP! from Britain, and in reading the notice on the first page regarding 'Our Immediate Task', we realised that this was the kind of message the people of Australia should be receiving. As a result, we rang a local paper for costs, and found that a notice three columns wide by 5 cms. (2 inches) deep would cost \$55 per issue on a contract basis of one per month for 12 months. The circulation of this newspaper is about 46,000 within an area just west of Sydney. But I then decided to obtain a price from the newspaper THE AUSTRALIAN. The same size notice would cost \$240 for week days. This newspaper has a circulation of 384,000 and goes to every city and town in Australia. In addi-

tion, the government send a copy of each issue to every Australian Embassy, Diplomatic Office, and Trade Office in the world. So we considered placing just one notice in THE AUSTRALIAN, and one per month in the local paper, which for a year would cost us \$900, a sum we felt we could manage. But on reflection, we worked out that for about the same price, \$960, we could put a notice in the national paper every three months for a far greater total circulation of just over 1.5 million for the year. As a matter of interest, this comes to about 6/100ths of a cent each. So finally, we decided to use the national paper, and have placed the first of these notices as follows for the week ending Jan. 21.

THE VOICE OF THE WATCHMAN!

We alert the people of Australia, as part of God's servant nation, to the fact that we can only escape greater judgement in the deepening crisis now facing us by turning back to the God of our fathers, and

Obeying His Laws

Covenant Vision Ministry, 97 Brisbane St, St Marys, N.S.W. 2760 Australia.

We have no doubt that a number of our readers would like to share with us in this special outreach, and we make no apologies for this appeal. Whilst the normal financial support of our work must continue, we invite those who feel led to share in this additional ministry to prayfully consider their involvement. The facts are quite simple. The more financial support we receive for this special ministry, the more notices we intend placing in the newspapers. Instead of one every three months, we could, for example, end up with one every month. We have no idea where this will lead us. We only know that this is what must be done in the short time we have left to us before our Lord's return. We will report on progress in each issue of THE COVENANT VISION.

Please join us as Watchmen in this end-time witness!

THE PARABLES OF BALAAM.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART TWO.

THE FIRST PARABLE.

As we study the Parables of Balaam, it becomes quite clear that these prophecies were not just man-made utterances, but were Divine revelations from God Himself regarding future aspects and conditions of His people Israel.

So the first thing we must ascertain is to which period of Israel's history these prophecies applied. They certainly did not apply to the time when Balaam was speaking. Balaam was actually given a vision of the distant future. In Numbers 24:3-4 we read;

"And he took up his parable and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open: . . ."

The first three parables do not state a special time for their fulfillment, but when we read the fourth parable as recorded in Numbers 24:14 we read;

"And now, behold, I go unto my people. Come therefore, and I will advertise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days."

So we see that the time for the fulfillment of these parables, or prophecies, was to be "the latter days", the very same period during which the promises

to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were to be fulfilled. We read in Genesis 49:1 of the blessing of Jacob upon his twelve sons;

"Gather yourselves together that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last (or latter) days."

Jacob then proceeded to enumerate these blessings which were to be fulfilled concurrently with the prophecies of Balaam unto the same twelve tribes of Israel during the latter days, which is the Christian age in which we now live. They were not left to be fulfilled during the next, or Kingdom Age, and it is important that we fully understand this fact. The prevalent belief that the present-day Jews are God's people Israel is quite wrong, not because some people believe so, but because this belief simply doesn't fit in with what the Bible teaches. This conclusion becomes clearer as we study these parables.

Now I realise that a lot of verses are quoted by those who believe in the Jewish/Israel identity in order to substantiate their claims. I also accept that these people constitute the great majority of Christians and their leaders. But numbers are no proof of correctness. In a great number of these references, when the word 'Israel' is used in the Bible, people have automatically substituted the word 'Jew'. I've heard sermons, and read many books where Abraham is referred to as the first Jew. This is ridiculous. Abraham wasn't even an Israelite. He was a Hebrew. The Israelites, as such, didn't come into being until the lifetime of his grandson Jacob/Israel. The word Jew isn't even mentioned in the Bible until the second Book of Kings, and only applied at best to a small portion of the southern House of Judah. So if we are going to use these titles indiscriminately, we end up applying the various prophecies to the wrong people. These words 'Israel' and 'Jew' can not be interchanged any more than we can interchange the names 'English', 'Scottish', 'Welsh', 'Irish', 'Australian', or 'Canadian' in studying the history of the British na-

tion. It is of particular interest to note that when we turn to the Book of Daniel and to the prophecies relating to the 70 weeks in chapter 9, we find in verse 26 a very pertinent marginal reading;

"And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, and the Jews they shall be no more His people.

I'm afraid that I cannot accept the modern practice of introducing a pause in the outworking of this prophecy. Time and time again God specifically states that His promises and covenants, which are for all practical purposes prophecies, are to endure from generation to generation. If the present day Jews are God's people Israel then we are stuck with a problem of immense proportions. Whatever conclusion we may arrive at as to the identity of Israel, it is a fact of history that every one of the promises made to Israel have been fulfilled in the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people, including the territorial expansion and dominion. We are the nation and people who have taken the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to the entire world. These same people have been the bulwark of the Christian Faith. These things have never been done by the Jews. In fact they have been, and still are, the greatest opponent and enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ that the world has ever seen. And on top of this, we are asked to believe that when the Kingdom Age dawns under the reign of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He is going to strip us of all the blessings which He has given us during the centuries of witnessing and service that has been accomplished, and give them all to those who are His sworn enemy. Why do I say this? Simply because God promised these blessings to only ONE nation. Nowhere in the entire Bible will you find even the most remote reference to God trying out His promises and covenants on some other nation prior to fulfilling them in His chosen people Israel, or of sharing them with several nations. Whoever has these blessings and promises during these latter days MUST be the people to whom they were promised because God gave no alternatives.

