



THE COVENANT VISION

May/June.
1991.

Contents. ISSUE No. 36.

Editorial.	1.
The Powers That Be.	3.
God's Plan For Man Fulfilled.	16.
Cremation or Burial.	23.
COVENANT WATCH!	25.
The Time of the End.	33.
Mind Well our Covenants & Heritage.	42.
Study In Revelation. No.17	49.

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

THE COVENANT VISION

EDITOR:

Pastor Frank W. Dowsett.

In presenting this magazine, it is not our intention just to indiscriminately add to the number of Christian journals already available. Our only purpose is to present the Word of God in its fulness 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 appearing and return 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 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.

This issue of THE COVENANT VISION marks the beginning of our seventh year of publication. Our first issue contained 24 pages, and we posted it out to about 50 people whom we thought might like to read it. Everything was hand typed, and then photo-copied. But how things have changed. Now we print just on 500 copies per issue, containing 56-60 pages. We have readers and subscribers all over the world, and the Lord has wonderfully and richly blessed us in our endeavours. I sometimes wonder as to the relatively small quantity in comparison to what is produced in other countries, but when one realises that the population of the U.S.A. is something like 260 million people, and that of Australia is only about 17 million, then 500 over here is the equivalent of nearly 8,000 copies over there on a pro-rata basis of population. A meeting of 400 people in the States would be the equivalent of a group of just 26 people here in Australia. So perhaps, on a comparative basis, things are going along fairly well, everything considered. One thing we are sure of is the constant provision and leading of our Heavenly Father in our undertakings, and although we cannot presume to be right all the time, at least we try. The one thing of which we are totally certain is that we have reached the very end of the age, and that the event for which millions of faithful followers of the Lord have been waiting for so many centuries is now at our very doors. It's a very sobering, and indeed in a sense, a very frightening thought, to realise that we have literally reached the point in history when our Great God and Saviour will personally enter into the life and rulership of this war-torn and misery-filled world, when at last, justice and righteousness and peace will fill the earth as the government finally is placed upon His shoulders.

We don't apologise for the fact that in our eagerness for that great day to arrive we sometimes get a bit carried away with these great possibilities, and overlook some detail which has escaped our attention. But as I've often written in these pages before, I'd rather make an attempt and be wrong than sit back and say nothing. It must be a sad reflection on the faith of so many Christians today when they relegate the return of our dear Lord to the 'back burner', as it were, in the vain hope that they are destined to save the world by methods other than what God has already prescribed. But God has already decreed what is to happen, and how it is to happen.

And this has been, and with God's continued guidance will continue to be, the policy of this Mission and those who work in it. So as we move into our seventh year, we thought we would share with you, our readers, what the Lord has been doing for us. As most of you are aware, I was invalided just over 7 years ago with serious heart problems which have culminated in two open-heart operations and seven heart by-passes. Now at 66 both Betty and I are beginning to feel the strain of the constantly increasing pressure of the work in which we are involved. But the Lord has wonderfully provided. A young lady who has been giving us a day every week to help with the typing has recently offered to extend that offer to two full days per week, where she now also helps with the general office work. Another young man in our group also gives us a day every week to do photo-copying and tape copying. But our most recent offer has been by one of our nephews in Coffs Harbour, (which is something like 600 km north of Sydney). As a result, This issue is the last we will be printing and compiling ourselves. We are about to transfer our major printing equipment north to his home, from whence all future issues will be printed, compiled and posted. This will allow me to concentrate all my future time on writing and teaching. All correspondence will still issue from our present address. This is a wonderful development which has taken a real load from us, and we pray God's richest blessing on all these dear co-workers in the Lord.

Earlier this year we also commenced a regular Sunday morning service in our home under the name of THE COVENANT VISION FELLOWSHIP, and this, together with our Wednesday evening prayer and Bible study meeting, has proved to be a real source of joy and blessing to those who attend.

Our Tape Ministry has also expanded now to just on 400 different topics and subjects, and is proving quite popular, especially to those who regularly avail themselves of our lending service.

We have also extended our book ministry to include those written by such highly respected authors as Alan Campbell, Raymond Capt, and several others, and recommend this ministry to you.

So now more than ever, we need your prayerful and financial support so that we may continue to grow in the proclamation of the glorious news of the imminent return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray for God's continued blessing and guidance upon you all, and sincerely thank you all for your faithful support and Christian love. Let us continue to go forward with all our strength as that Great Day approaches.

The Powers That Be and the Power that Will Be.

courtesy "The New CovenantTimes."

THE proof that we are in the final stages of world monetary convergence is rapidly coming into the open. The high priests of European and world finance are already rejoicing at the approach, as they think, of the final death-blow to British and United States sovereignty. It is a significant moment in the history of the servant people, under judgment, but prior to deliverance from great economic bondage.

A headline in *The Times*, London, of 10th October, 1990, Business Section, read: "Grand role in a grander Europe seen for Euro Bank". This most interesting article by Wolfgang Munchau, European Business Correspondent, sets the scene for the new world order of European politico-economic federalism that is to be based in London -- the very "Temple" of Israel-Britain. It makes essential reading for the watchmen at this time, as the following extracts will confirm:

"A bank is a bank is a bank. Not so the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, or simply the European Bank, if Jacques Attali, its president-designate, has his way.

"The European Bank's superficial task is to act as an investment bank for central and Eastern Europe when it starts operating in March 1991 armed with an eventual capital of Ecu 10 billion (7 billion pounds sterling).

"But M. Attali's vision of his bank extends beyond the tasks set out in the agreement between its 40 shareholder nations. In a recent speech in Washington he referred to the bank as the first post-cold war institution 'If

it is a success, it will be a central tool in shaping a new political and economic world order, one totally transformed by the new technologies and new economic powers', he said.

"The bank, according to M. Attali, is not a bank in its narrow sense at all. **It is a political institution.**

"A wider and deeper European Community, the result of the economic reform process in central and Eastern Europe, is likely to emerge as the new economic power to which M. Attali referred. He believes the bank might even become the front-runner institution of a federal Europe in the way the European Coal and Steel Community came before the European Community.

"Margaret Thatcher had little idea about these **grand federalist plans** when she pressed for this Trojan horse to be based in London.

"It would indeed be ironical, and probably amusing for M. Attali and his mentor, French President Francois Mitterrand, if London went down as the birthplace of a kind of Europe that the British government has spent so much effort to avoid.

"The European Bank's fortunes, however, will closely mirror those of the central and Eastern European economies it has set out to help. While the long term prospects might be good indeed, there will be formidable hurdles and probably some disappointments and setbacks on the way.

"The bank's first problem is that the map of Europe has a tendency to change faster than the bank's founding shareholders can change the bank's constitution.

"One of them, East Germany, has ceased to exist, and its 2 per cent stake in the institution is up for re-allocation. The stake will not go to the united Germany because that would give the country a larger stake than Britain, France or Italy, and this would be politically unacceptable.

"No decision has been taken yet, but it would be plausible if the Soviet Union was allowed to step in. Under the shareholders' agreement the Soviet Union can only receive funds up to the level of its 6 per cent shareholdings for the first three years. The purchase of the stake would allow the country, which quite unexpectedly is turning out to be the fastest economic reformer in the region, to benefit from the bank without changing the bank's constitution. The matter will be complicated if the Baltic republics, the Ukraine, or perhaps some Yugoslav republics gain independence and with it a need to become shareholders . . .

"It is essential for M. Attali to surround himself with executives of high international standing. The appointment of Ernest Stern, currently vice-president of the World Bank, as his deputy, is an encouraging first signal.

"M. Attali must be aware that the bank's single greatest asset is its independence, particularly if the bank is to play the somewhat grander role he envisages in a somewhat grander Europe."

A Development to be Watched

In further reference to the converging economic power in the world, a highly significant report appeared in *Intelligence Digest* for 7th September, 1990, from which we quote as follows:

"There is without question a move afoot to establish big, supra-national government, the like of which even George Orwell hardly imagined.

"The nations of Western Europe are on the verge of surrendering their individual sovereignty, that is, in plain language, the freedom of their peoples to rule themselves. Only Mrs. Thatcher, and some Danish politicians, have been holding out against this organised treachery (for that is the correct term for selling out your own people to foreigners).

"But the ambition for large, supra-national, government goes far beyond Western Europe. Take this small piece of evidence.

"A new magazine has appeared in the U.K. called *Japan Digest*. It is a glossy, well-produced publication, with a forward in its first issue by the eminently establishment figure of Sir Peter Parker.

"Now, the first article in the first issue is by Professor Shimpei Fujimaki of Tokai University. Read what he has to say about currencies:

" 'The fact that the currencies of the world are still evaluated in comparison with the U.S. dollar seems to imply that the U.S. is still No. 1 in the world economy. We know, however, that the dollar standard system is a strange institution, contrary to the laws of economy because:

1. The dollar has not been linked with gold since 15th August, 1971; and
2. The U.S. is now the biggest debtor nation in the world.

" 'To use the currency of a nation in such debt as the key currency of the world economy is the same as to use a distorting mirror to try to obtain an accurate image. The entire world economy is reflected in deformed shape. Thus, the present dollar standard can no longer be regarded as an accurate yardstick of the world economy. Why is this absurdity allowed to continue? There are two reasons. First of all, the U.S. with her solid basis of natural resources, highly advanced agriculture, and high levels of science, technology, and industry is still the largest national unit in the world economy although it has lost the total preponderant position it enjoyed in the 1920s to the early 1960s. And second, the U.S. is still by far the world's supreme military power whose continental territory is an unassailable fortress protected by the Pacific as well as the Atlantic oceans, although now, as with all other nations, vulnerable to nuclear attack.

" 'However, as many American economists, businessmen, and politicians have pointed out, these *God-favoured* advantageous positions have actually long been spoiling the U.S. economy, leading to chronic endurance of the twin deficits which have retarded recovery of genuine superiority, and thus continued to distort the workings of the world economy.

" 'Black Monday (19th October, 1987) was an early response of the stock market, a warning that it will not long tolerate the continued disarray of the American, and consequently, world economy.

