



THE COVENANT VISION

June / Aug.

1989

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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

Well, it seems that once again the Bible is being proved to be true. The so-called 'greenhouse effect' is going to reduce the life expectancy of our planet and everything and everyone in it to the very near future. If that doesn't get us, the 'hole in the ozone layer' will. It was our Lord Jesus Christ Himself who warned us that one of the signs of the imminence of His return was that "Men's hearts would be failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth". At no time since the moment this was spoken has there been such a time of fear of both the present and the future than the days in which we now live. Not that I believe for one moment everything that we are being told today about these subjects. Nobody knows better than those in power the advantages of having the population of the world worried sick about too much radiation, too much heat, too high a water level, too little food, and what ever else will make them feel guilty and morbid.' Because while we are all worried about these things, we'll not notice what is really going on behind the scenes. We won't worry about all the new regulations that are being introduced world wide which will culminate in a one world government, and a one world church, all under a one world leadership. What a cry of anguish is going to go up from the people when they finally hear the cell door slam behind them, and hear at last the rattle of the chains and shackles that have been forged around them. It has already been suggested from one source that the 'greenhouse effect' could be remedied if we were all to pay \$2 per week to offset the cost of doing so. What's the betting that this will be included in the "World Tax" that is already being muted. Statements by highly qualified and recognised authorities are in strong disagreement with much of the scaremongering that is now so prevalent. The fact that the environment of our planet is in grave trouble is not in doubt. The pollution of both the land and the sea, together with the criminal waste of so much of our nat-

ural resources is a problem that has to be both addressed and rectified as a matter of extreme urgency. But our Lord Himself told us that at the time of the end, the days would be shortened for the elect's sake, otherwise no flesh would be saved. The fact that He was referring to this danger from a totally different point of view than our present leaders is one that every Christian should recognise. As individuals, we have a problem. To which political party are we going to entrust the duty of rescuing our planet? For that matter, to which individual leader would we be prepared to entrust such a stupendous task? Can we name just one person in the entire world who can give us the answer to our present problems? Pardon me if I overlook Superman and Batman. So having arrived at the only possible human answer to those questions in that we just don't have the answer, what are we supposed to do about it all? Just sit around and let it happen, and hope to goodness something, somehow, somewhere, will come along out of nowhere and save us from the results of our own stupidity?

Well strangely, that is just the very thing that is going to happen, only not in the way that humanity in general would ever suspect. From which ever way we look at it, time now appears to be something which has all of a sudden become very finite. Scientists are now, more and more, not talking so much about the centuries ahead, but have reduced their time spans to decades and even years. But isn't it wonderful. God is still in His heaven, and He is laughing them to scorn. God knows exactly what the answer is going to be. He knows that the earth is not going to be destroyed. He is so far ahead of our present-day soothsayers and do-gooders that they can't even hear the band playing. The answer does not lie in human endeavour, because finally we have no answers. The answer lies only in the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The government is going to be on HIS shoulders. And those of us who are awarded the prize of the overcomer and sit with Him in His throne, ruling and reigning with Him, will have the glorious responsibility of overseeing the re-creation of this world

back to its former glory. Some of us, for instance, are going to be "Ministers for the Environment". Having the mind of Christ, and being 'joint heirs' with Him, we won't need to consult committees. We won't need any 'environmental impact studies'. We will just give commands. And we'd better believe that when we do, people will jump. Most Christians today don't seem to have a single clue as to the position and authority that is going to be available to those who attain the prize of the 'high calling in God'. We are told very clearly that the 'righteous' are going to shine forth as the sun. Have you ever stopped to think of how bright that is? Some of the stars to which our future glory is likened are even far greater in brightness than our sun. It really staggers the mind to even try to imagine what lies before us. But 'the times of restitution as spoken of by the mouths of the prophets' are certainly close at hand. Nothing in this world is more certain than that the greatest rescue operation in the history of mankind is about to be undertaken. There are not going to be any notices in the daily newspapers about it. There are not going to be any tenders called for the work. There is just going to be one very sudden and unexpected blaze of glory as the events marking our Lord's return begin to manifest themselves to an unsuspecting world. If this prospect doesn't excite you then I'm very sorry. As far as we are concerned, we become more excited daily as we see events transpiring which all testify to our Lord's very imminent return. Yes, we ARE excited. We live in exciting times. And we look forward to an even more exciting future with the soon-returning King of Kings, even our Lord Jesus Christ Himself.



Therefore, take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or wherewithall shall we be clothed? . . . For your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the Kingdom of God,
and His righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.

Scotland:

Land of the Sciots.

By Rev. J. A. B. HAGGART.

We ask the question, What is the origin of the Scottish race? What was their language, their customs and that particular character that distinguishes them from all other people? After the Flood, their first habitat was on the southern and western slopes of Mount Ararat. They are the direct descendants of (H)eber, who was one of the patriarchs of the Bible. He was born 130 years after the Flood and settled in the area called Scythia, a part of Armenia. They called themselves the Gael of Sciot of Iber. Their portion of land they called Sciotia, a name which throughout the years lost the vowel "o" and became known as Scythia. This portion of the tribes descended from (H)eber became skilled in their use of the bow and arrow, the name "Sciot" meaning "those who are proficient in archery". This ability served them well in hunting and in warfare. "Iber" is the Gaelic rendering of (H)eber, by which name their travel to the west can be identified in the New Hebrides Isles of Scotland.

As early as 1500 B.C. a portion of these people left for the west. In 1490 B.C. another group followed them, going to Sidon and taking ship for Spain. Entering the mouth of the Douro River they travelled northward to Galicia in northwestern Spain. The Gael (who gave the name 'Galicia' to the area), sojourned 484 years in what they called "Gael-ag". During the reign of Eolus, (1368 - 1335 B.C.), the Chronicles of Eri were begun. Eolus acquired his knowledge of writing in Sidon, creating the Gaelic written language. Tarlot was chosen as the first Ard-Olam, or High Priest, who kept a record of the reigns of the different kings, similar to the book of Chronicles in the Bible. They were inherited by Arthur O'Connor in Ireland who translated them into English in 1822 A.D., a record kept by every Ard-Olam until early in the sixth century. Tarlot, the first of the scribes to

write the chronicles, swore in the presence of the people, "To guard the writing, to set down the words of the Gael, to keep falshood therefrom, and to preserve them . . ."

In 1003 B.C. the Gael of Sciota were forced to leave Spain by invading armies from the east, taking ship and landing on the shores of the island known as Ireland (Eri-land) today. The island was cut up into five kingdoms and ruled for 300 years by five different kings. In 703 B.C. King Eochaid of the royal House of Ros(s) in Ulster called the four other kings together and suggested that one of them should 'be raised a little higher than his fellows' and be the High King, or Ardri. Eochaid was chosen by the others to be the High King, with the title of Eochaid Olam Folla Ardri. He built a parliament building on Tara Hill, called Teacmor, (or Tobrad) in which the kings and noblemen assembled every third year to govern the whole island.

The Gael called their island kingdom "Sciota" until the time of the "New Sciota" to the north. In about 500 A.D. King Fergus Mor McErc of the Gaelic kingdom of Dalriada left his Irish palace at Dunseverick and invaded the Pictish kingdom of northern Britain. They drove the Picts north and set up their new kingdom at an old Pictish Fort on the hill of Dunadd. From that point Fergus ruled both halves of his kingdom. In 575 A.D. Aidan, the son of King Gabran, secured its independence, and Scotland was born, the New Sciota, or Scotia.

* * * * *

It is with the deepest regret that we advise our readers that Marie Haggart, the wife of Rev. James Haggart, passed away in May after suffering a severe stroke. They had been married for 49 years. I'm sure that James would appreciate the comfort of the prayers of all those readers who have been so richly blessed over the years by their ministry together. We join our dear brother in the certain hope of the resurrection, when they will meet again.

KNOW the TRUTH.

Frank W. Dowsett.

This article was originally published as the Editorial of Issue 12 of our companion magazine COVENANT WATCH! It is reprinted here for the interest of those of our readers who do not as yet receive that publication.

