



THE COVENANT VISION

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

THE COVENANT VISION.

Editor: F.W.Dowsett.

In presenting this little 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 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

Australia is once again going through a 'con' game. It all seems innocent enough, and I'm sure it will all be done in a most 'democratic' way. The 'will of the people' will triumph over another bastion of colonial imposition. So the great brainwashing machine assures us. And of course the present government has 'two bob each way' on the results. They are not initiating the move, so they can't be held responsible for it. But it's interesting to note that they are giving certain financial support to the competition.

I refer of course to the competition just launched by allegedly private sources for the design of a new national flag. The reason, we are told, is that Australia needs a flag which more correctly gives us a real identity.

Now I don't know about you, but my identity doesn't depend just upon what I now am. It depends very much on what my parents were, and their parents before them. Identity is not just what we are, but is based on where we have come from. And any national symbol which purports to convey that identity cannot properly do so unless our origins are represented.

Our national flag is an outstanding example of this fact. It is a sad reflection on the understanding of most Australians, and particularly on Christian Australians, that they know virtually nothing of the symbolism contained in our National Flag. Perhaps the following information, sketchy as it must be, will cause people to realise the importance of protecting the ensign of our God-given heritage.

The portion of the flag which of course comes under most attack is the Union Jack in the upper corner. Yet how important it is. Because the Union Jack is not just a national symbol, but symbolically represents and illustrates our Christian Faith and Heritage. The

word 'Jack' is the anglicised form of 'Jacob', and to those who understand our Israel identity, is a constant declaration of the faithfulness of Almighty God in performing the Covenants which He made to our forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, representing, as it does, the joining of the 'Two Sticks' as prophesied by Ezekiel.

Space does not permit a full coverage of the subject, but if we look at the two red crosses we find a remarkable feature. You will notice that the diagonal red cross is broken. That is, its arms are out of line. But superimposed over this 'broken' cross is another red cross, the largest of all the crosses. How many Christians realise that here displayed for the whole world to see is the very heart of the Christian Message. Both the prophet Jeremiah and the writer to the Hebrews refer to the two great blood covenants. Firstly the OLD Covenant, sealed with the blood of the sacrifice of an animal, the covenant which was broken, and secondly, the NEW Covenant, sealed with the precious blood of Christ, the Lamb of God, the Covenant which will never be broken, and upon which all the other covenants depend. Just as the broken arms of the diagonal cross represent the old broken covenant, so the firm and full arms of the vertical cross represent the Cross of Christ, upon which rests both our individual and national salvation.

Even the colours are most significant and necessary, being the main colours of the Tabernacle. The BLUE represents the law. The WHITE represents righteousness. Whilst the RED represents the shed blood of Christ without which there is no remission of sins. Let us never copy the example of a certain nation which uses the blue and the white, but rejects the red as a symbol of their rejection of Christ's Blood. Even the Southern Cross symbolises the manner in which the Sin Offering was to die.

Our flag is the ensign of our faith. Never let it be said that we were too complacent to preserve it.

The Bridegroom Cometh.

By F.W.DOWSETT.

I often wonder what Christians really think of when the return, or second advent, of our Lord Jesus Christ is mentioned. I must confess that I often get the feeling that not much thought has gone into what many of them seem to believe.

Some seem to accept it simply as a doctrine. The Bible says that Christ is going to return someday, so they are quite prepared to accept the basic fact without any further consideration or conjecture. They are 'saved', so why worry. It will all work out in the end. Leave the details to the fanatics. Of course He's coming back. One day.

Others, realising that there is a bit more to it than this, feel that they should obtain some details at least, so they read a book, or maybe two, on the subject. This seems to convince them of at least two things. Firstly, that the whole subject seems to be terribly complicated and far beyond their powers to grasp, and secondly, that they are sure that they are going to be 'in it', and that hopefully, they are going to qualify for some rewards at least. But then they come to a hurdle which they don't like very much. The details that they have been studying also reveal something about the timing of this event. They start talking to friends whose knowledge of the Bible they respect, and they all seem to say the same thing. It's going to happen very, very soon.

It is at this point that a very unusual thing seems to happen. Suddenly, the idea of Christ returning doesn't seem so inviting, or so important, after all. This is when the excuses start coming out.

1. It can't happen just yet. Please God, don't send Jesus back for a while longer. I've nearly saved enough money for that new car I've always wanted. At least give me a chance to drive it a few times. We've just bought our first home, and haven't even got the garden looking good yet. Surely Christ would be much happier if we had some lovely flowers to greet Him with. But worse than that Lord, we haven't been able to start our family yet. We know from your Word how much you love children. Just give us a few more years, and then we'll be ready.

2. Lord, you've said in your Word that it is not your desire that any should perish. And Lord, there are millions of people who still haven't accepted you. If you come back now, what's going to happen to all those folk? I'll have failed you.

3. ??? (You can no doubt think of other reasons yourselves to suit your own circumstances.)