" 'This aberrant situation can only be rectified by joining the U.S. dollar, European Currency Unit (ECU) and the Japanese yen to form a new unit linked with gold. Now that Soviet perestroika seems to be leading to a policy of eventual entry into the IMF and making the rouble convertible, the rouble might also ultimately be invited to join such a system.'

"So there you have it from a top Japanese professor writing the main article in an establishment-backed British magazine: a suggestion for the merging of the governments of Europe, America, Japan, and Russia, for that is what is meant by merging the currencies. A common currency means a common government."

A Process of Betrayal

It was into this great "Babylon" and system for destruction of nationhood, that Great Britain entered on 8th October, 1990, thus confirming Mrs. Thatcher's defeat in Cabinet on the issue of the European Monetary System. In the article quoted above, the great lady was described as holding out against the organised treachery that is going on. In view of Mrs. Thatcher's resignation, there must be doubt as to whether the Government can any longer resist the process towards a single currency in Europe.

Now that they have declared publicly that it has been their intention all along, as well as that of the Con-

servative Party, to join the Exchange Rate Mechanism, so sinking the fortunes and ultimate destiny of Britain in the European "ideal", it seems appropriate to suggest that they are either bowing to great pressure from certain powers, or *they* are really the senior technicians to condition the British people to a gradual federalism in Europe. We trust only the former is the case.

Under the headline "**British nationhood on the verge of extinction**", *Intelligence Digest* for 12th October, 1990, comments thus:

"The government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has decided that it is no longer competent to conduct economic and monetary policy on behalf of the British people. It has abdicated responsibility for monetary policy to the German Bundesbank. From now on, British monetary policy will be conducted according to the interests of the German people, not the British people. That is the effect of Britain's entry into the Exchange Rate Mechanism of the European Monetary System.

"Mrs. Thatcher was forced into this abject surrender (*and resignation*), first, by the incompetence of the previous Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, whose policies were responsible for the current economic troubles in Britain, and, secondly by a group of fanatical European federalists within the British Conservative Party.

"The next stage in the eclipse of British nationhood begins in December when Britain's European partners will seek to force the U.K. into full economic and monetary union (a single currency), and thereafter into full political union (a federal European state)."

Britain's Traitors

Intelligence Digest made clear that "traitor is the correct word for those who advocate the surrender of the sovereignty of the British people -- they are traitors to their country. These people have decided that their nar-

row class interests are better served by making common cause with foreigners.

"There are two types of Euro-traitors in British politics: on the left are the socialists (and their Whiggish fellow-travellers in the Conservative Party) who see their socialist-paternalist vision being best served by joining forces with like-minded Europeans; and on the right is big business which believes *its* interests are best served in a super-state where big business is no longer democratically accountable.

"Mrs. Thatcher was forced to surrender to this alliance of big business on the right and socialists on the left by political weakness brought about by the economic policies of Nigel Lawson.

"It was Lawson's policy of tying the pound to the Deutschmark in March 1988 which led to a weakening of monetary policy at precisely the wrong moment in the U.K.'s economic cycle (but at the right moment for the German cycle). This caused British inflation to race ahead, and it is that alone which undermined Mrs. Thatcher's political ascendancy.

Hope of a Resurgent Britain

"The leadership must fight back from this defeat. The future of Britain as an independent nation depends upon it. This service has suggested that German unification might dilute Germany's commitment to European political union. But this is not happening. On the contrary, France and Germany are piling on the pressure for ever closer union.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that Britain is at the most decisive moment in its history since the Battle of Hastings. If Britain is to continue to exist as anything but an increasingly irrelevant province of a united states of Europe it has to do one of two things: either persuade its partners within the EC that the way forward is not to deepen economic and political ties between the current 12

members, but to expand the membership to include any European state that wishes to join what should be just a free-trade zone; or it must withdraw from the EC altogether and let the other 11 (or perhaps 10 if Denmark follows suit) create their own socialist superstate (for that is what the EC will become).

"The Government must face the challenge. It will mean splitting the Conservative Party in a way not seen since the Corn Laws, but the survival of Britain outbids the survival of the Conservative Party."

In a subsequent issue, *Intelligence Digest* for 26th October, 1990, said of the then prime minister:

"Only one effective politician in all of Europe sees the strategic picture clearly, and that is Mrs. Thatcher. The rest are mesmerised by the prospect of pulling up the EC economic drawbridge so as to isolate their countries from 'unfair' world competition, and by the prospect of curtailing German successes (Germany goes along with this because of its guilty conscience about its past).

"Unfortunately for Britain, and for Europe, Mrs. Thatcher will no longer be the influence she once was; are we to be forced into one disastrous compromise after another on Europe? There is now no one, it seems, who is capable of stopping this band-wagon."

The Overruling Power

It is being said by Europeans that Britain has no real policy of her own; that the leadership resists today, then caves in tomorrow and that the whole process towards a common and a single currency and ultimately, a federal EC, continues because the process has become irreversible.

The one factor that is not taken into account in all this, is that of our Divine destiny to lead the nations in peace and that we surrender sovereignty in constitution and government to foreign powers on pain of great na-

tional distress at His judgment. The present European process towards increasing federalist powers is indeed reversible, for, not only *will* it be reversed, but in due time it is destined to be broken up altogether.

The members of the Government in Britain may be divided on the detail of how far European unity should go, relative to the surrender of national sovereignty, but they are still saying that they are pro European and that "the future of Britain lies within the Community". At the moment they and most other politicians in the country, cannot see that any other course is open to the once proud and independent nation that set the standard of Christian civilisation throughout the world.

This attitude will change as the full effect of the Divine sanctions are evidence to the nation. The Gulf crisis is already returning upon us to disrupt our economic and political life. Events are pending in the U.S.S.R., in the Balkans and in India and Pakistan, which threaten to disrupt and affect the world scene. Not forgetting the eventual powerful and adverse effect of German unification on the whole structure of the European Community.

Without a shadow of doubt, those politicians, who at present believe Britain's future to lie within the Community, *will* be confounded. The powers that be must, quite soon now, become aware of *a greater and overruling power* at work to disrupt the whole European federalist dream. Already the Europeans are sensing that they are running out of time and feel they must move fast to wipe out the remaining sovereignty of Britain, the main obstacle to the present headlong rush to create a federal Europe.

The fact of the matter is, *the powers that be* in Europe that are seeking to overcome and destroy the destiny of the servant people of Britain, will fail in their objective. The seeds of destruction have been present to germinate within the vast structure of the European Community from the very beginning. There is in continental Europe an iron-and-clay composition among the nations and its dif-

fering peoples, which in history has repeatedly failed to bind structures together for very long. All of this is revealed by Scriptural prophecy, which of course is a closed subject to the vast majority in these days of *the* final apostasy.

Even the Sheep are Destroyed

A chaotic situation now exists in the Community through the Europeans' inability to organise; the cost and the corruption together with the arrogant bureaucracy coming from the whole system is truly acting as a judgment upon the British people for their departure from the ways of the Lord and their hardness of heart to His great national calling upon them.

Take food as one example; families in Britain now pay an average of £17 a week in *extra* food bills and tax to subsidise Europe's farmers. In official terms, the cost of operating the common agricultural policy (CAP) to a family of four is nearly *1900 a year* in tax and food costs as the difference between European Community and world food prices; a sum equal to 7 per cent of the income of a single-earner family on average earnings.

What a total disaster this is for Britain! Formerly our trade with other Christian Israel nations, was to the mutual benefit of us and our kith and kin, who also are suffering. Now the French are attacking and destroying Britain's sheep being delivered to the Continent. The book of *Deuteronomy* is being fulfilled before our eyes:

"And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee."

(Deuteronomy 28:51).

We are besieged in all our cities and towns and the high walls of our sovereignty -- the Lord's gift to us in

which we trusted - are falling, as God told our forefathers that they would in times of great judgment, (*Deuteronomy 28:52 Amplified Version*). For the moment the Europeans are the powers that be, but this only means that *the power of Him that will be*, is approaching.



RECOMMENDED LISTENING

Studies in the Epistles of Peter.

- * #123-126 Our Inheritance in Christ. Parts 1-4.
- * #127 Our Chief Corner Stone.
- * #128 A Chosen Generation.
- * #129 God's Family Plan.
- * #130 Total Commitment to God.
- * #131 Partakers of the Divine Nature.
- * #132 Making Our Election Sure.
- * #133-134 False Prophets. Parts 1 and 2.
- * #135 The Promise of His Coming.

The full set of 13 tapes, \$48.00 posted, or \$4.00 each.
Overseas seaimail, add 10%.

* * * * *

- * #260 The Joy Beyond the Travail.
(The Glory That Lies Ahead).



RECOMMENDED READING.

BOOKS BY F. W. DOWSETT.

CAMEO STUDIES

A collection of short studies of twelve sometimes controversial topics of the Bible, such as "The Gentiles," "The Bride," "The Church," "The Kingdom," "The Law," "The Jews," "Israel," "Israel's Feasts," "Tithing," "Christmas," "Easter," "The Resurrection." 74 pages. \$3.50.

THROUGH JUDGMENT TO RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Discusses the root causes of our present individual and national position in the light of God's judgments as a result of our national disobedience to His Laws, together with an outline of the sure mercies and salvation of God for the ages to come. 55 pages. \$3.50.

THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY OF ELIJAH.

A detailed study of the life and ministry of this great prophet, showing how every major incident in his life was a prophetic preview of the future experience of God's people Israel as found in the Anglo-Saxon Celtic people. 132 pages. \$5.50.

THE RETURN OF ELIJAH.

A new edition of one of the few books available today on this subject. It deals with Israel's great prophet both in the Old and the New Testament, the ministry of John the Baptist, and whether we can expect only an 'Elijah-type' ministry or the actual return of the literal prophet himself. 52 pages. \$3.50.

STUDY IN HEBREWS.

The authorship and purpose of the Epistle. - The Titles and ministries of our Lord Jesus Christ. - Foundation Doctrines. - The High Priesthood of Christ. - Melchisedec, - The New Covenant. - Faith. - Looking unto Jesus. 60 pages. \$3.50.