Contained within the prophecies of Balaam you will find no curse whatsoever. Quite the contrary, because each prophecy or parable contains only blessings. How can they then be applied to a people during this Christian age who know nothing but the curse which they themselves brought upon their own heads when they shouted to Pilate, "His blood be on our heads and on the heads of our children"? God said to Balaam in Numbers 22:12;

"Thou shalt not curse these people, for they are blessed."

And later, in his reply to King Balak, Balaam said;

"I have received commandment to bless, and He hath blessed, and I cannot reverse it."

These parables of Balaam do not portray a people in degradation and shame, who are undergoing the righteous judgment of God for their evil deeds, but rather do they portray great blessing upon a people whom God has appointed as His witness to the rest of the world to the fact that He is a faithful God, a God who never changes, a God who can be relied upon at all times, a God whose mercy and truth endures for ever.

So with the foregoing in mind, let us now turn to the first of these parables of Balaam as recorded in Numbers 23:7-10;

"And he took up his parable, and said, Balak the king of Moab hath brought me to Aram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel. How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? Or how shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not defied?

For from the tops of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him. Lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."

Without any shadow of doubt, the key verse in this passage must surely be verse nine where we read;

"Lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations."

How many times has this verse been used by the opponents of the Anglo-Israel Identity in an effort to prove that we are not God's people Israel. Some years ago I read an article in which the writer branded our belief as a dangerous heresy, and one of the scriptures which he used on which to base this conclusion was the one just quoted above. He claimed that in view of the fact that the British Commonwealth was a member of the United Nations Organisation, then it followed that we were quite obviously reckoned among the nations, and thus could not be Israel. This might seem a reasonable argument to some people, but why can't these opponents be honest and consistent. If we are not Israel because of our membership in the United Nations, then neither can the Jews be Israel, because they also are a member of the very same organisation. So if we were to base our conclusions and beliefs on this understanding of this particular scripture, we would have to conclude that neither the Anglo-Saxons nor the Jews are Israel. And that would certainly leave everyone in a fix. Apparently it is quite alright to interpret the Bible in one way in respect of one particular nation, but in exactly the opposite way in regard to another nation. No wonder there is so much confusion in the understanding of God's Word.

So it becomes quite evident that this verse has a far greater significance and application than what appears on the surface. The first thing we must remember is that it is a blessing, and as such can in no way apply to the people who, during the period of its operation,

have been scattered and persecuted over the whole face of the earth. The Jewish people have certainly been forced to dwell alone in the sense that they have been ostracized by practically every nation in the world, and until recent years have thus not been reckoned among the nations, but I can assure you that this has certainly not been a blessing to them as I'm sure they will be only too eager to confirm. On this basis alone, this promise cannot apply to them because being a blessing, it indicates honour and prosperity and security. This is quite amply supported by the very next verse where we read;

"Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."

What we have just read is a promise of blessing expressed in a multiplicity of descendants, and applies to Israel at the same time that they are dwelling alone and are not reckoned among the nations. It indicates a teeming population that would be almost impossible to count. Under no circumstances could this prophecy apply to the relatively small population of the present Israeli state during this Christian age, or latter days. And when we add to this fact that the Jewish leaders themselves openly declare that the Jews today are NOT a race, but a religion, then it is obvious that we must look elsewhere than to the Jews for the identity of Israel, the promised recipients of the terms of this parable.

I would remind the reader of the principle that I have always stressed, and that is that any interpretation that we might form regarding any passage of Scripture must not only be in context with the passage in which it occurs, but must also be in context with, and conform to, all other passages of Scripture relating to the same subject. If it does not so agree, then our interpretation is wrong. And of course, this rule must apply equally to this passage. Does our conclusion regarding the multi-

plicity of seed agree with other promises relating to Israel? Let us have a look. In Gen. 18:18 God promised that they were to become a great and mighty nation. In Gen. 28:3 He promised that they would be a multitude of people. In Gen. 35:11 they were promised to become a nation and a company of nations. In Gen. 48:19 God said that they would become a great people and a multitude of nations. In Gen. 28:14 God promised that their seed would be as numberless as the dust of the earth, whilst in Gen. 22:17 He promised that Israel's seed would be as the stars of the heaven and as the sand of the sea shore for number. How this can be applied to the present Jewish people, who on their own authority are mostly religious rather than racial Jews, I will never understand.

Now in the face of these statements, it is obviously difficult to see how these people would be alone and not reckoned among the other nations in the usual sense of the words. And it is only as we search the Scriptures that we discover just exactly what God meant by this statement. In II Samuel 7:10 we read;

"Moreover, I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more, neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more as beforetime."

This promise was made to Israel whilst they were in Palestine, so obviously the appointed place must have been some other place outside of Palestine. When we turn to I Chron. 17:21 and Deut. 26:18-19 we read;

"And what one nation in the earth is like Thy people Israel, (marg. 'a nation that is alone in the earth'), whom God went to redeem to be His own people."

"The Lord hath avouched thee this day to be His peculiar people, as He hath promised thee, and to make thee high above all nations that

He hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the Lord thy God, as He hath spoken."

So we see that these people were not to be alone from the human point of view, but from God's point of view. God formed them into a special people and they were to be alone in this position. No other nation would ever share this wonderful privilege. God did not give His name to any other people but Israel, and we are commanded not to take that name which we bear in vain.

But not only were they to be alone in this sense, but we read that they were to be a Holy, or separated, people. God said in Deut. 7:6;

"For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God. The Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth."

So we see that this nation of Israel were to be separate from other nations, or in other words, "not reckoned among the nations". We would do well in these dark days in which we now live to heed the words of the Lord as recorded in II Cor. 6:14 and 17;

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial (or Satan)?

Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, And I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

(to be continued).



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.

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

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. Send for your copy today.