Now there can be only ONE reason as to why people go on like that, and the reason is this. **THEY REALLY HAVE NO IDEA OF WHAT THE RETURN OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IS ALL ABOUT.**

So let me start by telling you, with the greatest kindness and sincerity, what it is NOT!!!

It is NOT an isolated event in itself.

It does NOT mark the end of everything.

It is NOT going to happen just as a personal favour or reward to us as individuals.

It is NOT just some 'spiritual' event or condition.

It is NOT going to be concentrated in 'heaven', wherever that elusive place happens to be.

And it is NOT going to happen in a manner, and at such a time that suits our particular fancies.

When God first formed Adam, and then from him made Eve, He formed a race of people who had the high distinction of being the Sons of God. They were of the very same geneological line or family as our Lord Jesus Christ. (see Luke 3:38). They did not have to qualify in any way to achieve this position. What they did had no bearing upon what God had made them. But what they did had every bearing upon whether or not they retained that position. The fact that Adam and Eve fell from that exalted position is a matter of history. And we do God a very grave injustice if we think for one moment that God was going to allow His purposes to be thwarted even to the slightest degree just by a couple of foolish and disobedient human beings.

The point I am making is this. God set into motion a particular plan and purpose, and irrespective of our personal beliefs and ideas, God intends to fulfil that purpose, and in exactly the manner in which He first intended. "The gifts and callings of God are without repentance," we are told in Romans 11:29.

It was always a part of this Divine Plan for His Sons to fellowship with Him literally, His presence, and on this earth. The personal fellowship which we as individuals have with the Lord today, as wonderful as it may seem, is absolutely nothing on what he originally intended for us, nor on what He intends to restore to us. So the Rescue Plan which had already been formulated and perfected in the mind of God swung into action.

Firstly, Adam and Eve, together with their descendants, had to be removed from all possible direct contact with the Tree of Life, which was the source by which they could live for ever. Otherwise their now dying bodies would continue to increase in sickness and

suffering without end. Death was now a merciful release from this sentence.

Next, the long road to full reinstatement had to be taken. It was not easy. It was not meant to be. The test of obedience had already failed once, and now its lessons had to be engraved into the very genes of this race in such a manner that they would never ever repeat the same tragic mistake. As a matter of fact, God's plan was so devised that finally it would be IM-POSSIBLE for His people to repeat the same mistake. He built into His plans a 'fail-safe' mechanism which removed from us the final responsibility for the success of these plans. From here on, the success of His Plan was guaranteed. It was guaranteed by the Life of His own Son, Jesus Christ. A Life that would descend to take on the fallen life of Adam, shed the blood of this fallen Adamic life in death, and then burst through the chains of death in glorious resurrection, thus raising the fallen life back to its originally intended position. But whereas Adam was originally born to this destiny, we now have to qualify for it. So we see that the purposes of God were not in fact altered. All that changed was the process by which we could partake of these purposes.

The failure of this specially formed race of people to live up to the standards that God required is clearly documented in the Bible. They degenerated to such a condition that God finally had to take drastic action to rescue His plan from the havoc being wrecked upon it by these people. So He destroyed all but eight of Noah's family in a flood. Being a righteous man, and 'perfect in his generations' as the Bible tells us, Noah was God's choice as the progenitor of the Adamic Race from that time onward. From Noah's son Shem came the Hebrew people, and subsequently the nation of Israel whose specific function was to be the means by which God would bring His full blessings back to all the families and nations of the earth. But this special nation also failed God, and the punishments which they brought

upon themselves because of this disobedience precipitated the next step in God's plan.

Most Christians look upon the first advent of our Lord Jesus Christ as merely a personal-oriented event. That is, they only see in it the method which God introduced by which they, as individuals, can qualify for eternal life. Believe me friends, this was only a small portion of what God was doing. A most important portion admittedly, but only a small portion nevertheless. How I wish that Christians would get away from this 'babe-in-a-manger' attitude when they consider Christ's first advent. The 'babe' was only the means to the 'man'. It is the MAN, Christ Jesus, to whom we turn. It was His death and resurrection that was, and is, the important factor, not His birth. And Calvary was not just the turning point of your life and my life. It was the turning point in the history of the world. This was the means which God chose to reconcile the world to Himself. It was the next event in a whole series of events which God had already foreordained in the process of re-establishing **THE SONS OF GOD**.

Nearly 2,000 years have now gone by since that outstanding event. And believe it or not, every moment of it has been directed towards one even more outstanding event. An event which will not only change the people, but will completely revolutionise the entire world. It is the very next event on God's agenda. Not a 'final' event, but the 'next' event which in itself will precede untold future events, the magnitude and splendour of which you and I can not even start to imagine.

You will recall that when God first formed Adam and Eve, He walked with them in the Garden. He literally presenced Himself with them, here on earth. Later on, in the form of the Holy Spirit, He again presenced Himself with His people, again on earth. But the prophets proclaimed a time yet future when their God would again literally and physically present Himself to His

people, again on this earth. The wise among the people earnestly searched the Scriptures for information regarding the timing of this great event, and just as earnestly looked forward to it.

