

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

Whether people recognise the fact or not, and most of them, including the Christians, don't, world events are moving at an alarming rate towards the ultimate fulfillment of the plans of "the Synagogue of Satan" for the total overthrow of the Christian Faith, and the implementation of a one-world government which will enmesh God's people in a slavery which will make that of our forefathers in Egypt look like a Sunday school picnic. The majority of people seem to think that because nothing is said about these things in the news media that nothing along these lines is happening. And that's just what our enemies want us to believe. We have become the victims of a great conspiracy of silence. And the few who raise their voices against these deliberately engineered evils which are destroying our people are smeared and misrepresented in such a manner that those who would otherwise agree with them are themselves deluded into joining the fight against them. And don't think for a moment that this applies only in the political field. Some of the most snide and devastating attacks come from within the so-called Christian church. Christians can be the most bigoted, unlovely, and unlovable people in the world at times. Some of them become so paranoid about their own 'self righteousness' that they are destroying the faith, or the possibility of faith, of countless people who think that they are representatives of God. How can we possibly then blame the man-in-the-street for rejecting a God who is presented to him in such an unattractive manner? I am totally convinced that people will not return to God in any appreciable numbers until the so-called shepherds and self-styled prophets get up off their collective backsides and come out of their spiritual foxholes and start to teach the people the Christian faith the way it really is. Through the prophet Ezekiel, the Lord makes no bones about what He thinks of the present position.

"O Israel, thy prophets are like foxes in the deserts. Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the House of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, the Lord sayeth: and the Lord hath not sent them. And they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word." (Ezek. 13-4-6).

Never before in our history have we so needed a voice like a trumpet to show God's people their sins. But it is not enough to just expose and disclaim what we see as evil. We must first of all call it what God calls it, **SIN**, and then we must be taught the only remedy that will ever overcome it, that is, obedience on a national scale to the perfect Law of God. There are a number of prominent and well-intentioned Christian leaders both in Australia and other Israel countries trying desperately to fight the evils in our midst, and we can only commend them for their efforts. But it must be said that all these efforts are going to be useless unless they concentrate on the introduction of God's Laws and not just the reframing of mans' laws. This practice always has, and always will, involve varying degrees of compromise so as not to offend some minority group or party or church or whatever. It will never work. Today we must have a clear voice on what is needed. And those of us who are a part of the "Identity Movement" must take on the responsibility of being this voice, or at least a part of it. The task of 'The Watchman' is to warn the people, not to put a gun at their heads to force them to do what we think is right. If the people refuse to listen, then their blood is on their own heads, not ours. But we cannot afford in these last days to shirk our responsibility. In a day when ever increasing disasters are seen merely as natural disasters rather than the Divine judgment of a righteous and angry God, we have no option but to speak out and warn God's people. We might appear to be as a drop in the ocean compared with the might of the media, but with the power of the Spirit of God behind us, we can still be mighty warriors of God.

“There’s None So Blind. . .”

But How Do We Enlighten Those Who Cannot See?

REGINALD H. W. COX

WAKE UP!

As witnesses for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, it is our duty unceasingly to draw attention to the signs which presage the imminence of His Coming to occupy the throne of David (*Acts* 2:30 and *Luke* 1:32) and to awaken the Celto-Saxon peoples of the world both to their Israelite identity and to their responsibilities as God’s servant nation (*Isaiah* 43). But in carrying out this mission we will encounter indifference or a lack of interest. We may have to face opposition or even hostility. And we are hurt or puzzled. What, we ask, makes people so blind, so disinterested? The writer of this article not merely gives us a rational explanation for this apathy and indifference, but suggests an approach which might enable many to find the truth.

THE great majority of us suffer, mentally, from a form of myopia. In our attitude to our community, our country and to the world around us we tend not merely to take a narrow personal view of what is happening: there is also a tendency to withdraw from reality or to rationalize what is unpleasant or dangerous. And the manner in which we deceive ourselves is, to an appreciable extent, determined by such social influences as our family, school or social background, our religious affinities or even by our occupation. One result is that *most of us tend to normalize that which is abnormal and to see what our minds have been conditioned to see.*

Let us take, as an example of this myopia, our attitude towards the incidence of children who are today being born with a physical or mental handicap. At the present time one baby in five is seriously handicapped at birth. Yet although our senior citizens—who constitute the vast majority of our population—should be aware that this tragic situation has developed only in recent years, no one appears to have noticed this fact and no one, so far as we are aware, has suggested a possible explanation.

Because we unconsciously take a narrow, conventional view of what is hap-

pening around us, it is impossible to conceive that the tragedy of our handicapped children might have spiritual connotations; that the solution lies not in the medical fields of pre-natal examination and abortion, but in a nation-wide return to the God of our fathers and in national and individual obedience to His immutable laws. The false teaching of an apostate church has misled many unconsciously into rejecting the Divine Law and, in particular, the penalty clause of the first commandment:

“. . . for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments” (*Exodus* 20:5 and 6).

It must not be thought that this blindness—this rejection of reality—is a characteristic of our time or of this generation. Nearly three thousand years ago the prophet Jeremiah publicly condemned the people of Judah for their indifference. They were accused of saying “Peace, peace; when there is no peace” (*Jeremiah* 6:14 and 8:11). And our Lord, in His prophetic reference to His Second Coming, reminded His disciples that the people

of Noah's day were so indifferent to warnings of the impending flood that "they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark" (*Matthew 24:38*).

Isaiah was inspired to tell us that even God's servants are not free of spiritual blindness. "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?" (*Isaiah 42:19*). St. Paul tells us that this type of blindness is of satanic origin: "The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not" (*II Corinthians 4:4*). And there can be little doubt that a powerful instrument of satanic deception is the Church of Rome.

There was a time when our principal concern was for our Christian brethren ensnared within that apostate church; but the situation has been changed dramatically by the so-called ecumenical movement. Not merely is the bishop of Rome assuming the leadership of a "united" Christian church: many of the Protestant clergy have already been deceived into accepting the unscriptural doctrines of Babylon. One result is that Scripturally orientated Christians are leaving the organized churches which are now, in comparison with the rise of Islam in our midst, in very rapid decline. If the people of the Israel lands are to be saved from the direful consequences of their myopia, they must be awakened—they must be made aware of *how* they have been misled by the prince of this world. However, in view of the lateness of the hour we should concentrate our efforts on professing Christians—and particularly on those who have left their church or chapel because they have become aware that "something is wrong."

It will not be too difficult to demonstrate to such people that the Christian religion is suffering from an altogether false conception of its Leader propagated by the Church and entirely without Scriptural justification. Indeed, the early fol-

lowers of our Lord would be astonished that our religious leaders would have us believe that the Incarnate King of Glory was a pale, persecuted philosopher who laboured in the futile hope that a predatory race would one day relinquish its dreams of wealth and power and, following His advice, would come together in sweet reasonableness with the love of God in their hearts.

This enfeebled Jesus is not the Christ of Scripture. Our Lord was neither a "pale Galilean" who went about apologizing for His existence, nor was He the weak-willed man portrayed in the latest film from Hollywood. He was, to the early Christians of His time, "the King of Israel" (*John 1:49*); "the prince of the kings of the earth" (*Revelation 1:5*); the "prince of life" (*Acts 3:15*). Christ was, in fact, a fine figure of a man. And *men* were proud to follow Him.

His Sermon on the Mount laid down the code which decent people of all lands have accepted as the true way of life; and truly He practised what He preached. But neither He nor His Apostles ever said, or implied, that by patient and painful building of character a man might ultimately hope to achieve eternal life. Not only is this offering mankind an interminable and unwanted series of moral lessons: it is also striking at the bedrock of Christ's teaching, for He laid it down that immortality is not to be attained merely by good conduct—important though good conduct undoubtedly is—but that eternal life is the *free gift* of God for all who are prepared to accept the sacrifice of God Incarnate. Once that sacrifice is accepted, then good works and kindly acts qualify the soul of man for "reward in Heaven" (*Matthew 5:12; Luke 6:23*)—i.e. the opportunity for further service to God in a future dispensation.

Through His parables and His unqualified endorsement of the Old Testament prophecies, our Lord gave a cryptic outline of the Kingdom of God which will ultimately be established on earth under His own personal rule. He told His Apostles that the Kingdom would be based

upon and grouped round a cleansed and restored Israel *nation*, promising that each one of them would have the responsibility of administering, under Him, a twelfth part of the Kingdom (*Matthew* 19:28; *Luke* 22:30). He made it clear that Gentiles could also achieve Israel citizenship and entry into the Kingdom by acceptance of Him.

Our Lord was under no illusions as to the obstacles which barred the way to the development of His Kingdom. First Israel had to be released from the Mosaic Covenant, the God appointed terms of which had kept them outside the Divine scheme on account of their disobedience. Christ's sacrifice, in addition to bringing salvation to the world, *redeemed* Israel, or restored the nation and made it possible for the body-politic to become the vehicle of God's blessing to mankind at large. This was in accordance with God's promises to Abraham (*Genesis* 12:2 and 22:17 and 18).