The Importance of the Abrahamic Covenant.

By Ralph Elton.

Can any diligent student of God's Holy Word deny the complete retrogression in this 20th century of the Bible's message to Israel as clearly spoken in the Abrahamic Covenant, to the negation of such by the victory of Satanic falsehoods which all of our nominal church pulpits proclaim to their flocks as a legacy from their parent, Rome?

Our weekly attendances at (so-called) Christian services are, without exception, conspicuously lacking in even the scantiest mention of the three supporting pillars of the Christian Faith, namely the Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Christian Covenants which together progressively uphold the message spoken of in our Scriptural narrative, which in its essence is the solution for the rectification of the evils of our present world chaos. This message is that of the imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the closely following overthrow of "Mystery Babylon", of which the present military/economic/political world picture so lucidly pronounces is already in a swift process towards finality.

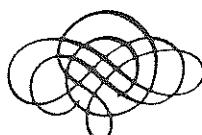
In the second Book of Peter, in chapter 1 and verse 19, we are given sound advice which should be paramount in these times of apostacy, in these words:-

"We have a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns, and the Day Star rises in your hearts."

I often wonder how many readers of "The Covenant Vision" who also attend the services of their respec-

tive nominal Christian denominations, can recall the last time this "more sure word of prophecy" was spoken to them in any measure from their pulpits. The promises given to Abraham and his seed for ever have been displaced from their initial meaning, (despite the verses in Malachi 3:6 and Romans 11:1), by a universal and completely false application which supports their incorporation into the Gentile Church, and which makes the reward to Abraham's descendants through his son Isaac, for Abraham's faith in God, of no account. In support of this statement I should like to direct the readers' attention to the Epistle of James, chapter 1, verse 1, as set out in the "Good News" Bible translation, where the statement in the authorised version "To the twelve tribes scattered abroad" is changed to read "to all God's people scattered over the whole world".

During a recent service held in an Anglican place of worship attended by myself, it was pronounced from the pulpit whose well-known tenents are based so hypnotically on this church's parent Rome, "That the return of Christ may not be for another 1,000 years." This lack of knowledge of our Lord's own words in Matthew 24 and Luke 21, which in particular relate to the simultaneous application by man of nuclear fission, as well as the 'budding of the fig tree', which are both in strong evidence today, cannot fail to convince all true and diligent Bible students, whose minds are not disturbed by pseudo-Christian falsehoods, that THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND! The emphasis on personal salvation which is all we hear in our churches today, fails to clarify the fact that this qualification is merely the passport, or ticket of admission, to this Millenial Kingdom of our Lord.



THE 8 MIRACLES of JESUS.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

MIRACLE NUMBER SIX.

THE MAN BORN BLIND.

"And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from his birth.

And His disciples asked Him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day. The night cometh when no man can work.

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

When He had thus spoken, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent).

He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing."

(John 9:1-7).

Thus we read of the sixth miracle of our Lord Jesus Christ which is recorded by the apostle John. And

it is important to remember the system of 'pairing' which we mentioned in our previous study. This miracle is paired with the 3rd. miracle, that of the healing of the Impotent Man. As we saw, that man, although impotent, or feeble and without strength, could still see. That is, he could see where he wanted to go, but was too feeble to get there. But in this sixth miracle, the man was in the far more advanced condition of being actually blind. From his birth he had never seen a thing.

As we have seen in our studies thus far, all these miracles represented some stage of the life and condition of God's Kingdom Israel. We have already seen that the reason Christ performed these miracles was "to manifest forth His glory". As we have said before, this had nothing to do with showing everyone how clever He was, and establishing a reputation for Himself. Actually, God's Word refers not only to His own personal glory, but states in Isa. 46:13 that God also refers to His people Israel as "His glory":

"I bring near My righteousness. It shall not be far off, and My salvation shall not tarry.

And I will place salvation in Zion for Israel My glory".

So we see that Christ was not only establishing His own glory, but also that of His people Israel. And with both these miracles, He was wonderfully illustrating the condition of this same people Israel both then and for a fore-ordained, yet limited, time to come. Just look at these points which are common to both miracles.

- a) Both manifest the condition of God's people Israel. They were feeble, and they were blind.
- b) These two miracles are the only two of the eight which mention "sin". (John 5:14 and 9:2).
- c) Both occurred at Jerusalem, the seat of government and the throne.

- d) Both were associated with a pool, the first at Bethesda, and the second at Siloam.
- e) In both cases, Jesus was the seeker. He approached the man.
- f) In both cases it was the Sabbath.

In the first miracle of the pair, the man had become impotent and remained in that condition for 38 years. In this sixth instance, the man was born blind, and had remained that way all his life.

In the case of the impotent man, Christ asked him if he wanted to be healed. In the case of the man born blind He commanded him to be healed without asking him whether or not he wanted to be. And in this difference lies a promise of tremendous importance.

So as has been our practice in these studies, let us look at the details of the situation.

Jesus was out walking with His disciples when He saw the blind man. From the disciples' question it is obvious that the man was generally known to have been blind from birth. This raised a question in their minds as to who had sinned to cause this condition, because they knew that all sickness was basically a result of sin. As this man was born in this condition, it seemed unlikely that he could have committed some sin to have brought about his own blindness, so they questioned the Lord about it. This, I feel, is a subject that all too few Christians seem to understand. I well remember many years ago a lady coming to me in distress because her small daughter had just been badly burnt in a fire. She asked me what sin she could have committed for God to have punished her child in such a way. Her priest had taught her that as 'the sins of the parents were visited on the children', she must have recently committed some grievous sin. What a shockingly sad situation. She was totally distraught. I tried to explain to her that this was not what God meant, and pointed out to her the auto-

matic application of the Law of God whereby the consequences of our sins could, and would, have repercussions upon our children for the next three to four generations. Thus certain illnesses are inherited through our grandparents and we develop illnesses which they may never have experienced themselves. It shows us just how careful we must be in how we live. Disobedience to God's Laws now may not affect us during our own lives, but the results could manifest themselves in our children to the third or fourth future generation. Those within our churches who teach that the Law of God has been done away with, and thus promote complete indifference and disobedience to it, have placed themselves under the most terrible judgment, because to put it quite bluntly, they have deliberately promoted the very sicknesses which they now pray for God to heal.