AND ONE DAY IT HAPPENED!!!

The Messiah had come exactly as the Scriptures had said He would, and the day actually dawned when people were able to say, "Yesterday the Messiah came."

Let me earnestly, and with all the sincerity that I can, implore you to recognise this fact. One day, in the very near future, people are going to say, not as a matter of doctrine, but as a matter of history, "JESUS CHRIST CAME YESTERDAY!"

This is the next event on God's agenda. And it is going to happen, not as a personal favour to us, but as the next step in God's great plan and purpose for this earth, and the people on it.

He is not going to wait until we finish 'doing our thing', whatever that happens to be. Don't forget that by the time this generation satisfies itself, the next generation has come along and will want the same conditions. So on this basis, Christ will never be able to return. Then again, He is not going to wait till everyone has been converted, or until we are able to have some world-wide revival, as admirable a goal as this might be, because again, He would never get here.

The continuance of God's plan isn't going to be affected in the slightest degree by what we want, nor by how we want it. It is going to happen on no other basis but that God says so.

Now there are many and varied viewpoints on the nature and timing of this great event, and it is not the intention of this article to explore these theories. Our

purpose is twofold. Firstly to impress on people the fact that Jesus Christ IS coming back to this earth to reign, and secondly, THAT HE IS COMING BACK SOON!

In Matthew chapter 25 we read the parable of the Ten Virgins. No one can argue that the account says that at midnight a cry is made to the effect that the Bridegroom is coming. Unfortunately, so many Christians spend so much time arguing about the theology of the statement itself that they completely overlook the fact that it is someone's responsibility to do the 'crying out' and to issue the warning of the fact that THE TIMING OF THIS GREAT EVENT HAS ARRIVED.

It is true that we are told in God's Word that we will not know the actual day or hour of this event, but we are just as surely informed that the wise SHALL KNOW the times and seasons. And just as He came the first time during the Feast of Tabernacles, (our Sept./Oct.), so I feel sure that He will return again the second time during the period of this same Feast.

There can be absolutely no excuse for any Christian to be ill-informed or disinterested in this knowledge. Every sign that God gave us by which we can recognise this time and season, has been fulfilled. CHRIST'S RETURN IS THE VERY NEXT ITEM ON GOD'S AGENDA!!

If this is not the constant hope of your calling; if your spirit within you is not constantly and continuously quickened by this hope; if you don't live every moment of your life in the constant knowledge that the Trump of God is about to sound; if this doesn't lift your soul to endless praise and glory to God with every breath you take; then there is something wrong with your relationship with God.

**AWAKE THOU THAT SLEEPETH,
FOR BEHOLD, HE COMETH!!**

What Really Constitutes the Christian Israel Belief?

JIMMY L. SABIN

Christ is the Answer

Rainier, Washington

(Courtesy 'Kingdom Digest')

What may have been unclear to you is that the Anglo-Israel belief is indeed a *movement*, and as such has very few actual churches to be found. Instead, *the doctrine* is held by a multitude of individuals across the entire denominational structure of Protestant Christendom. Hence, it is not easily noted or found without a difficult and time-consuming personal search and study of the writings and sermons of church leaders and the questioning of individuals.

Dr. Mordecai F. Ham, for example, under whom Billy Graham was converted, was a Baptist; Dr. G. Campbell Morgan (known as "the prince of expositors") was a Congregationalist; Bishop Jonathan Holt Titcomb was an Anglican; Dr. Dinsdale T. Young and Dr. Clarence True Wilson were great Methodist ministers; and evangelist F.F. Bosworth was affiliated with the Assemblies of God and later with the Christian and Missionary Alliance. None of these men can be accused of being unbalanced, hateful, fanatical, weird, unloving, or off-base, yet all of them held strongly to the belief that the Anglo-Saxon-Germanic peoples constitute the racial descendants of ancient Israel and are the inheritors of the blessings God promised unto Jacob's children as such.

In addition, Dr. Henry W. Stough, Dr. William Pascoe Goard, and Dr. James G. Matthews (three contemporaries of the great evangelist "Billie" Sunday) accepted wholeheartedly the Anglo-Israel belief, as well as evangelist Principal George Jeffreys (Pentecostal) and Charles F. Parham (Full Gospel Assembly), to mention a few more. All firmly taught the tenet that God's selection of the white (Israel) race as a chosen people is not a prize, a compliment paid to the man or race — it is a burden and a tremendous responsibility. Indeed, we certainly do not deserve it, for we are all

by nature sinners and obtain salvation *only* by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

What has evidently been forgotten perhaps (if it was ever known in the first place) by some groups who claim to accept the identity message is that to appoint a "chosen people" is not a pandering to the racial vanity of a "superior people;" it is a yoke bound upon the necks of those who are chosen for a special service as a servant race. We have been, I believe, commissioned to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all the nations of the earth and to eventually play a part in bringing the entire universe back under the Lordship of our God and coming King.

