



THE COVENANT VISION.

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**"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.

It surely doesn't take me to tell anyone about the mess that we are in here in Australia. Overseas confidence in our stability is increasingly on the wane, and who in their right mind can blame people for coming to this conclusion. We are now ruled over by politicians who know less about what to do than the people they have systematically set out to subordinate. The ordinary man in the street, the victim of this charade which has been passed off as 'government', knows exactly what the matter is, even if they don't know the answers. The trouble is that the politicians, in their bloated arrogance, deliberately refuse to listen to their complaints. They have totally lost sight of the fact that they have been put into power to be our servants, not our masters. And it's about time both they and the general public woke up to this fact and acted accordingly. It's about time that the public absolutely demanded that the politicians listened to what we want for a change, instead of foisting off upon us all this 'one-world' garbage that has now permeated their entire thinking and planning. Our Prime Minister is now changing Treasurers as often as we change our socks, and the recipients of these appointments are so naive that they think that they are being done a great honour and favour. I wonder how many more "bunnies" have been lined up to put the blame on. Of course, we might even be lucky (?) enough to have Mr. Hawke deposed and replaced by the inimitable Mr. Keating. He should be able to fix things. When all is said and done, it was his plan in the first place. He engineered this 'recession that we had to have.' Mark my word. If Mr. Keating becomes our Prime Minister - God forbid - he's not going to alter his precious plan. All he will do is fine tune it in order to get the final drop of blood out of the stones which were once called people. You will recognise them by the stony stare on their faces.

The solution to our problems does not lie with these traitors in our midst. Most of our leaders don't even acknowledge either God or His Word. Those who do, give Him no more than lip-service in the execution of their duties. How can they do otherwise when they reject out of hand the necessity to implement and enforce the only real law that has ever been made available to us, the Law of God. And of course, they have almost the entire theological world on their side. They are supported by thousands of false teachers in the pulpits who constantly and ad nauseam repeat their endless denial of the efficacy and necessity of the implementation of God's

righteous Laws to the affairs of our country. To those who have some knowledge of the perfection of God's Laws, it makes us literally sick in the stomach when we look at what is happening and realise how totally unnecessary all this trouble and strife and suffering really is. Our leaders, both political and religious, are going to answer before the Throne of God for what they have done to God's People.

Is there really a cure for our present plight? Of course there is. The Bible, if people would only realise it, and more importantly if the so-called experts who teach it would teach it faithfully, has the answer to every one of our modern ills. The reader is encouraged to read for themselves the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy and the 26th chapter of Leviticus. Therein you will find clearly and concisely listed the promises of blessing which follow our obedience to these laws, and the curses which just as automatically follow our disobedience to them. If anyone thinks that it is just sheer coincidence that we are now experiencing every one of the curses and not one of the blessings by our present policy of being 'under grace and not under law', then they are surely living in fairy land.

Space does not permit us to here present an in-depth study of this subject, but allow me to list just a few of God's requirements and the consequence of their implementation.

The Bible insists that if a man doesn't work, then he doesn't eat. Now he can only do this when there is full employment. I am not only ashamed, but angry when I hear politicians tell us that in order to make the system work we must have a certain level of unemployment. This is arrant nonsense. What we obviously need is a different system. But how are we to achieve full employment? Most of our manufacturing industries have now been closed down and most of what we need is now made overseas in order to provide third world countries with employment. It's really wonderful isn't it. We don't hear the unions raving and going on strike because the people in overseas countries are paid a pittance of about \$160 a month in wages in order to make the goods that are then brought into our own country. Try doing that here and see how the unions react. And so in order to make bigger and better profits, what were once thriving local industries have now been transferred overseas for the sake of the almighty dollar. They are getting less and less protection from an ever increasingly disinterested government. So

our unemployment lines grow longer and longer. But as if this is not enough, with nearly a million people unemployed, our revered leaders still bring in hundreds of thousands of migrants every year to either swell the dole queues or take jobs from those already here. This is criminal nonsense. What we need, and in a hurry, is the sensible and systematic introduction of the Laws of God.

These require firstly that the principle of creating debt by the abominable practice of charging usury, or interest, be immediately abolished. Tough luck for the bankers and moneylenders. They've had it too good for too long. The next requirement is that ALL debts be cancelled at the end of every seventh year. This practice totally eliminates the multiplication and accumulation of debt, and assures that our children and future generations do not enter the world with an ever-increasing burden of debt tied around their necks which they will never be able to repay. In addition to this, we must re-establish our own secondary industries, and outlaw the practice of trade agreements with foreign companies whereby they get more favourable treatment than our own local industries. God's Laws provide that every man has his own home, and has full employment. And then, but by no means finally, all immigration has to immediately cease, at least until full employment is achieved, and then only as the additional people can be gainfully and properly assimilated into the workforce. Our present policy is breaking God's Laws in that the foreigner has now attained a position higher than ourselves, which is contrary to what God has decreed.

If you think that all this is unachievable under our present system, then you are absolutely right. We don't need more laws. We don't need more politicians. We don't need Mickey mouse band-aid schemes to resuscitate our present collapsing system. What we need, and what we are about to get, is an entirely new system. It will be the implementation of the righteous Laws of God into our national life and government, and it will not be left to mere mortal men to order and establish it. And one thing's for certain. It will not be lobbied among the political and religious leaders for their approval. It will be inaugurated and controlled solely by our Lord Jesus Christ and those who are appointed by Him to be Priests and Kings ruling with Him in His Kingdom which He is about to establish here on this earth. May that day come very quickly!



THE PEACE CONFERENCE IN SPAIN

An Event Foretold in the Bible

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

There are certain events in our own generation which **TRULY** signal for us the soon-coming of the Lord. The prophecy found in I Thessalonians 5:3 reads like the headlines in our newspapers today: *"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye brethren are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep; as they that be drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breast-plate of faith and love; for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."* Almost 2,000 years have passed since these words were written, words that were not written to those Christians of the first century so much as they are meant for us today. There has been turmoil and much conflict in the Middle East, especially in the last forty years. The peace talks opening 30th October in the palace in Madrid, Spain, came swiftly and unexpectedly. After repeated trips by United States Secretary of State, James Baker III, to the hate-filled countries of the Middle East, representatives from each met, eye to eye, to discuss their differences and make peace.

Essential to the success of his mission was the actual presence of representatives from each country, especially Israel and all of the Arab countries including Iraq, who gave cause for the recent Persian Gulf war. President George Bush of the United States opened the meeting, explaining its purpose. With the cold war ended one of the Palestinian delegates summed it up with these words,

"They know exactly the face of the new age. The Americans want stability in the region. They know that stability means a solution to the Palestinian problem, and that means that the main obstacle to Bush's new order in the Middle East is Israel and the Shamir government."

From the very inception of the new Israeli government the United States has been paying out billions of dollars to help finance its new government and to maintain their army. Held in abeyance is the most recent Israeli request for \$10 billion to finance the transfer of millions of Jews and supply them with new housing.

"Bush is the ruler of the world," says a top aide to PLO leader Yasser Arafat recently. "Who dares to defy him?"

Only recently freed of its overriding rivalry with the Soviet Union, the US is able -- and obliged -- to project a new image in its Middle East policy. As the world's only super-power it is moved to adopt a more even-handed approach if it is to convince all parties that it can be an honest broker rather than only Israel's patron. In refusing to automatically pay out the billion of dollars the Israelis request of the US the "new Bush is a totally new experience for them."