But Jesus assured His disciples that in this special case, the blindness had not been caused by either the man himself nor his parents. God had allowed this condition to come upon him for the express purpose of showing forth His glory, and illustrating the condition of His Kingdom people. Some may say that this was grossly unfair on the man, but in fact we should rather realise what a blessing God had placed upon this man in that he was to be used in a very special way to God's glory. He was to be the instrument through which Jesus Christ would manifest the works of God. Here He was illustrating the difference between NIGHT, (represented by the man's blindness), when nothing can be done, (as represented by the blind man's inability to work), and DAY, when work can be done, represented by the changed condition of the man after he had received his sight. But on top of that, our Lord revealed that light, represented by sight, would always operate wherever He was present.

As we have already commented, the blind man did not ask to be healed of his blindness. He probably didn't even know that there was a possibility of being healed. He had no idea that he was to become the central character in one of the greatest illustrations that our Lord ever gave of the past and future condition of His Israel

people. Greatness was about to be thrust upon this simple blind man. Jesus, the Creator of all things, was about to use him as the recipient of a further act of pure creation. He took some clay from the ground, spat on it to make it pliable, and placed it over the blind, and I suggest empty, eyesockets of this man. In view of the fact that the whole of our body is formed from the dust of the ground, is it too much to conclude or suggest that what Jesus in fact did was to literally create two new eyes out of the same clay and place them in position in the empty sockets? I leave the suggestion with you. But I can see no reason to accept the fact that Jesus, as Jehovah the Creator, could form our whole body from the clay, and not use the same process just for two eyes.

But be that as it may, there was still one thing that had to be done. Despite the fact that Jesus had done everything that was necessary on His part, the man could not, and would not, receive the benefit of Christ's work until he himself became fully obedient to the will of Christ and to the conditions which He had laid down. He had to go and wash in a pool. There can be no doubt but that the man must have wondered why on earth Jesus required him to do this. But nevertheless, he did it, and as soon as he showed his obedience and put it into action, he received his full sight. For the first time in his entire life he could see.

Let us take note of one special difference between this man and the impotent man of the third miracle. The impotent man had remained impotent because he didn't go into the water. The blind man, on the other hand, remained blind until he went into the water.

When we examine the six common factors which we previously listed we discover some outstanding and wonderful truths as to the application of these miracles to God's earthly Kingdom Israel.

Firstly we have the fact of the feebleness and blindness. This was a condition of which the Lord had

previously warned Israel. God had warned them that He would hedge up their ways so that they would not know where they were going. In Hosea 2:6 we read:

"I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths."

The blind condition of Israel, and their release and healing from this condition is wonderfully set out by the prophet Isaiah:

"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 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. . . ."

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

Let all nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled. Who among them can

declare this, and shew us former things? Let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified. Or let them hear, and say, It is truth.

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

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

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

Therefore ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God."

(Isa. 42:16-22, 43:8-12).

Paul, speaking of Israel in his letter to the Romans, cites the following from Isa 29:10:

"According as it is written, 'God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear'; unto this day." (Romans 11:8).

Secondly, the condition is expressly stated in relation to sin. The weakness of the impotent man had been cause by sin, as evidenced by the fact that in John 5:14 Jesus told him to go and sin no more. And we know that Israel's condition of weakness and blindness had also been brought about by their sin in being disobedient to God. But whilst blindness is a result of sin, this condition in the man born blind had been deliberately allowed by God. The whole point of this exercise was not to point to sin as the cause, but rather to highlight the victory over sin by our Lord Jesus Christ. The blindness, irrespective of its cause, was to be removed by Israel's Redeemer. The 'works of God', that is, His plans and purposes for Israel in being the witness to the very fact that He IS God, was to be carried out to the letter, and

this man was the instrument through whom Christ illustrated this fact.

Thirdly, both these incidents happened in Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the City of God, the seat of the throne of David, and of government over Israel. It is not without significance that the removal of both the weakness and the blindness of Israel should be evidenced firstly within the throne and the government, that is, from the top down. The position today is no different. Our repentance as a nation will happen only by command from the top. It will come only from a recognition and acceptance by our leaders of the fact that our hope lies solely in the Lord God of Israel. It will not happen as a result of grass-roots activity from the bottom, and the endless evangelical campaigns and attempts at church unity. The great answers from God in our national life have come only when the King has called for a day of prayer, not when the people have decided among themselves to call one. The reason for this is simply that the King is God's representative on His Israel throne, the Throne of David, and the people prosper or suffer as they are led by the occupant of that throne. I well remember some months ago when our new Federal Parliament House was opened in Canberra. Thousands of well intentioned people, both Christian and heathen alike, decided that the thing to do was to hold a special prayer meeting around the new building to pray for God's blessing upon the future deliberations to be held therein. And so they arrived there in their thousands. Christian leaders, as well as leaders of the heathen religions in our midst, were officially recognised and invited to the platform to invoke their prayers to whatever god they worshipped. What an insult to the Lord God of Israel. Predictably, things have not improved one iota. The anti-christ and anti-christian plans of our national leaders are still progressing right on course. But if our leaders had repented and seen the necessity of bringing our cause before God and had called the people to a national day of prayer, leaving the other heathen religions severely out of it, then I'm sure conditions would have been much improved.