Surely it can't be too much longer before the people of Australia, and indeed all the countries of Anglo-Saxon Israel, wake up to the fact that we are being conned in the most vicious and far-reaching con game ever perpetrated on mankind. It is no coincidence that between us in Australia and America we now have a "Hawke", and a "Peacock" and a "Quail" operating under the auspices of the same "Bush". Speaking to the people of Judah many centuries ago, and obviously through them to the entire people of Israel, the prophet Jeremiah warned them of the day when "The carcasses of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven." (Jer. 7:33). He wasn't wrong. The forces that really govern us, as distinct from those whom we thought we elected to govern us, are now so powerful that they no longer care what the ordinary people think. Our elected politicians are no longer our servants. They no longer represent the citizens of our great countries. The majority of them have now become the servants of the anti-Christ power whose ultimate aim is the destruction of the Christian Faith and everything it represents, particularly the nations who were given the responsibility of being its greatest champions. But what else can we expect? The Bible continually refers to us as "sheep", and "the sheep of His pasture" as our brethren in the Church of England will readily recognise. One of the main features of sheep is that they follow a shepherd. We still do. The trouble is that the real Shepherd has been replaced by false shepherds which the people are now blindly following without the slightest idea that they are being led to destruction rather than to the green pastures which their True Shepherd promised them. The tragedy is that

in the main, they are not even being told by so many of the false shepherds which go under the name of pastors that there are green pastures for us as a people. All we are promised from the pulpits are pearly gates and streets of gold somewhere up in the sky when we die. Tell that to the starving children down here now. And as for the politicians, they don't even consider that we are entitled to the good things of life any longer. The only difference between them and most of our religious leaders is that at least they don't go on with the nonsense of a later 'pie in the sky'. Make no mistake about it. The present economic situation is no accident. The present breakdown in our standards of morality is no accident. The present turmoil in our political scene is no accident. The present break-down in law and order is no accident. The ever increasing controls being placed upon us in every aspect of our lives is no accident. The decline in our living standards is no accident. The implementation of our present multicultural policies is no accident. The decline and undermining of the Christian faith upon which this country was based and founded is no accident. If you don't agree with the above statements, then I'm afraid that you have become so accident-prone that you urgently need help. And it's not the sort of illness for which you see your doctor or parson or politician. The only place from whence you will receive true help and assurance in these days of our latter captivity is from the only source of real truth, THE BIBLE! The answer to our present problems is not more government. It is not more control. And it certainly is not more 'religion'. Our Lord Jesus Christ didn't promise us more control or more 'religion'. He promised us the exact opposite, more LIFE ABUNDANT and more FREEDOM. Furthermore, He promised that these conditions would only be achieved through knowing and obeying the TRUTH. It is the TRUTH that sets us free, not parsimonious platitudes and empty promises. It is now time for concerned Christians to get up off our collective backsides and start thundering out this TRUTH.



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

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

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

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THE 8 MIRACLES of JESUS.

by F. W. DOWSETT.

MIRACLE NUMBER EIGHT.

THE DRAUGHT OF 153 FISHES.

"After these things Jesus shewed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed He Himself.

There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples.

Simon Peter sayeth unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered Him, No.

And He said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked), and did cast himself into the sea.

And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fishes.

As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish that ye have now caught.

Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of

great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask Him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

This is now the third time that Jesus shewed Himself to His disciples, after that He was risen from the dead.

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My lambs.

He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My sheep.

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? Peter was grieved because He said unto him the third time, Lovest thou Me? And he said unto Him, Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed My sheep."

(John 21:1-17).

So we come to the eighth and final miracle in this series. This is the only one of the eight miracles recorded by the Apostle John which was performed after our Lord's resurrection. And just as the first seven miracles manifest, or showed forth, His glory, so this eighth and final miracle manifest His glory in a very real and wonderful way. In fact, it reveals Christ's glory in a very special way that all too few Christians ever realise.

The first seven miracles demonstrated the PERFECTION of Christ's Kingdom. This is not surprising, and in fact should be expected, as the number 'seven' in the Scriptures is always associated with the perfection of God's work. The seventh miracle brought us to the end of the cycle of seven, a cycle always present in God's great 'Time Clock'. We know that there were seven 'days', or ages, associated with the original creation of the universe, the seventh being the period during

which Jehovah/God, Who as we now know was no other than our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, rested from His creative works. John 1:3 tells us;

"All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made."

This is confirmed in Col. 1:16 where we read;

"For by Him (Jesus) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers. All things were created by Him, and for Him".

How fitting then that the final miracle of these seven should be one of resurrection from the dead.

This first cycle of seven great ages of Genesis chapter one was thus followed by the 'eighth day', or the beginning of a new cycle of seven 'days' or ages. God's original creation had degenerated to such a terrible degree, and Satan had taken such a firm control over it, that God now implemented the next stage of His Divine Plan of the Ages. He set up in a specially selected portion of the earth, a model of His Kingdom in a place called Eden, and in that special place which was called The Garden of Eden, He placed a new man, or Adam, whom He had specifically formed as the means by which He was to bring ultimate blessing and salvation to the rest of His fallen creation. This new man, or as he is referred to in the Septuagint translation of the Old Testament as "the Adam", was the very first created 'Son of God'. His genealogy is given in Luke 3:38. We are all only too well aware that even this special man and his wife also failed. So we have now experienced a further six ages, or six thousand years of suffering and death.

But praise His wonderful Name, this is all about to change. The gifts and calling of God are beyond repentance. He is not about to be defeated in His purpose by

Satan or any of his agents or servants. We are about to experience the manifestation of the seventh miracle in a mighty act of both personal and national resurrection. We are about to enter the 'Kingdom Age', the 'time of the restitution of all things spoken of by the prophets', as recorded in Acts 3:21.

This will then lead into another 'eighth day'. Just as the eighth day is the first day of the new week; and just as the eighth full note in music is the first note of a new octave, so will this great eighth day represented by this eighth miracle, be the first day, or the beginning, of an entirely new age, and an entirely new order. It represents absolute victory and triumph, a time when there will be no more sickness, sorrow or death. When there will be no more want and hunger and poverty. It will be a time when ALL shall know the Lord, and when peace shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

So we see that as to the application of its timing, just as the performance of the eighth miracle by our Lord Jesus Christ followed His own resurrection, so will its fulfilment and manifestation follow the resurrection of His saints.

In studying the details of this very wonderful miracle, I came to realise something that appears to have been entirely overlooked. The main, and almost universally the only emphasis placed upon this miracle relates to the draught of 153 fishes. Now whilst I accept and recognise the utmost importance of this miraculous draught of fishes, I would suggest that this was only a part of the whole incident. The main feature of what happened was not, I suggest, the miraculous draught of fishes, but THE MEAL as recorded in verses 9 to 14. The importance of this conclusion will hopefully become more obvious as we proceed with our study, which divides into three sections.

1. Before the meal. verses 1-8.
2. The meal itself. verses 9-14.
- 14.

3. After the meal.

verses 15-17.

1. Before the meal.

This period provides the major portion of the overall account, and contains the miracle itself of the draught of the 153 fishes. The importance of a clear understanding of this event cannot be overstated. Every part of this incident has a significance, most of which is entirely lost to most Christians, mainly because of the terrible habit of so many of 'spiritualising' the Scriptures, or merely seeking some personal application which totally ignores the greater and grander application to the glory of Christ's Kingdom here on this earth. We must never lose sight of this fundamental principal of Bible study. Whilst there may be various applications to specific passages of Scripture, there is only ONE interpretation! To allow an 'application' to overshadow, and as happens so often, obliterate the original purpose for which the passage was given, is to lose the full blessing and instruction which the Lord intended for us. This passage is no exception, and it is important that we keep this rule fully in mind as we study its various aspects.

The details of this period are quite simple.

(i). They had toiled all night and had caught nothing. This is most significant. In John 9:4-5 we read where our Lord made this very pertinent statement:

*"The night cometh, when no man can work.
As long as I am in the world, (world order), I am
the light of the world (order)."*

It is not without significance that whilst the boat contained only the Lord's disciples, they were completely without success. The reason is clear. The Lord was not in the boat, nor was He in their plans. They had just decided to go fishing, virtually on the spur of the moment. There is a wonderful lesson here for us. I've lost count of the number of times I have seen groups of

Christians get together in some scheme they have thought of, only to have it wither and collapse with sometimes devastating effects. I know because I've been caught up in a few. The sincerity of the people so involved is not in question. But we can be sincerely wrong just as easily, and sometimes I think more easily, as we can be sincerely right. The criteria is not how sincere we are, or how right our plans look, but whether or not the Lord is with us. If the plan fails, that is, "if we toil all night and catch nothing", then we can be absolutely assured that what we had tried to do was not fully in accordance with the Lord's plan and purpose for us.