Then there was the perpetual hostility of Satan to the Kingdom of God, for Christ did not treat the Devil merely as the abstract negation of Good. He knew full well that the Prince of this World is a powerful agency in the spirit-realm who energizes and controls the Synagogue of Satan (*Revelation* 2:9)—those who are willing to do the Devil's evil work in the world. Our Lord refused Satan's offer of compromise (*Matthew* 16:23) and went on to His ministry and to Calvary, to give all He had—His life—as the purchase price of the Kingdom.

Before He went He said, in the plainest of plain language, that He would return in power and glory to rule His Kingdom. The period between His death and Second Coming was to be for the calling out of His Kingdom administrators: the *True* Church—those who accept Him in faith and work and hope for His Kingdom. Our Lord gave His followers, of all time, certain unmistakable signs which would herald His Return and He told them that the world would witness the emergence of prophetic "Jerusalem" (the West) from being trodden down, followed by an un-

precedented time of global tribulation (*Luke* 21:24-28).

A study of the prophecies which Christ endorsed reveals that we are now living in the period of world history Scripturally known as the Time of the End of the Age (*Matthew* 24:3-44). We have it on Christ's Own authority that the Kingdom of God will be brought into full operation following "great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world" (*Matthew* 21:24), and we also have His oft repeated injunction to *watch*.

There are signs that the world is beginning to realize that Utopia is a mere fantasy unless God be taken closely into account; that the free will given to man has resulted only in the degradation and political enslavement of the masses of mankind. Humankind needs a world leader—a benefactor able to impose his beneficent will in spite of the efforts of all who would prosper at the expense of their fellows.

Such a leader has been promised. His name is Jesus Christ. Nineteen hundred years ago He was publicly humiliated: God has declared that He shall be publicly glorified:

"... The government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

"Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His Kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever" (*Isaiah* 9:6-7).

These are the living oracles of Almighty God. They could not only destroy the satanically-inspired myopia which blinds our people and which is destroying the Church: they could also remove the scales from the eyes of the spiritually blind and bring the people of this once great country back into a right relationship with Almighty God.

Could any mission be more important?

COVENANT WORD FELLOWSHIP.

A Full Gospel, Identity based Fellowship.

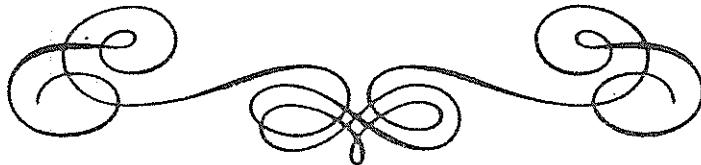
We meet every Sunday morning commencing at 9.30. at
KARONGA SCHOOL, KARONGA PLACE, off Dent St.,
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For further particulars, kindly phone

Pastor Arthur Hooper on (02) 871-7494,
or

Mr. Frank Dowsett on (02) 623-4691.

Visitors are most cordially invited.



For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight; but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

— Hebrews 4:12, 13

Special Report:

This combined issue No's 24/25 marks the completion of our fourth year, and the commencement of our fifth year of publication, and we thought it appropriate to let our readers and supporters know what we are doing and planning. But first, a word of explanation regarding this combined issue. As pointed out in our companion publication "COVENANT WATCH!", we experienced some unexpected hold-ups which would have delayed Issue No. 24 for several weeks at least. Just as we were ready to start, our computer/word processor broke down, and we lost several more weeks while it was being repaired. But as if this wasn't enough, my doctor decided that I should have my heart tested again, as I had not had any tests since my second open heart operation late in 1986. Whilst these tests showed everything to be in order, they decided to put me through a Post Cardiac Exercise Programme to strengthen the heart muscles. This involves attending hospital four days a week for six weeks for treatment, which concludes about mid-May. So in order not to involve myself in undue stress, we decided to combine the usual three issues of March/April, May/June, and July/August into two issues of March/May and June/August. After that we hope to return to our regular two-monthly issues. We are certainly very grateful and thankful to the Lord for His healing protection over the past few years, and we are happy to report that as long as I don't overload myself, my health is holding out very well. So we praise the Lord.

Our readership is gradually, if slowly, increasing. But because of the constant increase in costs and postage, we are going to have to start culling our mailing list. There are still a number of readers who seem quite willing to accept our magazine each issue, but never contribute towards its cost, or even contact us in any way. So if you are in this group, and stop receiving your

COVENANT VISION, you'll know why. Financial support is not compulsory for those who cannot afford it, but we do at least expect to hear from you so that we'll at least know that you are still there.

Up to a few months ago we were having considerable difficulty keeping up with all our publications and correspondence, mainly because of the loss of a few folk who were no longer able to give us their physical help as before. But recently several others have offered their help, and this has now eased our work-load. On top of this, we were truly blessed by a very generous donation from a group of friends who provided the means for the purchase of not only a new typewriter, but also equipment which will automatically collate, staple and fold our magazines and some of our books. We certainly pray God's richest blessing on these dear folk as this will lift a real load from us.

During the last year we initiated our new ministry of "THE VOICE OF THE WATCHMAN". Details of this ministry are outlined elsewhere in this issue. We simply reiterate that this ministry depends entirely on your support. The more support we receive, the more notices go in the paper. So please pray for this ministry.

The COVENANT WATCH! is proving increasingly popular, and our subscription list is steadily rising. If you are not already a subscriber to this publication, why not write and ask for a free copy. It contains information which we consider every well-advised Christian should know in these trying days.

Finally, we ask for your continued support and prayers. This is not just our ministry. We like to think that you look upon it as yours as well. We can only continue to do our part in getting the message out as long as you continue to do your part in providing the means for us to do so. We thank you all most sincerely for your past help and fellowship in the Lord, and look forward for as long as the Lord tarries to its continuation. We pray the Lord's richest blessing upon you all.

THE PARABLES OF BALAAM.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART THREE.

THE SECOND PARABLE.

In our last issue, you will remember, we studied the first of the Parables of Balaam. We saw how Balaam, under the inspiration of God, prophesied that the nation of Israel was to be separate, or set apart, and that in God's sight they were not to be reckoned among the nations. What's more, she was to be alone in occupying this unique position. Thus Balaam, far from cursing Israel as he was hired to do, actually pronounced upon them abundant blessing. You know friends, the Bible isn't the dry old book that some people imagine it to be. Actually it is often quite humorous, and the incident which we are discussing is one which cannot help but bring a smile to our face when we picture the scene. Just allow your imagination to dwell on this for a moment. King Balak had hired Balaam to curse these people, and he had taken him up to a high peak so that they could look down upon the encampment of Israel. We can imagine Balak standing beside Balaam gleefully awaiting the curse to fall from Balaam's lips, and expectantly waiting for some dire tragedy to fall upon his enemy, Israel. But to his astonishment, Balaam pronounces an abundant blessing instead. We can only imagine the look that must have come upon the face of Balak and the rage that must have welled up within him, especially when we consider the fact that as the king, he was used to always getting his own way. So we read in Numbers 23:11;

"And Balak said unto Balaam, What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and behold, thou hast blessed them altogether."

But Balaam's only reply was that he could only say what the Lord allowed him to say.

However, Balak, like our present enemies, had become completely paranoid towards God's people, and his pressing and driving need to destroy these people soon overcame the disappointment and anger of the moment. He thought of another idea.

Take a lesson from this, my friends. If you come under attack from Satan, whether through the agency of recognisable enemies, or even what can appear to be the well intentioned actions and influence of friends, and you come through it, don't let down your guard. You can be absolutely certain that the attack will be re-directed from a different, and possibly less obvious source. Balak knew the importance of perseverance, and he knew the importance of learning from past mistakes. He possibly thought that perhaps Balaam had become too scared to curse Israel after looking down upon their great number and strength, and that he had become over-awed by such a sight. So he decided to give Balaam another try. But this time, he would only show him a small portion of the people whom he was to curse so as not to scare him. Thus we read in Numbers 23:13;

"And Balak said unto Balaam, Come, I pray thee, with me unto another place, from whence thou mayest see them. Thou shalt see but the utmost part of them, and shall not see them all. And curse me them from thence."

What a cunning move. And how applicable to us today. The policy of 'encroachment by concealment' worked just as well then as it does now, and has always been a part of the armoury of Satan. Once Satan realises that we wont fall for straight out evil practices he seems to leave us alone for a while in order to lull us into a false sense of security. But that in fact becomes the most dangerous time, because all that he is doing is softening us up as gradually as is needed to suit each individual, by the subtle introduction of 'small' habits or

practices. We gradually surrender a little here, and a little there, without even realising what is happening, until one day we suddenly wake up to the fact that we have actually arrived at the same position to which Satan had attempted to entice us in the first place. It happens in our personal life, and it happens in our national life. Take for example the influence of the Church of Rome on our nation. Centuries ago, during the formative years of our nation, thousands, if not millions of our folk even gave their lives to preserve us from the false doctrines which this church tried to force upon us. But do we find this same degree of opposition today? Unfortunately not. By a process of 'gradualism' we find that the Protestant Christian church is now very little different in many, if not most, respects from the church which they are supposed to be 'protesting' against. And the present ecumenical movement is purposely designed to achieve the final breakdown of this separateness. People are only allowed to see a little bit at a time, never the whole picture, and they have now become, in the main, deluded. The spirit of Balak is still alive and doing very well thank you.