THE TWO WITNESSES.

A study of the identity and prophetic fulfilment of the Two Witnesses of Revelation chapter 11.

48 pages. \$3.50.

THE ENEMY WITHIN.

A new and revealing approach to the Scriptures relating to "The Man of Sin," "Anti-Christ," "and "The Synagogue of Satan."

88 pages. \$4.50.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

An in-depth study of the formation and history of God's Kingdom here on earth, from its formation as the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai to the return of its King, our Lord Jesus Christ, and beyond.

124 pages. \$5.50.

THE 8 MIRACLES OF JESUS.

A study of the 8 miracles of our Lord as recorded in John's gospel with their specific emphasis and relationship to prophecy and present-day events.

100 pages. \$5.50.

PROPHECY.

A short treatise on the basic principles of prophecy.

24 pages. \$1.50.

GOD'S PLAN OF THE AGES.

Colour chart only.

each 80c.

COVENANT TRACTS.

Tract No. 1.

The First Resurrection.

Tract No. 2.

Jesus is Coming! SOON!

Tract No. 3.

Tithes & Offerings.

80c. each, or the three for \$2.00

20 for \$7.50, 40 for \$12.00.

Prices include postage, in AUSTRALIA ONLY!

For overseas postage add seamail 20%, airmail 55%.

Payment to accompany all orders.

NO PERSONAL OVERSEAS CHEQUES PLEASE!

25% discount on quantities of 10 or more.

GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN FULFILLED

On Earth As It is In Heaven

by

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

One of the most dramatic passages in the Bible is found in Daniel 2, in which is described how Nebuchadnezzar, the king of ancient Babylon, is awakened from a powerful dream and was troubled that he could not remember the dream. He sensed that the dream pertained to him and his empire but he could not recall any of the details. It worried him so much that he couldn't sleep, so he sent for his fortune-tellers, magicians, sorcerers and wizards to come and explain the dream to him. When they came and stood before the king, he said to them, 'I am worried about a dream I've had. I want to know what it means.'

They answered the king in Aramaic, 'May Your Majesty live forever! Tell us your dream, and we will explain it to you.'

The king said to them, 'I have made up my mind that you must tell me the dream and then tell me what it means. If you can't, I'll have you torn limb from limb and make your houses a pile of ruins. But if you can tell me both the dream and its meaning, I will reward you with gifts and great honour. Now then, tell me what the dream was and what it means.'

They answered the king again, 'If Your Majesty will only tell us what the dream was, we will explain it.'

At this, the king exclaimed, 'Just as I thought. You are trying to gain time, because you see that I had made up my mind to give all of you the same punishment if you don't tell me the dream. You have agreed among yourselves to go on telling me lies because you hope that in

time things will change. Tell me what the dream was, and then I will know you can tell me what it means’

Then Daniel went to Arioch, commander of the king’s bodyguard, who had been ordered to carry out the execution. Choosing his words well, he asked Arioch why the king had issued such a harsh order. So Arioch told Daniel what had happened.

Daniel went at once and obtained permission for more time, so that he could tell the king what the dream meant. Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened - he told them to pray to the God of heaven for mercy and to ask him to explain the mystery to them so that they would not be killed along with the other advisers in Babylon. Then that same night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision and he praised the God of heaven:

*‘God is wise and powerful!
Praise Him forever and ever
It is He who gives wisdom and understanding.
He reveals things that are deep and secret;
He knows what is hidden in darkness
You have answered my prayer
And shown us what to tell the king.’*

So Daniel went to Arioch and said to him, ‘Don’t put them to death. Take me to the king, and I will tell him what the dream means.’

At once Arioch took Daniel into King Nebuchadnezzar’s presence and told the king, ‘I have found one of the Jewish exiles who can tell Your Majesty the meaning of your dream.’

When the king asked him about it Daniel replied, "Your Majesty, there is no wizard, magician, fortune-teller, or astrologer who can tell you that. But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has informed your Majesty what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you the dream, the vision you had while you were asleep.

"While Your Majesty was asleep, you dreamed about the future; and God, who reveals mysteries, showed you what is going to happen. Now, this mystery was revealed to me, not because I am wiser than anyone else, but so that Your Majesty may learn the meaning of your dream and understand the thoughts that have come to you.

"Your Majesty, in your vision you saw standing before you a giant statue, bright and shining, and terrifying to look at. Its head was made of the finest gold; its chest and arms were made of silver; its waist and hips of bronze, its legs of iron, and its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. While you were looking at it, a great stone broke loose from a cliff without anyone touching it, struck the iron and clay feet of the statue, and shattered them. At once the iron, clay, bronze, silver and gold crumbled and became like the dust on the threshing place in summer. The wind carried it all away, leaving not a trace. But the stone grew to be a mountain that covered the whole earth.

"This was the dream. Now I will tell Your Majesty what it means. Your Majesty, you are the greatest of all kings. The God of heaven has made you emperor, and given you power, might and honour. He has made you ruler of all the inhabited earth and ruler over all the animals and birds. **YOU ARE THE HEAD OF GOLD.**

"After you will be another empire, not as great as yours, and after that a third, an empire of bronze, which will rule the whole earth. And then there will be a fourth empire, as strong as iron, which shatters and breaks everything, it will shatter and crush all the earlier empires. You also saw the feet and the toes were partly clay and partly iron. This means that it will be a divided empire. It will have something of the strength of iron, because there was iron mixed with the clay. The toes - partly iron and partly clay - mean that part of the empire will be strong and part of it weak. You also saw that the iron was mixed with the clay. This means that the rulers of that empire will try to unite their families by intermarriage, but they will not be able to any more than iron can mix with clay. At the time of this kingdom the God of heaven will establish a king-

dom that will never end. It will never be conquered, but will completely destroy all those empires and then last forever. You saw how a stone broke loose from a cliff without anyone touching it and how it struck the statue made of iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God is telling Your Majesty what will happen in the future. I have told you exactly what you dreamed, and have given you its true meaning." (Dan. 2:1-46)

Here is contained the truest prophecy in the Bible, a complete delineation of all events from the time of Daniel to the present. The great stone in this story represents the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and the beginning of the Kingdom of God on earth! All of the principle kingdoms that have prevailed on earth from the empire of gold started by Daniel have all taken their place in history, each one in the exact succession as given by Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar (who was the "head of gold").

Nebuchadnezzar must have been quite happy to learn that he was the head of gold and that his kingdom was the first of five dominions which were to last for "seven times", or 2,520 years. Chapter 2 of Daniel is the most neglected chapter of the Bible, which shows how the influence of Satan has been felt in the church. Here we are within just a very few years from the fruition of this prophecy, the Appearing of Jesus Christ and His leading of an army of His saints down from heaven to set up His Kingdom on the earth! It's going to happen within the final decade of this millenium, the sixth millenium since Adam, and its end could be the beginning of the seventh millenium.

Let us briefly consider these "times of the Gentiles", mentioned by Jesus (Luke 21:24) and try to discover where we stand today in relation to this time-frame. At the dedication of this giant image erected on the plains of Dura (Dan. 3:1) Nebuchadnezzar ordered all the dignitaries present to fall down and worship this image. Nebuchadnezzar knew that this would mark the beginning of his own reign, which turned out to be a short seventy years. It came to an end when the Medo-Persian Empire overcame Babylon.

And then began the reign of the silver Empire, which lasted for 206 years. The Empire of Brass began with the conquest of the powerful Empire of Medo-Persia which was conquered by Alexander the Great of Greece, and then began the even greater Empire of Greece. This powerful World Empire lasted for 258 years until Rome came along and conquered all of Greece plus all of Europe, extending its hold as far as the British Isles. This was represented by the two legs of iron which Daniel had seen. Daniel had written that this "fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, which shatters and breaks everything. And just as iron shatters everything, it will shatter and crush all the earlier empires." (Dan. 2:40)

Just as this giant figure had two legs of iron, we find this confirmed in history that there were two Empires of Rome. The first was Imperial Pagan Rome which reigned from 62 B.C. until 476 A.D., a total of 538 years. After a hundred years or more of strife and discord a new Roman Empire arose out of the ashes of this old kingdom, known as the Papal Rome, or Holy Roman Empire. Now, through the Pope, the control of every country passed to the Pope. After this, the Pope had the power to appoint the heads of state throughout Europe. This second Roman Empire was much larger and more powerful than the first. The sovereign ruler of this Papal Roman Empire was the Papacy, or the Pope. He claimed that he was the Vicar of God or the Christ Himself ruling on earth. This sovereign Pope claimed that he was in person King of kings and Lord of lords. This Pope established kings Caesars, Kaisers and Czars of the nations he ruled over. They were dethroned and replaced if they became disobedient to his edicts. Through the domination of all popes seated in the Vatican in Italy this regime has sought to retain its control over all countries in the world.

On the 1st September, 1990, a new Council of Churches was begun at a special meeting of the churches of England, Wales and Ireland at Swanwick, England, to which a representative from the Roman Church was invited. The Church of Rome, for the first time since the forming of the Reformation by Martin Luther, sat with the

other leaders as an equal member of the new Council. This attempt by the Roman Church to negate the special powers and privileges of the Reformed Church began a period of 3.1/2 years described in the Bible as the Death of the Two Witnesses: *"And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days (years) and a half and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves."* (Rev. 11:8,9) But this is not the end of the matter. In the 11th verse of the same chapter we read, *"And after three days (years) and a half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them."* This is the passage in Revelation which describes the Appearing of the Lord in the skies *"And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them."* (Rev. 11:11,12)

This Appearing of the Lord Jesus in the skies was the promise that was given to Daniel in Dan. 2:44-46, *"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."*

"Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone (Christ) was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king (Nebuchadnezzar) what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation sure." (Dan. 2:44,45)

If, as we have indicated, the Death of the Two Witnesses began on the 1st September, 1990, three and a half years later would the 1st March, 1994, the time of Christ's Appearing in the skies and, according to I Thessalonians 4:16,17;

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the

trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air"

For that event our bodies shall be changed into new bodies which will allow us to travel in space. There is no doubt that we will accompany Jesus into heaven and enter directly into the pleasures of the Wedding Banquet. With our new spiritual bodies we will be able to follow the lead of Christ as our King back to the earth to help establish the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. According to the Bible this will take at least a thousand years, all accomplished according to the originally intended plan for Adam and his progeny. It is then that the Lord's prayer will be answered, the prayer that has been repeated by millions of Christians as given first to the Apostles almost two thousand years ago.