Herein lies the answer to the 100% acceptance of all Middle East countries to come to Madrid for conference. It was fear angering the Americans that brought all parties to the negotiating table. It was an astonishing accomplishment to see. But students of the Bible find in it the out-picturing of events that had all been prophesied in the Bible. Herein we see the mysterious ways of God. From this event in modern history we know that we draw closer to the time of the Lord's Advent. It is in this knowledge that our armour for the near future is maintained. Let us not be asleep to the approach of these magnificent events lying just ahead of us. The words of Paul to the Christians of Thessalonia in the first century may well be applied to us of this generation:

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing.
In everything give thanks; for this is the will
of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
Quench not the spirit. Despise not proph-
esying. Prove all things; hold fast that which
is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil
And the very God of peace, sanctify you
wholly:
And I pray God your whole spirit, soul and
body be preserved blameless unto the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."



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Pastor:- Frank W. Dowsett.

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Contending For The Faith!

by Frank W. Dowsett.

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful of me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

(Jude 3-4).

As we move into another year, it seems to me to be of the utmost importance that we take stock of not only ourselves and our personal habits and attitudes, but of the doctrines which we hold regarding the truths of God's Word. The word of God is full of exhortations for us to hold to "sound doctrine". It is also full of warnings for us to beware of "false doctrines".

The word 'doctrine' means 'the process of teaching', or 'the result of teaching'. So the injunction applies both to the teacher and the hearer. It applies to not only what we are taught, or what we believe, but what we do with, or about, what we believe. And that's where the problem arises. To quote a scripture is no big deal. Anyone can do that. In fact, most Christians do it quite regularly. They don't necessarily know what the particular scripture means, much less where it fits into God's great eternal plans and purposes, but they still quote scriptures. Having a capacity to quote interminable verses from the Bible might be a great mental exercise, and might astound and impress our friends with our apparent scholarship, but it is no proof of the knowledge and wisdom of God. A particular doctrine is not true simply because someone says it's true. Neither is it necessarily wrong just because

someone says it's wrong. How many times have you had the experience of teaching something from the Bible and someone immediately says "you're wrong". They don't give any proof that you're wrong, and they don't give any alternative to replace what they say is wrong. In other words, they don't know what's right, but they know that you're wrong. What they are in fact saying is that they are right simply because it's what they believe, and that you are wrong simply because you disagree. Now that is no basis for establishing good and proper doctrine or teaching. I'm not suggesting for a moment that we just reject out of hand everything that someone else says which might differ from what we believe. You see, it's just possible that we might be wrong after all. But what basis or criteria do we use to determine what is right and what is wrong? It is very difficult for the ordinary Christian to disagree with the statements and teachings of highly qualified theologians. We are sometimes, if not mostly, overawed by all the letters after their names which are meant to prove that they are correct. Then we come up against those who have much better qualifications. They come to us with what they call 'a word from the Lord', and this is much more serious. It is one thing for someone to graduate from a particular theological college and then proceed to teach what they have learned there. But the person who prefaces their remarks by claiming that 'the Lord sent them', and 'thus saith the Lord', is something quite different. This situation needs to be handled with great care. These people have no academic qualifications to support their statements, so make claim to the highest authority available, God. This approach instantly removes all possibility of discussion or argument or disagreement with what is being said, because the hearer is placed under the onerous risk of rejecting God's Word if they refuse to go along with what they are being told. I have personally known of many instances of this happening, as a result of which good and sincere people have been totally mislead and turned from the truth to a lie, all because of the words of false prophets. The 'Faith once delivered to the saints' has been taken from them, not primarily because they have turned from the Lord, but because they have been seduced by false prophets who have turned their

minds and hearts from the truth because of vain doctrine. Be well assured friends, that if you have the truth, you will come under constant and increasing pressure to turn from that truth to something that is not truth. You will become subject to the sales-pitch of 'half truths', and the innuendo that what you believe ranges from the 'unnecessary' to the 'downright dangerous'. I know, because I've been there. And this will not come from non-Christians. It will in the main come from those claiming to be 'led of the Spirit' and speaking with the authority of God Himself. Be very careful of those who suddenly appear on the scene with a 'Thus saith the Lord', or who claim to have received a special gift or revelation from God in order to turn you away from "the faith once delivered unto the saints". The prophet Jeremiah has a very important warning for us about all such:

*"I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran.
I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. . . ."*

*"Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets,
saith the Lord, that steal my words every one
from his neighbour. Behold, I am against
the prophets, saith the Lord, that use their
tongues and say, He saith."*

*"Behold, I am against them that prophesy
false dreams, saith the Lord, and do tell
them, and cause my people to err by their
lies and by their lightness; yet I sent them
not, nor commanded them."*

(Jer. 23:21, 30-32).

The great apostle Paul, God's specially appointed apostle to the nations of Israel, repeats the same thoughts to Timothy when he refers to those who:

*"Have a form of godliness, but deny the
power thereof. From such turn away. For
of this sort are they which creep into houses,
and lead captive silly women laden with sins,
led away with divers lusts."*

(II Timothy 3:5-6).

In Romans 16:17 he issues a further word of warning to us:

"Now I beseech you brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

Paul's admonition in Ephesians 4:14-15 is as necessary for us today as it was for the people to whom he originally addressed it:

"Henceforth, be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."

Now at this point, let us realise and accept the sobering fact that those who try to mislead us and turn us from 'the faith once delivered to the saints' will fully agree with the principles enumerated above. Just as we apply them as a safeguard to our beliefs, so they apply them to the necessity of changing these beliefs for what they have to offer, and what they claim to be the truth. So how does the poor truth-seeking Christian differentiate between the right and the wrong? What tests do we apply? What is really the basis for establishing truth?

When you come to think of it, isn't it truly amazing how few people go to the real source of truth in order to discover truth? During some 45 years of studying and teaching the Word of God, I've read as much if not more than most have read, of statements by those who have set themselves up as critics or opponents of what we believe regarding the identity of the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic and kindred people as the literal descendants of God's people Israel, and their awesome responsibility under God to be His witnesses to the fact that He is indeed God. They have ranged from the loving disagreement to the violent and often abusive. They range from those who are

sincerely concerned at what they perceive to be error to the insulting smear campaigners who by their fruit obviously evidence nothing of the love of Christ. Is truth so flexible that it can accommodate such a wide range of reactions? I think not. In fact, I know not. My own sincere conclusion is that people will not go directly to the only source of truth. They endlessly quote the doctrines of their particular church. They accept without question or hesitation the words and decisions of their spiritual leaders. They go along with the revilings of friends and fellow-worshippers in their congregations. They read books written by seemingly highly qualified people, and accept what they read simply because of the reputation and authority of the authors. Little do they realise, and they are certainly not told, that most of these writers simply parrot what others before them have said or written for many years past. Very, very few of these critics are really interested in the truth. All they are apparently interested in is maintaining the popular and accepted beliefs, irrespective of whether they are in accord with God's Word or not. This has nothing to do with establishing truth. All this does is to establish and reinforce accepted doctrine.

The ONLY source of truth is the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth. Note carefully that we are not driven into truth. The Holy Spirit is a Shepherd, not a drover. You will only be led into truth if you allow yourself to be led. God never forces truth upon anyone. If you're not willing to be led, then God will allow you to stay exactly where you want to stay. If you don't progress, then it's your choice.

We accept without any argument that Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh. He was, and is, the Great Jehovah of the Old Testament, God Almighty. Exodus 6:2-3 tells us quite plainly:

"And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him,

I am the LORD: and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by My name JEHOVAH was I not known unto them."

Wouldn't it then be reasonable to find out what the Lord's doctrine was that He preached in order to ascertain what we should believe? Whatever it was, it certainly created amazement among His hearers. In Matt. 7:28, 22:22; Mark 1:27, 11:18; Luke 4:32; we read essentially the same comment as expressed in Mark 1:22:

"And they were astonished at His doctrine. For He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the Scribes."