So Balaam fell for the subterfuge and followed Balak up to the top of a certain hill. He even camouflaged the whole episode by making an offering to the Lord in order to make the whole incident look religious. Shades of today. Things haven't changed much have they. And Balaam told Balak to stand beside the offering while he, Balaam, went over a bit to talk to the Lord in private. We have thousands of these 'Balaams' in our midst today. They invite people to get close to the Lord, and then ask the Lord to anoint what they are about to tell them, knowing in their hearts that what they are about to say is totally contrary to what God has commanded. The only difference between the original Balaam and so many of the modern prophets is that Balaam allowed himself to be led by God in what he said, whereas so many teachers today seem to approach God in a purely hypocritical manner, having already determined to preach what they want irrespective of what God tells them. Their own personal thoughts

and desires take on in their own minds the authority of God, and they delude both themselves and those who hear them. How sadly have so many been seduced.

So after speaking with the Lord, Balaam went back to Balak, who asked him, "What has the Lord told you this time?" When you come to think of it, Balak must have been pretty dumb to think that God would instruct Balaam to curse the very people who worshipped Him. But there is no accounting for some people's minds. What must he have thought when he heard these words fall from the mouth of Balaam?

"And he took up his parable, and said, Rise up, Balak, and hear. Hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor.

God is not a man that He should lie, neither the son of man that He should repent. Hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?

Behold, I have received commandment to bless. And He hath blessed, and I cannot reverse it. He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath He seen perverseness in Israel. The Lord his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.

God brought them out of Egypt. He hath as it were, the strength of an unicorn.

Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel. According to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What Hath God wrought!

Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion. He shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, and drink the blood of the slain." (Num. 23:18-24).

So for the second time, Balaam blessed the Israel people instead of cursing them. King Balak was furious, and turning to Balaam told him, in plain words, to shut up and neither bless or curse them. His efforts to place a curse on Israel had again been frustrated.

Let us realise that as it was then, so has it always been since, and ever will be. God has pronounced blessing upon His people, and nothing that man can do will ever change that fact, or the consequences of that fact. The curses under which we are now suffering did not come as the result of someone placing a curse on us. They came from our own willful and foolish disobedience to the Law of God which He gave us as a means to bring untold blessing upon us. We brought all our present troubles on ourselves. As the nation and people of God's special appointment we are covered by the promises and protection of God. The very integrity and omnipotence of God Himself depends on that everlasting protection. Let me repeat it so that you fully understand the position.

Nothing, and nobody, whether it be man or devil, can place a curse on God's Elect, His nation and people of Israel.

When you hear foolish and ignorant men talk about the eventual, and what they refer to as the inevitable, destruction of the white Anglo-Saxon Christian people, you can with every authority and confidence, join the Lord God of Israel and laugh them to scorn! One of the first promises that God made with our fore-father Abraham, as recorded in Gen. 12:3 reads;

"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee."

And you'd better believe it my friends, when I say that God was not talking about His arch-enemies the present day Jews!

The promise of Isaiah 54:17 is still applicable today, and we need to take it to heart.

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

Again, in Isaiah 60:12 we read;

"For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish. Yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted."

If we turn to Jeremiah 31:1-3 we read where God, speaking of the last or latter days, that is, the days in which we are now living, says;

"At the same time, saith the Lord, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people.

Thus saith the Lord, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.

The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love. Therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

Surely, in the face of all this, we must realise that any attempt by mere man to defy these Divine promises will be absolutely futile. How can we be otherwise than eternally thankful to an Almighty and gracious God for such wonderful assurance. What a difference it would make, not only to the individuals, but to our nation as a whole if we were to all realise and accept this great heritage we possess at the hand of God. Can we be surprised then at the condemnation that will fall upon those who are constantly opposing God and His Divine will. And these include not only those who refuse to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour, but to a great extent those who dishonour Him by refusing to believe and teach the whole of the Bible, God's written Word, and who are misleading God's Anglo-Israel people into a path that can only lead to disaster. Truly it is a case of the blind leading the blind. An ever increasing number of those who have been placed in positions of authority over our nation, both politically and religiously, those to whom God refers as watchmen and shepherds of His people, have increasingly and miserably failed in their duty, not only to

God, but also to His people. We may try to excuse them so as not to give offense, but I'm afraid that God makes no such excuse, and utterly and soundly condemns them. In Isaiah 56:10-12 we read;

"His watchmen are blind. They are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand. They all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant."

As a result of this state of affairs, God says in Jeremiah 23:1-2;

"Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord.

Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered My flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them. Behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord."

If this is not enough for us, then let us turn to what God adds in Ezekiel 34:2-3, and 9-10;

"And the word of the Lord came unto me saying, Son of Man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?". . .

"Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord;

Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require My flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves

any more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them."

The basic reason for this Divine condemnation is the refusal of the shepherds of God's sheep to believe the plain statement expressed in the second parable of Balaam;

"God is not a man that He should lie, neither the son of man that He should repent. Hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?"

The plain simple truth is that God shall do what He has said. Every word of it. We read of the certainty of this in Isaiah 55:11;

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

There is absolutely no excuse for disbelieving God. If we can't believe God, then who can we believe? But the fact that we can look at our Anglo-Saxon-Celtic nations and see therein the literal fulfillment of God's Word, right down to our present position of having our power scattered as foretold of us in the very last days by the prophet Daniel, (Dan. 12:7), proves beyond any shadow of a doubt that our God is the great covenant-keeping and faithful God. In this knowledge we can lift up our voices in praise and thankfulness and join with the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews in saying to Him;

"And Thou Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands. They shall perish, but Thou remainest. And they all shall wax old as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up, and they shall be changed.

But Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail."

(Heb.1:10-12).



THE VOICE OF THE WATCHMAN!

Readers will no doubt remember that in our last issue we advised that we had been contacted by a Sydney television network to do a live interview with them on the Laws of God, following the notice we inserted in THE AUSTRALIAN in January. Well, the afternoon prior to our interview, they decided to cancel on the grounds that they did not think the subject would create enough viewer interest. So we leave the matter in the Lord's hands.

But following our March notice we were contacted by the A.B.C. in Melbourne, and I was interviewed live for 15 minutes by Mr. Paul Barber on their regional radio station 3LO. Mr. Barber was most courteous and gave me a very good hearing, questioning me on every one of the evils mentioned in our article. For those who may be interested, we have a tape of the interview, which we have followed with a discussion I gave some time ago on The Laws of God to fill up the one hour tape. These are available for \$4 posted.

We have reproduced here copies of the notice for February, March, and April for your information.

But remember that this ministry depends entirely on your support. We are not expecting a great revival from them. We are merely sowing a seed which hopefully will be watered by others, and ultimately bring great glory to our Lord Jesus Christ. At the present time, we have received sufficient donations and promises to continue placing the notices for one year at the rate of one per month. If we can double that rate of support, we will place them every two weeks. It's entirely up to you. So please give us your prayerful and practical support in what could very well be our final ministry of warning and exhortation prior to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. We no longer have the luxury of wasting time.

FEBRUARY 1989 NOTICE.

THE VOICE OF THE WATCHMAN!

Our present problems as part of God's servant nation, are not going to be solved by either political parties or churches. They will only be resolved when we replace our man-made laws with government in strict accordance with

GOD'S DIVINE LAWS.

Covenant Vision Ministry. P.O. Box V192 Mt. Druitt Village.
NSW 2760 Australia.

MARCH 1989 NOTICE.

THE VOICE OF THE WATCHMAN

If we, as God's Servant Nation, really want to solve the present problems within our nation associated with murder, rape, incest, sodomy, debt, prisons, home ownership, and the foreign take-over of our country, then all we have to do is to fully implement

THE LAWS OF GOD

Covenant Vision Ministry. P.O. Box V192, Mt Druitt Village
NSW 2770 Australia.

APRIL 1989 NOTICE.

THE VOICE OF THE WATCHMAN

If "The Law of the Lord is perfect" -- and the Bible says it is; and so many of the laws under which we live are so imperfect -- and we know from experience that they are;

Then why aren't we demanding that our national leaders govern us in accordance with GOD'S LAWS!

COVENANT VISION MINISTRY
P.O. Box V192 Mt Druitt Village, NSW, Australia 2770

THE NEW BATTLE FOR BRITAIN

by JOHN BARCUS

The Gospel Message

England, the land of John Wesley, now boasts more Muslims than Methodists.

William Carey's homeland now receives more missionaries than it sends out. In London there is now an Islamic interest-free bank. Britain's House of Lords has ruled that simple oral pronouncements of divorce, sanctioned by the Sharia (Islamic Law) are valid in British courts.

Islamic voices are rising with increasing volume, insisting that private conduct and public policy be set by the rules of the Koran and the Sharia. In Britain, as in nearly all of western Europe, Islam has become the second religion, and Urdu the second language.

For secular Europeans, an openly-lived religion is an embarrassment. Many expected the Muslim practitioner to "grow out of" the old ways and assimilate with the Europe culture. Muslim immigrants on the whole, however, are neither compromising nor "growing out of" their explicit religious customs. On the contrary, they've helped provide the context for educating and reinforcing their Islamic identity.