But we notice that as soon as the Lord came upon the scene, conditions dramatically changed. Three things immediately happened. Firstly, the Lord issued a command. And this command illustrated a very important point. The Lord didn't tell them to cease fishing. There was nothing wrong in principle with what they were doing. Their error lay in the fact that they were doing it in the wrong place! How many times have we found ourselves trapped in such a predicament? Secondly, the disciples without question obeyed the Lord's command. And thirdly, because of their obedience, they obtained instant and overwhelming blessing. The account tells us that as soon as they cast their nets in the right place, they caught so many fish in it that they couldn't draw it on board. What a wonderfully simple lesson the Lord shows us. Please believe me friends, that if you are not experiencing the blessing that in your heart you really know you should be enjoying, then you can be absolutely assured that you have stepped outside the sphere of God's will and purpose for you, despite what others may try to convince you to the contrary. God's Word is totally adamant on the principle that you can tell a tree by its fruit, and that you can discern between a true and a false prophet by whether or not what they say is fulfilled. So judge for yourselves.

(ii). Christ performed the ensuing miracle by providing

The right fish,

At the right place,

At the right time.

Just let us analyse what actually happened here. After fishing all night without catching a solitary thing, the Lord quite specifically instructed them to cast their nets on the RIGHT side of the boat. From this it seems very obvious that for some reason which no doubt seemed very valid to them, such as the direction of the tides or winds, they had been previously fishing from the left side of the boat. Now as I've said many times before, I just don't believe in coincidences when it comes to the Word of God. I believe that in this incident, the Lord was directing a very special warning to those who 'have eyes to see, and ears to hear'. Is it not without significance that today we are politically divided between the 'east' and the 'west', and between the 'right' wing and the 'left' wing. Is it not also significant that those within the so-called Christian churches who cast their nets within the 'left' orbit, and get themselves involved in the socialistic/communistic/humanistic sphere are achieving absolutely nothing for the cause of Christ. Don't be deceived by all the do-gooders in our midst who camouflage their works with a Christian appearing veneer. You will easily recognise them. They will always claim that what they are doing is for the benefit of mankind, NEVER for the glory of God. You can pick them a mile away. Let us make no mistake about this principle.

Mankind will NEVER EVER be benefited by any ideal or plan unless that ideal or plan first glorifies God.

But if we then conclude that the answer to our problems lies in casting our 'net' among the political 'right', then we are sadly mistaken. The only reason we have a 'right' wing and a 'left' wing today is to brainwash the poor ignorant public into believing that they have a choice. The fact of the matter is though, that both sides are now controlled by the same powers be-

hind the scenes. All the real rulers do is that from time to time they change the colour of the lens through which they reveal all their so-called goodies.

The Lord however, was revealing to 'the wise' something quite different. He reveals what He truly means by the 'right' side and the 'left' side in His statement as recorded in Matthew 25:31-34, and 41;

"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory.

And before Him shall be gathered all nations. And He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.

And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. . . ."

"Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

(emphasis added).

Thus we see that the importance of what the Lord was revealing to us lay not in the colour of our politics, but rather that we labour in the knowledge that the full blessings of God come only through the ministry of the gospel of the Kingdom of God here on this earth, as manifest through His literal people Israel, who are constantly referred to throughout His Word as His Sheep, the Sheep of His Pasture.

So we see that when the disciples fished in the right place, they caught the right fish. This fact will become apparent as we study the significance of the number of fish caught a little later. But the other amazing thing to notice is the timing involved. After having fished all night without catching a single fish,

they cast their nets again immediately Jesus gave the command, just at the exact time that exactly 153 fish were swimming by that particular spot. Have you ever thought of the mathematical chances of this happening by accident? The appearance of these fish had been organised by Christ long before they were caught. Wherever they came from, exactly the precise number had to arrive at that precise spot exactly at that precise time. Truly a miracle in every aspect. And the lesson is equally clear for us today. If our Lord could organise a school of fish to appear at a precise spot at a precise time in the future, then we can be absolutely assured that He will just as easily and certainly perform every promise that He has made to us in regard to our future and the future of the people which are called by His name.

(iii) The recognition of the Lord Jesus Christ, through the works that He did, resulted in an amazed exuberance by the disciples. Peter, ever the outspoken and outgoing one of this truly blessed group, immediately dived into the sea to get ashore to the Lord first, leaving the others to do the hard work of landing the fish. But the others were obviously not far behind, dragging the full net behind the boat. The thrill is no less now than what it was then. When we really see the Lord, and when we really accept His hand upon the events which govern our lives, (as distinct from events which we bring upon ourselves and then claim them to be the Lord's leading), then we run to Him in true delight and thankfulness. Only then do we share in the full blessing which He has planned for us.

But now we turn to another aspect of this incident. This is the mention of THREE specific numbers associated with the miracle itself. Firstly we have the number of people involved. If you count the number of disciples in the boat, as enumerated in verse 2, you will find that there were SEVEN. But the total number involved in the entire incident, counting the Lord Jesus Christ, is EIGHT. A coincidence, seeing that this is the EIGHTH miracle recorded by John? I think not. The Lord

always has a specific purpose in what He does, and this is no exception.

Now I don't wish to get involved in an in-depth study of Bible numerics at this stage, as this is a very wide subject in itself. Suffice it is for our present study to realise that the Lord uses numbers throughout the entire Bible in a very special way, and for very special purposes. Each number has a very special and individual meaning and application, and is used solely in its own special application throughout the entire Scriptures. As we have already seen, the number SEVEN is always associated in the Scriptures with PERFECTION. Man today even refers to this number as the perfect number, without really knowing why, or the origin of the phrase. But real Godly perfection can only be attained when the Lord Jesus Christ is present. Perfection, as such, can only be attained through the atoning work and ministry of Christ. Final and complete perfection will only be truly experienced when we have experienced the fullness of the resurrection and regeneration promised through Him. And as we have also seen, this is what the number EIGHT indicates. So we see that the number of people involved was of real importance and significance.

The second number mentioned is found in verse 8 where we are told that the boat was "200 cubits from land". Dr. Bullinger, in his excellent book "Numbers in Scripture", points out that this number is always related to 'insufficiency'. This conclusion is quite clear when we consider the instances when this particular number is used in the Scriptures.

- a. In John 6:7 we read that '200 pennyworth of bread is not sufficient,' thus revealing an insufficiency of sustenance.
- b. In Joshua 7:21 we read of Achan that 200 shekels were not sufficient to save him from the consequences of his sin, thus revealing the insufficiency of money.

- c. In II Sam. 14:26; and 18:9 we read how that Absalom's 200 shekels weight of hair were not sufficient to save him, but rather caused his destruction. This reveals the insufficiency of physical beauty.
- d. In Judges 17:4 and chapter 18 we read where Micah's graven image was purchased for 200 shekels, and led to the introduction of idolatry into Israel resulting in the cutting off of two tribes from the blessing. This reveals the insufficiency of religion.
- e. In Ezra 2:65 we read how 200 'singing men and women' were not sufficient to produce peace with God, true spiritual worship, or joy in the Lord. This reveals the insufficiency of external things in the true worship of God.

And now we see in our present study that the disciples were 200 cubits from land. How was this insufficient? Simply because the Lord was not with them, but on the land. They were '200 cubits insufficient' of being with their Lord. There is a mighty lesson for us in this. We might be disciples or servants of the Lord. We might be working our hearts out ministering and doing things which we feel sure are of Him. But if Jesus is not with us 'in the boat'; if we are toiling on the waters, (which incidently in prophetic terms refers to people), but the Lord is in fact on the land, removed from where we are, then our efforts will always be insufficient, as will the results.