Covenant Vision Fellowship.

Pastor:- Frank W. Dowsett.

You are cordially invited to join us
in fellowship and worship at our home

at

97 Brisbane St., St. Marys, N.S.W.

Sunday morning at 9.30.

Praise & Worship.

Wednesday evening at 7.30.

Prayer & Bible Study.

For further information phone (02)-623-4691.

CREMATION or BURIAL?

by Frank W. Dowsett.

I recently received a letter from a friend in Canada asking for my thoughts on cremation. This is a subject which I'm sure must exercise the minds of many Christians, and so I decided that rather than just write to our friend, I would share my thoughts with all our readers.

To start with, I cannot remember any reference in the Bible to Israelites being cremated when they died. Our early forefathers were interred in caves, as witness the purchase of the cave by Abraham to bury his beloved Sarah, and even the burial of our Lord. Others are referred to as having been buried in the ground. There is obviously a difference here, but it was apparently not considered to be of any specific importance. Some claim that cremation is a heathen custom, and that as Christians, and especially as Israelites, we should not use this method after death. I think the point is well made. But when you stop to think about it, the heathen also bury their dead in the ground or inter them in caves just the same. Some Christians who can afford it even inter their loved ones in Mausoleums, which when all is said and done, are only expensive manmade caves. I don't see that we can reject either of these methods simply on the grounds that the heathen also employ them. So the question doesn't turn out to be quite as straightforward as it might seem.

Perhaps we should consider the subject of death itself. What actually happens when a person dies? As human beings, we have, I believe, three basic parts to our overall being. Firstly there is the spirit, which the Bible clearly tells us comes from God, and in point of fact, is really a part of God. Without that life from God, nothing can live. Secondly there is the soul, which is the actual "us". It is that feature which makes us separate from every other human being. It is that part of us which contains the spiritual element as distinct from just the human form. And thirdly, there is the body which is the physical being that is seen, and which moves and breathes. The interconnection of these three elements is absolutely vital. The body is that part of our being which actually houses the

real us. It is the residence, if you will, where our soul resides, and through which it is given shape and substance. The soul is that spiritual part of us which has the capacity to contact God. We read, for instance, that it is the SOUL that dies as a result of sin, not just the body. The body will wear out through illness of one sort or another and will ultimately die. But it is the soul that is primarily given the opportunity for eternal life, even though it will be clothed with a new body. Now between them, neither the soul nor the body, either separately or together, can do anything without the motivating life force which comes only from God - the spirit. So that when we die, it is simply the result of that life force or spirit leaving our body and returning to its source, God, just as the Bible tells us. But the soul, being a spiritual element, cannot also die at that time without the direct command of God. And we are clearly told that this command will not be given until the time of either the First or the Second resurrection. Thus the soul is taken out from the body as soon as the spirit of life leaves it, and taken into the presence of the Lord where it rests, or sleeps, as the Bible continually states, until it is time for it to be reunited with a fresh and perfect body at the time of the resurrection. So in reality, what is left is only the shell, and that has to be disposed of. There is no feeling left in it. From the instant of death it ceases to have any importance either to the person who once inhabited it, or to God. It is no more than a moulded form of dust from which it was first made, as the elements which go to make up our bodies are directly proportionate to the chemical elements of the ground. It immediately begins to decay. If it is buried, it takes months. If it is cremated, it takes only minutes. Either way, it returns to dust. One final thought. If cremation is anti-Christian and affects our eternal future, what about all those people over the centuries who have been burnt to death for their witness to Christ? Was their sacrifice in vain? I think not. But the decision is a personal one, and I don't think that there is any reason for anyone to unduly worry about someone else's decision just because it may be different from the one we might make. Our main concern has to be what happens to our soul, not the body which is left.

COVENANT WATCH!

RAISE TAXES FOR ISRAEL

(Courtesy *NEW AMERICAN VIEW*.)

Any Congress that will raise more taxes on the back of the American people, then give it away to foreign countries, does not deserve a pay raise. It is time to tell it like it is.

Israel is already getting \$3 billion from the American taxpayers, but that is not enough. Hidden in this budget is another \$15 million for new ports in Israel, \$180 million for oil, \$42 million for missiles, \$700 million for weapons, and to boot, Israel is to get all of its cash in the first 30 days which means we have to go out and borrow it, while we are raising taxes on mom and dad, to give it to Israel, which will reinvest it and make another \$60 million out of our taxpayers' accounts.

Now, I am going to be called anti-semitic and everything, but enough is enough.

* * * * *

FOREIGN POLICY SUBVERTED

(Courtesy *SPOTLIGHT*.)

Throughout the 1980s, "black" operations run jointly by U.S. and Israeli agents with clandestine funding from oil-rich Persian Gulf nations have killed millions of people worldwide and subverted American foreign policy.

These covert operations have embroiled the United States in regional wars with millions of casualties, and earned this country the enmity of millions more.

That is the finding of scholars, diplomatic historians and policy analysts engaged in a review of the Reagan era, a month-long **SPOTLIGHT** survey found.

"The detailed account of how the Mossad, Israel's secret service, working with an inner circle of dual-loyalist Washington bureaucrats and with subservient **CIA** officials used laundered Arab billions to spread its covert-action network from Panama to Ethiopia is the most anxiously guarded secret inherited by the Bush team from the Reagan administration", says Dr. Lamar Groover, a former Export-Import bank programme co-ordinator who is writing a book in Florida about Central America in the 1980s.

In a series of interviews with diplomatic and intelligence sources in Washington, Miami and New York, as well as academic researchers, The **SPOTLIGHT's** investigative team has reconstructed key events of this startling saga.

It has also identified a number of trouble spots where the Mossad and the **CIA** launched joint operations with clandestine Arab financial backing:

1. In Nicaragua and Afghanistan, where Israeli agents were called in by the late William Casey, then serving as **CIA** director, to supply weapons, training and other support services to anti-communist resistance forces, U.S. strategy was "derailed and frustrated", says a Marine officer involved in paramilitary assignments during the 1970s and 1980s.

In Nicaragua, more than a century of U.S. regional hegemony ended when UN troops were brought in to disarm the resistance forces and install a coalition government largely dominated by communists. In Afghanistan, the campaign of the mujahideen freedom fighters was sabotaged and aborted by Israeli agents who feared that an anti-communist victory would lead to the installation of a fundamentalist Islamic regime in this strife-torn nation.

2. In Africa, where most governments broke diplomatic relations with Israel in the 1960s, the Mossad re-es-

established a broad sphere of influence by running covert operations, selling arms and training local enforcers from Angola to Zaire.

"Israeli agents have unleashed horrifying violence and destruction on this dark continent", recounted Derek Faulkner, a UN relief official. "Last year I participated in evacuating U.S. citizens from Liberia, engulfed by one of the bloodiest civil wars in African history. I was startled to discover that the turmoil was triggered by the brutal repressive tactics taught to the Liberian army by Israeli instructors brought in at the suggestion of the influential U.S. Embassy."

Similar case histories of torture and police murders, revolt and strife following the arrival of Israeli agents have been obtained by **SPOTLIGHT** investigators about such far-flung and formerly peaceable nations as Sri Lanka, Rwanda, Sudan and Guatemala.

"The secret record of worldwide covert Israeli intervention, sponsored by dual-loyalist U.S. national security officials and often financed with money contributed by wealthy gulf rulers will be one of the most important stories of the 1990s", asserted Groover. "Congress would save itself later embarrassment if it launched a formal investigation into this scandal right now."

* * * * *

GULF PUZZLES.

(Courtesy *ON TARGET.*).

"Iraq dictator Saddam Hussein has sent his new Prime Minister into southern hotspots to show the rebellion there has been crushed."

Herald-Sun (Melbourne), 25th March

Whatever happened to the "Butcher of Baghdad"? Wasn't he the unspeakable villain who had invaded a defenceless country, massacred his own nationals, tortured women and children?

Was he not, in the obedient mass media, compared to Hitler of the Nazi regime?

Were there not calls in high political places for his arraignment on War Crimes charges? Was not the "international community" (the great majority of which would never have heard of Saddam Hussein nor Iraq) to expect another round of Nuremburg-style War Crimes "trials"?

Well, what is happening. Regrettably, we don't believe very much that is reported on the Gulf (or anywhere else, for that matter) and never have. We are being told now that Saddam Hussein is still boss cocky in Iraq; he has appointed a Prime Minister; the Iraq Government is still made up of Saddam Hussein supporters.

We read this three times, and pinched ourselves, to make sure we were reading right: "President Bush said Saddam Hussein appears still to be calling the shots ... normal relations with the U.S.A. cannot be effective with Saddam still calling the shots, still in power."

We are still reeling around from this one: "U.S. Gulf commander, General Schwarzkopf, said ... that pilots on patrol over Iraq had been told to shoot down helicopters only if they approached Allied units."

What IS going on?

We were led to believe by the obedient mass media that General Schwarzkopf and his armies did Saddam Hussein like a dinner! The mass media, it is now obvious, grossly exaggerated the strength of Saddam's military capacity.

WHY is Saddam Hussein still in a position of power, still? WHY is his Republican Guard still intact (we have seen nothing to the contrary)? Does Saddam Hussein have some sort of hold over the Allied armies?