It cannot be taken for granted that children who leave European schools in their teens have been immunized against Islam, as some educationists suggest. Islamic culture is not only a faith but a way of life. And in its purest form, adherents cannot allow themselves to assimilate with another culture. Full-blown Islam can only be lived and practiced in an Islamic state. It is therefore inevitable that Muslims in Europe, in order to remain Muslims, function in Islamic communities within the host countries. This ultimately leads to problems and eventually conflicts with the norms and laws of the land.

The Islamic Council of Europe, which directs Muslim missionary efforts on the continent and in England, is headquartered in London. For this reason, London is sometimes referred to as the "Capital of the Arab World." In 1976 the well-financed "Festival of Britain" produced this statement: "Unless we win London over to Islam, we will fail to win the whole of the Western World."

The English language is one reason Muslims have chosen England - London in particular - as the springboard for its universal conquests. It used to be said that the sun never sets on the British Empire. It does today, but it still never sets on the British language.

Roughly 700 million people speak English. This represents a phenomenal 40% increase in the last 20 years and comprises one-seventh of the global population. It has replaced French in the world of diplomacy and German in the world of science. English is the dominant language in the fields of medicine, electronics, space technology, international business, advertising, radio, television and film.

India, with its 179 different languages, relies on English to unify the country. Nearly all heads of state and diplomatic personnel speak English. Teaching English as a second language has become a multi-million dollar business the world over. As one Danish student remarked, "Nearly everyone in Denmark speaks English. If we didn't, we wouldn't have anyone to talk to." English is the closest thing to a *lingua franca* around the earth and has become the natural vehicle for the propagation of international Islam.

In view of Islam's success and England's strategic position, it might well be said that as England goes so will Europe. And North America could be next.

What are Islam's marks of success in England? All BBC Arabic overseas programs begin each broadcast day with the reading of a chapter of the Koran while a Christian program (usually Roman Catholic) is aired once or twice a year. Muslims are pressing the British Government for permission to observe Islamic Law rather than English Law: the legal right to bury the dead hours after death in shrouds instead of coffins. They want time off in factories for Muslim prayer breaks. And they want to be served special meals in hospitals and schools. "We now consider that we form such an important minority in the British community," they claim, "that our special religious customs should receive legal recognition." In some sections of major British cities one rarely sees a white Englishman.

Thirty years ago there were only three mosques in Britain. Today there are over 500; the Islamic Foundation claims there are 1,500. There are hundreds of Koranic schools. A Muslim missionary training college has been established in Bradford, 20.

Yorkshire (sometimes called the "Capital of Pakistan" because of the many Pakistanis there). A site has been purchased at Bolton in Lancashire for the building of a Muslim university. English university chairs are being filled by Muslim faculty, and Islamic libraries are being endowed.

Islamic bookstores are springing up all over the land with at least 3,000 titles available, one of which is "The Gospel According to Islam." This book is a well written harmony of the four Gospels in which vital passages have been replaced with Koranic inserts. Another is "The Propagation of Islam," listing the ways and means of converting to Islam. First on the list is conversion by personal contact; last is conversion by marriage.

Muslims insist that "the life of a true Muslim is a better source of propagation than a hundred societies." The Koran has been produced on 32 cassettes for use in colleges, universities and libraries. The Minaret Publishing House is active on British soil. Ahmadiyah Muslims, the most evangelistic movement, are reportedly required to give 16% of their income to spread Islam in England. It is now rumored that the largest mosque in all of Europe is to be built in East London.

While, in the words of the Daily Telegraph Newspaper, England "boozes its way to destruction," Islam claims to offer a better and more wholesome way of life - no strong drink, no gambling, no drugs, no pornography, no prostitution, no interest on loans. In general, the monied Middle Easterners migrate to England while those from poorer countries are attracted to the continent.

Muslims are, therefore, more prosperous, more permanent, and more persuasive in England than in France, Belgium, Germany or Italy. Plus, they have more time and opportunity to be intellectual and zealously religious. Thousands of Englishmen have converted to Islam in recent years. At least 5% of the Muslims in England are former English Christians, at least in name. Fifty percent of all European converts going on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca are Britshers.

The English Channel stopped Hitler, but Islam is rolling over England like a gigantic wave. Christianity in England has lost its cutting edge while Islam, unsheathes its sword, and wields its influence with ever increasing strokes.

Has God allowed it as a judgment? Or has God ordained this final migration as the greatest opportunity ever for Christians to

evangeline Muslims? Will British (French or Belgian) Christians rise to the day or collapse in the night? Will they lift their faces to heaven in intercession or lower them in prayer to Mecca?

England now faces a crossroads more fatal than during either of the two World Wars. How will American Christians respond? It could be that England will be saved only if America sends soldiers again - spiritual soldiers.

A generation ago the "Battle of Britain" was won in the skies over England. In this battle, too, the powers of the air will decide the outcome. ■

Jubilees

The idea of a Jubilee goes back to the early practice of the Hebrew people. They numbered the years in cycles of seven and after seven such periods kept the fiftieth year as a Jubilee. It began on the Day of Atonement when, as usual, the High priest fulfilled the traditional ceremony by which the people were assured of the forgiveness of God. After the solemn sacrifice and the sprinkling of blood in the Holy of holies the sins of the people were confessed over a goat which was then driven away into the desert. So, annually, in dramatic symbolism was the grace of God proclaimed. But at the beginning of the fiftieth year this was followed by the solemn proclamation of Jubilee. At the sound of the silver trumpets the slaves were set free and land returned to its original owners to lie fallow for the next twelve months. Thus were burdens eased and the loads redistributed. It was a time of rejoicing — a new beginning in freedom for man and beast and land, a guarantee that no man should permanently enrich himself at the expense of others and no one should exploit the soil to its permanent exhaustion. Every fifty years came this reaffirmation of freedom — and men's hearts were filled with thanksgiving and with joy. ■

courtesy THY KINGDOM COME.

THE 8 MIRACLES of JESUS.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

MIRACLE NUMBER SEVEN.

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

"Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick),

Therefore his sisters sent unto Him saying, Lord, behold, he whom Thou lovest is sick.

When Jesus heard that, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

When He had heard therefore that he was sick, He abode two days still in the same place where He was.

Then after that He saith to His disciples, Let us go into Judea again.

His disciples say unto Him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone Thee; and goest Thou thither again?

Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

These things said He: and after that He saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

Then said His disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

Howbeit Jesus spake of His death: but they thought that He had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. And

I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent you may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him. Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with Him. Then when Jesus came, He found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off; and many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him. But Mary sat still in the house. Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever Thou wilt ask of God, God will give it Thee.

Jesus said unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

Martha said unto Him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life. He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

And whosoever liveth and believeth on Me shall never die. Believest thou this?

She said unto Him, Yea, Lord. I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto Him.

Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met Him.

The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there.

Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying unto Him, Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came unto her, He groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto Him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept.

Then said the Jews, Behold how He loved him.

And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should have not died?

Jesus therefore again groaning in Himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

Jesus said, Take away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto Him, Lord, by this time he stinketh, for he hath been dead four days.

Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up His eyes, and said, Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me. And I know that Thou hearest Me always. But because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that Thou hast sent Me.

And when He had thus spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus said unto them, Loose him, and let him go. Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on Him.

But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done." (John 11:1-46)

The account of this, the seventh miracle of our Lord as recorded in John's gospel, is rather lengthy, but it is important that we read the entire account. Every incident associated with this miracle is inter-connected and inter-dependent as we will see as our study progresses. Here is a further manifestation of Christ's glory. And what a manifestation it is. But not only does it manifest the glory of Christ, it also manifests the future glory of His people Israel, and as we have found in our studies of the previous miracles, gives us a wonder-

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

ful prophetic preview of how God is going to deal with His people. The name 'Lazarus' means 'God Helpeth', and he thus becomes a wonderful type of both Israel as a nation, and the Israel people themselves.

As we have seen in our previous studies, each miracle is paired with one of the others in reverse order to that in which they are recorded. Thus the sixth miracle of our last study had a very definite affinity with the third miracle, and so on. On the same basis, this seventh miracle is 'paired' with the second miracle which dealt with the raising of the Ruler's son. In that incident we find, as recorded in John 4:47 that the son was 'at the point of death'. He had not actually died by the time our Lord acted to raise him. As we saw, Jesus revealed Himself in that miracle as "The Giver of Life." But in this seventh miracle, we have the more advanced condition of the person actually having died. This principle is manifest throughout the whole series of miracles in that the second four are always an advancement on the first four with which they are paired. So the "Giver of Life" now goes far beyond that ministry and shows Himself as "The Resurrection and the Life." What a glorious blessing it is for us to thus have this assurance that our Lord does not restrict His ministry to just giving us life, or in other words providing relief for our present circumstances. He goes far beyond the scope of human possibilities and endeavours by providing the certainty, for those who meet the requirements, of eternal life through victory over death itself.

We also notice that just as the pair of the third and sixth miracles are the only ones which mention "sin", so this pair of the second and the seventh are the only two of the miracles which mention "death".