But the main number mentioned in this miracle is that of the 153 fishes. We can logically ask, Why this specific number? Why not 'about 150', or some other round or even number? But the Word of God is quite specific. The number of fishes caught in the net was exactly 153. If the Lord went to the trouble of recording this exact number, then the least we can do is to try to understand its significance. When we do, we find

The Greek alphabet uses twenty six letters, two of which have become extinct. Their number values appear below:

α	Alpha	1
β	Beta	2
γ	Gamma	3
δ	Delta	4
ε	Epsilon	5
ζ	Zeta	7
η	Eta	8
θ	Theta	9
ι	Iota	10
κ	Kappa	20
λ	Lambda	30
μ	Mu	40
ν	Nu	50
ξ	Xi	60
ο	Omicron	70
π	Pi	80
ρ	Rho	100
σ	final σ	200
τ	Tau	300
υ	Upsilon	400
φ	Phi	500
χ	Chi	600
ψ	Psi	700
ω	Omega	800

Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament, has twenty two letters in its alphabet. Their number equivalents are listed below:

א	'Aleph	1
ב	Bëyth	2
ג	Gymel	3
ד	Dâleth	4
ה	Hê	5
ו	Vâv	6
ז	Zayin	7
ח	Châyth	8
ט	Tâyth	9
י	Yôwd	10
כ	Kaph	20
ל	Lâmed	30
מ	Mêm	40
נ	Nûwn	50
ס	Qâmek	60
ע	'Ayin	70
פ	Pê	80
צ	Pê	90
ק	Tsâdey	100
ר	Qôwph	200
ש	Râyab	300
ת	Slym	400
	Shûrn	
	Thâv	
	Tâv	

that the secret of Christ's message through this miracle lies in the significance and meaning of this number.

Now I realise that mathematics is not everyone's pet subject. But please be patient for a little while. We mentioned earlier in this study the subject of Bible Numerics, and whilst I do not intend to go into any real depths in the subject, it is nevertheless essential that the Bible student have at least a basic knowledge of what it involves and how it works. So here is a 'crash course' for those who are not familiar with the subject.

I'm sure that we are all familiar with what we call 'Roman Numerals', where 'i' = 1, and 'v' = 5, and 'x' = 10, etc.. This happens simply because, unlike English where we have a separate system of numerals from the alphabet of letters, Latin uses only one group of symbols for both letters and numbers. Thus the letters of the alphabet are also used for numbers. So that if we had, purely as an example, a Latin word 'VIM', by substituting the numbers for each letter and adding them together, we would arrive at what is called 'the numeric value' of the entire word. Thus we would find that 'v' = 5 + 'i' = 1 + 'M' = 1,000, the total value being 5 + 1 + 1,000 = 1,006. This is not how we would write the number 1,006 on its own, but is the 'numeric value' of the sum of the individual letters in the word. Now both the Hebrew and the Greek language, in which the Old Testament and the New Testament were originally written, uses exactly the same system. So that we find that not only can every word in the original Scriptures be read as a word, but that it has a 'numeric value' by substituting the numeric value of each letter and adding them together. And because of the context in which numbers are used throughout the Scriptures we find that certain numbers are always associated with a specific aspect or meaning which is peculiar to that particular number, as we saw previously in the way the number 200 is used throughout the Bible. This particular branch of study is called "gematria". Now I don't intend going any deeper into this subject at this stage, as it could become confusing to the newcomer to the subject. Suffice it to say

that the use and application and understanding of this system proves beyond any shadow of doubt whatsoever the Divine Inspiration of the Scriptures, and used wisely can silence the opposition of the most severe critic of the veracity of God's Word.

So we find that brought down to its simplest form, the number 153 represents "THE SONS OF GOD". The Hebrew expression for this phrase is **בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים** (*Beni Ha-Elohim*). The gematria of this expression is exactly 153 as we see from the following table. (Remember, Hebrew reads from right to left).

ב	=	2
נ	=	50
י	=	10
ה	=	5
א	=	1
ל	=	30
ה	=	5
י	=	10
ם	=	40
		<hr/> 153 <hr/>

The same expression, THE SONS OF GOD, in the Greek of the New Testament reveals the same result in a different form. The gematria, or numeric value of the Greek phrase is 3,213, which is 21 x 153. The numeric value of the Hebrew words translated "The SONS OF GOD with Satan among them" in Job 2:1 is 1989, which is 13 x 153. The Greek words translated "joint heirs" in Romans 8:17 add up to 1,071, which is 7 x 153. The Greek expression "the creation of God" adds up to 1,224 which is 8 x 153. The Greek words for both "fishes" and "the net" each add up to the same number 1,224, or 8 x 153, as does the Greek for "The Lord God". Let us look at part of 'the creation of the Lord God', which is part of the inheritance of the "joint heirs", that is, the earth and the moon. The diameter of the earth is 7,920 miles. The diameter of the moon is 2,160 miles. Maybe it is

just a sheer coincidence that if we add the diameter of the earth to twice the diameter of the moon, we get 12,240 miles, which is exactly ten times the number 1224 to which we have just referred. Maybe.

Now just in case the above has whetted your appetite, consider also the following.

$153 = 9 + 144$. The number 9 is always found in connection with judgment and finality. For instance, the value of the Greek word for "amen", which finalises what has been said, is 999. The number 144 will be easily recognised in connection with the 144,000 of those who are sealed in the Book of the Revelation.

152 also $= 9 \times 17$. The number 17 is the 7th in the list of prime numbers, that is, numbers that cannot be divided by any other number than itself. Being the sum of 7, which represents spiritual perfection, and 10, which represents ordinal perfection, it takes the character of both these numbers. As Dr. Bullinger points out, it thus sets forth the spiritual and eternal perfection of the believer's standing in Christ.

Now in regard to these factors of 9×17 , if we add the individual numbers of 153 thus, $1 + 5 + 3$, we have 9. If we add all the numbers from 1 to 17 thus; $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10 + 11 + 12 + 13 + 14 + 15 + 16 + 17$, we have a total of 153.

Incidentally, the number 153 is found once before in the Bible. In II Kings 1:9-15 we read where the king sent three groups of soldiers to capture the prophet Elijah. Each group comprised a captain and fifty soldiers. Thus the total number of the enemy from whom Elijah was protected and delivered was $51 \times 3 = 153$.

The above by no means exhausts the full implications of this wonderful number 153. Even if you have not been able to fully grasp the mathematics involved, the reader must surely recognise at least the enormity of its implications. The number of fish which the Lord

caused to be caught by His disciples was certainly no accident. It was deliberately planned by an all-wise and all-seeing God and deliberately introduced into the sacred record as a guide to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

The whole incident of the catching of these 153 fishes was a tremendous illustration of the future rescue, salvation, redemption, regeneration, and glorification of THE SONS OF GOD by and through their Saviour and King, our Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing! Absolutely nothing, is more certain in this world than the fulfilment of this glorious destiny which has been promised to those who love and serve Him.

2. After the Meal.

So we arrive at the next section of our study, the events which happened after the meal. For ease of explanation, we have changed the order of these two sections and will deal with the meal itself last.

As we read this episode in the 15th to the 17th verses, we could reasonably enquire as to the connection between the 'fishes' of the miraculous catch which we have just studied, and the 'sheep' which is the focus of this particular section of the account. The connection however, is very simple when we remember that the '153 fishes' represented "The Sons of God", and as such, identify with "the sheep of His pasture". Whether we look at this from a national or an individual perspective, our Great Leader is "The Great Shepherd", our Lord Jesus Christ. This is why those who follow Him are referred to as sheep. This is a term peculiar to God's people Israel. It is never used of any other nation. In Matt. 10:6 we read where Jesus sent His disciples to "the lost sheep of the House of Israel". Again in Matt. 15:24 Jesus stated quite categorically that He was not sent to anyone else but "the lost sheep of the House of Israel". Does this mean that He is not interested in anyone else of any other nation? Of course not. Our Lord was simply setting out His priorities. Israel was formed

to be His witness to the fact that He was indeed God. They were to be the ones through whom He was to bring blessing to all the families and nations of the earth. It thus stands to reason that they then must first be trained and brought into the right relationship with Him before they would be able to take the gospel to others. But let us be very clear on one important point. We are not going to become Sons of God simply because we are born Israelites. The qualifications for a "Son of God" are clearly set out in John 1:12;

"But as many as received Him (Jesus), to them gave He power (or authority) to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His name".