What was this doctrine? It was certainly not what they expected, and most certainly not what they were then being taught by the religious leaders of the day. Christ's doctrine was not something new. It was not something that nobody had ever heard about. His doctrine is clearly stated for all to see in Matt. 4:23:

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."

Quite plainly and simply, the doctrine of Christ was, and is, the Gospel, or good news, of the Kingdom.

Now at this stage, we should be quite sure as to how many 'gospels' there are.

A study of the scriptures reveals that there is in reality only ONE gospel. That gospel is 'The Gospel of the Kingdom'. In Rev. 14:6 it is referred to as 'The everlasting gospel', having reference to its duration. In Ephesians 6:15 it is referred to as 'The gospel of peace', referring to its effect or result. Contrary to what most Christians would expect, the actual phrase 'the gospel of salvation' is not mentioned at all. The nearest we get to this is in Ephesians 1:13 where we read of 'the gospel of (or concerning) your salvation'. This Gospel of the Kingdom is 'the gospel of Christ', sometimes called 'the gospel of God', the gospel which both our Lord and the disciples and apostles preached, and which is referred to some 95 times throughout the New Testament.

We repeat. This 'Gospel of the Kingdom' was, and always will be, the Gospel of Christ. This is 'Christ's doctrine. It was this doctrine that amazed and astounded not only His followers, but also His enemies. It had that effect then, and if it was faithfully proclaimed today, it would have the same effect now. Personal salvation is not the full gospel of the kingdom. Christ made that fact quite plain to Nicodemus when He told him that the new birth, or birth of the Spirit from above was the means by which we enter the Kingdom and understand it. Judging by most preaching today, one would be excused for thinking that personal salvation was the be-all and end-all of the entire Bible. I assure you that it isn't. It is only the beginning. It only assures us entry into the Kingdom. It is the further study of the full ramifications of the Kingdom that assures our future level or status in that Kingdom. It could be compared to passing the exam to gain entry into the university. Can you imagine what the students would say if once enroled they were taught nothing more than how to get into the university?

The "Faith once delivered to the saints" requires a life long study. It requires a life long dedication and commitment. It requires a lifetime of watchfulness against the wiles of the Devil, and against all odds. We need, with Godly fear and trembling, to constantly remind ourselves of Paul's admonition to Timothy:

"For the time will come when men shall not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."

(II Timothy 4:3-4. N.I.V.).

Once you have found the tremendous secrets and truths of God's Word, never let them go. There is nothing that can ever be offered to you that will ever replace them. The knowledge of the Doctrine of Christ is a wonderful gift from God. It is nothing less than *the faith*

that was once delivered unto the saints. Always keep in mind the exhortation found in I Timothy 4:13-16:

"Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, . . .

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them that thy profiting may appear to all.

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine. Continue in them. For in doing this, thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."



RECOMMENDED LISTENING

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COVENANT WATCH!

Courtesy "New American View"
November 15, 1991

CHRISTIANITY SCORNED

There Can Be No Deal Between Christians and Jews

One of the more puzzling present-day phenomena is the zealous--but misguided--love affair that many Christian fundamentalists have with Israel and Zionism. While some evangelical preachers are blatant thieves or disgusting sinners, most are simply ignorant. The latter group has no concept of the disdain and scorn with which they are viewed by the Zionist Jews. Partly, this is because the Zionist hide their contempt for fundamentalist Christians in order to better manipulate them to the advantage of Israel.

Zionist disinformation artists, such as Hershel Shanks, publisher of *Biblical Review* and its sister periodical *Biblical Archeological Review*, have done a masterful job of brainwashing gullible Christians. But the Zionist propagandists have been given incredible support by their evangelical allies, particularly those in the TV-radio broadcasting business. The likes of Ed McAteer, Elwood McQuaid and other sycophants who leap forward to do Zionism's bidding are especially prominent and despicable. They misunderstand their own religion and have no comprehension of Judaism or Zionism.

It is only in the writings of the hard-core Zionists that this scorn for Christianity and Christians is unabashedly displayed. In a recent issue of *Midstream*, the voice of the Theodor Herzl Foundation, Emanuel Rackman, Chancellor of Israel's Bar Ilam University, writes: "One of the major differences between Judaism and Christianity is that Judaism was deliberately intended to be the

faith of a limited people, the Jewish people, while Christianity from the very beginning sought to shed the nationalist component of Judaism and become a religion for all mankind.

"This point is worthy of consideration. It makes of Jesus not a loyal Jew but a rebel. And Paul becomes the prophet and architect of a faith and movement that represents the very antithesis of that which Judaism always was and still is--a religion only for Jews to whom God gave a special mission to all the world and not a religion for all humanity. Judaism was not to be a universal religion, and no universal church was a part of its vision, even for Messianic times."

As for the Christian fundamentalist belief that the second coming of Jesus will produce one great brotherhood of believers in Jesus, don't count on it. Maimonides, Rackman says, was clear on this point, writing that "the Messiah will only produce one result, the freeing of Israel from oppressors"--and that obviously includes the Christians. Moreover, says Rackman, "even in the Messianic era, Jews will accept no converts to Judaism--the very antithesis of the view that in the Messianic era, all people of the earth will convert to Judaism. The reason that they [the non-Jews] are denied conversion is that in the Messianic era, with all the good that will befall Jews, anyone who will seek to identify with them will be suspect." Evangelicals and fundamentalists need not apply.

When the Messiah comes, say the Zionists, "there will still be a Jewish people and others adhering to their creeds." There will be no deal with Christianity, no matter what the Christians think and hope for. It is the Jews who have the special covenant with God, not the followers of Jesus. Meanwhile, Rackman says, since most Jews live in predominantly Christian societies, "they find it advantageous to stress that they and their neighbours share a common religious and cultural heritage which is described as Judeo-Christian. That term induces a spirit of brotherhood. It conveys the thought that Christians and Jews are

very much like each other; they have a similar background."

That's okay for Christians to believe, he says, but Jews must think differently. Jews must be reminded that there are also differences between themselves and the Christians. He warns, "If the differences are ignored altogether, one will be unable to dissuade [Jewish] youth who prefer to assimilate and even embrace the Christian faith . . . Moreover, if the differences are ignored, we will be betraying our ancestors who deemed both Jesus and the new religion a threat to authentic Judaism . . . It will be said that their [the Jews'] martyrdom was the result of an erroneous perception--that they should have been less intransigent and more hospitable to what seemingly was the successful widening of Judaism's circle of believers."

This cannot be permitted, the Zionists say. It would not only be wrong and a violation of God's trust in the Jews. There also can be no separation of Judaism and the Jewish people. When the Messiah comes, it will be a victory for the Jewish people, Israel and Zionism--not for Christianity. It is the Jews who will bring peace to the world, and in so doing they will remain apart from the rest of the people. It is God's will, and "the Covenant idea is as ancient as is the faith."



Courtesy "Monthly Notes"
B.I.W.F., Victoria

BANKRUPTCIES SNOWBALLING IN THE U.S.A.

For the Great Depression period 1930-1939, there were 614,938 bankruptcies in the U.S.A.

In the same period 1980-1989 there were 4,583,391 bankruptcies. In 1990 alone there were 725,484 - more in 12 months than in the ten years of the Great Depression.

Economically, at such a rate, how can any country financially survive? Quite a few people must be being hurt in the pocket!

Sign of the Times

In BRITAIN:

23,000 firms went out of business in the first half of 1991 - an average of 125 per day.
Unemployment is rising rapidly.

In GERMANY:

Unemployment is nearing 40%.
Public borrowing has reached record levels.
Foreign trade is in the red for the first time in ten years.