Again, we note that the second miracle with which this seventh is paired occurred during the early part of Christ's ministry when all that remained of the Kingdom was 'at the point of death'. This seventh miracle occurred at the very end of our Lord's ministry when Christ was finally rejected as King, and was in

fact the last miracle recorded by John as having taken place prior to our Lord's crucifixion. It was directly following this miracle that the final decision was made by the Jews to put Jesus to death as we read in John 11:-53-54;

"Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put Him to death. Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews."

Have you ever wondered what happened to Lazarus after Jesus raised him from the dead? In that excellent book, "The Drama of the Lost Disciples" by George F. Jowett, pages 163-164, we read that the historian Roger of Hovedon, writing of the French city of Marseilles, remarks:

"Marseilles is an episcopal city under the domination of the King of Aragon. Here are the relics (or remains) of St. Lazarus, the brother of Saint Mary and Saint Martha, who held the Bishopric for seven years."

The ancient church records at Lyons confirm this in these words:

"Lazarus returned . . . to Marseilles . . . He was the first appointed Bishop. He died there seven years later."

So after being raised from the dead, Lazarus became a Bishop, or servant, of God. How prophetic of the future role of the people for whom he is such a type.

So with the above as a background, let us turn to the details of what happened. The scene is set in verses 1 to 6, and our Lord Himself gives the reason for the entire episode. In verses 4 and 15 He says:

"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby."

"And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe."

Note the connection between verses 5 and 6. Despite the fact that He loved this family of Lazarus, Jesus deliberately waited two days where He was before taking any action. He didn't even hurry to His friends to console them as quickly as possible. You see, Jesus acts in accordance with His timetable, not ours. If it had been us, we would have raced around in a fit, all upset and worried, trying to explain to the bereaved family what we thought God had in mind in taking their loved one. But Christ took His time. He does things at the right time. We only worry about NOW. But He knows the end from the beginning. He knows exactly what to do, and what is more important, when to do it. So let us learn to TRUST HIM! The people thought only of their own bereavement. Jesus, on the other hand, was working to a plan, a Divine Plan. He was in the process of setting up one of the greatest prophetic illustrations that has ever been given of what is in store for us, both personally and nationally. Israel's position in sin and degradation; their separation from God; their absolute hopelessness, was about to be diagnosed by the Great Physician. He pronounced the Royal prognosis:

"This sickness is not unto death!"

How our people need to hear this message today. But they are literally starving. They are living the lives of helpless people increasingly caught up in increasingly helpless circumstances with seemingly the one intent of experiencing every avenue of enjoyment and success that the world seems to offer before they are wiped out into oblivion. Truly their hearts are failing them for fear because of what they sense is coming upon the earth. They are victims of the famine of the Word of God. And our leaders, both political and spiritual, haven't a clue as to what to do about it all.

Praise God, He knows exactly what is going on, and more importantly, the deliverance He has planned

for His people at the end. I say again, TRUST HIM!

The immediate conditions of the incident are set out plainly. Firstly, the condition of Lazarus. He was asleep in death. He was totally unaware of what was happening. As the writer of Ecclesiastes says;

"The dead know not anything." (Eccl. 9:5).

But clearly the way in which our Lord expressed Lazarus's condition left the disciples in some doubt as to what that condition actually was. Jesus referred to Lazarus as 'sleeping', the terminology used throughout the Scriptures of those who have died. The disciples thought at first that He meant that Lazarus was just taking a rest in sleep, and that conclusion was no doubt brought about by the fact that the Lord delayed going to Mary and Martha for two days. So Jesus had to tell them plainly that Lazarus was dead. So we can leave Lazarus for the time being.

Secondly, we note the circumstances regarding our Lord. As soon as He told His disciples that they would go to Judea, they became most concerned for His safety because of the threats that had been made against Him by the Jews. But their dedication to their Lord was so strong that they decided that they would accompany Him, even at the risk of their own lives. How we need such dedication today. How many teachers of the Word do you know today who are quite prepared to compromise the Word, and thus the Lord, as soon as they see some threat to their precious church or their finances, or their personal ministry. I sometimes wonder how they would go if they really and truly had their life on the line. But the Lord Jesus Christ had the answer to this. We will only stumble if we walk in darkness, or the night, because those who so walk have no light in them. Why? Because they come under the control of Satan, the prince of the powers of darkness. But if we walk in the day, or in the light, we will not stumble, because we will be in the company of "The Light of the World". That doesn't mean that the danger will be necessarily

removed, but rather that we will be able to face the danger without hesitation knowing that the Lord of Light and Life is with us. King David expresses this so beautifully in Psalm 27:1-3;

"The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear. Though war should arise against me, in this will I be confident."

So finally Jesus arrived at Bethany where Lazarus's family was, some four days after he had died. It is wonderful to read of the confidence and faith that both Martha and Mary had in the Lord. In verses 21 and 32, Martha, and later on Mary, both said to the Lord that if He had been there, their brother would not have died. This wasn't a criticism of Christ's absence, but a humble statement of their faith. Both knew of the Lord's power to prevent death, and both of them knew of the future resurrection from the dead. These things to them were just basic and fundamental beliefs which they never questioned. But when Jesus saw their grief, we are told in verse 35, (which incidently is the shortest verse in the Bible), that Jesus also wept. Why did He weep? It certainly was not for the same reason as the others were weeping. He wasn't weeping because He had lost one of His closest friends. He knew what no one else knew to that time, that He was about to raise Lazarus back to life within a few moments. His tears were not in sorrow at the loss of Lazarus. He wept, I believe, at the fact that this death was having such a devastating affect on those He loved. He wept at the evidence of the sorrow caused by sin and death, a sorrow which was so unnecessary. He had never intended that His people should die. They were offered the Tree of Life. But through their own foolishness, they had chosen evil and death. It broke His heart to see the sorrow and sadness

which sin had caused to His people. He wept for them even as He wept for Jerusalem;

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee. How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not."

(Matt. 23:37).

So He 'groaned in the spirit', or as the word 'groaned' means, He was indignant, and full of strong emotion as He came up to the cave where they had laid His friend.

Finally, we note the reaction of the Jews, or to be more correct, the Judeans. Some of them were full of sympathy for Mary and Martha, and did their best to console them. It was these who, on witnessing the mighty miracle which Jesus performed, believed on Him. But others had nothing to offer but criticism. They criticised Jesus before the miracle because He hadn't acted sooner to prevent this death, and then when He actually raised Lazarus from the dead, they criticised Him for doing that. Times have not changed. You can pick them a mile off. Those who call themselves Jews (Judeans) and are, will show a capacity for compassion and a readiness to accept the Lord Jesus Christ once they experience His mighty power. But those who call themselves Jews (Judeans) but who are not, show themselves to be totally without compassion, and will pour scorn and derision upon the Name of Jesus Christ irrespective of what they see of His power. Truly did our Lord say of these enemies that even though one rose from the dead they wouldn't believe. Truly did He call them "The Synagogue of Satan".

So now, having set all the participants in their various places, we come to the glorious climax of this outstanding episode. Jesus had already given Martha the wonderful assurance of His Divine power. He had spoken those immortal words;

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE."

He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

Now it was time to act. Jesus walked up to the cave and commanded that the stone be removed. That was an interesting command when you come to think of it. Clearly He was testing those present. He wanted them to take some physical part in this. He also wanted to impress upon the mind of Martha the full meaning of what He had just previously said to her about being 'the resurrection and the life'. It was this same Martha that now said to Him;

"Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days."

Jesus was well aware that this question was going to be raised, and we now see the reason why He waited the two extra days before coming to Lazarus's family. You see, the Jews had a belief, one of their 'traditions of men', that a person's spirit stayed in his body for three days after death. By waiting the four days, Jesus destroyed any possibility of the Jews making a claim that Lazarus's spirit was still in his body, and thus minimise the power of what Jesus was doing. Jesus, as usual, knew exactly what He was doing, and He hasn't changed a bit since. When will we learn this wonderful fact.

So finally the stone was moved. At this point Jesus lifted up His eyes to His Father and committed the whole episode to Him. The lesson of this tiny prayer has to be learnt. Jesus didn't thank the Father for answering Him. He thanked His Father for hearing Him. Those Christians who wonder why God doesn't answer them as they thought He should must realise this all-important principle as laid down in I John 5:14-15.

"And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, HE

HEARETH US.

And if we know that He HEAR us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." (emphasis added).

And here now was to occur the very act that was to glorify Him. He cried with a loud voice;

"LAZARUS, COME FORTH!"

We are told that immediately, Lazarus came out of the cave, still wrapped in his graveclothes, and still with the napkin around his face. At Jesus' command, these graveclothes were removed, and Lazarus walked away completely free and alive.

I wonder what went through Lazarus's mind as he stood there. Remember, he had no knowledge as to the fact that he was dead, any more than we are consciously aware that we are asleep during the night. It's only when we wake up that we realise that we have been asleep. As far as Lazarus was concerned, one moment he was talking with his sister, or whatever, and the next he was standing outside a cave, bound up in graveclothes. It's a wonder that he didn't die all over again with shock. But we must surely ask the question as to how he got outside whilst all bound so that he couldn't move his legs.