Is General Schwarzkopf being constrained by higher political forces? Are the Western politicians allowing Saddam to remain in power to control radical and revolutionary forces within Iraq, forces which the West does not desire

to confront? Did Mr. Gorbachev "lean" on George Bush to allow Saddam to put down his own rebellious elements (Muslim fundamentalists?) to stop the "Muslim factor" spreading into southern Soviet (Muslim) Republics, and triggering a revolt there against central control from the Kremlin (Gorbachev's line)? Has Saddam Hussein mined the Iraq oilfields, these to be destroyed unless the West "backs off"?

These are the "Gulf Puzzles". What do you think?

* * * * *

TOWARD A NEW WORLD ORDER.

(Courtesy *NEW BEGINNINGS*.)

Both Bush and Gorbachev claim as their goal the New World Order, a global government to be established in the decade of the 1990s. Both want to utilise the United Nations and the United States of Western Europe as vehicles for reaching the New International Order. This writer continues to believe, however, that the ultimate goal of the Soviet leadership is not to be dominated by (or even share power with) the wealthy finance capitalists of the West - even if they are socialists, globalists, and Illuminists. The Soviet's first goal is to obtain enough financial, technological, and agricultural aid to recover economically by the mid-1990s.

Their second goal is to merge economically with united Germany, with the US of Western Europe, and perhaps even with Japan by the mid-'90s. Their third goal is to expand their already dominant military superiority while getting America and the West to almost completely disarm in the phoney era of "communism is dead, the cold war is over, and peace has arrived". They hope to be militarily unchallengeable by the latter half of the decade - a goal which their present military buildup could make reality.

[McElvany Ed. Note: George Bush, the greatest appeaser of a hostile power in U.S. (if not world) history, who makes Neville Chamberlain look like a war-hawk by comparison, is playing right into the hands of the Soviets with his belief in their good intentions, our new partnership, friendship, etc. Manipulating such a man is like manipulating putty in the hand (or paw) of the Soviet Bear.]

Their fourth (and final) goal is to double-cross their New World Order comrades in America and Europe, invade the Middle East (while holding a gun to Europe's head), and move to neutralise America via nuclear blackmail, intimidation, or outright attack. The Soviets have prepositioned \$80 billion in weapons in the Middle East with this fourth goal in mind.

The decade of the 1990s could be the most dangerous in world history. Some will call it the countdown to Armageddon; others will call it the decade of duplicity, deception and betrayal; and the great majority will call it the dawning of a "New Age" of peace, prosperity and brotherhood. But remember what the prophet Jeremiah said: "Beware when men cry peace, peace and there is no peace", and I Thessalonians 5:3 warns "They will cry peace and safety - and then comes sudden destruction."

Individually, you need to get prepared financially, simplify your lifestyle by going back to the basics, and get prepared spiritually. As Psalm 37:23-24 says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord (Yahweh) and He delights in his way. Though he may fall, he will not be utterly cast down, for the Lord upholdeth him with His right hand."

In spite of the machinations and manipulations of Bush and his New World Order/Establishment comrades, and of the Soviet leadership, God is still in control of history, of nations and of individuals lives. He **will** prevail in the end!

* * * * *

THOUGHTS FROM MANASSEH

I guess the Iraq thing is foremost on everyone's mind here - we've suddenly become a very warlike nation with all kinds of rehashed news - details of how wonderful and clever our bombs, rockets and tanks are - as we blast a small nation halfway around the world, literally to destruction. This is not our way, but is a manifestation of the true "Talmudic mentality". The average person here is so conditioned its frightening - like Pavlov's dogs. The flag over which they were arguing they could burn or destroy in the streets a few months ago, with the courts blessings, has suddenly become precious, and a symbol of some weird concept of freedom. I guess its all one can expect of a population that values its TV and six-pack of beer above race, heritage, children, and everything else, including the Constitution and Bill of Rights - that for the most part they know nothing about. This country is going to come under judgment in a big way and it will wonder why. I was in the military for six years; however, I feel only shame at what we are doing. The first evening when they showed the bombing of Baghdad, I just thought to myself here we go again! Every generation they roll out the drums and guns and spill the blood of the young people for lies and treachery unknown at the time. Who benefits from this latest carnage? The same ones that always benefit! Those that are the power behind the throne in each nation - those that finance both sides of these grisly harvests - those that run the usury system. But worse than those who are of their father the devil are those that toady up to them, support them, hide and cover for them - those of our own kind who are no better than the false shepherds, the Baal priests that infest our true Israel nations. God will surely bring all of this back on our own heads in one way or another. His weapons are great and many. We break His laws ever more blatantly in every area - and we do it in a haughty, scoffing, prideful way - may God have mercy on His remnant.

* * * * *

CHRISTIAN PASSOVER or Pagan Easter?

In 1991, Australians spent \$1.9 million on Easter Eggs. This is the equivalent of \$25 per family. It would have paid \$100 to every unemployed family in Australia. What's wrong with doing it God's Way? Or wont the kids understand?

I hope God does!!!



COVENANT TAPE MINISTRY.

NEW CATALOGUE.

Our latest Tape Catalogue as of April 1991 is now available.

Tapes may be purchased for \$4.00 posted within Australia, or borrowed for an offering to cover postage costs.

Overseas rates published in catalogue.

Write now for your free copy.



THE TIME OF THE END.

by Frank W. Dowsett.

Over recent months the most frequent question put to me is regarding my opinion on the present world position, and its relationship to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. I've had letters, phone calls, and personal requests. Now that is all very nice and flattering in a way, but opinions are like noses. Everyone has one. So for opinions to be of any real value and help, they must be based on the most reliable facts available, and not on our own personal views which all too often are based on what we would like to happen, or upon what tradition and dogma say, or simply on the conclusion that a particular point of view must be right just because it has been the generally accepted view for a long time. The great variety of views put forward these days is ample proof of the fact that if there is one thing that is certain it is that everyone seems to be confused, and that nobody seems to really have the right answer. So for me to put forward an opinion doesn't mean that I am any more correct than anyone else just because it is my opinion. Nor, may I add, am I necessarily wrong just because someone else may disagree with what I say. So when it comes to questions about God's Word and the fulfilment of God's plans, there can be only one source of authority. Our own personal opinions matter very little. What matters is God's Opinion, and I believe that this can only be understood as we understand the basic principles of God's plan for this earth and the people therein. For this reason I always hesitate in giving my own opinion as such, and try as much as possible to simply quote the Scriptures and let the Holy Spirit lead people into the Truth.

So as a starting point, let me state quite emphatically that God really does have a plan for this earth, and indeed for His whole creation. That plan had a predetermined beginning, and it has a predetermined conclusion. Please note that I didn't say that God has a plan to terminate or end this earth. What He does have is a plan to

conclude the evil system which now envelopes the entire human race, and which will take us on to a future of total and complete harmony and peace which was always His original intention. The only thing that is going to end is this present age or world system, not the earth. This earth, and everything in it, is to be entirely rejuvenated and reconstructed under the earthly rulership of no less a Person than the One who originally constructed it in the first place, even our Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Jehovah. Let me give you a few Scriptures to substantiate this. In Isaiah 9:6-7 we are told;

"...And the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His Kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth, even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this."

Luke 1:32-33 records the announcement of the Angel to Mary regarding her expected Son as follows;

"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest. And the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David; and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of His Kingdom there shall be no end."

So we see that Christ's Kingdom is no other than the House of Jacob, or Israel, and that this Kingdom is to last forever. But where is it to be?

A portion of what we know as 'The Lord's Prayer' as recorded in Matt.6:10 says;

"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

Revelation 5:10 informs us;

"And hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth."

There would therefore seem to be very little doubt but that Christ's Kingdom, and His reign over that Kingdom, is to be here on this earth.

There is not one shred of evidence to support the modern theory that this old earth is going to be completely blown up into little pieces, and that the future for the

Christian is going to be centered entirely on some nebulous spiritual location and condition somewhere up in the sky. That is simply the delusions of false shepherds who are capturing the minds of sincere but easily led people who are genuinely sick and tired of the present world system and its evils, and who are genuinely seeking something better which they realise in some nebulous way God has somehow provided for. Of course, this is to say nothing of the fact that these fanciful 'science-fiction' publications make millions of dollars for the authors. And that is nothing more than such books about the late great planet earth are - just science fiction which feeds on the emotionalism and ignorance in which most Christians today have been kept.

When God originally created the heavens and the earth, we are told that He looked upon His handiwork and saw that it was "very good." That something went terribly wrong is quite apparent, because we find that after resting from His creative work, Jehovah found it necessary to form, (not create), a new man - a new Adam, or as the Septuagint renders it, "The" Adam. From that moment, the overall plan was the rescue of His creation, and its return to its former pristine glory through this specially formed people. And immediately there commenced a process of deliberate selection on the part of God. Eventually, He selected a man called Abram, and from his descendants, formed the nation of Israel which was specifically appointed and equipped to be His servant nation on this earth, through whom He would bring blessing to all the families and nations of the earth. This is clearly stated in Gen. 12:3 and 18:18 where we read;

"And in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." . . . and, . . . "Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him."

It is not within the scope of this writing to go through all the details of what followed. Suffice it to record that this specially chosen national vessel, the nation of Israel, turned from their God in disobedience, and entered a period of punishment imposed on them by God which was specifically stated to last for "seven times", or 2,520 years. The prophets make it quite clear that at the

end of this period of punishment, the nation of Israel would emerge from the blindness which God had placed upon them in conjunction with this punishment, and proceed to carry out the God-given responsibilities which had always been their destiny.

But this did not mean in any way that God had forgotten or altered His promises to His people during this period of blindness. The continuity of the promises was very clear and concise;

"Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; the Lord of Hosts is His name; if those ordinances depart from me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever." (Jer. 31:35-37).

"For thus saith the Lord; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel.""Thus saith the Lord; If ye can break My covenant of the day, and My covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; Then may also My covenant be broken with David My servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne." (Jer. 33:17,20-21).

"This people have I formed for Myself; They shall show forth My praise." (Isa. 43:21).

"In a little wrath I hid My face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. (Isa. 54:8).

"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that has gone forth out of My mouth." (Psalm 89:34).

"I am the Lord. I change not. Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." (Mal. 3:6).