In FRANCE:

Unemployment is 9.5%.

In U.S.A.:

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, observed in late July "the bottom is past, and the economy is beginning to move up."

(When bankers predict recovery, get ready for further hardship.)

In CANADA:

Federal debt is \$380 billion, more than 60% of **G.D.P.** The interest bill is more than \$40 billion annually, i.e. \$1,600 annually for every living Canadian in interest on Federal debt.



AIDS UPDATE

Soviet Aids

The Soviet Union is being hit hard by Aids. Until recently, Soviet officials have denied that the Aids virus even existed in the Soviet Union, now "official" reports show there are some 700 cases reported with figures tripling annually. Reports say they are not sure how Aids entered the country but communist leaders have told Soviet citizens the virus was invented by U.S. doctors. Doctors say that the rapid growth is due to lack of new needles in hospitals, but for a bribe, a report says, some doctors will inject patients with new needles. The Soviet government is now taking the same approach to AIDS prevention the U.S. takes: more condom distribution, sex ed., and legalisation of sodomy.

Sex Arrest

A 27-year-old Portland, Oregon, man has been sentenced to sexual abstinence for five years and house arrest for six months for "knowingly" spreading the AIDS virus through sexual conduct. Critics are wondering, if the court can sentence sexual abstinence for AIDS can it do likewise for those the court deems should not have any more children? Meanwhile ... New York extradited a man with HIV, to Michigan to face felony charges for failure to tell his sexual partner he was infected. The move is unprecedented and applauded.

Teacher's Aids

The California Senate recently passed a bill on a 21-to-3 vote that would require all public school pupils to be taught about AIDS unless their parents objected. The bill calls for instructing 13-year-olds about the failure rates

of condoms and other contraceptives. Wisconsin recently passed into law similar programmes.

No Double Dipping

"There is no evidence that HIV is spread in saliva," that's why Protestant clergy in Besancon, France, have changed the way traditional communion service is held. Wine had been sipped from a common vessel, now worshippers will dip their bread in the wine and consume them simultaneously.

* * * * *

ISRAELI TERROR WATCH

President Bush called upon the U.N. to repeal its 1975 resolution (3379) calling Judaism what it really is: racism. If the Jewish community is not racist why do we read news reports that tell a different story? Why are the Jews so intent on keeping "gentiles" out of their stolen state? The Jewish Civil Liberties Union is constantly harping on multiculturalism in America, why is it so different in their state? The following appeared in *Awake!* a Jehovah's Witness publication:

Non-Jews Immigrate to Israel

"We're filling Israel with non-Jews," complains Israel's immigration minister, Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz. He estimates that 35 percent of the 186,000 immigrants from the Soviet Union last year, and many of the more than 300,000 expected this year, are in fact Gentiles, which would make the Jewish State less Jewish. On a recent visit to Moscow, the rabbi was shocked when he saw a number of people wearing Christian crosses while applying to immigrate to Israel.

According to Interior Minister Arye Deri, many Gentiles were using their ability to immigrate to Israel

(citizenship is offered to relatives of Jews, and Soviet immigrants have a high rate of mixed marriages) to escape the economic problems in the U.S.S.R. and to benefit from the U.S.\$30,000 that Israel will eventually spend to resettle each Soviet immigrant. When the subsidy runs out, he predicts, they will leave. "Even bona fide Soviet Jews arriving in Israel are not all that devout," says *Newsweek*. "Most - 72 percent, according to one poll - consider themselves secular and are unapologetic about it."

Kosher Loans

Jews are angry because Bush wants to delay 10 billion in loan guarantees. One Israeli cabinet minister called Bush an anti-Semite and a liar. This being the general and usual response from Jews when they are crossed or their unethical religious practices are reported on. Bush even brought attention to the 1,000 "powerful" Jewish lobbyists on Capitol Hill who have been pestering congress to provide the 10 billion buck gift now. Critics are asking why give them any money at all, why not let the Jews fund their own housing projects?



Courtesy "On Target"
December 6, 1991

"The strength or weakness of a society depends more on the level of its spiritual life than on its level of industrialisation. Neither a market economy nor even general abundance constitutes the crowning achievement of human life. If a nation's spiritual energies have been exhausted, it will not be saved from collapse by the most perfect government structure, or by any industrial development. A tree with a rotten core cannot stand. This is so because of all the possible freedoms, the one that will inevitably come to the fore will be the freedom to be unscrupulous; that is the freedom that can be neither prevented nor anticipated by any law. It is an unfortunate

fact that a pure social atmosphere cannot be legislated into being."

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn in National Review (U.S.A.)
September 23, 1991



Police Reduced to Impotence from Herald-Sun
(Melbourne), November 11:

"After serving 34 years in the Victoria Police Force, eight years ago I retired with the rank of Detective Chief Inspector. It is a matter of great alarm and depression to me now to see the dreadful depths of ineffectiveness to which our police force has shrunk.

"The police force has been reduced to such a state of impotence by its weak leaders and socialism that it failed to protect Mr. Massa (and numerous people like him), and yet breaches the one last protection we have, that is, the common law right to defend ourselves.

"At common law, we all have the right to shoot to kill offenders who endanger the lives of ourselves and members of our families. That right is incontrovertible.

"Terry Vine (Herald-Sun, October 25 once again put his finger right on the nub of the problem.

"I recall when I was a young policeman working night-shift in patrol cars, our habit was, when we saw a group of young bucks hanging around somewhere after midnight, to leap out and kick as many bums we could catch up with. The immediate effect was to get them off the streets and prevent such young fellows doing stupid things.

"The overall benefits of those days were that women could, with complete safety, catch public transport and walk in the streets at night.

"Like everything else they touch, the socialists have reduced our police force to such a state that I am ashamed to admit I was once part of it.

"Since 1982 socialism set in motion legislation that now prevents police from questioning suspects for longer than six hours (it can take that long to get a suspect to a place where such suspect can be questioned), let alone all the time lost in preparation. Police cannot take fingerprints, body fluids, photographs, and put suspects in identification parades.

"All such rules were designed to protect the criminal elements in our community.

"There are many vicious criminals out there who would quickly be incarcerated if police were allowed to do their jobs properly.

"If keeping our streets clear of potential trouble-makers (by kicking bums off the streets after midnight) were still part of police duties, then your children, wives and parents would be safe in their homes.

"Let me assure you that if any man breaks into my home he risks being removed in a body bag.

Professor Blainey Strikes Again from David Thompson:

Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Blainey delivered a stinging attack on the lunatic policies destroying the country, in a wide-ranging Sir Robert Menzies' lecture to the Liberal Club of Melbourne's Monash University. Blainey again condemned the continuing encouragement of immigration in times of "depression". Yes, "depression"! As reported by The Australian (29/11/91) Blainey again roasted the Government, and the ethnic lobby's clamour for endless family reunions, increasing the nation's overseas debt, and taking urgently-needed funds from essential services such as hospitals. He provided figures: "Of the adult migrants who arrived since Christmas two years ago, about 36% are unemployed. This is economic lunacy."

RECOMMENDED READING.

BOOKS BY F. W. DOWSETT.

Revised Price List as from 1st September, 1991.

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. \$4.00.

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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.

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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.

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Chapters One to Six.

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Chapters Seven to Eleven.

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Four outstanding prophesies of the history and victory of the Anglo-Israel people.

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CALM BEFORE THE STORM

By Wilfred Marks, Jr.

Courtesy "Destiny"
November, 1991

For years, many Bible teaching publications, DESTINY included, have warned of a coming attack by Soviet Russia. In light of recent events all this seems to be in doubt as a new era of peaceful coexistence appears to be taking shape. But in light of the prophetic Word, it is yet another signal that we are approaching ever closer to a period of conflict and tribulation.