Let us clearly understand that the Lord did not employ some form of magic in performing His miracles. The secret of how He did these things is really quite simple. All He did, was for that particular time, and in that particular place, He introduced the conditions of the perfected Kingdom of God. You see, death cannot remain in the presence of God's perfect conditions, and as soon as they were introduced, Lazarus could no more remain there in a dead condition any more than we could remain under water in a live condition. He must have shot out of that cave like the proverbial shot out of a gun. He certainly didn't need his legs to do it. Death could no longer, under those conditions, have any

victory. And so the glory of the Lord was completely manifest.

What does all this mean to you and I? What were the great lessons which Christ was revealing to us in this almost unbelievable episode?

Well firstly, He enacted the future of His people Israel. The whole episode was in this context a wonderful prophecy. As God's people, we have been in a death-sleep condition for centuries. The two choices which God originally offered us were "Good and Life", or "Evil and Death". Ever since, as a nation, we have with few exceptions chosen the way of 'evil and death'. And what we haven't brought upon ourselves, our enemies have finished off. Today, as God's Servant Nation, and as God's witness to the very fact that He IS God, we are in dire peril of being exterminated by those who for thousands of years have been, and still are, the sworn enemies of God Almighty. The fact that the great majority of our church leaders today credit these enemies with being the very people whom they are in fact destroying, must be one of the greatest anomalies and confidence tricks of all time. If only they would open their eyes and recognise the graveclothes in which they have allowed themselves to be bound. If only they would hear Jesus' voice and allow those graveclothes to be removed so that they, as Lazarus, could walk alive and free. But whether they chose to do this or not, it is going to be done. The integrity of the Lord Himself demands it. The time is very close at hand when as a nation we are going to hear and recognise the call of God upon us. When at long last, we will in humility and gratitude, exclaim for all the world to hear, "Thou art our God, and we are Thy people!"

Revival, my friends, is not going to come through some church programme. It is only going to come by a national recognition of, and returning and obedience to, the Law of God, through the full operation of the New Covenant made with us by our Lord Jesus Christ. The 'resurrection' of God's Anglo-Israel people to their God-

ordained position is in fact going to have a tremendous effect on the entire world. The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 11:15;

"Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead." (Jerusalem Bible)

As we have previously pointed out in this series, each miracle represented a prophecy in timing as well as events. This re-awakening; this resurrection, is the very next thing on God's agenda. We are now living in the very time of the fulfillment of this prophecy. The Great Dawn is about to break upon a totally unsuspecting world, and to their shame, on an almost totally unsuspecting church.

But there is one final illustration in this event which we cannot afford to miss. Many, if not most, Christians today believe in what is referred to as "The Secret Rapture". Now I'm sorry if I lose friends over this, but I simply do not believe this theory. I can find no substantiation for it in the entire Bible. I don't argue about the use of the word 'rapture', as this word simply means 'a catching away', and can be used quite legitimately of the promise of I Thess. 4:17 where we are told that both the dead and the living will be 'caught up' to meet the Lord in the air as He returns to earth. But where on earth do we get the idea that it is going to be 'secret'? If the Lord had gone up to the mouth of the cave and whispered out of the side of His mouth to Lazarus, then there might be some support for this theory. But Jesus, we are distinctly told, "Cried out with a LOUD voice. In I Thess. 4:16 we read that when the Lord returns, He is going to descend with "A SHOUT", with "THE VOICE" of the archangel, and with "THE TRUMP" of God. Now I must have a queer understanding of the English language, because that doesn't sound like something 'secret' to me. The 'Trump of God' was certainly not some 'secret' sound in the Old Testament, because we are informed that when it sounded, the people

became so afraid that they besearched Moses to go to the Lord on their behalf. What was God using? Some early form of dog whistle that only reacted on their inner ears?

No, my friends, this is not something that is going to be done in a corner. This is going to be a world shattering event. And what's more, it is about to happen at any time now. We are now in the position of the wise virgins who, with a sufficient supply of the oil of the Holy Spirit are expectantly awaiting the appearance of the Bridegroom.

Here, in this miracle, we have been given an exact illustration of how the 'dead in Christ' will be raised on that Great Day. As for 'those who are alive and remain', it is my own personal conviction that the Lord gave us a similarly accurate illustration of how this is to happen in the event of the translation of Elijah. One can't be too dogmatic in these areas, but I am personally convinced that immediately following, and in association with, the great shout that will awaken the 'dead in Christ' to resurrection, will be the appearance of the Fiery Horses and Chariots of Israel to gather up 'those who are alive and remain' so that together we will meet the Lord in the air as He returns to take the throne of His father David, and to rule over the House of Jacob-Israel as His Kingdom for ever.

Thus we have demonstrated in this wonderful miracle the everlasting power and glory of God through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

The only question that remains is within our own hearts. Will we be ready and in a position to hear and answer this final call? Will we be a part of this wonderful event, or will we be left to watch in astonishment and anguish as we realise that we have rejected so great a salvation?

The choice is up to you.



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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.

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The “Midnight Hour”

How Near Is The Climax?

MICHAEL A. CLARK

WAKE UP!

As we arrive at the 70th anniversary of the Armistice, we are able to observe a significant series of events from 1918, which are seen to be linked to the false Peace movement and the emergence of the final politico-religious-economic confederacy as it endeavours to displace the servant people and the Kingdom of God in the earth. It is surely a powerful warning to the Watchmen in this continuing period of climax that the final Consummation of the Age is rapidly emerging and should be heeded by all Christians.

ON the evening of 4th August, 1914, the eve of Britain's entry into World War I, the sun set in a blood-red sky. On the still morning of 11th November, 1918, soon after the sun had risen, there was seen in the Midlands, England, a white rainbow—a fitting omen of peace one would have thought—described next day in the *Birmingham Mail* by their meteorological expert as follows:

“By a remarkable coincidence a white rainbow was visible on the western side of Birmingham at 8 o'clock on the morning of ‘Peace Day.’ This is a very rare meteorological phenomenon.”

In point of fact, the Armistice was not a peace treaty, but only a cessation of hostilities. It was signed at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month and it produced a slogan heard on every hand. The Great War, it was said, had been “the War to end War.” Never again should such a calamity happen!

In this spirit Allied leaders met and framed the Peace settlement and in the same spirit, during the past 70 years, many noble-minded statesmen—chief among them men from the Israel nations—have laboured to make war impossible. “Peace,” or “Peace and Security,” has been the cry as numerous conflicts have continued to erupt throughout the world. Multiplied millions have died far exceeding the number killed in the Great War. At present, both super-powers are engaged in a rather dramatic process of arms reduction as they destroy

a limited number of nuclear missiles—but, it would seem, saving their warheads for other weapon systems.

What in fact has been developing in the world since 1918, has to do with the continuous and prophesied “Armageddon” confrontation at the Age-end in which Soviet Russia features as a special destroying military instrument, the result of which is to be two-fold. First, there must take place the collapse of present man-made systems and all the attempts at creating a New World Order outside of the Divine Will. Second, and to a large extent consequent upon the first, there will take place the full restoration of the God-ordered pattern of civilization in the world, centred upon the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel, i.e. the Celto-Saxon family of nations.

The fact that the vast majority of committed Christian folk do not know, or do not *want* to know the second factor and the positive part of the confrontation, is an immense tragedy which is confining much of Christendom to irrelevancy in the nation of His servant people, but, more seriously, leading them into an unholy alliance with the counterfeit “Kingdom” Church of Rome.

When the Armistice came into force, the fact that the world had arrived at its own *eleventh hour* in the Age-end phase of history, was then recognized only by the few. Despite the very pointed evidence of the timing which marked the cessation of the hostilities—the 11th of everything.

There was also the added significance that it took place exactly eleven months from the official entry of General Allenby into Jerusalem, all of which came together as a kind of Divine intimation that the Age-end or "Midnight Hour" then began.

The curtain falls on the present Dispensation, according to Scripture in many passages in both Old and New Testaments, when the "Midnight Hour" arrives. The following examples can be shown:

"At midnight the Lord smote all the first-born in the land of Egypt . . . and there was a great cry in Egypt" (*Exodus 12: 29-30*).

"In a moment shall they die, and the people shall be troubled at midnight, and pass away" (*Job 34:20*).

"At midnight . . . and suddenly . . . the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed." (*Acts 16:25-26*).

In the Apostle Paul's shipwreck on the Island of Melita (Malta), when the ship on its way to Italy was destroyed by a tempest of hurricane force called "Euroclydon," Prefiguring perhaps the end of institutionalism in Church and State, in the European sphere in respect of the Reformation and how in the End of Days, the whole politico-religious-economic system will fall, from which the servant people are to be delivered. The ship was totally lost, exactly as the angel of God revealed to Paul, as was his promise that all on board would be saved. The timing of the ship's end was significant:

"About midnight" (*Acts 27:27*).

And in the prophecy concerning the destruction of "Babylon the Great" which in the Last Days represents the same false world system, the end is to come about:

"In one hour" (*Revelation 18:10*). Doubtless this is to be the same "Midnight Hour"!