Unfortunately, because people couldn't see the literal existence of this nation any more, the teaching was developed over the years that God had been forced by circumstances beyond His control to change His mind regarding His promises of continuity, and by a process of theological juggling, the literal promises to the nation have now mainly been transferred to what is called "the church."

To illustrate this, if you have a Bible with page headings, turn to such chapters as Isaiah 54. In my Bible,

the heading is "The Church Comforted." What utter rubbish. The 'church' is not mentioned. The subject of the text is the nation Israel. I will never cease to warn people against tampering with the simple straightforward statements of the Scriptures. To infer, and in many cases, to even state that God hasn't been able to handle a situation and has had to change His mind is nothing short of blasphemy.

So in accordance with God's Divine Plan, the time came for this special people to be redeemed and brought back under the terms of His everlasting covenants in order to carry out their Divine mission here on earth. And in redeeming the 'treasure in the field', He bought the whole 'field.' By becoming the Redeemer of Israel, Jehovah became the Saviour of all mankind. Thus we have the historical events of the First Advent, with all their pathos and tragedy, and yet with all their love. Never was the love of God so more wonderfully revealed to a sin-sick and lost world.

But to think that the prophetic Word of God just stopped at this point in time, as most theologians teach today, and now waits for some indefinite time in the future for God to restart His prophetic clock must surely be a travesty of all Bible truth and understanding. It should be remembered and appreciated that practically all the early reformers of our Christian Faith right up to Wesley and even later, believed implicitly in the Historicist interpretation of the Bible and wouldn't have a bar of what they recognised as the Romish teaching of what we now refer to as "futurism." True, they didn't have the same degree of light which we have today, simply because events had not transpired on which they could apply their knowledge of prophecy. But prophecy and history were none the less working out just as God had planned, and now, in this year of 1991, we have come to the very culmination of all that God and the prophets have said.

So we are left with the all-important question; What is going to happen now? Well let me commence by making one important observation. Just as God knew, and put into operation, the beginning of His plan, so He knows, and is putting into operation the conclusion of His plan. If there is one thing that we must accept and appreciate, it is

this; God's plans for this world system under which we all now struggle has a definite termination date.

In modern parlance, it has a "Use By" date stamped on it. God knows the literal and actual date on our calendar when the entire earth is going to be totally shattered by the return of the awesome presence of the Creator Himself, the Lord God of Israel. He has told us quite plainly that if He doesn't shorten, or set a definite limit to, the time, then no flesh would be saved. But He goes on to assure us that for the elect's sake, this time will be limited to a specific date which He has already for-ordained. And let us recognise this fact. There is absolutely nothing that anyone on this planet can do to alter it or prevent it. It is as certain as God Himself.

The question which we must ask ourselves is whether we believe God's Word or not. Are we prepared to conform to what God's Word says, or are we going to make it conform to what we want it to say. Any serious student of prophecy realises that almost every promise and prophecy stated to be fulfilled prior to the return of our Lord has already been fulfilled. So why should we doubt the fulfilment of the few that remain? If we accept that Christ's first advent was right on time, why should we hesitate to accept that His second advent will also be right on time. The fact that we may not understand it makes no difference at all to the fact itself. The signs given in God's Word are all around us. The increase in earthquake activity and famines are among the obvious. But these are just a sample of what is to come, and if Christians generally think that they have been given a "pass-out" for these things, then I'm afraid that they are in for a very rude shock. News from every quarter of the globe continually reinforces the fact that we are all in very desperate trouble, and whilst I am in no way 'knocking' those who are doing such a great job in keeping those who will heed informed about the machinations of the enemy, and their plans to take over total control of the world and all its people, the answer does not lie in forming new political parties, or introducing what are considered to be better policies to curb our present dictatorial system of government. Under normal circumstances, these efforts could achieve much, but the reality of the situation is simply that

there is not enough time left for these efforts to be implemented. The only real and final answer is the Lord Jesus Christ, not the people. Peace and prosperity and wholeness has never been promised by God as a result of the rule of the people. It can only, and WILL only be achieved by the rule of the Lord Jesus Christ, upon the Throne of David, ruling here on this earth, over His Kingdom Israel, the House of Jacob. That is not just my personal opinion. It is the plain and certain statement of the Word of God which we earlier quoted.

So what of the immediate future? Is there any time-frame to which we can look with some reasonable form of expectancy? I personally believe that there is, and I must make it quite clear that what I am about to write is my own personal opinion based on my own studies of the Scriptures. I have no doubt that some will disagree. That's alright by me. But all I ask is that you check the Bible. I'm not right just because I say I am, and I'm not wrong just because someone says I am.

I believe that God has set an overall time frame of six thousand years for the length of this age from the fall of the first Adam until the victorious return of the Second Adam. If that age commenced in 4004 B.C., with the birth of our Lord in 4 B.C. as most authorities accept, then this age has only to the year 1997 to run. And from our vantage point now in 1991, that is quite a frightening thought, even to those of us who are expecting it. And during this remaining time, there are a few quite definite events which are to occur. I list them here, not necessarily in chronological order. We have the death and resurrection of the Two Witnesses of Revelation chapter 11, and the fulfilment of the parable of the Dry Bones of Ezekiel chapter 37. We have the final battle against God's people Israel by the forces of Gog and Magog as set out in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39. We have the complete destruction of this present Babylonian economic/political system as set out in Revelation 18. We have the return of the prophet Elijah as promised in Malachi chapter 4. We have the resurrection and the translation of those who will reign with the Lord Jesus Christ as Kings and Priests, identified in Rev. 20:5 as the First Resurrection. And of course, we have the grandest of all the events still to occur, the actual

personal return of our Lord Himself. I believe that the death of the Two Witnesses has already commenced with the ecumenical agreement of September 1990, and that this religious aspect of our national death will run the stated three and a half years to Passover 1994. But the main aspect of our national 'death' will occur at the end of 1992 when we finally enter the Common Market and give up all our sovereignty to become a part of the United States of Europe. This, I believe will continue until mid 1996 when the greatest revival the world has ever seen will take place with the 'resurrection' of God's people Israel under the leadership of the Prophet Elijah who will prepare the people for the return of their King, when the nation 'shall be born in a day', the final year between 1996 and 1997. In the meantime, war and economic collapse will devastate us, a condition which will only be relieved by our Great King Himself. Specific dates are not my concern. But the pattern seems, in my humble opinion, to be very clear. Only time will tell how accurate we have been, and I have no doubt but that as time progresses, we will be able to more accurately update it. But in any event, the most important thing is not arguing about the accuracy or not of the suggested timetable, but to assure that we are found worthy to be a real part of it, and to be called to that blessed Marriage Supper of the Lamb where we will each receive the position and authority over the Kingdom to which we have been assigned. That choice is most definitely up to ourselves.



If you already have, or can form, a local Bible Study Group in your home, but haven't the leadership, why not join our Tape Club. For just \$5 per month we will send 4 tapes monthly of the studies we are conducting ourselves, which is currently in the Prophecy of Isaiah, or on any other series in our Tape Catalogue. Why not contact us.

Send for a catalogue now.

The Principle

by Wm. Pascoe Goard.
courtesy "THE KINGDOM DIGEST."

*"All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord swear unto your fathers."
(Deuteronomy 8:1).*

We find that among the blessings following obedience are to be found great increase in the birthrate. This always take place when there is removed the awful fear of bringing children into the world of *want* and *privation*. The heart of our people is sound, and they still delight in the prattle of the infant and the cheery voices of children musically shouting in their play.

We find that among the blessings following obedience is the absence of disease.

Let us give attention to this standing challenge of Jehovah, our God and King, in this regard:- *"And Jehovah will take away from thee all sickness."*

This is a confirmation of the assurance previously given in the Books of the Law. It is not simply a poetical way of saying a less real and practical thing. It is an offer of entire removal of sickness by the Lord God of Israel.

This being the case, we see at once that our physical suffering, our financial difficulties, our international struggles, are the direct result of disobedience to the Commandments, Statutes and Judgments of the Lord.

It is further manifest as plainly as plain language and solemn documents can make it that we have the remedy in our hands. It is not in change of party; it is not in change of form of government; **it is in the restoration of the reality of the system of Divine rule administered in Person by Jehovah, the God and King of Israel.**

The Lord Jesus Christ has seen the Father thus administering the Covenants made with the fathers; which Covenants Jesus came to confirm, and, according to His own declaration, this is the principle on which our Lord Jesus Christ carries forward His own practice. □

MIND WELL OUR COVENANTS & HERITAGE

by Dr. Lindsay Grant

Chairman of
The Academy for Research into the Heritage of
The English-Speaking Peoples Inc.

As 'leaders' we are not aloof, but identified with our Nation's problems, needs and sins. That wholesome and vigorous man Daniel the prophet chose to identify himself with his disgraced nation and said, "We have sinned and done wickedly and have rebelled, even by departing from Thy precepts and judgments". To me this gathering means little more and no less than that.

This Academy for Research has its contribution to this fact by laying emphasis on the great importance of distinguishing between knowledge and wisdom in the understanding of our history and heritage. It is conceded that Science means knowledge and it is ever more the basis of our day-to-day living in this Material Universe. Never forget however that matter is God's secret weapon against evil. To this end He created this Universe and this planet Earth as the very site of His working out His great plan of redemption. How stupid is he, who despises creation and matter and knowledge of that matter.

Wisdom is really very simple and basic to life. It is simply the gift of God in distinguishing between good and evil: (Heb. 5:18) God's voice and the voice of evil. It is the perception that Solomon was given in his judgments to choose the good and reject the bad. All good Judges are supposed to have developed this 'gut' reaction to a high degree. In heritage research, wisdom must be coveted even more than knowledge, for it is the key we so desperately need for the nation. Wisdom to discover just where we have gone wrong nationally in our historic decisions; where and by whom we have been deceived. This indeed is the meaning of heritage research.