There will indeed be a period of peaceful coexistence in the not too distant future, but it will not be as a result of the new and "wonderful" changes in Soviet Russia that we hear so much about in the media. Rather, they will be as a result of the wonderful changes that will take place when Jesus Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish His righteous rule.

Unfortunately, prior to that return there must be a period of conflict which will see the demolition of many corrupt governments, this present economic system, as well as many man-made religions.

Most of all, this conflict will bring pressure upon the modern-day Anglo-Saxon Celtic and kindred nations to awaken to their Israel origins and accept their national responsibilities. This includes making the commandments, statutes and judgments found in the Law of the Lord the Law of our Land.

For now, there is a national blindness about the historical and scriptural evidence pointing to the identity of the Anglo-Saxon Celtic and kindred peoples as modern-day Israel. Thus Paul wrote:

"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." (Rom. 11:25.)

The bulk of Israel, found in the ten northern tribes (called the House of Israel), as well as many from the other two tribes (called the House of Judah), had been taken captive by Assyria in 715 B.C. and deported from Palestine--over two hundred years before the kingdom of the Jews came into existence! It cannot be over-stressed that the House of Israel and the House of Judah were for some centuries two separate nations.

Following the Assyrian captivity, these Israelites began a great westward trek across Europe with a large portion settling in the "Isles" (Isaiah 41:1 and Jeremiah 31:10). Today, the main body of the Israel peoples is found in Great Britain, its Commonwealth of Nations and the United States of America.

In Paul's day, there was knowledge that these Israelites were of great number and were beyond the regions north of Palestine. The famous Jewish historian Josephus clearly recorded this fact around 75 A.D. (Josephus, Book XI, Chapter 5, para. 2), as did the prophet Ezra writing around 500 B.C. (II Esdras 13:40-46).

Through the prophet Ezekiel, the Lord says to Israel:

"And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant." (Ez 20:37.)

The covenant referred to here is the one made at Mt. Sinai in which the people of Israel vowed to keep the precepts and laws of the Lord in order to be a servant nation through which God could work His plans and purposes for the benefit of Israel as well as all mankind.

Today, modern-day Israel is about to be brought under the rod of adversity to force us to awaken to our identity and conform with the requirements of the covenant God made with our forefathers. (Please note this is a national covenant as opposed to the acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Saviour which is essential to the individual.)

What is this rod of chastisement under which the modern-day Israel nations will pass? For over one hundred years now students of the prophetic word have identified the great northern power of Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39, with Russia. This nation was to come against Israel in the "latter days" (Ezekiel 38:16).

Likewise, the prophet Daniel, in his final vision, describes the sudden attack of a great northern army which will advance with great swiftness "at the time of the end" (Daniel 11:40).

When ancient Israel and Judah sinned and turned away from the covenant made at Mt. Sinai, God would first allow national ills to arise (crime, economic problems, etc.). Finally, when all else failed, God would withdraw His protection and allow evil nations to grow in strength and come against His people.

The saying, "the more things change, the more they stay the same", unhappily applies to today. Over the decades of the 20th century, God has allowed Russia to grow mighty in strength with the purpose of using it to bring pressure upon His people to repent and fully return to God.

Until we are back under the bond of His covenant, any temporary break in the national unity and strength of Soviet Russia will be just that--temporary.

Those who believe the spectre of conflict has passed, freeing mankind to follow its own desires independent of God, will be in for a terrific shock:

"For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it....A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the Lord." (Jer. 25:15 & 31.)

Prior to World Wars I & II, there were agreements and events which led diplomatic experts to proclaim the possibility of war to be remote. Yet sudden unexpected events like the assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria on June 28, 1914, and Adolph Hitler's blitzkrieg in September of 1939 changed all that.

Are we to believe the initial upbeat assessment of recent events or the more sure word of prophecy which indicates we are approaching a period of national trouble? Is it possible that there is a sudden unexpected event (one might say "thief-like") on the Lord's agenda which will nullify the present aura of optimism surrounding the changes in Russia?

What exactly has been going on inside Russia since August 19th? One is reminded of Winston Churchill's much quoted statement from a speech on October 1, 1939: "I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma."

Then, in the not-so-quoted line following this, Churchill adds: "But perhaps there is a key...Russian national interest."

This seemingly obvious statement may contain more wisdom than at first glance. Whatever appears to be in Russia's national interest, that is what Russians will do.

Throughout time, Russian leaders have had essentially the same goal: a mighty Russian empire. The method has always been a strong central control backed up by brute force. It is merely the means to this goal which have changed. For centuries, monarchy under the Czar and an aristocratic ruling class were the means. It wore out. Then came Lenin with the communist programme. This means not only allowed Soviet dictators to maintain oppressive control over their own people, it even appealed to many daydreamers in the West. This all allowed the power of Russia to grow tremendously since 1917. But now communism has finally worn out.

The new means of modern economics under the programme of "perestroika" (restructuring) was ushered in by Gorbachev. Unfortunately (for Mr. Gorbachev) this has led to internal disorder. But then, Russians have always faced periods of internal disorder, only to unite if Russian national interest appears in danger.

This was the case in World War II, called by the Russians "The Great Patriotic War". The Russian resistance to the Nazi invasion and the counter-offensive of the Red Army was fierce. Russians showed great loyalty to their country at a time when literally millions of them had been slaughtered by Stalin.

The years since 1926, when Stalin came to power, were the most oppressive in all of Russia's history. Yet these hardships evaporated when Germany invaded Russia in August of 1941. This strange make-up of the Russian psyche was brought out in a comment from the "Special Office Brief":

"Russia will never change whether Marxist, Czarist or Liberal—not that Russia will ever lack liberals, but she will never have a lasting liberal administration because Russians, while enjoying liberal discussions, do not want a liberal regime. They feel lost and insecure under liberty. They like to live under total authority. They like an Icon to admire and almost worship. An Icon is essential to the Nation as it is to the domestic hearth" (Issue #371, Feb. 1991.)

Russia has always had a totalitarian type of government. It is only the label on the government (Czarist, Communist, Reformist, etc.) that changes. Actually, Russian leadership was never Communist in the strict sense. The dictionary definition of communism is: An economic or political system based on the ownership of property by the community as a whole, leading to the equal distribution of goods throughout a classless society.

Of course, that never happened in Russia. Private property was seized under the banner of communism by the government but somehow never did quite get redistributed.

Communism was merely the ideology, or label, under which one band of despots seized power from those operating under the Czarist label. And now the communist label has fallen to the reformist-perestroika label.

Also, each generation of Russian leaders has its own group of "apparachiks" (bureaucrats) which become cemented in the top spots and profit immensely from their positions. In time, they give way to the next generation.

We have just witnessed the transition from the Brezhnev generation (which was very corrupt) to the Gorbachev generation.

In all times of transition there is confusion. That is what we are witnessing now; further complicated by the Soviet Republics seeking more independence from Moscow.

The question that one needs to ask is: What is the spirit behind the recent changes in Russia? Is it the spirit of freedom and liberty as our founding fathers knew it? Is it the Spirit of Christian ethics and brotherhood?

Or is it just another group of Russian strongmen speaking words of freedom and reform until they get

themselves firmly cemented into the positions of power?
A new generation of Kremlin despots with a new label?

Religion certainly is not a factor in the "wonderful" changes. Both Gorbachev and Yeltsin are atheists, as is the majority of Soviet leadership.

(One good side to this period of transition in Russia under Gorbachev is that outside groups have been free to import Christian literature and Bibles. Many Russians have welcomed that information. Still, that does not reflect the majority opinion in Russia.)