We receive the authority to become a Son of God, not just by being born an Israelite, but by receiving and acknowledging the King of Israel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Anyone born an Israelite who does not make such an acceptance and commitment loses his Israel citizenship. It is just as plain as that. So with this fundamental fact in mind, the Lord's subsequent conversation with Peter takes on a far greater and deeper meaning. I'm sure that the fact that our Lord asked Peter the question three times was directly related to the fact that Peter had previously denied his Lord three times, and I feel sure that Peter was well aware of that fact. But be that as it may, the commands that our Lord gave to Peter were of the utmost importance, no less today for us than what they were then to Peter. Three times the Lord asked Peter if he loved Him. Three times Peter answered with complete assurance that he did. I'm sure that most of us would answer the same question with the same degree of sincerity. But sadly, it is at this point that so many Christians stop. They seem to think that it is sufficient to constantly tell the Lord how much they love Him. And in the comfort of their own feelings they completely overlook the duties and responsibilities which not only go with that expression of love, but which are a mandatory part of that love. The life of a Christian is not one of pious platitudes and loving emotions. It is one of service. It is one of obedience. It

is one of complete commitment, irrespective of the odds or forces which may come against us.

If we are to really walk with Christ, we must do it His way. In His reply to Peter, our Lord told Him to do three distinct things. The first was, "Feed My lambs". You will notice that in the second and third instance Jesus used the word 'sheep', not 'lambs'. A lamb, as we know, is a young sheep. So Christ's first instruction related especially to the young sheep of His pasture. The word translated 'feed' in this passage means literally 'to provide pasture'. So in the first instance, Peter was instructed to provide the proper food for the young lambs so that they could grow up into strong sheep. What a difference we would see today in our young people if only our leaders had heeded that simple instruction. The second thing that our Lord told Peter to do was "feed My sheep". The sheep are now full grown, but we find that the word translated 'feed' is now a different word. The original Greek word used here means 'to shepherd, guard, and guide'. So the injunction is that once we have fed the young lambs to maturity with the Word of God, we must accept a totally different responsibility towards them. We must now guard them from danger and attack. We must continue to guide and shepherd them throughout all their paths. And this can only be done by implementing the third instruction which is again, "Feed My sheep". In this instance, the word 'feed' is the same as in the first usage, to provide proper pasture. This means that even after the sheep have grown, and whilst we are still guarding and guiding them, we must never ever cease to feed them with God's Word, the Living Food which comes directly from the Living Shepherd. What a responsibility we have been given. And sadly, how many have ignored it or cast it aside. There is yet to be a great deal of answering to do before the Throne of God.

3. The Meal Itself.

As I have previously stated, I consider that this is the hub around which the entire recorded incident re-

volves. This in no way detracts from the miracle which our Lord had just performed, nor from the splendour of its meaning. But I suggest that this brings the miracle and all that it implies into proper focus.

Just picture the scene. Peter had jumped out of the boat and swum ashore ahead of the others. They then brought the boat to shore, dragging the net full of fishes behind it. And what did they see? Here was a scene, the significance of which most Christians have never realised. Here before them was the resurrected Lord, with a fire already lit with fish already on it, and beside it, BREAD. This is recorded in verse 9. So the fish on the fire had not come from the 153 fishes caught by the disciples. As recorded in verse 11, they were not brought in until after the disciples had seen the fish already on the fire. The 153 fish in the net represented "THE SONS OF GOD", and in the context of this entire incident, the Lord was not about to sacrifice them. The Sons of God are to be a LIVING sacrifice. The whole miracle shouts out the wonderful fact that they are saved and protected. They are the Lord's. Nothing could ever separate them from Him. As we are told, despite the great number of them, the net did not break. So once the disciples had brought the full net to shore, the Lord called them over to Him and said, Come and dine with Me. And He gave them not only of the fish, but the BREAD.

You will remember that at the beginning of this series we pointed out a specific connection between these eight miracles. They are paired together in reverse order. That is, the first with the eighth, the second with the seventh, the third with the sixth, and the fourth with the fifth. We found as our studies progressed that the miracles in each pair had a special association with each other. So we are now in a position to examine the association of this eighth miracle with the first. The first miracle concerned the incident at the marriage in Cana when our Lord miraculously turned the water into wine. And as the Lord later pointed out so wonderfully, the wine became the emblem of His shed

blood. This was the lesson of the first miracle. But there were two emblems introduced by which we are to remember the Lord and His sacrifice on our behalf. One is the wine, representing His blood. The other is the BREAD, representing His body. And here we have it in this eighth and final miracle as recorded by John. Here in the wine and the bread is represented THE NEW COVENANT. The entire manifestation of Christ's glory is encompassed in this eighth Covenant. The entire history and condition of God's people, from their rejection to their salvation, from their sorrow to their joy, from their death to their resurrection, from their hopelessness to their victory, indeed, the whole fulfilment of God's promises to them and His plan and purpose through them, is totally bound up with, and dependant upon, the terms and the fulfilment of this eighth NEW COVENANT.

How wonderfully our Lord has revealed this to us. How gloriously has He shown us His complete faithfulness.

How clearly now we see Him as He said He is,

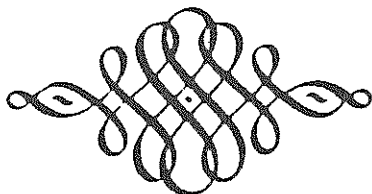
THE BEGINNING AND THE END, THE FIRST AND THE LAST.

And so, in manifesting His glory in this final miracle, He has manifest those through whom that glory is to be manifested, THE SONS OF GOD. The first Adam was a Son of God, but because of his sin came death. But here revealed to us in all His glory is now the Second Adam, even our Lord Jesus Christ, THE Son of God, through whom alone comes Eternal Life through the blood of the New Covenant. What could not be achieved by the first Adam has now been achieved by the Second Adam. We can now become in very truth, Heirs of God, and Joint Heirs with Jesus Christ to all the future glory that is in store for those who truly love and serve Him. In these miracles, the pattern has been clearly laid out for us to see in all its splendour. The full glory of Christ has been shown forth in remarkable detail, and with absolute certainty. His Word shall not return unto Him void. All we have to do is to accept and believe it.

Let us then fully comprehend the enormity of the promises given to us. Let us then rejoice in the great hope that lies before us.

"The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the Sons of God coming into their own."
(Rom. 8:19, Phillips).

"For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be but life from the dead." (Rom. 11:15).



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Pastor Frank Dowsett on (02) 623-4691.

Visitors are most cordially invited.



MAY 1989 NOTICE.

THE VOICE OF THE WATCHMAN!

The Lord warns us, as His Servant Nation, that if we disobey His commandments and statutes, the foreigner who is residing in our midst shall rise higher and higher above us, while we shall sink lower and lower. He shall become the head, and we shall become the tail.

COVENANT VISION MINISTRY

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

JUNE 1989 NOTICE.

THE VOICE OF THE WATCHMAN!

God's Laws totally ban the charging of interest among His people, and require ALL debts to be cancelled every seventh year. Under these Laws, owning our own home and land is our natural heritage, not the lifetime burden which our present God-less system imposes upon us. Let's get back to sanity and true prosperity by re-introducing THE LAW OF GOD into our Government.

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UPDATE.

We thought that our readers might like to know what results we are receiving from our newspaper notices in THE AUSTRALIAN. We have now inserted six notices, and have received a total of about ten letters in response. As we previously stated, we didn't expect a huge response, but we must admit that this has been somewhat disappointing. However, we did have the opportunity of the radio broadcast, for which we have received requests for about 10 copies.

Following the April notice we received a letter from Townsville in which the writer soundly condemned me for what he called my "Galatian attitude", whatever that means, and went on to say, "The keeping of the Law will not make the nation one bit better in God's eyes, and we would need thousands of prisons". No wonder the country is in such a mess when even the Christians have attitudes like this. Following the June notice we received three letters. One was completely anonymous. The writer had photocopied the notice on to a plain sheet of paper, and underneath had written, (pardon the expression), "What a load of crap. I find it most disturbing to find that there are people who believe such garbage". The second letter said, "I read your article in THE AUSTRALIAN and felt I would like to say thank you. It is good to know that there are still people out there that care about Australians and respect God's Laws". At his request, we are sending this gentleman some samples of our magazines. The third was from a reader in the Northern Territory requesting our views on "the seventh day Sabbath and the annual Holy Days". We also received an enquiry from the secretary of the B.I.-W.F. in London about this particular ministry, as they were apparently interested in considering a similar outreach. We have written to them outlining our experiences and results to date.

However, we are not despondent, as this is a 'seed sowing' exercise. In this time of final apostacy all we can do is to be faithful watchmen and sound the alarm. What the people then do about it is entirely their own responsibility. One thing is sure. The battle itself is the Lord's.



Cry aloud, spare not,
lift up thy voice as a trumpet,
and shew my people their transgressions,
and the house of Jacob their sins!