Did we lose our vision and faith as a nation in being embroiled with unbelieving races in the 'League of Nations', no matter how splendid were its ostensible motives and its good deeds? Did we again rely on a collection of men and nations instead of God, as we had been doing in surviving in World War I? And later still, and more seriously, have we lost sight of our destiny, soul and faith by our deep involvement with the United Nations which is showing itself to be just a smoke-screen for One World Government?

Decent God-fearing people in our community (and they are the thinking majority) are becoming alarmed at our decadence. They see exposed, daily, our glaring social, economic and religious turmoil. Drug penetration. Crime cynicism. Massive corruption in high places. Religious apostasy. Subversive political collaboration with rabid international world power activists. Planet pollution, and last but not least, co-ordinated electoral swindles. No wonder the surge of ground-swell movements, armed with slogans and bent on putting **everything** right. History bristles with them from age to age and they have become so often a temporary salvation to our people. Band-aids are better than nothing and have saved many a human life, but many of us are convinced that the time has come for deep soul surgery. All around are valiant efforts being made in coping with the glaring wrongs but **they** are the result, not the cause, of our hideous corruption.

The effective movements in our history proclaim the fact that we have lost our way because spiritual truths have been neglected and practically lost for decades to the Church and Nation. This Academy for heritage research is a forum for eager enquiry into the great truths and attitudes which under God, made the English Speaking Peoples the most valuable, stable and enlightened the world has ever known. History proclaims this but it proclaims in even louder terms that we have lost our way.

Mark this point well please. There is in life an inflexible law and it applies equally to individuals as to nations, and once grasped must never be forgotten. Men in

their quieter, humbler moments receive 'visions' for their lives - for its purpose, usefulness and exploits - and with that moment of 'vision' wells up a degree of faith that it can be accomplished. Then come the testings - the frailties of human nature seem insurmountable, but on we plod in spite of our friends and enemies. The vision or increasing purpose becomes the norm - but should we quail and finally throw away our godly 'vision' life becomes a shallow plausible success with plaudits from the crowd. I am simply telling you the story of the 'greats' and the 'not quite so greats' of history. Nations are no different - they too have a soul - a collective soul and they too rise to great heights in the midst of calamities as they respond to the national leader. "We will fight them on the beaches, we will fight them in the streets . . . and we will never surrender." Happy are those who remember those words from Churchill in the early days of war. But it is ever so much more complex than that, in the sustained internal battles of a people. Will they sustain that 'calling'; or be seduced by compromise? Nations are all different and peculiarly different. They all have their particular niche in God's order of things, all valuable, all to be fulfilled in world affairs. The Lord God has a plan for every people and that plan can only be gladly received when they acknowledge God's right to propose and dispose as He wills. But let that Nation be seduced, as is so often the case after successful defensive warfare, into easy truces and proffered leagues of peace and there is a steady oblivion, rotting that nation to the core.

Now to a positive note. Let us take a few glimpses of Britain when she was a veritable torch of light in a dark world:

1. That outstanding Saxon Administrator Alfred the Great. We find Alfred's Code starting with an almost literal transcript on the Decalogue (Ten Commandments). The Common Law is probably the greatest inheritance of the Anglo-Saxon races, and is carried by them to all countries they are called on to govern - bringing the races occupying such lands up to their own Godly standards of equality before the law, abolishing privilege of class and

holding every man innocent until proven guilty. In 1927, a group of jurists gathered in the USA from the nations of the world to consider the systems of the law and to learn which of these systems was proving of the greatest benefit to the human family. One of the most significant utterances of the conference was made by a distinguished Japanese jurist. He said, "The Common Law, emanating from Britain as from a fountain-head, is destined to become universal because of its essential righteousness. Whether they like it or not the nations will be constrained by the essential righteousness of the common law to adopt the system and it will become universal." Let us remember that King Alfred the Great, that wise monarch of the ninth century, enacted and laid it upon his subjects: "Vex thou not, comers from afar, and strangers, for remember ye were once strangers in Egypt."

2. Robert the Bruce 1320 AD. The Scottish Declaration of Independence at Arbroath came at a crucial epoch in forging our 'Commonwealth Concept'. It became a time of great national moral expansion and the chieftains of many of the Scottish clans whose successors were to append their signatures to that historic deed, were most obviously aware of the greatness and the origin of their race. It was the spiritual vision they had which sealed that great covenant.

3. Elizabeth I. And what a privilege it is for me to sing the praises of our illustrious Bess. I have never had that honour previously. What a woman! What an Old Testament saint we had in that great Queen. When in 1574 Sir Humphrey Gilbert, Sir Richard Grenville and other 'gentlemen of the West' approached Queen Elizabeth with their 'Supplication for a New Navigation', it was several years before they could win her to understand and countenance their aims. In their appeal to seek rich and unknown lands, they explained they sought "to discover and annex all or any lands, islands and countries beyond the equinoxial or where the Pole Antarctic hath any elevation above the horizon, such lands not being already possessed by any other Christian Prince." At this juncture we quote from Lord Queensborough, "Repeated allegations

that our Empire was built on piracy and robbery are often believed by our own folk for it is astonishing how relatively little teaching is given as to the way our Empire came into being and expanded - not under bureaucratic control and supervision - but through personal effort and initiative, often misunderstood and feebly supported from England: sometimes even rebuked and opposed and partly undone by the political personages in power." Actually, "a blend of bold initiative with patient endurance, a blend of faith in God and service to mankind brought about the expansion of Britain overseas."

Historians have searched in vain to understand the sudden brilliant enlightenment which spread over Britain with the Reformation. The light - the un-blinding, piercing light of the reformation discovered to the nation not only justification by faith but with it the astounding truth of our nation identity. Archbishop Cranmer was not the only Churchman to embrace the revelation which he so gladly ordered in Matins and Evensong and the Elizabethans responded by believing in their multitude of exploits that they were without a shade of doubt God's chosen or servant people and under His protection and while we have believed this truth we have been invincible. Under this enlightenment her young stalwarts (and later their families) were able to suffer continued hardships, want and humiliation to the ends of the earth and yet have goodwill and care for the people wherever they sojourned. To them Queen Bess became and was indeed called 'the light of Israel'. She had suffered years of imprisonment under her sister Mary but she was to become a Queen adored by her people.

Britain had emerged out of obscurity into prominence as a Nation to be reckoned with, so much so that the ruling power of the day, Spain, sent the great Armada to destroy them. The story of great faith and courage is familiar - mighty ships and might men but it is a story of deliverance. Queen Elizabeth I simply said, "He blew and they were scattered" ascribing the victory to God alone. The common talk of South England at this time penetrated to professional circles in France and in 1590 Le

Layer, a French magistrate, produced a volume, "The Lost Ten Tribes Found, not being able to account for British emergence in any other way!

4. Even James VI of Scotland who became James I of England seemed to recognise this new found truth and claimed himself as 'King over Israel'. This was a time of exciting expansion and with all their hearts the pilgrim fathers who sailed in 1620 clearly described themselves as 'seed of Abraham', 'children of Jacob' and as 'His chosen'. Towards the end of the Cromwellian Commonwealth, interest in Britain's great calling waned, but an anonymous pamphlet arguing the English speaking peoples to be a continuation of the Ten-tribed Israel was widely distributed. In 1719 the combined navies of France and Spain set out to invade Britain for they had forgotten the lessons of history. Walpole declared, "Nothing but the wind saved the Nation".

5. And now to that Victorian era (so often ridiculed by this our unenlightened age). Let it be understood even in this cynical epoch, as we try to prod ourselves to remember that it was the amazing growth of the British Empire which so swiftly brought peace, prosperity and orderly humane government to nearly one quarter of the world's population. At the time this expansion was so startling that in the middle of the nineteenth century the people had to face again the question of Britain's true identity. From Buckingham Palace to the humblest cottage in the land, this truth was either known or suspected. Whether our present generation likes it or not, it was the Royal navy, supported by that of the USA, which put down piracy and the slave trade but at a staggering financial cost.

6. Now, concerning Queen Victoria's successors and particularly so in the person and reign of His Majesty King George VI, in concluding, we will quote him when he spoke on Empire Day 1940. He said, "Let no-one be mistaken. It is no mere territorial conquest that our enemies are seeking. It is the overthrow, complete and final, of the

Empire, and to everything for which it stands and after that the conquest of the world."

IN CONCLUSION. We stand today when what the Empire, and now the Commonwealth, has stood for is assailed just as malignantly as in those days of fierce fighting in 1940. There is a great difference for now we have the assailants right within our country and Commonwealth, within our Parliaments, within the Law Courts, within the Churches and through financial cabals. How they smirk in their derision! Our assailants may snigger but as God's enemies they will become mere figments of profane history.

They will not and cannot win. We will fight them - we will fight them with truth. The Lord God is victorious and by His Grace we will never surrender.



"And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Son of man, speak to the sons of your people, and say to them, 'If I bring a sword upon a land, and the people of the land take one man from among them and make him their watchman; and he sees the sword coming upon the land, and he blows on the trumpet and warns the people, Then he who hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, and a sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be upon his own head.

He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood will be on himself. But had he taken warning, he would have delivered his life.

But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and a sword comes and takes a person from them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require from the watchman's hand.'

Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the House of Israel; so you will hear a message from My mouth, and give them warning from Me. Now as for you, son of man, say to the House of Israel, 'Thus have they spoken, saying, surely our transgression and our sins are upon us, and we are rotting away in them; how then can we survive?'

Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that rather the wicked should turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O House of Israel?'

(Ezekiel 33:1-7, 10-11).

STUDY IN REVELATION.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART SEVENTEEN.

THE WOMAN IN THE WILDERNESS. (Continued).

In our previous article which commenced our study of the 12th chapter of the Book of the Revelation, we identified the main participants in this chapter as The Child born of the woman, - the Lord Jesus Christ - and His servant Kingdom Israel on the one hand, and the dragon - Satan - and his servant kingdoms and agents on the other hand.

The plan is very clearly defined:

- a). Israel was to bring forth a Son whose destiny was to ultimately rule all nations. We read in Psalm 2:7-9;

"I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession.

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

The Prophet Isaiah records in Isaiah 9:6-7;

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. And the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called

Wonderful Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this."