We hear that Gorbachev wants to reform the Russian economy. But the real issue is what he would do with The Refrigerator once he gets it running efficiently.

It should be noted that throughout the Gorbachev era, the size of the huge Russian military has not decreased--but increased! And cheating on arms agreements has continued.

The Russian military presently has five million men! This does not include an estimated one million members of the KGB and one half million Spetsnaz (special forces) troops. The new Soviet defense minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov said on September 24 that he would like to see a reduction in the Red Army from five million to three million. **ON WHAT TIMETABLE!** After their internal difficulties are past? Five years? Ten years? Longer?

In the same breath, Shaposhnikov argued against military budget cuts because of costs "in redeploying troops". He failed to mention that the Soviet Union presently spends 25% of their gross national product on "defense" (compared to 3.6% for the U.S.--the lowest level since 1939). They turn out a new nuclear submarine about every six weeks as well as increasing their tanks, bombers, and missile systems.

He also cited the need for Russia to maintain a technological balance with the United States saying: "Research cannot be reduced. Others are far ahead of us, such as the Stealth technology, and the Soviet Union has to keep up, even speed up its research."

He said this at a time when the U.S. Congress would love to gut the U.S. military budget and free up funds for other pet projects. Many in Congress are already calling for reductions in stealth and (more impor-

tantly) SDI research. Incredible! Through Ezekiel, the Lord speaks to our present-day leaders:

"You have not gone up into the gaps or breeches, nor built up the wall for the house of Israel, that it might stand in the battle in the day of the Lord." (Ez. 13:5, Amplified Bible.)

While the breakup in the Soviet system has put more economic authority in the hands of the various republics, military authority is still vested in Moscow. The Kremlin will also be maintaining control of the Soviet nuclear arsenal.

It is in many ways the same Russia. Who will rise to the top: Gorbachev or Yeltsin? The Lord told Moses to say to Pharaoh:

"And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth." (Ex. 9:16.)

Pharaoh was a man of self-pride and self-glory but the Lord allowed him to ascend to rulership in Egypt for the purpose of magnifying His Name through Pharaoh's opposition to Moses at the time of the Exodus.

Through Ezekiel the Lord speaks to Gog (Russia):

"And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes...Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord." (Ez. 38:16 & 23.)

It should not surprise us to find the Lord raising up a charismatic leader for Gog and its confederate nations in who, like Pharaoh, the Lord's Name will be glorified.

Daniel was given a vision which had application to the centuries immediately following his lifetime. But when the angel Gabriel was told to explain the meaning of the vision to Daniel, we read:

"So he [Gabriel] came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision." (Dan. 8:17.)

Gabriel then proceeded to explain the short-term application of the vision. But beginning with verse 23, Gabriel states:

"And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up, And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand" (Dan. 8:23-25.)

The Smith & Goodspeed Bible translates these verses with verse 26 added as follows:

"And at the close of these kingdoms, when crimes have reached their height, there shall arise a king of fierce countenance, with an understanding of secret wiles. He shall attain to great power, though not by his own power; he shall cause fearful destruction, and shall prosper in what he does, destroying powerful rivals. He shall form designs against the saints, and shall cause treachery to prosper under his hand; he shall devise great things in his own mind, and shall destroy many unawares; he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, but shall be broken by no human hand. The vision which has been told of the mornings and evenings is true; but keep the vision a secret, for it relates to the distant future." (Dan. 8:23-26.)

We are now at the close of kingdoms and transgressions are reaching their height. Mikhail Gorbachev has attained to great power but not by his own power; that is, he has obtained a kingdom already built up in strength.

He understands secret wiles, for Gorbachev's power base derives from the **KGB**. In 1970, Gorbachev, then 39, became Moscow's first secretary to the province of Stavropol. There he met **KGB** chief Yuri Andropov who vacationed at local spas.

Over the years, Gorbachev became Andropov's protege to the degree that when Brezhnev died on November 10, 1982, and the U.S. was trying to figure out who would succeed him, former **CIA** director William Casey sent a

note to President Reagan which said, "I bet Andropov on the nose and Gorbachev across the board" (William Safire column for September 19, 1991).

In fact, Yuri Andropov did become the new Soviet leader and Gorbachev was placed in the line of succession after Konstantin Chernenko, an aging Brezhnev crony.

One does not become the protege of Yuri Andropov, the KGB chief for many years, without an understanding of "secret wiles" or "dark sentences". Gorbachev has always had strong KGB support and may not be the weakened Soviet leader playing second-fiddle to Boris Yeltsin as is now supposed.

On August 25, Yeltsin told reporters that the leaders of the coup attempt were forced to cancel their plans because of the refusal of the Alpha team (an elite KGB anti-terrorist team) to storm Yeltsin's headquarters.

Despite Gorbachev's programme of "glasnost" (openness), the new KGB chief Vadim Bakatin said that the files of the KGB would remain closed.

Gorbachev has prospered in what he has done and we have just seen him destroy powerful rivals. How will Yeltsin (who reportedly drinks heavily and has heart trouble) fare in time to come?

Make no mistake that, despite their present internal problems, the Kremlin leaders have formed "designs against the saints" (Israel). By "peace" they will destroy many unaware, for under the present circumstances no one considers Russia to be a military threat. Time after time the United States has been lulled into a false sense of security by Soviet words of peace.

When the time of conflict comes, Russia will cause fearful destruction and will even stand up against the "Prince of princes", who is none other than Jesus Christ. As the 39th chapter of Ezekiel (and other passages) reveals, it is the hand of the Lord that will rescue His people from certain defeat. Thus we read that this fearful king shall be broken, but not by human hands.

This particular vision of Daniel's was called the "vision of the evenings and the mornings" and Daniel records:

"For two thousand three hundred evenings and mornings; then shall the wrongs of the sanctuary be righted" (Dan. 8:14, Smith & Goodspeed Trans.)

Over thirty five years ago, Mr. Howard Rand wrote various articles dealing with the factor 2,300 and developed a scale marking off "evenings and mornings". It was noticed only a few years ago that Gorbachev's life and rise to power on March 11, 1985, tied in with that scale. Time will have to reveal the significance of that tie-in.

It seems obvious that the coup attempt was in the works for at least a month, and it is interesting to note that from March 11, 1985, until June 28, 1991, Gorbachev was in power 2,300 days. Oddly enough, this was the 77th anniversary of the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand, which event triggered World War I, and really set in motion the great events and troubles of our century.

Have we witnessed any real change in the Soviet Union or merely the final clearing away of the deadwood left over from the Brezhnev years, allowing Gorbachev to consolidate his power in preparation for a part in the coming period of trouble? We will have to see.

Still, many now say that even though Russia has the military capability, it no longer desires to use it. Too many economic problems. Too much internal disorder.

Again we raise the possibility of an unexpected event which would alarm the Kremlin leaders, as well as those of other nations. An event which they perceive as a threat to their power and prestige. An event which would cause them to put aside internal problems and strike out at the nations which have long been the object of their hatred and envy.

Are we to anticipate any such unexpected event taking place? A solemn warning is given to us in Revelation:

"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." (Rev. 16:15.)

While it is true that the second coming of Jesus Christ is preceded by a time of conflict and tribulation, it must not be overlooked that, just prior to the time of trouble, there is the unexpected "thief-like" appearing of Christ:

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matt. 24:30-31.)

Jesus does not return at this time, but gathers His elect from His position "in the clouds of heaven". This is the same event described in Revelation 14:14-16 where Christ is depicted as having a sickle as He gathers His elect prior to the period of conflict.

Even more astounding is the "great sound of a trumpet" spoken of by Jesus, for it is the very same trumpet described by Paul:

"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: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (I Thess. 4:16-17.)