GOD'S IMPENDING JUDGMENT.

By Hart Armstrong

I suppose during the days before the great Flood, if a vote had been taken, that Noah would have been voted the most unpopular man in the world. He had heard from God and had been given a call to do two things. The first was to build a great ship which the Bible calls the Ark. The second was to preach a message of warning to the people of the Earth, that God was going to send a great flood which would destroy all living flesh upon the Earth.

Noah was successful in building the Ark, but he was dismally a failure in getting the people of the world to believe his warning. His full record of converts for 120 years of preaching was Zero. He took into the Ark only his own family, and just 8 persons were saved in the terrible destruction which came.

The prophet Jeremiah was called by God in 626 B.C. to warn the people of Judah and Jerusalem that Nebuchadnezzar and the Chaldeans were going to come to destroy the city of Jerusalem and the beautiful Temple of Solomon. Jeremiah preached that one message for 40 years and was rewarded only by denial, refusal, scorn, persecution and utter rejection. But his message was true and in 586 B.C. Jerusalem fell, the people were killed or taken captive, the city was destroyed and the Temple was gutted.

WE LIVE IN A SIMILAR TIME.

Today I believe we live in a similar time. Nearly two thousand years have passed since Christ came to Earth. This present Age is drawing to a close. Christ promised to return to the Earth, and we are living in the time of His coming. The judgments of God are soon to be visited upon the wicked, and the words of the Apostle John fulfilled, "Behold he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him" (Revelation 1 7).

Today there are millions of Christians, of all types and beliefs, on the Earth, but very few are alert to the truth that Jesus Christ is soon to come back to the Earth. There are tens of thousands of ministers who are preaching the Christian gospel, but very few ever speak on the soon return of Jesus Christ. Dr. David A. Lewis, a leading authority on the Church and contemporary Christianity, has stated, "As we approach the coming of Christ, fewer and fewer Christians really believe in the second coming. Very few pastors ever preach a message on the subject. Other than a slight passing reference to the doctrine, little is said, and even less is taught to the Churches. Seldom do the pastors ever deal with the second coming, or with contemporary issues such as Israel, the New Age Movement, and other vitally important topics."

Perhaps we have come to the time of which Jesus spoke when He asked, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). If by "faith" Jesus meant "belief in His second coming," then indeed we have reached that day of little faith!

I MEAN TO SOUND THE ALERT.

With all my heart I believe the Lord has called me to sound the Alert for the soon coming of Jesus Christ back to Earth. My voice is weak, my ministry is small, but with all my heart and all my strength I mean to send forth the warning, "Jesus Is Coming Soon!" "Prepare to meet thy God!" "Flee from the wrath to come!" "Behold I come quickly!"

I know this is not a popular message. Many people do not like it. And we can be certain that Satan does not like it! There will be great opposition, and already, as I have explained in our recent Devotional Letter, our ministry has suffered because many people do not like to hear this message, this warning.

This fact came strongly to me today when I received two catalogs from leading religious publishers. I went carefully through them, page by page, and found almost nothing relating to the Second Coming or Bible Prophecy. The popular books had these titles: Assertive Woman, Building Christian Values, Husbands Who Won't Lead and Wives Who Won't Follow, Journey to Nowhere, Protecting Your Income, Running Behind the Human Race, So What Do I Do Now? Winning Through Caring, Why Be Lonely? Shaping Your Child's Sexual Identity, The Wounded Parent, Handbook for Christian Homemakers, Fifty Plus, Taking Time for Marriage, The Secret of a Happy Home, etc. etc.

Every thing relating to this life, everything "Time Oriented," and so very very little relating to the things of Heaven and Eternity! I have said, and I believe it is true, that most Christians have a Label in the collar of their Christianity which says, "For This Life Only!"

In a month I will be 77 years of age, but I truly believe I will live to see and rejoice in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. God has given me marvelous health and strength, and I intend to devote it, and to make use of all the small resources of our Christian Communications publishing house to the challenging task of SOUNDING THE "RAPTURE ALERT" until the day of Jesus Christ's coming!

I call upon all the dear friends of the "Family of Faith," who have like faith as I do, and who truly believe we are living in the days of the coming of the Son of man, to stand with me in this all-out effort to send forth the "Rapture Alert."

Courtesy "COMMUNICARE"

Christian Communications INC. Wichita, KS. U.S.A.

HOW LONG WILL YOU STAND ASIDE?

I have stood aside and watched while the once greatest, most civilized, and most humane nation in history was being converted into a jungle.

I have stood aside and watched while the greatest good will the world has ever seen, between multiple ethnic groups within one nation, was being deliberately changed into suspicion, dissension, and hatred.

I have stood aside and watched while this "land of the free and home of the brave" was being conditioned by traitors to seek peace at any price - even at the price of independence and of freedom.

I have stood aside and watched while our courts encouraged and our press glorified the beasts of crime who have spread riots, vandalism, robbery, and murder across our land.

I have stood aside and watched while our universities have been taken over by misguided brats with no slightest understanding of the civilization they have inherited, or of the evil forces by which they have been duped.

I have stood aside and watched while our whole great system of public education has been turned into a propaganda agency for revolution and a spawning ground for drug addiction, sex abuse, and crime.

I have stood aside and watched while meretricious scoundrels, using our television media, our motion picture screens, our newsstands, and all other available means, have contrived to bring about a breakdown of morality that is reducing millions of people to the level of lower animals.

I have stood aside and watched while the three basic human loyalties - loyalty to God, loyalty to country, and loyalty to family - were being destroyed by evil forces which now permeate every segment of life.

And I have had enough. I am only one person, but I shall no longer refuse "to get involved." What about you? How much longer will you stand aside? ■

Courtesy THY KINGDOM COME.

The Sign Of Playing God

A Road to Hell Paved with Good Intentions

PHILIPPA CLARK

WAKE UP!

The discussions following the revelation that medical research into the use of animal organs as transplant material for humans is well-advanced has brought into focus another aspect of man's slide into utter degradation. The practitioners of modern medicine have become totally absorbed by their fascination with what can be done while losing sight of the terrible consequences of their deeds. The explosion of knowledge in the 20th century has been vast in every field but it is especially noticeable in medicine because it touches all of us so closely.

IN living memory, children died of scarlet fever, diphtheria and whooping cough. Tuberculosis killed thousands and deaths from many causes were part of normal experience. That is not so today. Death no longer features as part of life's rhythm—it is a strange and terrifying event that is hidden from view as much as possible. This banishment of death allied to the general improvement in health and the increasing prosperity of the nation has engendered a feeling that we have a right to life *and* as much life as possible by whatever means are available.

Thus the admirable desires of doctors to cure illnesses and prevent death have lead them to achieve these ends by means which are questionable to say the least. Faced with the problems caused by major breakdowns of the body systems the main solutions sought are how to repair them, not how to prevent their occurrence in the first place.

The problem of infertility is one example of this approach. Many couples, who are otherwise healthy, find that they have great difficulty in conceiving a child and their longing to be parents drives them to seek out every possible source of help. The particular solution to be considered here is that of "in vitro" fertilization or "test-tube" babies. In this procedure, several ova are fertilized in the laboratory and are then implanted into the woman's womb to grow and develop in the normal way. Meanwhile the rest of

the fertilized ova can be used in research until they are 14 days old and then disposed of as if they did not exist.

In point of fact, what is taking place is experimentation on the first beginnings of human life—life which the Scriptures put into a deeper context. We are indeed predestined by God and separated by Him from our mother's womb (*Psalms* 139: 13-14; *Galatians* 1: 15; *Ephesians* 1: 5 and 11). We are not at liberty to experiment on human life and then destroy it; if we do we are playing at being God. Of course, the language used helps to save the consciences of those involved. A fertilized ovum in the pre-embryonic stage sounds sufficiently impersonal and inhuman to avoid uncomfortable thoughts about a living being who could otherwise grow to live, breathe, eat, sleep and love. We are spiritual beings and far greater attention should be given as to why these problems have arisen and pastoral care given to those concerned.

Another example of the repair-at-any-cost approach to the body systems, concerns transplants. The most usual ones are kidney, liver and heart transplants, but now, more frequently, "domino" transplants where one patient with a healthy heart but damaged lungs receives a new heart and new lungs, thus freeing his healthy heart to replace another patient's diseased one.