Lastly, there is the reference by our Lord Himself, in His End-time parable of

the Ten Virgins, five of whom were wise and five foolish:

"At midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him" (*Matthew 25:6*).

The great theme conveyed in these passages is the collapse and overthrow of alien systems—in the complete and final release of God's Israel people and that, both national and spiritual. At this point of course comes the awe-inspiring prospect that the mighty King of kings will return to take up the Davidic Throne of the Lord. This is to be the grand climax to this "Midnight Hour." When will this "Hour" strike? What will be its duration?

There are Scriptural references which give emphasis to the number fifteen in relation to our subject. For instance, in the Great Deluge, which our Lord held up as typical of the Consummation of the Age, the water rose *fifteen* cubits; also, in Paul's shipwreck, the last sounding taken showed *fifteen* fathoms. What is also very interesting is that the difference between 2,520 lunar and solar years—the great "Seven Times" chastisement period of Israel—is 75 years, which is 5×15 years or conversely 15×5 years. There is also the fact that *fifteen* is a twenty-fourth part, or one hour, of 360, a prophetic "day" in Scripture.

The question that then arises is, can we see a pattern of climax from 1918 over 75 years to 1993, based on the 5 and 15 year intervals from the Armistice and the onset of the "Midnight Hour"? The answer is most certainly "yes," and particularly in relation to the subject of our supplement No 7, concerning "The Sign At Strasbourg." Below is a list of the terminal years and the recorded events:

- 1918 The Armistice—the "Midnight Hour" of false peace begins.
- 1923 Islamic temporal power ends (Turkey). War debts and Reparations Conference to secure world peace—opened 9th December, 1922, 1260 days (tribulation) after Versailles Peace Treaty was signed on 28th June, 1919.

1928 Kellogg Pact; described as "the greatest act born of peace," to uphold the League of Nations which "renounced war as an instrument of policy." Soviet Government institutes 5-year economic plan.

1933 Hitler becomes Chancellor—Germany leaves the League of Nations. *End of 15 years from 1918.*

1938 Austria annexed by Germany. Munich Agreement.

1943 Tide turns in World War II against Axis-powers (at Stalingrad).

1948 East-West confrontation over Berlin. Israeli State born and Middle East war erupts—conflict has continued ever since with the Arabs. *End of 2 x 15 years from 1918.*

1953 Change in Soviet leadership—Stalin era ends; Russia explodes H bomb. Coronation of Elizabeth II—new reign to be marked by End-time tribulation for the Kingdom.

1958 The New Europe emerges—Common Market and Euratom. Pope John XXIII becomes Pope.

1963 Franco-German Treaty of cooperation comes into force. Sino-Soviet ideological talks begin. Pope Paul VI becomes Pope. President Kennedy assassinated. *End of 3 x 15 years from 1918.*

1968 Russia invades Czechoslovakia. Troubles in Northern Ireland begin. U.N. resolution for sanctions against Rhodesia-Israel.

1973 Israel nations of Britain, Ireland and Denmark enter the Common Market—C.A.P. economic drain begins.

1978 Pope John-Paul II becomes Pope—3 Popes reign in 70 days. *End of 4 x 15 years from 1918.*

1983 Change in Soviet leadership (Nov. 1982); the year of "missiles for Europe."

1988 Peace offensive coming from Russia. European missiles being destroyed by Russia and U.S.A. The tide turns against EEC federalism in Britain, as the Pope calls for an East-West united Europe and

speaks to European Parliament. Soviet Republics begin to erupt.

1993 Single European Market comes into effect in the EEC? Channel Tunnel due for completion between Britain and France? *End of 5 x 15 years from 1918;* end of epact of 75 years between 2,520 lunar and solar years and difference of 75 years between the major prophetic numbers, 1260 (tribulation) and 1335 (finality).

Based on this pattern of events, we have to conclude that we are approaching very near to the "Midnight Hour" when the Israel nations are going to be released from bondage. When, indeed, the great cleansing of His Sanctuary is to be accomplished, the chronological factor for which is given by the prophet Daniel as 2,300 (*Daniel 8:13-14.*)

Daniel declares that at the end of 2,300 "days" or years, the sanctuary and the host will no longer be trodden under foot. It is very interesting to see the cleansing cycle of 2300 appearing against the Greco/Seleucid calendar beginning 14th September or 14th October, 1988, in the Almanacs for this year. After the death of Alexander the Great, his four generals divided the territories he had conquered between them, and to Seleucus fell the portion which included the Holy Land.

Dr Grattan Guinness regarded the *era of Seleucus*, 312 B.C., as the *main* starting point of this Sanctuary Cycle. The division of Alexander's Empire did not actually take place until after the Battle of Ipsus, 301 B.C., so that the epoch we should consider is dated 312-301 B.C. If now we measure 2,300 lunar years (2,231 $\frac{1}{2}$ solar) from that era, we have the period A.D. 1920-1931, which is included in the first 15-year period from 1918. However, if we apply the extended solar reckoning from the same era, we have the period A.D. 1989-2000, which overlaps the fifth 15-year period from 1918 and the significant 75-year epact given above, which proclaims an end of tribulation.

It is surely time for His servant people to begin looking up as never before, for their *redemption* indeed draweth nigh (*Luke 21:28.*)

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Chronicles of Eri. Vol. II p. 89
In Former Times
Isabel Hill Elder

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STUDY IN REVELATIONS.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART SEVEN.

THE SEVEN SEALS. (Continued).

THE FIFTH SEAL.

"And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

(Rev. 6:9-11).

The four stages of the history of the Roman Empire covered by the first four seals, and illustrated by the four horses and horsemen, had now passed into history. We now arrive at the time of Diocletian which began in 285 A.D. when he was elected Emperor. The use of horses as a symbolism ceases from this point of time, and this is most appropriate. The Roman Empire to this time had been ruled over by military men who became national heroes. So the horse, being associated with military exploits, was a fitting symbol for this period. But Diocletian was not a military man. He was what we would call today, a statesman, and governed the disintegrating Empire by diplomacy rather than military might. Although his parents had been slaves to a

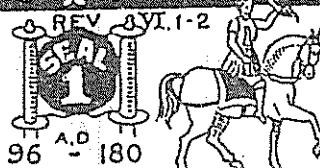
Roman senator, he distinguished himself in the field of diplomacy and was promoted to the position of consul during the period of the Roman wars with Persia. On subsequently being elected Emperor, he set about trying to overcome the decay which had set in within his crumbling empire. He divided the empire into four sections and placed over each section an associate who also carried the title of Emperor. But his efforts at reform were useless. The rot had set in too deeply, and the prophetic symbolism of the last of the four horses, that of 'death', could not be diverted in any way. Things became so bad, that under the pressure and influence of his pagan wife, he turned the full force of his venom against the Christians. This intense period of persecution began in 303 A.D., and ran parallel with the events depicted by the message to the 'church' or congregation of Israel at Smyrna with which we dealt in a previous chapter. One of the statements made of this 'church' period was;

"Ye shall have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

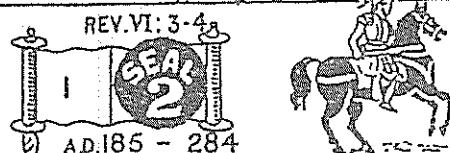
(Rev. 2:10).

This period of 'ten days' in prophetic terms indicated a period of ten years, using the Biblical basis of 'one day = one year' as stated in Ezekiel 4:6. So it is not without significance that the period of this terrible persecution by the Emperor Diocletian lasted from 303 A.D. to 313 A.D., exactly ten years. The twofold fulfillment relating to this 'ten day' period should not be overlooked, because whilst the period covered by the Smyrna 'church' consisted of ten distinct tribulations under successive emperors, as we previously studied, we now have a secondary fulfillment in this final ten year period of persecution when untold numbers of Christians perished for their undying faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Christians were not only fed to the lions as sport, but others of their brethren were tied to posts all around the arena, soaked in oil, and set on fire to provide further light to the proceedings. So if you ever think you are having a rough time being a Christian,

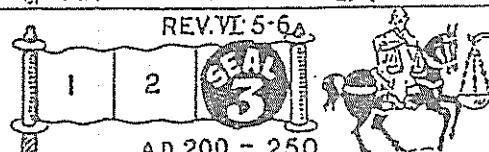
The Seven Seals of Rev. VI-VIII



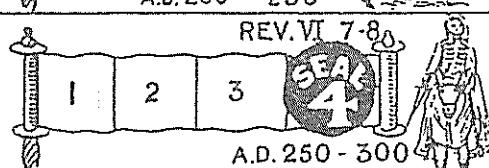
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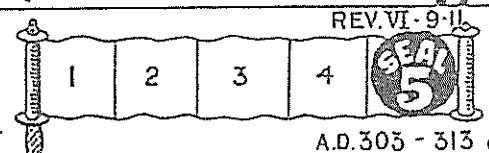
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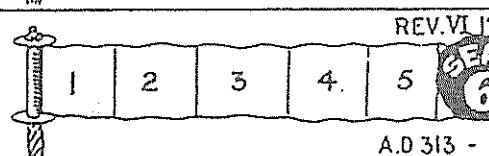
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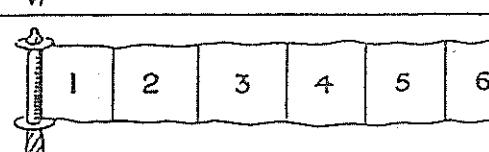
DECAY &
DEATH



CHRISTIAN
MARTYRS



FALL
OF
PAGANISM



SEVEN TRUMPETS

give a thought to what these brave and fearless souls went through for their faith. I wonder how many Christians today would stand a test such as this.