This is truly amazing passage, for it states that at the time of Christ's "thief-like" appearing, the long awaited resurrection will have become a reality! What effect will that have on the modern-day Israel nations? Indeed, on all of Christianity!

Paul tells us that this event will be unexpected and will occur at a time when people are proclaiming peace, not realising a time of trouble is approaching.

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety: then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." (I Thess. 5:2-3.)

Jesus likewise indicates His sudden appearing (not actual return) will be totally unexpected:

"For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe [Noah] entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so

shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matt. 24:38-39.)

It will be a time of peaceful activity:

"Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left." (Matt. 24:40-41.)

While the events surrounding the "thief-like" appearing of the Son of man will cause much consternation, it will trigger an awakening among the Israel peoples to spiritual values, as well as to their national identity and responsibility.

What will be the reaction of Russia to such a national revival? Daniel speaks of a great northern power active at the time of the end:

"But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy and utterly to make away many." (Dan. 11:44.)

East of Russia are the British Isles, and north over the Arctic from Russia is the United States. Will the "tidings" which cause such trouble and alarm be the awakening on the part of the modern-day Israel peoples to their identity? How will Kremlin leaders react to "wild rumours" of resurrections?

It must also be considered that, when the "Son of man comes in the clouds with great glory", it will be visible to all:

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matt. 24:27.)

The result of this display of Divine Glory will be:

"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:15-17.)

It may take some months for the nations to assess the situation (as in the seven months prior to the Iraq

War), but, eventually, Russia's internal problems will evaporate as they decide to move against God's people.

In a sense, the present disarray in Russia may provide needed time for the Israel nations to themselves assess the meaning of the astounding events surrounding the appearing of the Son of man. A sort of window of opportunity.

The fact that Russia appears to be falling apart as a new world order of peace and safety is proclaimed is, in light of the prophetic word, all the more reason to be alert and watchful.

Neither should we be beguiled into providing economic aid to the Soviets. Rudyard Kipling so clearly foresaw the deceit in the character of Russian leaders in his poem, "The Truce of the Bear", about a bear named Adam-zad. Near the end we are warned:

"When he stands up like a tired man, tottering near and near:
When he stands up as pleading, in wavering, man-brute guise,
When he veils the hate and cunning of his little, swinish eyes;
When he shows as seeking quarter, with paws like hands in prayer,
That is the time of peril—the time of the Truce of the Bear!"

The poem ends:

"There is no truce with Adam-zad, the Bear that looks like a Man!"

And so there isn't. Not with all the "new and wonderful changes". Not with all the wishful thinking in the world.

For now, all seems calm, yet those aware of the times and seasons in which we live see a great political, economic and religious storm just off our coast, ready to crash in to shore with all its fury. For this reason Jesus said:

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain de-

scended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock." (Matt. 7:24-25.)

Though all seems calm, let us remain alert and follow the advice of our Lord Jesus Christ:

"For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

(Luke 21:35-36.)



FACTS FROM HISTORY

Courtesy "Covenant Report"
B.I.W.F. Auckland, N.Z.

The famed Baptist evangelist **CHARLES H. SPURGEON** who died in 1892 showed in Vol. II, page 154 of his book **THE TREASURY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT** that Britain and America (and kindred peoples), are **ISRAEL**.

* * * *

SIR WALTER SCOTT in his novel **WOODSTOCK** has **OLIVER CROMWELL** use these words in chapter 30: "Now as my soul liveth, and as He liveth who hath made me ruler in **ISRAEL**..."

* * * *

QUEEN ELIZABETH I was known as the **LIGHT OF ISRAEL**.



DID JESUS FAIL?

Part 3.

By Frank W. Dowsett.

In our previous articles in this series we have pointed out that it is impossible to judge the success or otherwise of what Jesus has done, or has promised to do, unless we first of all have at least a reasonable knowledge of what it is that He promised to do in the first place. You will remember that we divided the study into two major subjects. Firstly, 'Why did He come?' and secondly, 'What are his plans?' In studying the first of these sections, we have already looked at His ministry as "Saviour" and "Redeemer". So now we proceed with an area of our Lord's ministry which, unfortunately, is very seldom, if ever, dealt with in normal theological teaching. This is expressed in Romans 15:8;

"Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers."

Let us be quite clear on this one basic fact. If our Lord came to confirm the '*promises made unto the fathers*', and then changed His mind as to their fulfilment in the descendants of the fathers to whom they were made by substituting for them a different people, now referred to as 'the church', then He has failed. How could He possibly fulfil these promises if the people to whom they were made, that is, the literal seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, are no longer entitled to them? To try to cover up this situation by teaching that they are still to be fulfilled in the people presently known as the Jews is surely quite untenable. It is generally accepted, even by our opponents, that 'the latter days' or 'the last days' is the period between the first and second advents of our Lord

Jesus Christ. When we turn to Genesis 49:1 we read this statement;

"And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days." (My emphasis).

Even a cursory study of the promises that followed to the progenitors of the twelve tribes of Israel reveals that by no stretch of the imagination can they be either spiritualised or applied to present day Jewry. And here's the rub. If all these promises are to be fulfilled in Jewry prior to the second advent of our Lord, then why on earth are the preachers who teach this position talking so glibly about the near return of our Lord, when it must be obvious to the simplest of minds that it would take centuries for the Jews to reach this point. On the other hand, if the fulfilment of these promises is to be made after Christ returns, then they cannot happen in the last or latter days. We just cannot have it both ways.

In our reading from Romans 15:8 quoted above, it is quite clearly stated that Christ came to confirm the promises made unto the fathers. Now I believe that one of the first things we should do is to establish whether or not this conforms to what the rest of the Bible says. Is it an isolated statement that just has some spiritual application, or does it conform to Biblical pattern and principles? In order to establish this, let us read from the Word. I have added emphasis where applicable.

"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 wilt 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).

Is it surprising then that Mary, on hearing of the great honour that the Lord had bestowed upon her should say;

"He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever."

(Luke 1:54-55).

And are we to assume that it was sheer coincidence that Elizabeth's husband, Zacharias, on hearing of the impending birth of the Saviour to his cousin Mary, should say under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit;

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to our father Abraham."

(Luke 1:68-73).

Is it not quite obvious that these two servants of God were both, under the direction and leading of the Holy Spirit, confirming the promise made previously by the prophet Micah? And why should it not be so? Jehovah made the promise in the Old Testament through His servant Micah, and the same Jehovah fulfilled it in the New Testament, confirming it through the inspired words of his

servants Mary and Zacharias. Are we really expected to accept that Jehovah changed His mind about these momentous promises and transferred them to another party altogether. What sort of God are we supposed to have. If He can so readily change His mind about these great national promises made to the fathers, then what guarantee have we that He wont, at some time in the future, also change His mind about the great personal promises He has made with you and me regarding our eternal salvation? If these promises, or covenants, made to the fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, were now of no importance once Christ came and suffered on Calvary in order to confirm them, then why on earth didn't the Lord reveal this fact to the apostle Paul immediately after his outstanding conversion? Paul certainly didn't know of any such change of plans. If he did, then why did he make the following statement to king Agrippa as part of his defence before him?

"And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:

Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews."

(Acts 26:6-7).

Why is it that Paul, on another occasion, stood up in the synagogue and outspokenly told the people, including the Scribes and Pharisees;

"And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again;

As it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

(Acts 13:32-33).

Why is it that both Peter and Stephen based their defence of their position and their beliefs on the integrity and continued existence and operation of the promises and covenants made by God to His people Israel? Were they also deluded?