Fourthly, we find the presence of the pool of water. The blind man did not receive his sight until he washed in the water of the pool. This is most significant. The high priest of Israel always had to wash himself before entering into the presence of God within the Holy of Holies. That was the purpose of the laver, or sea, in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple. This act signified his own cleansing in the sight of God before he could enter into God's presence. Likewise our Lord Himself had to be washed in the waters of baptism before He could pay the price of sin, and enter, with the blood of the sacrifice, into the presence of His Father. I often wonder how many newly-born Christians realise the full significance of what they are really doing when they are baptised. One can't blame them if they don't, for most of the ministers who baptise them don't even know.

Fifthly, we find that in both cases, the men concerned did not approach Jesus. He approached them. In this latter incident, the blind man was not healed because he went to Jesus seeking it. He wasn't even asked. Jesus just went up to him, anointed his eyes with the clay, and told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. The man had no say whatsoever in his healing. And in the very same way, Israel has no say whatsoever in the fact that we are going to be healed! The restoration of our sight, our hearing, our voice, and our understanding is as certain as the very existence of God Himself. The prophet Ezekiel records these wonderful promises:

"My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill. Yea, My flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the Word of the Lord. . . .

For thus saith the Lord God. Behold, I, even I, will both search My sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day

that he is among his sheep that are scattered, so will I seek out My sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and the dark day.

And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be. There shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

I will feed My flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord God.

I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick. . . .

Thus shall they know that I the Lord their God am with them, and that they, even the House of Israel, are My people, saith the Lord God.

And ye My flock, the flock of My pasture are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God."

(Ezek. 34:6-7, 11-16, 30-31).

With that wonderful promise in mind, we can now more readily understand Christ's command to His disciples as recorded in Matt. 10:5-6:

"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into 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."

In Matthew 15:24, speaking of His own ministry, Jesus said:

"I was sent to the lost sheep of the House of Israel, and to them alone". (New English Bible).

Other references to this calling to the House of Israel can be found in Matthew 18:11, Luke 15:4, and Luke 19:10. And whilst studying all these references, keep in mind that the word 'lost' does not refer to something which can't be found. It means literally 'to be set aside in punishment'.

Truly, "The gifts and calling of God are without repentance."

And finally, as in the case of the impotent man, the healing of the blind man was performed on the sabbath. This is most significant. In Mark 2:27 our Lord made it quite clear that the sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. The sabbath was a day of rest and restoration. For instance, in the greater cycle of time, the seventh 'day' of 1,000 years from the fall of Adam will constitute the Kingdom Age when the 'times of restitution of all things' as spoken by the prophets' will be instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ as the King of Kings. How fitting then that the healing of this man's sight, representing the removal of Israel's national blindness, should take place on this sabbath day. Jesus did everything in its proper order, and at the proper time.

Now as we have seen in our studies of the previous miracles, there was a very specific prophetic application about them as to their time factor. And just as the "Feeding of the 5,000" represented the fact that the Word of God would not run out during the famine of the Word during the last days, and "Jesus walking on the sea" represented the rescue of the elect among His people from the surrounding troubles and storms preparatory to the beginning of 'The times of restitution of all things', so this 6th. miracle represents the commence-

ment of this restitution period, or Kingdom Age, when Jesus Christ Himself will return to His rightful place on the Throne of David, take the leadership away from our present hopeless political and religious leaders, and place the government squarely and solely upon His own shoulders, reigning at last in righteousness and justice over His people. What a glorious day that will be!

And what was the result of this blind man's healing? To some, it was a time of sheer bewilderment. To God's enemies, it was a time of antagonism. To others, a time of fear because of possible persecution for their beliefs. But as far as the man who had been blind was concerned, the 'hows and whyfores' were quite secondary. His testimony was simple and straight to the point. He wasn't a bit interested in what his persecutors said. As far as he was concerned;

"ONCE I WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE!"

And here is our experience today. When God moves to remove the blindness from His people, there will be consternation such as we have never experienced before. People will literally try to climb walls, or as God's Word puts it, hide in caves and the cracks in the rocks from the presence of God. God's enemies already are doing everything in their power to maintain this blindness by destroying peoples' faith in this restoration at the hands of the Lord God of Israel, and those who don't understand are fearful of them. They are frightened that they will be thrown out of their comfortable churches if they say anything against those who are God's enemies.

Well let me tell you something. They have every right to be concerned. That is exactly what will happen. I know, because it's happened to me, several times. And it hurts. You lose a lot of friends. But we have to make the decision. We have to make our choice. We have to be prepared to compromise in order not to offend the people, or we must be prepared to stand for the truth, no matter what it costs. If there is one group for whom

I am really fearful, it is those who DO understand who we are, and what our responsibilities are as God's people Israel, but who deliberately choose to be blind and deliberately pervert the truth of God's Word in order to gain or retain the favour of people. As God's Word says, "There are none so blind as they who will not see." I'm afraid that these people will have a great deal to answer for.

I am so wonderfully thankful that God has led me to follow the statement and the position taken by the once-blind man. I trust that all who read this can have the same testimony.

I don't care what you think, or what you do to me.

"ONCE I WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE!"

(to be continued).

THE VOICE OF THE WATCHMAN

UPDATE.

I'm sure that readers will be interested to hear that following the notice published in THE AUSTRALIAN on January 19, as copied on page 8, we received a call from Sydney T.V. Channel 10's 'Good Morning Australia' programme enquiring about our statement on the Law of God. After a lengthy phone interview, in which I was able to give them illustrations of the blessings of God's Law in our every day life, they asked if I would be willing to appear on the programme. As we go to print, we are waiting for them to confirm an appointment for their reporter and camera crew to record an interview on God's Laws with us in our home. We trust that this will eventuate. Your prayers would be truly appreciated.

We will report on developments in our next issue of THE COVENANT VISION.

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Lord, Open Thou Our Understanding.

By E. B. CLEMENTS.