Bone marrow transplants and blood

transfusions are not in the same category because all concerned are alive, they continue living and can replace whatever they have donated. The operations listed above involve far more and though frequently successful in a technical sense, the body's strong natural rejection of the alien tissue means a life-time of drugs to suppress this reaction. Despite this transplants are now widely accepted and the results are publicized with worldwide acclaim. But should that be so? In *Numbers* 19: 11 and 13, the law is given that to "touch" a dead body is an unclean act—how does this apply to the organs which are then placed in a living body?

This is not an argument for a passive acceptance of death but for an understanding that life is not to be sought at all costs. The accumulated sins of the generations down the ages have resulted in a polluted environment and weakened bodies. Nothing is as it should be and it is a marvellous and wonderful fact that there is so much strength and vitality in creation in spite of all the transgression. Disease and degeneration must be attacked at the source, i.e. by returning to God's laws for health, hygiene, agriculture and so on.

Meanwhile, those who suffer need every assistance—but within the limits that have the highest regard for the fact that we are *created* spiritual beings and not matter in motion, as atheistic communism demands. Indeed, as the Apostle Paul stated to the restless Corinthians who looked with admiration upon human leadership in the things of God:

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own" (1 Corinthians 6:16).

Limits must be set because where medicine leads the sick will follow and the latest research into using animal organs, particularly from the pig, to replace human ones is going ahead. There have been many voices raised in revulsion against this, but there have been voices welcoming it also. The dreadful prospect looms that it could become a criminal offence to

refuse a pig's liver for your child if this technique could be perfected. Baboons' hearts have been used to help tiny babies, but with no long-term benefit. The suspicion arises that the "treatment" could have been more for the practice of the doctor than to help the sickly infant.

Brain transplants or foetal tissue transplants have resulted from another evil of our society. The hundreds of thousands of abortions performed result in many healthy babies' corpses and their disposal. Now doctors have used brain tissue from an aborted foetus, or dead baby to put it bluntly, to try and treat Parkinson's Disease. After this first step, many more such operations have been carried out and some improvement has been seen in the patients. It has been suggested that beneficial results could be seen in the sufferers of Alzheimer's Disease. Both conditions cause very distressing symptoms to both patients and their families and both are incurable but is the treatment in any way acceptable?

The thinking of today is completely distorted. The feminist doctrine of the woman's "right to choose" does not mean choosing to say "no." It means the "right" to dispose of her unborn yet perfectly healthy baby. So too many babies are conceived and it is legal to "abort" them, i.e. *kill* them instead of emphasizing self-control in sexual conduct or, when mistakes have occurred, allowing the babies to be adopted by the desperate couples who cannot have their own and so making "in vitro" fertilization redundant. Having killed these unwanted babies, the materialistic mind immediately seeks a use for them.

Similarly, a strong, healthy person tragically killed in an accident must be divided up within hours of death so that their organs are not "wasted." This utilitarian attitude is repulsive and it occurs throughout the God-orientated *Christian* nations. A look at the rest of the world fills one with horror to see what happens there: the poor in a number of other countries selling a kidney to raise some money to live, rumours of children being kidnapped to

be murdered for their organs in Pakistan, women in South America willing to conceive so that their babies' brains can be used to treat a relative.

And so it goes on. Truly "all the imagination of their hearts is evil" (*Genesis* 6: 5). There is indeed "a time to be born and a time to die" (*Ecclesiastes* 3:2) and we should not attempt to thwart

God's timing by schemes and devices which are indefensible. Our Lord had a time to be born and His young life was cut off when it was the time to die. Without the second event and His resurrection we would not be able to celebrate His birth.

Having this knowledge, let us look to God's greater purpose for our beings and His overruling providence in all things.




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(Dr. Everett Sileven.

Faith Baptist Evangelistic Ministries, Houston, U.S.A.)

STUDY IN REVELATIONS.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART EIGHT.

THE SEALING OF THE 144,000.

"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the Living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

And I heard the number of them which were sealed. And there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Napthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Zebulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand."

(Rev 7:1-8).

As we have previously pointed out in this series, the phrase "after these things", as we read in verse 1 above, does not mean that the incidents now being described occurred after the incidents portrayed in the previous chapter. It refers to a further vision which the Lord was now revealing to John. As a matter of fact, the historical incidents to which John now refers commenced quite some years prior to the ending of the sixth seal which we studied in our last chapter. This overlapping of events must always be kept in mind as we study this subject, because to place the various incidents chronologically one after the other in the same sequence as they are expressed in the Sacred Record would lead to utter confusion in the understanding of its message. As we have previously stated, this entire prophetic book outlines the history of God's people and nation of Israel, together with that of those nations which influenced that history, right from the time the Revelation was given up to, and even beyond, the second advent of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some portions of the account go back over the same time periods as referred to in other portions simply because they refer to a different aspect of Israel's national history. Because of this, any dates given are only presented as a general guide, and should never be used as definite cut-off dates.

So as John looked upon this further vision, he saw two specific things. Firstly, there were four angels restraining what were referred to as 'the four winds of the earth', and secondly, there was another angel who was in charge of the first four, overseeing what is referred to as 'the sealing of the servants of God in their foreheads'. We can only understand the full meaning of all this by having a brief look at the history of Israel prior to this time so as to put what is said in its proper perspective.

The Kingdom of God on earth was formed at Mount Sinai when Israel became the nation of God's choice through whom He intended to bring His full blessings to all the nations and families of the earth. They

became a separated people unto the Lord. Great blessings were promised to them, provisional upon their obedience to the laws which God gave them. In the process of time they developed into a mighty nation, comprising twelve tribes. In actual fact there were thirteen tribes by the addition of Manasseh, thus converting the tribe of Joseph into the two tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim. These were the two sons of Joseph which his father Jacob adopted as his own sons. It is an interesting fact that whenever the tribes of Israel are named, there are always only twelve mentioned. When both Ephraim and Manasseh are mentioned, or Joseph and Manasseh, one of the other tribes is not mentioned. We will recognise this principle as our study continues. But after the death of King Solomon, the twelve tribed house of Israel was split into two houses, the northern house of Israel, comprising ten tribes, (or actually eleven counting Manasseh), referred to in Psalm 114:2 as God's "dominion", and the southern house of Judah, comprising originally the tribes of Judah and Levi. The tribe of Benjamin was co-opted into the house of Judah by God for the express purpose of being a light before the House of David. They became known as 'the light bearing tribe'. This southern house of Judah was referred to in Psalm 114 as God's "sanctuary". In the process of time, because of their extreme disobedience, both houses were taken captive, the northern house of Israel, now containing ten tribes, north to Assyria in 740 to 721 B.C., and the southern house of Judah, now containing three tribes including Benjamin to Babylon about 600 B.C. It is absolutely essential that we realise that in between these two groups of captivities, a large portion of the southern house of Judah was also captured and taken captive to the very same area as the northern ten tribes. These people numbered about four to five times as many as returned from Babylon years later to rebuild the temple. So in fact, by the time of the first advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, all the northern house of Israel, and a large proportion of the southern house of Judah, were already together. This is why James addresses his epistle to "The TWELVE TRIBES scattered abroad". There is absolutely no evidence whatsoever to suggest that these

people, other than possibly a few individuals, ever returned to Palestine. At the time of Christ they were already well on their way to their appointed place, north and west of Palestine as promised by God. They moved out of Asia into Europe, and to this day the mountain pass through which they passed is called 'Israel Pass'. The final westward movement of the remainder of Israel within those who returned from Babylon, consisting mainly of the descendants of Benjamin, or the Galileans as they were then known, and from whom most of the disciples came, escaped after the resurrection of our Lord, under exactly the conditions set out by the prophets. They finally caught up with their brethren of the northern house of Israel, arriving at the same destination in western Europe and the Isles of the West.

Now at this particular point of time in history, the lands through which they had to pass in order to reach their God-ordained destination, were mainly under the control of the Roman Empire. But worse still, this empire was about to be attacked by such enemies as the Goths, the Huns, the Vandals, and the Saracens. These attacks were to lead, as history shows, to the ultimate collapse of the Roman Empire. The historian Gibbon recorded that, "The threatening tempests of the barbarians which so soon subverted the foundations of Roman greatness, hung suspended on the frontiers". How then was Israel to be protected from this danger to their westward migration?