"And," you might ask, "what exactly do the authentic Anglo-Israel believers hold in common as articles of faith despite denominational differences ranging all the way from the proper mode of baptism to Calvinism vs. Arminianism to the correct type of church government and hierarchical ruling structure?"

★ We are evangelical Christians who believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, and in His atoning sacrifice at Calvary for the remission of our sins.

★ We believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, resurrection and ascension, and second coming to judge this world in righteousness.

★ We believe in the necessity of the New Birth and the present work of the Holy Spirit, and that acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour assures citizenship in the Kingdom of God.

★ We believe that *"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

★ We believe in the Gospel of the Kingdom, in which the Gospel of Salvation is an integral component.

★ We believe in the bodily return of Jesus Christ, who will take the Throne of David and reign as King of kings for a thousand years.

★ We believe His people Israel, consisting of twelve tribes, the descendants of the twelve sons of Jacob, were set apart by God to be His chosen servants, through whom all nations are to be blessed. We believe God has never repudiated His appointed people.

★ We believe that the present Zionist state of Israel in Palestine is an atheistic, counterfeit version of the Messianic one and will be destroyed by God (a belief, incidentally, that is shared by the Orthodox Jewish community).

★ We believe the modern Israel nations must and will, under God, lead the world out of the chaos and misery that now affects mankind; and after much chastisement for their sins, the favor of God will again be upon them for the blessing of the world.

From this brief listing, therefore, it should be abundantly clear that we constitute neither a new sect nor a new religion, but a well-reasoned and growing school interpreting the Bible in a way that explains world conditions as no other view of Scripture ever did or ever will. We are Christians of all denominations who together proclaim the national message of Holy Writ, upholding the authenticity and accuracy of the whole Book from Genesis to Revelation.

We stress particularly the neglected fact of the modern identity of the Israel of God and the necessity to restore in our nation the administration of the commandments, statutes, and judgments of the Law of the Lord, which must ultimately become the law of the land.

We encourage a more complete grasp of the Biblical message of personal salvation and national redemption and welcome inquiries of those who are genuinely interested in the plan and purpose of the ages in their own personal lives. We are convinced that a consideration of the whole story the Bible tells will open to one's understanding the vast panorama of national and prophetic truths which we must all soon take into account.

Disagree with us if you will, but do it in fairness and do it for what we actually do believe and not for what you or someone else thinks we stand for.



For the Christian, Jesus puts in plainly: "*Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given.*" (Luke 12:48b)

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The Need for National Repentance

I. S. WEBLEY,

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There is no need to emphasise the fact that we are living in very troublous and dangerous times. Every day our newspapers are full of reports of murders, hijacking of aeroplanes, huge thefts, insurrections, violent demonstrations, drugs, immorality and crimes of almost every nature. Never before in the history of the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples, of which we, in Australia are a part, has there been so much lawlessness, so much iniquity, as we are experiencing today. All these are symptoms of the Age, and all point to the fact that we are rapidly approaching the end of this evil Age.

The Bible tells us quite plainly that in the last days perilous times shall come, and surely, we are living in perilous times.

Both the Old and the New Testament contain warnings of great troubles that were to come in the last days. The Prophet Daniel tells us that at the time of the end *"there shall be a time of trouble as never was since there was a nation."* Daniel 12:1.

In Matthew's Gospel we read: *"For then shall be great tribula-*

tion, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be," Matt. 24:21.

St. Paul in writing to Timothy says: *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron,"* I Tim. 4:1-2. And again he writes: *"This I know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those who are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof,"* II Tim. 4:1-5. What a category of evils!

One could easily imagine St. Paul was alive today and was writing about the evils that surround us at this present time.

There are not many present-day sins and evils omitted by St. Paul from this list.

Our nation, and in fact the British Commonwealth of Nations and the United States of America are in very great danger of being destroyed.

Why is it we are in such trouble today? With all the scientific knowledge and facilities available to us today, why cannot we find a solution to our problems? The answer is simple and is contained in the Bible, the Word of God. *"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it,"* Psalm 127:1.

The truth is the nation has forgotten her God. The God Who has nurtured her, cared for her most lovingly, made her great in the past, and has brought her to this day, has been forgotten and ignored in all our ways. We have, as it were, turned our backs on our God. We have despised His holy laws. Sad to say, we as a people, have been grossly misled by our leaders, both in Church and State. Some responsibility for the troubles we are experiencing must lie with our Church leaders. Many of our Church leaders are adamant in saying that 'all the laws of God are done away with in Christ.' We are told they have been nailed to the Cross. These leaders should know

that it is only the Law contained in Ordinances that have been done away with. The Ten Commandments are still extant, despite irresponsible statements to the contrary.