Jesus, appearing after His resurrection in the midst of the eleven disciples, after He had eaten fish and honeycombe, said unto them, in Luke 24:44-46;

"These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that ALL THINGS MUST BE FULFILLED, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning Me. Then OPENED HE THEIR UNDERSTANDING, THAT THEY MIGHT UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURES. And He said unto them, Thus it is written . . . "

It is obvious that even the disciples of Jesus' day had difficulty in recognising the fulfilment of the prophecies concerning Jesus and God's plan for this world. But it must also be remembered that it was the Old Testament Scriptures that they did not find easy to fully understand, for they were the ONLY Scriptures that then existed, the New Testament not having yet been recorded.

Notice in the verse quoted, as well as in many others, that time and again Jesus pointed His followers to the prophecies of the Old Testament and showed how those concerning Himself were all fulfilled in Him as predicted centuries earlier. Not only that, but some were written in "the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms". This covers a number of books beginning as far back as much-maligned Genesis and Exodus, and continuing right through to Malachi.

In other words, Jesus recognised the infallibility of the Old Testament Scriptures. How many of His pres-

ent-day followers recognise that infallibility? Not too many, we conclude.

In John 7:17 it is written;

"If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine."

It must be obvious from this that those unable to accept the authenticity of Holy Writ are themselves largely to blame for lack of understanding because of their unwillingness to do His will. Doing God's will MUST commence with BELIEVING WHAT HE SAID, and this so many are reluctant to do.

Scripture states, in II Peter 1:20;

"No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."

Hence the necessity in Luke 24:45 for the statement;

"Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures." (which again it must be stressed were only the Old Testament books).

If it was necessary, when Jesus was with such men as His disciples, to "open their understanding", how much more necessary it is for present day mankind to seek by fervent prayer the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that understanding of difficult scriptures may be made possible. It is not for nothing that we are told in II Tim. 2:15;

"STUDY to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth."

If it was difficult for dedicated disciples to have their understanding opened by God in their midst, how

much more difficult it must be for the critic when in the main his attitude is directed at ridiculing the Word of God. The chance that the Holy Spirit will reveal to such a one the secrets contained therein is problematical.

"Thus it is written!"

It was written in great detail what Jesus Christ would be like and would do at His first appearing. It is written in greater detail concerning the events leading up to His second coming to this earth, with resulting blessing for all mankind 'willing to do His will'.

To the end that such blessing would be a certainty, God has, over the centuries, and beginning at Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel), -and the Celto-Saxon servant race descended from them, - been completing the plan outlined in great detail in Scripture, whereby the promises made to them and through them might be fulfilled, and the Laws of God become part of the way of life of their descendants, who would, by missionary activity, take those same promises incorporated in the Gospel of the Kingdom and the Good News of Salvation, to the end of the earth. God's intention was that this people might be a blessing to all mankind. And this work was largely to be performed in ignorance of their identity.

When the full revelation of who we are, and Whose we are, breaks in God's own good time, it will be to the world as resurrection from the dead. In the meantime, to those who seldom miss an opportunity to belittle God's Book, a word of advice is given in;

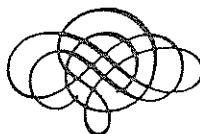
"Search the Scriptures, for they are they which testify of Me."

They also testify as to what marvellous prophetic utterances are being fulfilled in the history and destiny of the Anglo-Saxon race, the nucleus of the Kingdom of God on earth.

The people of the world are living in the days likened unto the "days of Noah", which days were followed by the judgment of "the flood". The student of prophecy is perceiving, from prediction in Holy Writ, mankind's downhill chaotic race to "judgment by fire". It probably will not long be delayed, as all the signs indicate. The Lord provided safety in Noah's day, but few availed themselves of it. It is not yet too late to give the matter considerable thought, but it is certain that there will be "much weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth" when the angels begin reaping.

We have much more fulfilled prophetic evidence than earlier generations did. Noah's generation scoffed and ridiculed his obedience to the Almighty's warnings of the fate approaching that generation's sinfulness. However, the present generation may not appear to offer so much ridicule and vilification as of old, but indifference and apathy nowadays prevail, which is equally as bad. It is difficult to make excuses for such attitudes, particularly in the churches, in the light of the revelation and fulfilment of prophecy available to us. Those of us who BELIEVE the Scriptures must renew our prayers to the effect that He will "open the understanding of His people, that they might understand the Scriptures," and be prepared to repent and turn to Him in expectation of His Second Coming as promised.

We do not have much time left before this age closes in cataclysmic judgment.



They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

They shall mount up with wings as eagles.

They shall run and not be weary.

They shall walk and not faint.

Isa. 40:31.

STUDY IN REVELATIONS.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART SIX.

THE SEVEN SEALS.

In Revelation 6:1 to 8:1 we find the record of the opening of The Seven Seals. As we have seen in our previous study, our Lord Jesus Christ was the only One who was found to be worthy to open these seals, and by so doing, permit the operation and fulfillment of history as we know it from that time onwards. It is important for us to remember that if these seals had not been broken, then the future history of God's people Israel, and indeed the rest of the world, could not have taken place in accordance with the plans and purposes of Almighty God, and particularly with the covenants that He had made through our forefathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Here we have described, in very picturesque yet accurate terminology, the rise and decline of Imperial Rome, the rise of Papal Rome, together with the empires and systems which rose from them, right up to the time when 'the times of the Gentiles' would come to completion. This was the time during which the Israel people were migrating westward under the guidance of God, and in fulfillment of His promises and covenants. As we study the events of this period in the light of this fact, we gain a completely new perspective of this period of history. We have here the account of the growth and progress of those forces which indelibly shaped the future national history and development of the people of Israel, as distinct from their religious development as we previously studied in the messages to the Seven Churche Ages. But we must keep in mind the fact that although the period covered by the messages to the Seven Churches and the period covered by the Seven Seals applied to different aspects of Israel's his-