But exactly at the end of the ten year period foretold, Constantine succeeded Diocletian in 313 A.D., and the persecution came to an end.

But before going on to the following events represented by the sixth seal, we should comment on the souls described as being under the altar, crying out to God. The first thing we notice is that in the symbolic language used in this wonderful Revelation, these martyrs are described as being 'under' the altar, not 'on' it. The altar of course was the place where the sacrifice for sin was made. But these martyrs, although they made the supreme sacrifice themselves, are not shown here as being personal sacrifices to God. They are shown as being 'under', or covered by, the sacrifice already made on their behalf by the Lord Jesus Christ, here represented by the altar. And it is quite understandable that in their extremity they should cry out to the Lord as to how long this terrible persecution was to continue before God avenged them on their persecutors. You see, these people knew a fact which many Christians today refuse to even consider, that God is not only a God of love, but that He is also a God of vengeance. He has no intention of allowing those who persecute His people to get away with what they have done and to escape their rightful punishment. And I assure you that this doesn't only apply to non-Christians who persecute us, but also to the Christians who persecute other Christians simply because they don't fit into the pattern to which they want them to conform. An interesting analogy of these souls crying out for vengeance on their own behalf is found in the account of the murder of Abel by his brother Cain. We are told that the Lord said unto Cain that "the blood of Abel cried out to Him from the ground". And such has been the ongoing plea from that time right down to the present day. The blood of those who have been persecuted for their faith both righteously and rightfully cries out for vengeance, wheth-

er we have suffered either physical or character assassination. And the reply of the Lord to our cries remains the same. He says, "BE PATIENT!" The "Robe of Righteousness" will be the reward for all those who give their life for, or in the service of, their Lord and Saviour. At the end of the day, at the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, when the wages are paid, we shall each receive the eternal reward, whether we qualified late or early.

THE SIXTH SEAL.

"And I beheld when He had opened the sixth seal, and lo, there was a great earthquake. And the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.

And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken by a mighty wind.

And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.

For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand." (Rev. 6:12-17).

As we see from the accompanying chart, the period of this sixth seal commenced in 313 A.D. when Constantine came to power, and lasted until 395 A.D. But it should in fairness be stated at this point, that this period covered by the sixth seal also had a larger, or more long-term fulfillment which extended up to about the end of the eighteenth century. This short term and long term fulfillment of prophecy is an important factor to remember when we are studying this all-important subject, and occurs several times throughout Bible prophecy.

ecy. Our present study is an excellent example of this principle, as we shall see.

We also need to reiterate the fact that the Book of the Revelation is primarily one of symbolism. As we discussed in our first chapter, the Lord revealed His message to John "by signs and symbols", this being the meaning of the word "signified" in Rev. 1:1. This is a most important factor to keep in mind as we study this particular seal, as to try to understand its message by other means will only lead to utter confusion. So for the sake of clarity, let us tabulate the various symbols used.

1. There was a great earthquake.
2. The sun became as black as sackcloth.
3. The moon became as blood.
4. The heavens rolled away, and the mountains and islands were moved out of their places.
5. The kings of the earth etc. hid themselves from the judgment that was falling upon them.
6. The wrath of God came upon them.

Now remember, the setting of this scene is the Roman Empire. It is not some terrible judgment to fall upon the earth at some unknown time in the future. The word "earthquake" as used here denotes, in its prophetic application, political upheaval and revolution. The "sun" and the "moon" represent the leaders who ruled over the particular "earth" referred to, in this case, the Roman "earth" or world. The account in Genesis 37 of Joseph's dream of the sun, moon and stars making obeisance to him is a well known illustration of this principle. The "heavens" referred to is not the literal heaven we see when we look up at the sky, but refers to the position occupied by the rulers, symbolised by the "sun" and the "moon". Here we have forecast by our Lord, the total overthrowing of the pagan Roman world with its succes-

sion of pagan rulers by the use of terminology which would not be recognised for what it was by the Romans themselves, but would certainly be recognised by His people because of their knowledge of the Scriptures.

The history of the Roman Empire immediately following the reign of Diocletian and the rise of Constantine bears ample evidence of the exactness of our Lord's pronouncements. The following extract from "The Drama of the Lost Disciples" by George F. Jowett, (pages 93-94), reveals the historical facts of this period, facts which are scarcely heard of by Christians today.

"From the Claudian to the Diocletian persecution, extermination of Britain and all that was Christian was a Roman obsession. How satanic it was can be estimated in the brutal act which touched off the Diocletian campaign. The finest warrior battalions in the Roman army were the famed Gaulish Legions. On the order of Maximian, co-ruler with Diocletian, the Christian Gaulish veterans were slaughtered to a man in cold blood. His hatred of the Christian is stated to have exceeded that of Diocletian and to satiate it he butchered his finest soldiers.

"The martyrologies state that during the first two hundred years of Christianity over six million Christians were entombed within the catacombs of Rome - murdered. How many more were buried within the other unexplored catacombs is difficult to say. The total number would be appalling. It is claimed that if the passages of the catacombs of Rome were measured end to end they would extend to a length of 550 miles from the city of Rome into the Swiss Alps. It seems almost incredible that while only about one million Christians today walk the streets of Rome, under their feet are over six million mutilated bodies which have testified for Christ.

"Let free men and women wherever they may be today, take stock of the price their Christian ancestors paid to obtain and make secure the freedom which they now enjoy. The ancient Britons appear to have better realised than does the present-day shirking Christian that Christianity sets man free and freedom can only be

maintained in preserving the Christian faith. The present democracies of the English-speaking world owe all they have, or ever will have, to their Christian ancestors.

"Let us remember that, when it seemed as though Christianity was crushed on the Continent by the murderous Diocletian persecution, it was a British king with an army of Christian British warriors who crossed the seas and smashed the Diocletian-Maximian armies with defeat so catastrophic they never rose again. That British victory ended for all time Roman Christian persecution. Following the victory, this British king marched his army of Christian warriors into Rome and there declared Rome Christian. From thence dates Roman national acceptance of Christianity.

"It was not Peter who nationally Christianised Rome, but Constantine, the great-grandson of Arviragus, and son of the famous Empress Helen, a British princess.

"Surely, we cannot afford to forget."

For three centuries the Roman Emperor was known as Pontifex Maximus, which was the head priest of heathen paganism. In 313 A.D. all that came to an end with the succession of the Christian Constantine. One of the first things which he did was to abandon the heathen standards of the Roman army and substitute in their place the sign of the cross. He immediately issued edicts giving complete tolerance to Christians, and elevated Christians to positions of high office in the land. The heathen sacrifices and practices, together with their temples and priests were destroyed, and any form of worship other than Christianity was banned. The people literally tried to hide themselves from the judgment which they foresaw from the new Christian leaders as a result of their former barbaric acts of persecution.

Thus the whole political structure of the Roman Empire was shattered in the "earthquake" of God's judgment, and the "sun" and the "moon", representing the rulers, ceased their normal functions. The whole "heav-

ens" of the Roman Empire departed as a rolled up scroll, exactly as our Lord prophesied.

But before completing this study of the sixth seal, let us look at the factor which we previously mentioned about the short term and long term fulfillment of prophecy. The events of this sixth seal are not only an excellent example of this, but also of the twofold symbolic and literal fulfillment of some of the prophesies of our Lord's Revelation. The following information is taken from "Study in Revelation" by Howard B. Rand.

"On November 1, 1755 there occurred a remarkable earthquake centered in Lisbon, Portugal, which affected the entire territory of the former Roman Empire. It was felt as far away as the coast of America. It disturbed about four million square miles of territory, and was referred to by historians as "The Great Earthquake".

"Then on May 19, 1780, occurred the remarkable 'dark day' when the sun did not shine, and the moon became the colour of blood. It is recorded that people became terrified, many thinking that the Day of Judgment had arrived.

"And on November 12 and 13, 1833, stars to an estimated number of 240,000 fell like snowflakes for about nine hours. They are reputed to have ranged in size from moving points of light to globes of similar size to our moon. Observers noted that they all seemed to proceed from the same quarter of the heavens, from the vicinity of the stars in the constellation of Leo."

Thus the history of the Roman Empire and its ultimate defeat was accurately portrayed by our Lord, and the fulfillment of His prophesies cleared the way for the onward march of His Israel people to their appointed place, and to their appointed destiny as God's Servant Nation and God's specific witness to His own wonderful and everlasting faithfulness.

(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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"Thus saith the Lord.

Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom,
neither let the mighty man glory in his might,
let not the rich man glory in his riches.

But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he
understandeth and knoweth Me,
that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness,
judgment and righteousness in the earth.

For in these things I delight,
saith the Lord."

(Jeremiah 9:23-24).

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