There are many references in the Bible to the consequences that the Children of Israel of old experienced when they disobeyed the Laws, Statutes and Commandments of God. The same thing is happening today. But, we also read that when the Children of Israel repented and turned back to God, they then enjoyed a period of peace and prosperity.

When will we learn the lessons we have before us in the history of the Children of Israel as contained in the Bible?

Whatever may have been the reasons we, as a people, have kept back from God in past generations, the present generation is our concern. With the utmost urgency we should examine the reasons for the delay in turning back to God, and take the necessary remedial measures. Of a past generation it is stated: "God was not well pleased," (I Cor. 10:5), and if our generation is to escape such judgment, we must act and act soon.

We believe that one of the first things for our nation to do is to recognise who and what we are.

When our people realise that we of the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic stock are the modern, literal, and direct descendants of the Children of Israel of old, and that we are still God's servants and witnesses, the result will be dramatic and far reaching. It will accentuate in us the urgent necessity for national repentance, and to turn back to God and His Laws, and seek His mercy and forgiveness. When our people realise who we are, and repent of their wicked ways, and turn to God, then will come a new vision. We shall see ourselves as the inheritors of Israel's charters, as heirs to the great Israel Covenants, and, as a result, a consciousness of our responsibilities. We, who believe the British Israel teaching have never been in any doubt about the need for our nation to repent and turn back to God and His Laws. We have been calling for this for many years.

We see a parallel in our position today with the Prodigal Son mentioned in one of our Lord's parables (Luke 16). The Prodigal Son wasted his living in riotous living. This is what we are doing today. We are living without a care for our Loving Heavenly Father God. However, we learn the Prodigal Son eventually 'came to himself.' He realised his state, and what he was missing, so he

repented of his ways and decided to return to his father. This he did, and the father gave him a great welcome. Probably we shall have to sink further into the mire before we come to ourselves, and realise the urgent necessity of our turning back to God. But we can be assured a great welcome when we do turn back. The story of the Prodigal Son may have a repetition in our history in the not too far distant future. We believe it will.

First, let us look at repentance from the standpoint of the individual. The average Christian is well aware of the fact that the way to receive forgiveness of sins is through repentance, sorrow for past neglectfulness, and then turning back to God from a life of sin and selfishness. But before an individual can repent, he must become aware of the need for repentance. He must pass through a time of realisation of sins committed before God. Following this realisation will come contrition, sorrow for wrong-doing, the desire for forgiveness, and a desire also for a fresh start. Provided our attitude is sincere and genuine, we know we need have no fear of God withholding His forgiveness. Thanks for His great mercy and the Atoning Sacrifice of His own dear Son, the blessed Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour

and Redeemer. We are told: "*He that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out,*" John 6:37.

In the national sphere, precisely the same process applies. It cannot be denied that a nation can sin. A state can act wrongly in the sight of God, both in its home and foreign policies. If the nation sins, it displaces itself from God, and just as the individual, repentance is a prerequisite for reinstatement.

But what really constitutes national repentance? A national act can only be such if it takes the form the words imply. The repentant individual is concerned only with his individual sin. He may be aware of national sins and faults, and intercede on the nation's behalf, but no matter to what extent this may take place, it can never constitute national repentance. It is not even national repentance when people are led in repentance by any Church, however far-reaching that may be. National repentance is a national act. It will take place when the Head of State, the King or Queen, with his or her counselors, make an official act of repentance, calling upon the whole nation to return to God, asking for His forgiveness, and handing ourselves over to His guidance and control, and asking God to undertake for us. Of course, this

will be no occasion for pomp and ceremony. Humility will be the key-note.

Our national days of prayer, which were held in the past, were steps in the right direction. But, we regret to say, the dominant note in those days of prayer was not repentance. This was probably because the need for repentance had not yet been felt by the people. But, as soon as the nation realises that repentance and turning back to God and His Laws is the thing primarily necessary for our rehabilitation and solution to all our difficulties, the step will not be long delayed.

Why is our beloved Britain a second rate nation today? Why has she lost the great prestige and power she once possessed? There is only one reason. She has forgotten her God. She has despised His Laws. Take one example. Isaiah tells us how Britain may regain the high position she once held in the world. He writes: "*If thou shalt turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words; Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride*

upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it," Isaiah 58:13-14.

The desecration of the Sabbath is one of our mortal sins.

Other Scriptures tell us of the great blessings that would follow the turning back to God of our nation and observing and obeying His Law.

In the Book of Leviticus we read: "If ye walk in my Statutes and keep my Commandments, then I will give thee rain in due season, (no more droughts) and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruits (abundant crops and fruits) and your threshing shall reach unto the vintage and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full (no more hunger). and dwell in your land safely," Lev. 26:1-5. (Read verses 5 to 13 for further blessings).