Again, in Revelation 12:5, and 19:15 we read these statements;

"And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron."

"And out of His (The Word - Jesus) mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations. And He shall rule them with a rod of iron."

b) The enemy, Satan, was determined to destroy both the Child and the woman, and by so doing, intended to utterly destroy the plans and purposes of Almighty God for the ultimate peace and blessing of all the families and nations of the earth through the people Israel, whom He had appointed and chosen and commissioned for this very purpose.

So at this stage, let us examine more closely the identity and actions of the enemy, as so wonderfully and carefully portrayed in the symbolic references of this chapter. Never forget, that this wonderful Book of the Revelation was given to us in "signs and symbols". Teachers of the "futurist" school of prophecy insist that this book is to be taken literally. I have letters from some such ministers quite categorically stating this fact. On this basis, the enemy, Satan, would be a truly awesome sight, to say nothing of the fearful sights yet to be seen by mankind. We are told in verse three that Satan has seven heads with a crown on each head, together with ten horns. Verse four tells that his tail is going to be so large and powerful that it will scoop up a third of the total stars of heaven and

cast them to the earth, a real clever trick in view of the fact that many of these stars are many times the size of our earth in the first place. Logical reason would lead any thinking person to conclude that when and if this happened, the entire earth would be destroyed there and then, and anything further that the Revelation had to say about the future of this planet would be entirely superfluous.

Now I've got a fairly good sense of humour, and a pretty good imagination, but this sort of thing really leaves me rather speechless. No, my friends. Enough of this totally misleading nonsense. This book was given to us in terms of "signs and symbols", and it can only be properly understood as we study to ascertain the full and proper meaning and application of these same signs and symbols. Let me repeat what has been so often stated in this series before. The only Scriptures available to John at the time of writing was what we now term "The Old Testament." The New Testament refers to them as "The Scriptures." John had absolutely no other source of information and learning from which he could possibly gain any understanding of what the Lord was revealing to him than "The Scriptures." And if we wish to understand the meaning of these various "signs and symbols", then we too must go back to the Old Testament. Generally speaking, this Book of the Revelation is not a difficult book to understand if we apply this very simple principle. There is a very fundamental rule that we do well to remember. The Bible explains itself. We don't need theological excuses and arguments to make it mean something other than what God clearly intends it to portray.

So when we go back to history and the Book of the prophet Daniel, we find out exactly the real identity of the forces of Satan as referred to here.

The first feature of which we are informed is that he had seven heads with crowns on them. Now in prophetic terms, 'heads' usually signify empires, whilst 'crowns' refer to the authority exercised in these empires. 'Horns' also represent kingdoms. So in turning to Daniel chapter seven we find reference to four 'beasts', repre-

senting four world powers which were to rise. Daniel's vision represented four world empires. The first was described as being a lion with eagles' wings, standing on its feet like a man, and having a man's heart. This represented the Babylonian Empire over which Nebuchadnezzar reigned at the time of the vision. The second beast was likened unto a bear which devoured much flesh, and represented the Medo-Persian Empire which followed the fall of Babylon. The third beast was likened to a leopard with four wings upon its back, having four heads. This represented the next empire which followed the Medo-Persian Empire, that of Greece. Then followed the description of the fourth and most terrible of all the beasts, so terrible in fact that it was not even given a name. The description is found in Daniel 7:7;

"I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth. It devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it. And it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns."

This beast represented the Imperial Roman Empire, the fourth in the succession of Empires represented by Nebuchadnezzar's image. The seven heads and crowns represented seven forms of government over this Empire. They were: 1. Kings; 2. Consuls; 3. Dictators; 4. Decimvers; 5. Military Tribunals; 6. Emperors; and 7. Despotic Military Rulers. The 'ten horns' represented ten kingdoms which developed from this fourth Empire.

Thus we see, that whilst it was Satan personally who waited before the 'woman' to devour the Child as soon as it was born, as distinct from the Roman Empire or the Holy Roman Empire which followed it, it was Imperial and Papal Rome which became the agencies and kingdoms through and by which Satan planned to destroy the Lord Jesus Christ and His true Israel people. The means by which Satan was to achieve this are clearly stated in the account. We read in verses 4,13,15,and 17;

"And the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born."

"And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child."

"And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood."

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

This war against the woman and her seed has continued right down through the centuries until the present day, and will continue so until the Lord returns to destroy this enemy with the breath of His mouth.

But what of the woman? What preventive and protective action did God plan for her in order that she may escape the plans of the evil one. We must keep in mind that at this time, Satan was cast out of heaven with all his angels who followed him, to the earth. In its prophetic sense, the 'earth' represented the Roman world, whilst the 'heaven' represented the lands where Israel dwelt. So just as Rome was the dominant world power at the time, it was obvious that Satan would operate within that Empire at that time. He wasn't going to achieve anything in regard to his immediate plan by worrying the daylights out of the people in South America for instance. So it was necessary that the 'woman', Israel, should be taken out of that environment as soon as possible in order to escape the plans which Satan was devising against her. Thus, verses 6 and 14 give us a clear description of what God did. He transferred the Israel people into another land, just as He had said He would many centuries before to His servant David. You see, God does not make idle promises. Everything that He has promised already has happened, or will yet

happen, just as He said it would. This is our strength in knowing that we have such a faithful covenant-keeping God. In II Samuel 7:10 we read this promise;

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

Let us keep in mind as we read this that Israel was already in Palestine when the promise was made, so the appointed place must have been some place other than Palestine. So it is that we read in verses 6 and 14;

"And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three-score days." (verse 6).

"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." (verse 14).

Now where was this 'wilderness' to which the 'woman', Israel, was carried and nourished? The opponents of what I am about to say can rave and rant all they like. It will not alter the proven historical fact that these people of Israel, the whole twelve tribes, journeyed westward across Europe after their respective captivities, and over a great period of time, until they finally reached the coasts and isles of the west, just as stated by the prophet Isaiah. They eventually came into a place which was to a large degree uninhabited, leaving small pockets of their fellow Israelites all along their way who had decided for one reason or another to settle along the way in such places as Greece, Northern Italy, Switzerland, Belgium,

France, Spain, Portugal, Holland, and Scandinavia. They eventually reached the 'isles of the sea', now known as the British Isles, and centuries later, some of these went even further westward to what we now call the United States of America. and Canada. We should note that the word 'wilderness' as used here does not mean just a stony empty place where sustenance is very difficult if not impossible. It literally means in the Greek "a solitary place", whilst the word used in the Hebrew in most references means "a pasture or field where cattle are driven." And this is exactly what the Israel people found at the end of their long journey. Here, in the isles of the sea, in 'the appointed place', they found rest and nourishment. Neither Imperial or Papal Rome would ever again persecute them to the degree that they had suffered whilst they were in Palestine and even in parts of Europe during their journeyings. So the dragon, Satan, knowing that his time was now determined by God, used everything in his power to persecute the 'woman', Israel, and to destroy her relationship with her God. How very close he has come to succeeding in this is now obvious to those who follow and understand the prophetic Word of God. But every attempt he made against God's people failed. He poured forth a flood of deceit and deception, but it was absorbed within the other people of the earth to the extent that it didn't have the desired destructive effect that Satan had originally planned and intended. We read in verse 16;

"And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth."

When this attempt didn't fully work, Satan then got to work on the faithful within the people, those who 'kept the commandments of God, and their testimony of Jesus Christ.' No stone was left unturned in order to bring about the ultimate destruction of these people whom God had formed for His own praise. Little wonder that Satan is enjoying the present situation so much when he sees those who claim to be servants and followers of God deny His faithfulness by promulgating the God-dishonouring

teaching that He couldn't carry out His original plans to the literal nation of Israel, and now has had to change His mind and give all the good promises to 'the church.' (All the bad promises of course, go to the Jews). So much for the promise; "I am the Lord, I change not. Therefore ye sons of Jacob are NOT consumed."

Jehovah/Jesus' victory over His arch-rival Satan though is absolutely certain, as is ours who faithfully follow Him.

*"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven,
Now is come salvation, and strength, and the
Kingdom of our God, and the power of His
Christ (or anointed). For the accuser of our
brethren is cast down, which accused them
before our God day and night.*

*And they overcame him by the blood of the
Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.
And they loved not their lives unto the
death..*

*Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that
dwell in them."*

Thus we are left with two certainties. Firstly, the time during which Satan is going to be allowed by God to be active in persecuting us has been foreordained and limited by God. Secondly, through the blood of the Lamb, our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we are going to be absolutely victorious.

God hasn't failed to date, and He's not about to start doing so now. The night is now far spent. The dawning of that Great Day is close at hand. Let us not be found wanting when the trumpet sounds for the gathering to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb of those who will be called to rule and reign with Him in His Kingdom here on earth.

(to be continued).



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

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

We proclaim the absolute necessity for each and every individual Christian to prepare themselves for the greatest event yet to be witnessed on this earth, namely,

THE RETURN OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Whilst the production, publication and distribution of this magazine is undertaken as a faith ministry, it is totally dependant on the tithes and offerings of our readers. We are happy to continue sending it freely to all who genuinely wish to receive it but cannot afford to contribute in any way. But in order to be faithful stewards of the offerings sent to us, at the end of each year we will be obliged to remove the name from our mailing list of anyone who has not contributed or contacted us within the past year. The financial assistance and prayers of those who read it, and are blessed by it, are therefore vitally necessary for its continuance and growth.

We also invite our readers to send us the names and addresses of any whom they think would be genuinely interested in receiving a sample copy. In this way you can share in the proclamation 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.
Phone: (02) 623-4691.

"Who is a God like unto Thee,
that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the
transgression of the remnant of
His heritage?

He retaineth not His anger for ever, because
He delighteth in mercy.

He will turn again,
He will have compassion upon us.

He will subdue our iniquities;
and Thou will cast all their sins into the
depths of the sea.

Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob,
and the mercy to Abraham,
which Thou hast sworn unto our fathers
from the days of old."

Micah 7:18-20.

Printed and distributed by
THE 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.