God was in complete control then, as He is now, despite the fact that most don't recognise the fact. There is absolutely nothing that our enemies can do, or ever will do, to subvert the ultimate plans and purposes of God. Let us remember this as we view the present world situation with the well orchestrated attacks being made against God's Israel people from every conceivable angle. The Lord is going to 'laugh them to scorn'. He has these our enemies in complete derision and absolute contempt.

God's solution to this threat against the onward progress of His people was simple. Four Angels were appointed to stand 'at the four corners of the Roman world' and to delay any action by the enemies of Rome until the people of Israel, referred to as 'the servants of God', had passed safely through. Thus they caused the 'four winds' of these enemies to be 'held back' until a certain requirement had been achieved. The people of God were to be 'sealed', a word which means "to seal for security". In other words, God threw a cloak of Divine protection around these people in order to preserve them. One can't help wondering why He should go to all this trouble and then allow them to be destroyed anyway and replaced by a 'spiritual Israel' as so many theologians teach today. So it was that the Angel of the Lord commanded the other four angels to secure the safety of God's people, and not permit the ravages of Rome's enemies to affect them, until they had escaped westward from the coming areas of trouble and judgment. This command of protection is also mentioned again in Rev. 9:4 which we will study later in this series.

So John heard the number of those who were to be sealed or protected. The number was 144,000. This does not mean a literal number. It is symbolic, as is the whole Book of the Revelation. In addition, we should not confuse this 144,000 with the similar number of those mentioned in chapter fourteen. This later number applied to an entirely different group as we shall see later. The number '12' in Scripture relates to 'perfection in government'. Christ, we are informed, is to sit on the throne of David and reign over the House of Jacob, or Israel, which comprises 12 tribes. There were 12 disciples who were told that they would sit on 12 thrones governing the 12 tribes of Israel. The 'New Jerusalem' of Rev. 21, representing God's completed and perfected Kingdom on earth, is replete with the number '12'. Thus we find the number '12' associated with each of '12' tribes, the product of which is '144'. This is then connected with our Lord's final victory by being associated with His 1,000 year reign, giving us the symbolic

number of 144,000. It is obvious that some knowledge of the symbolism of Scripture is essential for a fuller understanding of it.

But as we read the list of the tribes that were sealed, we find a puzzling omission. Nowhere in this list is the tribe of Dan mentioned. On the other hand, we find that both Joseph, representing Ephraim who received the greater blessing, and Manasseh are mentioned, making up the final twelve. Now we could understand if the tribe of Levi had been omitted, as that tribe was often not numbered with the others because they had no part in the inheritance of the land, being the priestly tribe. But Dan was one of the four leading tribes of Israel. With his standard containing the eagle, (the emblem of the fourth Living Creature of Rev. 4:7), he was stationed at the north side of the encampment of Israel, flanked on either side by the tribes of Asher and Naphtali, as recorded in Numbers chapter two. It would seem totally incongruous for such an important tribe to be omitted and not receive the protection of God along with the other tribes, unless there was a very special reason. And it is only when we study God's Word in conjunction with history that we find this reason.

In Judges 5:17 we read where Deborah asked the question, "Why did Dan remain in ships?" She was somewhat concerned at the fact that Dan had not come to the assistance of Israel at a time when such assistance was sorely needed. What she failed to realise was that the tribe of Dan was already on the move, and in the main, not present to be of help. History shows that Dan was a seafaring tribe. Many of their number had already sailed through 'The Pillars of Hercules', now known as Gibraltar, and reached the 'Isles of the west'. Ancient Irish history refers to the portion of them who settled in northern Ireland as the 'Tuatha de Danaan', or 'the tribe of Dan'. Other sections of this tribe had travelled overland, naming many places after them, such as the rivers DON, DANiepre, DANube, DANest, and of course the countries which still bear their name, Sweden or SveDAN, and Denmark or DANSmark. Thus at the time

when judgment was about to fall on the Roman Empire, the tribe of Dan was not among those tribes which were about to migrate through the territories affected by this judgment. Thus there was no need for their 'sealing' or protection. Their name is thus correctly not included among those to be sealed. If it had been, it would have provided strong grounds for doubting the Sacred Record. But as always, God never makes a mistake. He is meticulously accurate in everything He says, and everything He does. This did not, of course, prevent the tribe of Dan from sharing in the eventual blessings of the perfected Kingdom. Through the prophet Ezekiel, God makes it quite plain that Dan is to have not only his inheritance in the land, but will also have his name on one of the gates of the New Jerusalem, as recorded in Ezek. 48:1-2, and 38.

So once again we see how wonderfully the historical interpretation of the Scriptures, and the understanding of the symbolism used therein, affords such undeniable proof of the omnipotence and faithfulness of God.

It was subsequent to this sealing, and in fact as a direct result of this sealing of God's people in order that they could carry out their Divine appointment, that the Lord now reveals to John a further scene.

"After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

And all the angels stood around about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts (or living creatures), and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom, and thanksgiving and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen!" (Rev. 7:9-12).

Now as we have previously found, the four beasts, or living creatures mentioned here represent the completed and perfected nation of Israel as the Kingdom of God on earth. But who are the other multitudes referred to? They are obviously those of the other nations and peoples who, because of the ministry and witness of Israel, as weak as it has so often been, have come into a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and have thus qualified to be adopted into the Kingdom. It is a recognised fact of history that the great majority of Christians reside within the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic nations of the world, and that at least 90% of the missionary work carried out throughout the entire world has been accomplished by these same people. This was no accident. It was all part of the plan and purpose of God, who from before the foundations of the world, had appointed our race to be that very instrument in His hands, and equipped us, trained us, and protected us in order that we would accomplish His purposes in us. But citizenship within this appointed nation was never intended to be taken lightly. If an Israelite refused to make the necessary act of atonement by offering the prescribed sacrifice, he lost his citizenship in Israel. The principle has not changed. If an Israelite by birth today refuses to accept the atonement for sin offered on his behalf by our Lord Jesus Christ, then he loses his citizenship in the kingdom. If one of another race of people accept that atonement, then they are grafted in, and become citizens by adoption. Peter could not have put the matter more clearly when he stated in Acts 10:34-35;

"Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons. But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him."

All these are said to be arrayed, or dressed, in white robes, having washed themselves and made themselves white in the blood of the Lamb. They are those who, throughout all generations, have come out of great tribulation, and stood firm in their faith. You will note that they are not stated to have come out of 'THE great tribulation'. There is no such phrase in the Bible

as 'THE great tribulation.' The mis-use of this phrase has caused much lack of understanding, and much confusion. There is no doubt that as we draw nearer to the return of our Lord, tribulation shall increase. Our Lord said so. Actually, we are now well into that very period which the prophet Daniel referred to as 'The time of Jacob's trouble'. The problem today is that so many Christians have built such a wall of emotionalism around themselves that they just don't know what is really going on. They are living almost in a fairy-land of their own making, and are about to get the shock of their lives when they realise the intensity of the forces which have already been ranged against them. Many, I'm sure, will sadly fall by the wayside. Many will find that their oil has run out, and they will hurry around in sheer panic at the realisation that they are not really as well equipped as they had thought, or as they had been led to believe. And many of the false shepherds in our midst will have a great deal to answer for before the throne of God.

But there are those who, because they have carried spare oil with their lamps, will come through this testing. It is our sincere prayer that all who read this will be numbered among those to whom the subsequent promise is made;

"Therefore are they before the Throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He that sitteth upon the Throne shall dwell among them.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the Throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

(Rev. 7:15-17).

(to be continued).



which can only come through the infilling and ministry of the Holy Spirit within us.

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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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Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead,
how say some among you that there is no resurrection
of the dead?

But if there is no resurrection of the dead,
then is Christ not risen.

And if Christ be not risen, then is your preaching vain,
and your faith is also vain.

Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because
we have testified of God that He raised up Christ:
whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.
For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised.

And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain;
ye are yet in your sins.

Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ
are perished.

If in this life only we have hope in Christ,
we are of all men most miserable.

But now is Christ risen from the dead,
and become the firstfruits of them that slept.
For since by man came death, by Man came also
the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ
shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order. Christ the firstfruits.
Afterward they that are Christ's at His coming."
(I Cor. 15:12-23).

Printed and Distributed by
COVENANT VISION MINISTRY.
P O BOX V192 MOUNT DRUITT VILLAGE
N S W 2770 AUSTRALIA

National Library of Australia Number
ISSN 1031-8135

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NAR7378.