In Deut. we read: "Thou shalt therefore keep the Commandments and the Statutes and the Judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them. Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments and do them, that the Lord thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he swore

unto thy fathers; and he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee. He will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep in the land which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee. Thou shalt be blessed above all people. There shall not be male or female barren among you, or among all your cattle. And the Lord thy God shall take away from thee all sickness," Deut. 7:11-15. Please note particularly that last sentence: "The Lord will take away from thee ALL sickness." If only to receive this one blessing, no sickness, surely it is most desirable that we observe and obey God's Commandments, Statutes and Judgments.

We are arrant fools in not getting back to God as soon as possible. But, what a tragedy if our Church leaders be right in asserting that all the Law is done away with in Christ! No, the Law is not done away with. God is one day going to write them in our hearts (Jer. 31:33). Praise His Holy name.

In Deuteronomy we read of many further blessings that will follow the observing and keeping of God's Laws. In the 28th Chapter we read: "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken dil-

igently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His Commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all the nations of the earth, and all these blessings shall come upon thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in and when thou goest out." Deut. 28:1-6. Further blessings are mentioned in verses 7-14. Then from verse 15 on we read of the consequences that will follow when God's laws are not kept and obeyed.

The most outstanding result of our nation's repentance will be

Britain's restoration to that grand and glorious position God has destined for His people Israel and that is, "Ruling with God." Britain again will be the head among the nations and not the tail, she will be a blessing to all other nations of the world. Repentance will also bring about that vital God consciousness we need in our nation today, and create in us the determination to observe and obey all God's holy Laws.

When we do this, all the blessings we have outlined above will be the glorious experience of our people for evermore.

We do pray that God will soon provide us with new leaders, men of truth, hating covetousness, able men, men who fear God, that they may lead us back to God and His Laws, and prepare the way for the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth.

May God be praised.

The Return Of Elijah.

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Studies In Hebrews.

By. F.W.DOWSETT.

STUDY No.2.

FOUNDATION DOCTRINES.

The foundation doctrines are found in Hebrews 5:12 to 6:3, and read as follows:

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

For everyone that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrines of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith towards God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

And this will we do if God permit."

(Heb.5:12-6:3).

As we study this passage, we note six specific factors:

1. That we don't understand the import, and connection with other parts of God' Word, of what is said, because we are lazy, or dull of hearing. (chapter 5:11). In fact, many Christians never seem to even try to connect the various statements in God's Word with other relevant passages because of this laziness. They are quite prepared to interpret and accept many passages merely on their own face value because they only want the particular passage to teach what they themselves want to believe. We must remember that it is not God's intention for us to be just emotional beings. He created us to be intelligent.

2. That because of this, when the time comes for us to exercise the gift of teaching, we have to go back and be taught again ourselves even the 'first principles' of The Word. (chapter 5:12). This is because so many have twisted even these basic foundation principles out of shape by their laziness in properly studying the Word in the first place, that in order to teach the deeper things of God's Word, they now have to go right back to 'square one.' (Remember, that the various statements and doctrines in God's Word not only have to be studied and understood in the context of the entire passage in which they are stated, but within the context of other passages throughout the Bible which refer to the same subject matter.)

3. This is because we only feed on, and thus think that we only need, the MILK of the Word, which is the 'first principles', instead of feeding on the MEAT. (ch. 5:12). In other words, the 'first principles' are only the foundations. The building which is erected on the foundations is the MEAT.

4. Those who only use the MILK of the Word are unskilful, or have no experience in the word of right-

eousness, and are only BABES. (chapter 5:13). Those who continually, and only, feed on the 'first principles' are restricting themselves merely to the foundations, and have little, if any, idea of what the actual building is to be like. Thus, they do not grow in knowledge, but remain as babes. They become stunted in their Christian growth, just as a young babe would if its parents continually fed it on milk for year upon year, without weaning it onto more solid and substantial food.

5. Those who use STRONG MEAT are OF MATURE AGE, and are thereby able to discern both good and evil. (chapter 5:14). Note that this is not just a discernment between 'right' and 'wrong'. It also does not mean just to 'distinguish between' right and wrong. It means to have the capacity to exercise 'insight' into the nature and causes of the good and evil. Anyone can tell that something is wrong or evil. But it takes maturity and knowledge to analyse and understand the causes and ramifications of these evils. This maturity only comes with the STRONG MEAT of God's Word. It is the capacity to digest the STRONG MEAT that makes 'men' out of the 'boys'.

6. "Let us stop going over the same old ground again and again, always teaching those first lessons about Christ. Let us go on instead to other things and become mature in our understanding, as strong Christians ought to be." (ch. 6:1, Living Bible).

This does not mean that we should forget the foundations by any means. But that we should BUILD ON THEM. There is absolutely no excuse for Christians to remain in the primary school! Just as children, as they are growing up, graduate from primary school to high school, and then to university, so should Christians graduate in their knowledge of the Word of God.

In addition to this, we must remember that when we get into the university we don't keep on going over

and over the lessons which qualified us to get into the university in the first place. We must build on those lessons. We use those earlier and basic lessons as the foundations for our more advanced studies which we are about to undertake.

There are three things that we must keep in mind in regard to the 'foundations'.