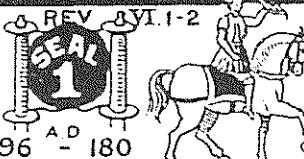
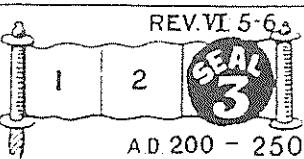
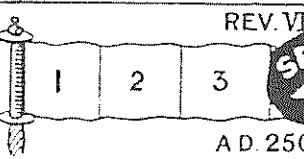
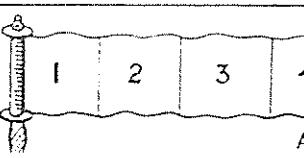
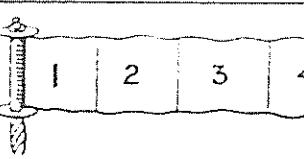
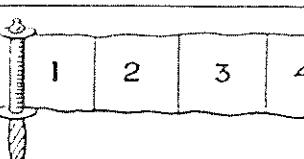
tory, they ran parallel to each other. This does not mean that each seal occurred at the same time as each message to the churches, but that they all fell within the same general overall time frame.

The accompanying chart will give a general idea of the successive time periods during which these Seven Seals occurred. The dates quoted are merely guides, as each period overlapped to some degree with its neighbouring period, and some authorities vary as to the actual event which marks a particular period.

THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE.

I'm sure that not one person reading this would not have heard the above expression at some time or other. Books have been written about them. Movies have been made about them. And in every case, they are used to portray alleged horrific end-time conditions which are supposed to happen just prior to the end of the world, or during what is referred to as 'The Great Tribulation'. This interpretation is a direct result of what is known as the 'futurist' interpretation of prophecy, which places the timing of the prophetic aspect of The Book of the Revelation at some unknown time in the future. This school of interpretation was invented a few hundred years ago by a Roman Catholic priest for the express purpose of diverting attention from the growing recognition among the Protestant churches of the Papal association with 'The Man of Sin'. Up to that time, what is known as the 'historical' school of prophecy was accepted and taught. This was simply that all history was the ongoing fulfillment of prophecy, without any breaks or parenthesis. On the other hand, the 'futurist' theory proposed that at a certain time just after the first advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, the fulfillment of prophecy stopped for an unknown period of time, and would restart again at some future unknown time. This school of thought was gradually accepted by the churches as they came more and more under the influence of the teachings of the Church of Rome, and today, there is scarcely a denomination in the world that does not base

The Seven Seals of Rev. VI-VIII

		ROME VICTORIOUS	
		CIVIL WAR	
		TAXATION DEPRESSION	
		DECAY & DEATH	
		CHRISTIAN MARTYRS	
		FALL OF PAGANISM	
		SEVEN TRUMPETS A.D. 400 - 1917+	

its teachings of prophecy on this false premise. It has been the major factor in the mis-understanding and mis-application of prophecy, as well as the acceptance of the present Zionist State of Israel and the Jewish nation as the fulfillment of the promises made to Israel. This belief and teaching has totally confused peoples' understanding of the present Middle East, and indeed world, situation, and blinded them to the identity of the real enemies of God and their Satanic plans to destroy the Western Christian Israel Nations of the world, and with them, the very gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The timing of the operation of these 'Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse' is not still in the future. It is already long passed, and was concluded by roughly A.D. 300. We recall that this Book of the Revelation is based on 'symbols'. Thus, the first thing for us to do is to ascertain what is symbolised by the 'horses', and also by the colours applied to them, that of 'white', 'red', 'black', and 'pale'. There is only one source to which we can turn for this information, and that is to the Old Testament, or Scriptures. As to the 'horse', we read:

"But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army." (Exodus 14:9)

"The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord."

(Prov. 21:31).

"And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off." (Zech. 9:10).

Thus we see that the 'horse' symbolises warfare, or military might.

As to the different colours, they are mentioned in Zechariah 6:2-7, and we will comment on their meaning as we proceed.

THE FIRST SEAL. The White Horse.

"And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering and to conquer." (Rev. 6:2).

John would have no trouble understanding the application of the WHITE horse, because it was the colour associated with the victorious and triumphant Imperial Roman Empire of his day. For example, the Roman Emperors and their conquering generals invariably rode white horses in their victory parades. That the colour 'white' is associated with victory and triumph is born out in Rev. 19:11 where we read:

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called faithful and True, and in righteousness doth He judge and make war."

It is also of interest to note that this particular period was known as 'the golden age' of the Roman Empire. Gibbons, in his "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" describes this period in the following terms;

'If a man were called to fix in the history of the world the time during which the conditions of the human race was most happy and prosperous, he would without hesitation, name that which elapsed from the death of Domitian to the accession of Commodus (A.D. 96-180). The vast extent of the Roman Empire was governed by absolute power, under the guidance of virtue and wisdom. The armies were restrained by the firm but gentle hands of four successive Emperors, whose characters and authority commanded involuntary respect.'

On numerous occasions in the past we have referred to the fact that the Bible, and especially the Book of the Revelation, is the history book of Israel. So with this in mind, it would be strange to say the least if this symbolism of the white horse had no connection with

them. Normally, the horse is a docile domesticated animal, and very affectionate. Although it requires authoritative handling, it is usually a very faithful animal. Put a bit in its mouth, and you can virtually lead it anywhere. It is interesting that in Isaiah 63:13 we read that the Lord led His people

"as an horse in the wilderness, that they should not stumble."

And just as the 'white horse' of the first seal "went forth conquering and to conquer", so by the redemptive work of our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary, Israel was from that time able to likewise "go forth and conquer." She was now in a position to fulfill her great commission to take the blessings of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to all the families and nations of the earth. The symbol of that victory was indicated in the 'crown' worn by the rider of the white horse, just as the 'bow' in his hand represented the fulfillment of God's promise to Joseph as stated in Gen. 49:24;

"But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob."