1. They must be CORRECT, and they must be COMPLETE. None can be changed, and none can be omitted. If the 'foundations' are the wrong shape, or the wrong size, or in the wrong place, or not strong enough, then what we build on them will also be wrong and insecure. Remember what our Lord had to say about the necessity to build on secure rock, and not on insecure sand. In addition to this, if any part of the 'foundation' is missing, then what we build will not only be wrong, but it will be incomplete. This is why we have so many varying doctrines today within various churches and organisations.

2. They must be zealously and jealously guarded. We read in Psalm 11:3, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" If the foundations are tampered with, or weakened by attack or compromise, then our 'building' will also be weakened and threatened. This is probably one of the greatest risks which we run in the ecumenical movement so prevalent today. Unity in the Spirit is one thing. Fellowship together can be good and rewarding. But nowhere in God's Word are we given the right to achieve any of these things at the expense of the integrity of the slightest portion of the Word of God. Every time we do something, or agree to something that appears to bring us closer to unity, either with other people, or with other organisations, we must take a very careful look at not so much what we appear to be gaining, but at what we haven't realised we are losing!! Remember, that every time you compromise, you give something away. It is absolutely

imperative that the 'foundations' be preserved at any and ALL cost.

3. We must always remember that in both our foundations and building, Christ is the Chief Corner Stone. (Eph. 2:20). There is no other foundation on which we can build, and no structure can survive without Him as its Chief Corner Stone, this being the stone which predicates the design of the whole building. It's about time that Christians realised that the Chief Corner Stone is not designed to fit our building, but that our building must be designed to accomodate and fit the Chief Corner Stone.

We must also realise that many people fall away from their first faith because:

1. They were never taught or given the correct or complete foundations, or

2. They had all the foundations, but were never taught anything else which they could build upon those foundations, and thus became frustrated and disillusioned.

Many Christians have no idea that the basic truths which they hold so dear are only the foundations of their faith, and that there is an unfathomable wealth of knowledge available to them in God's Word, in addition to these foundations, WHICH GOD EXPECTS THEM TO FIND OUT ABOUT.

However, it may be wise at this juncture to have a quick look at these 'foundation doctrines', in order that our subsequent studies will be properly founded. You will find that everything that you learn will relate to, or be built upon, at least one of these 'foundations.' As a matter of fact, you will find that without the full application of ALL of these foundations, you will never have a clear picture of the fullness of God's purposes.

2. THE FOUNDATION DOCTRINES.

There are SIX foundation doctrines listed in Hebrews 6:1-2. The first thing to note is that they are given in an important and specific order or sequence. It should also be noted that the first FOUR apply to our present lives and condition, whilst the last TWO apply to our future eternal condition. Very briefly, they are:-

1. Repentance from dead works.

This is the first and most important of the 'foundations.' Whilst we remain dependant on our own 'works', irrespective of how good they may be, or seem to be, we can never attain to, or properly lay, the subsequent foundations. As a matter of fact, without this particular foundation, the subsequent foundations will most certainly falter. We might liken this 'foundation' to the circular piers which are sunk deep into the ground, and upon which the rest of the foundations are constructed. This 'foundation' is our acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, because in order to be saved, "no other foundation can be laid."

2. Faith towards God.

This is closely connected with 'foundation' No.1, because having turned from 'dead works', we must accept Christ through faith. But this is only part of the aspect of faith. We must develop our faith towards God. In other words, we must become God-oriented, instead of us-oriented. This simply means that we must BELIEVE GOD. This is not just belief IN, or ABOUT God. It means that irrespective of what God says, and irrespective of how impossible it might sound, and irrespective of whether or not it agrees with what we want to believe, WE BELIEVE IT FOR NO OTHER REASON BUT THAT GOD SAID IT. Everything within us has to cry out in our desire to identify with the Living God.

3. Baptisms.

When we become God-oriented, we then seek to obey and fulfil His requirements. This is expressed through the acts of baptisms. Note that 'baptisms' is plural. Contrary to popular belief, there are THREE, not two, forms of baptism mentioned in the Bible. Read Matthew 3:11 where you will find these three baptisms listed as, (a) water; (b) the Holy Ghost; and (c) fire. Water baptism, and Holy Ghost baptism we know about, but how many know what constitutes the 'baptism of fire'? The serious and searching student will find a clue to this in a study of Romans 12:1, comparing it with the Old Testament accounts of the offering of the sacrifice.

4. Laying on of hands.

This is not just a physical act, but also a spiritual act. The hands used must be directly in touch with God. The violation of this requirement explains why so often the act itself, with its associated prayers, doesn't appear to work. God uses our hands as His means of contact. Read Exodus 10:12,21; 14:21,27; 17:11,12; Daniel 12:7. as illustrations of how God does this. Our hands, as it were, become His hands.

There are three applications for 'laying on of hands' in Christian ministry and service. They are:

a). For the baptism or infilling of the Holy Ghost, (Acts 19:6);

b). For ordination to the Ministry. (Acts 6:1-7; 14:23.); This was not restricted to a personal level, but was also used in a national context. We read in Gen. 48:9-20 of the occasion when Jacob/Israel 'ordained' his two grandsons, and through them the future nation of Israel, to be His servant nation; and

c). For the healing of the sick, (Mark 16:18; Matt.8:14-15; Acts 3:6-7).

5. The Resurrection of the dead.

Belief in this doctrine is mandatory. Our salvation, according to Rom. 10:9, depends on (a) confessing the Lord Jesus Christ with our mouth, and (b) believing in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead. This is confirmed and explained in I Cor.15:12-17.

There are THREE stages of 'resurrection of the dead.' They are:

1. The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the "Firstfruits of the dead."

2. The "first" resurrection, which will only apply to those who, as stated in Rev.20:6, will reign with Christ. This is timed to occur in conjunction with the return, or Second Coming, of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. The "second" resurrection, which will apply to all those who did not participate in the First Resurrection. This is timed to occur after the 1,000 year reign of Christ. (Rev. 20:12).

6. Eternal Judgment.

This is associated with the second resurrection. It is NOT to be confused with the phrase 'eternal suffering.' Judgment is the legal decision or sentence which is given. And this sentence is eternal. The sentence is death, not an eternal condition of agonised dying. (Rev. 20:14). The everlasting sentence of God is that "The SOUL that sinneth shall die." This has nothing to do with our bodily death. It is the soul which is here under sentence, and EVERY soul that has not been released

from this death sentence by the cleansing of the shedding of blood, will be destroyed. Bodily death is not an escape route from this sentence. It merely puts an end to the time we have been given during which we can have this decision of destruction rescinded.

3. GOING ON TO PERFECTION.

Let us remember that the above teachings or doctrines are only the foundations, NOT THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE.

We may well ask, "Where do we go from here? What else is there?" As previously pointed out, many, if not most, Christians have no idea that they are just babes in Christ, and that what they already believe is just the beginning.

Perhaps the realisation of this fact will spur us on to "Study to shew ourselves approved unto God, workmen that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." (II Tim. 2:15).

SO

Let us be diligent in our faith. 6:11.

Let us not be lazy, or dull of hearing. 6:12.

Let us lay hold on the 'hope set before us.' 6:18.

"Let us stop going over the same old ground again and again, always teaching those first lessons about Christ. Let us go on instead to other things and become mature in our understanding, as strong Christians ought to be." (ch. 6:1, Living Bible).

LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION!

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

We proclaim the absolute necessity for our nation to return to full obedience to the Law of God as the only way by which we can receive the full blessings of God.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for each and every individual Christian to prepare themselves for the greatest event yet to be witnessed on this earth, **THE RETURN OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

The production, publication, and distribution of this magazine, **THE COVENANT VISION**, is being undertaken as a faith ministry. It is sent out without any charge, to all who wish to receive it. Naturally, it costs money to do this, and whilst we have dedicated our own personal resources to the continuation of this ministry, the support of those who read it, and are blessed by it, is vitally necessary for its continuance and growth. To this end we invite your prayerful consideration.

We also invite you, our readers, to send us the names and addresses of any whom you think could be blessed by receiving a free copy. In this way you can share in the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Kingdom, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified.

It is our fervent prayer that you will be blessed and lifted to higher planes of joy and blessing as you study and learn of the wonders of God's Word, and of His boundless and merciful love for each of us.

With our Christian love, Frank and Betty Dowsett.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

COVENANT VISION MINISTRY.
97 Brisbane St.,
St. Marys. 2760.
N.S.W. AUSTRALIA.

Sublime Intimacy

"Said I not unto thee, that if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?" (John 11:40)

Every time you venture out in the life of faith, you will find something in your common-sense circumstances that flatly contradicts your faith. Common sense is not faith, and faith is not common sense; they stand in the relation of the natural and the spiritual.

Can you trust Jesus Christ where your common sense cannot trust Him? Can you venture heroically on Jesus Christ's statements when the facts of your common-sense life shout — 'Oh, yes, I believe God can do it'; but you have to come down into the demon-possessed valley and meet with facts that laugh ironically at the whole of your mount-of-transfiguration belief.

Every time my programme of belief is clear to my own mind, I come across something that contradicts it. Let me say I believe God will supply all my need, and then let me run dry, with no outlook, and see whether I will go through the trial of faith, or whether I will sink back to something lower.

Faith must be tested, because it can be turned into a personal possession only through conflict. What is your faith up against right now? The test will either prove that your faith is right, or it will kill it. *"Blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in me."*

The final thing is confidence in Jesus. Believe steadfastly on Him and all you come up against will develop your faith. There is continual testing in the life of faith, and the last great test is death. May God keep us in fighting trim! Faith is unutterable trust in God, trust which never dreams that He will not stand by us.

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N.S.W. Australia

Phone 02 623 4691