So we see that in the symbolism of the white horse there was both a near fulfillment as it depicted the condition of the Imperial Roman Empire at that time, and the broader fulfillment in the growth and development of the Israel people throughout the Christian dispensation and up to the time of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SECOND SEAL. The Red Horse.

"And when He had opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, Come and see.

And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that

they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword." (Rev. 6:3-4).

As we see in our chart, the period of this seal was from A.D. 185 to 284. It was in marked contrast to the period of the white horse, the period of peace and prosperity, and represented a time of civil war and bloodshed throughout the Roman Empire. Thus we read that the rider of this horse was given power to take peace from the earth. Internal strife and the killing of one another became the order of the day. And thus began the decline of the Roman Empire.

But in both this and the fourth seal, we find the word 'earth' used. It is important to a correct understanding of these prophecies that we identify what is referred to in the use of this word. For instance, we find recorded in Luke 2:1;

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed."

Now it would be quite ridiculous to conclude that this meant that everyone on the whole planet had to pay taxes to Rome. Obviously, the phrase 'the whole world' meant 'the Roman world', that is, the areas or countries which were under the control of Rome. The word 'earth' as used here has a similar application. It refers to events relating to the Roman world, not the entire inhabited globe. One can readily see what a difference this makes to our understanding and application of these prophetic statements, and the failure to recognise this distinction has led to very vast differences of opinion and conclusions as to their fulfillment.

But as for the period of the white horse, that covered by the red horse also had its application to the nation of Israel as it developed. We find this evidenced in two ways. Firstly, as a symbol of blood, it marked the covering of blood by which Israel was redeemed. She was now bought back from the curse of the law, and the

Blood of the New Covenant could now commence to come into effect. But there is also a second application to Israel. As we read God's Word, we find that there was a race of people who began at the same time as Jacob, and were named Esau. His descendants became known as Edom, which means RED. This people became the arch-enemy of Israel, and to this day, as Esau-Jewry, are doing everything in their power to destroy the people of God and to usurp the birthright which their forefather Esau so foolishly despised so long ago. Their end is certain. They have but a very short time left until they will be destroyed. We read in Obadiah, verse 18;

"And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the Lord hath spoken it."

This is supported in a very wonderful way in The Second Book of Esdras, 6:9;

"For Esau is the end of this world (age), and Jacob is the beginning of it that followeth."

THE THIRD SEAL. The Black Horse.

"And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse. And he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." (Rev. 6:5-6).

The period of this third seal ran from A.D. 200 to 250, and as we see, overlapped the previous period. It

coincided with a time of increasingly heavy taxation within the Roman world, brought about to a great extent by the civil war and internal troubles they were experiencing. This tax could be paid either in coin or in produce, and explains the reference to the wheat and barley, oil and wine. These things were not to be 'hurt', or as the original Greek word implies, 'treated unjustly'. Whilst the balances were used quite commonly by Rome as a symbol of justice and commerce, and were often used as badges by provincial governors, the taxation burden became so overpowering that the whole agricultural system of the country was brought to ruin. The people perished as a result of starvation.

How aptly did the 'BLACK horse' represent this period of gloom and depression. And how aptly it pre-viewed the future condition of Israel. The Emperors introduced and exacted a capital gains tax, land tax and duty taxes. Shades of today. The same characteristics of the Edomites are still in evidence, with underpayment for labour, and exorbitant prices and ruinous taxation, coupled with iniquitous rates of interest. Just as now, the time then was one well represented by a black horse.

THE FOURTH SEAL. The Pale Horse.

"And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, Come and see.

And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."

(Rev. 6:7-8).

Time for Imperial Rome was fast running out. The ravages of insurrection, immorality, and depression soon gave way to famine, decay and death for the once great empire. It has been estimated that ONE FOURTH of the

population of the Roman Empire, (the Roman earth), perished of famine at this time. This final period was truly represented by the Pale Horse. Rev. W. G. Finlay, in his excellent book "The Patmos Story", comments;

"Edward Gibbon, (an infidel), whose 'Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire' could have been a commentary on the first four seals of Revelation had he been predisposed to accept the Christian faith, sums up the situation in the following words: 'During that calamitous period (250 A.D. - 300 A.D. - Ed.), every instant of time was marked, every province of the Roman world was afflicted by barbarous invaders and military tyrants, and the ruined empire seemed to approach the last and final moments of its dissolution. This gloomy period of history has been decorated with inundations and earthquakes, of more than natural darkness But a long and general famine was a calamity of a more serious kind. It was the inevitable consequence of oppression which extirpated the produce of the present and the hope of future harvests. Famine is almost always followed by epidemic diseases, the effect of scanty and unwholesome food. Other causes contributed to the famous plague which raged without interruption in every province, every city, and almost every family of the Roman Empire. During this time, five thousand persons daily died in Rome; and many towns that had escaped the barbarians, were entirely depopulated! '"

The entire Babylonian system, of which Rome was the final earthly national manifestation, as depicted in the Image of Nebuchadnezza, is now in its final death throes. The symbol of the Pale Horse is now in evidence as we see the corruption and evil all around us which will bring about the final collapse and destruction of this evil Satanic system which has to this day bound the people of God in a slavery far in excess of anything that our forefathers in Egypt ever experienced. But praise God, the great day of deliverance, under the reign of our Lord Jesus Christ is about to dawn in all its glory.

(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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Every word of God is pure. He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him.

Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die.

Remove far from me vanity and lies.

Give me neither poverty nor riches.

Feed me with food convenient for me.
Lest I be full, and deny Thee, and say,
 Who is the Lord?
 or lest I be poor, and steal,
and take the name of my God in vain.

Proverbs 30:5-9.

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