But more importantly, was God Himself deluded when He inspired that very special revelation which He gave to us in the Epistle to the Hebrews? If the national promises made to our fathers were of no more significance, then why did God cause to be recorded the following glorious statements?

"For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

(Hebrews 6:13-20).

From the above it is clear that the 'promises' referred to were the great covenants that God made with our forefathers, - covenants, or promises, which were to be fulfilled in their heirs or descendants. Moreover, they were not made casually or on the spur of the moment. They were not some temporary aberration on God's part. These covenants and promises are the very foundation of the plan and purpose of Almighty God for the ultimate salvation and transformation of the entire world into one where righteousness and peace will prevail for ever. And to emphasise the importance and immutability of these promises, God sealed them with an oath made in His own Name. There was no one, or no thing higher in His entire creation upon which He could make such a promise.

It totally confounds me when people not only ignore, but absolutely reject the sanctity and reality of these promises. And it confounds me further when people abuse and persecute those who do believe in the sanctity of God's Oath. Can someone please tell me how such a faith in God disqualifies us from being Christians? Yet, this is what actually happens. I have believed and taught our identity for over 45 years. Both my wife and I were converted and baptised in a Baptist church. Yet we were only allowed into membership as long as we agreed never to mentioned our beliefs. I have been called 'extra-Christian', what ever that means, and I've been accused of not even being a Christian. I've been accused of being into the occult. Our entire family has been kicked out of several churches. In one church of which I was the ordained Elder, one family wouldn't even take communion if I was present at the service. In more recent times, we were forced to leave a church because of the actions of a small minority who objected to our beliefs. The pastor, who supported their action, actually claimed to believe in our national identity as God's people Israel, but refused to preach it for the stated reason that they had a number of Roman Catholics who regularly attended some of their services, and they didn't want to offend them. This persecution doesn't come from non-Christians, it comes from those who claim to be Christians. I haven't recorded this just to have a moan and groan. I am merely using my

own experiences to illustrate how difficult and lonely it can become if we try to just simply believe God. Not to just believe IN God, or ABOUT God, but to BELIEVE GOD.

When God declares that His Word will not return to Him void, and that it WILL accomplish the purpose for which He sent it, then I'm afraid that I'm just simple enough to believe it without making excuses to suit some denominational doctrine. When the Lord says that He changes not, then I believe it. I believe without any equivocation the statement made in II Cor. 1:20;

"For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."

This is what Jehovah/Jesus promised, and He has not failed in the slightest degree. He has not failed in the past, He is not failing now, and He never will fail. If others wish to believe the Word of God in a manner that is more suitable and acceptable to them and to what they prefer to believe, and thereby make Him a liar and a failure, then be it on their own heads.

As for me and my house, we will serve, and believe, the Lord!

(To be continued).



Betty and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those many readers who have sent us Greeting Cards and letters expressing their good wishes and prayers for the coming year. We certainly appreciate your love and thoughtfulness. To answer them all individually would be quite a task for us, so please accept this as our personal thanks to all of you. All the members of our fellowship join us in wishing you God's richest blessings and guidance for 1992.

Calling All Christians

Rev. C. Jacobs MBE, JP, CD.

Courtesy LINK Magazine.

P.O. Box 361, Midland. WA 6056.

Politics and religion don't mix. The saying has become a cliche, but is it true? Should Christians restrict their God - given responsibility of being salt and light to evangelism or should they become involved in the legislative process and other forms of social action? Should they sit idly by as anti-Christian laws on abortion, homosexuality, prostitution and pornography destroy the Christian heritage and moral worth of our nation?

"You can't legislate for morality" is the catch-cry of those who oppose the intervention of Christians in political matters. Yet when all life is recognised as part of God's dominion, politics and everything else for that matter must come under His sovereignty. Until recently the need for direct Christian involvement in social and political issues was less evident than it is now. But as the humanist wave has swept over our land threatening to submerge our Christian values and life style, changing the very foundations of our society, Christian participation has become vitally necessary.

Any success in forestalling or defeating the evil machinations of the humanists is a victory for freedom, that precious commodity which doesn't come free nor does it come cheap. And freedom keeps open the channels of evangelism.

Our present lawmakers are steadily following a programme to permit the expansion of perverted and debased behaviour, piece by piece destroying decent and upright conduct. As decency and perversion are direct opposites they cannot co-exist, so as perversion increases decency declines. Eventually, if we continue on our present course, the freedom to practise decent behaviour will be denied.

Christians have been outflanked, outmanoeuvred and outgunned by the enemy of our souls. We have allowed him to take the field with scarcely a shot fired in anger against him. No wonder we now have a hotch-potch of multi-cultural beliefs in our schools, our communities and even our churches. No wonder Australia needs missionaries as much as heathen nations.

The Christian church, sadly, is so divided. Liberals are happy to unite with non-Christian religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism believing that "many roads lead to God". They deny the Genesis account of creation and support the theory of evolution, the very foundation stone of the humanist religion. Their "process theology" thinking has mankind moving towards a state of "enlightenment" instead of the return of Jesus Christ in glory to judge the world.

Many evangelicals will have no part or involvement in social or political issues, believing the sole commandment of the Lord is to go into all the world and evangelise. Those Christians who are concerned with these matters are so relatively few and far between that their efforts are largely dissipated.

Come on, Christians, let's work together. Let's forget our differences and join forces to combat the onslaught of humanism that is devastating our society. Let's band together, humbly praying that God will unite us and make us a mighty force for Him in Australia.

Let's come as He exhorts us:

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land"

(2 Chr. 7:14).



STUDY IN REVELATION.

By Frank W. Dowsett.

PART TWENTY ONE.

CHAPTER 15.

THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES. Part 1.

"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.

And one of the four beasts (living creatures) gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."

(Rev. 15:1-8).

As we study this 15th chapter, we immediately note that it is divided into two very distinct sections or themes. The first verse introduces the setting of the overall scene and introduces what is to follow. Verses 2 to 4 give us a short cameo of the first theme, describing the reaction of those who have gained the victory over what is transpiring. The remaining verses 5 to 8 give us the prologue to the second theme, the final seven plagues of God's judgment.

But before proceeding, let us remember the fundamental rule of studying this great Revelation. It is not written in literal terms. The expressions used are symbolic, not literal. You will no doubt remember in our study of the very first chapter that we found that the Lord 'signified' to John what was to take place in the then future, the word 'signified' meaning 'to show by signs and symbols'. It is a matter of constant amazement to me that modern theological teaching, with very few if any exceptions, teaches that the expressions used in the Book of the Revelation are to be taken literally, and deliberately reject the clear meaning of the original Greek word used in this instance, in order to propagate their futurist beliefs. This has led to absolute confusion regarding the true meaning of Christ's Revelation, and created an atmosphere wherein most Christians either can't understand it, or what is far worse, have no interest in understanding it.

The word 'sign' means 'a signal'. John is now shown a signal of a further revelation. It does not follow chronologically after what has been stated in the preceding

verses, but constitutes a further revelation of coming events. It constitutes the declaration of the final outpouring of God's wrath as this age comes to an end. The words 'filled up' as used in verse 1 means 'to bring about, to complete, to fulfil, to accomplish, to end'. It sets out an overall picture of judgment prior to the final crescendo of destruction upon Satan's Babylonian system, details of which are set out so graphically in the 17th and 18th chapters. They commenced in about 1789, and as we will see in our future study of the 16th chapter, involved predominantly the remains of the fourth empire of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the Roman Empire. But more of that anon.

But the sincere student must surely enquire as to why the description of these last seven plagues is interrupted at this point by a description of a totally different kind. Why the sudden emphasis upon another seemingly unconnected group of people? What is their connection with the occurrence of the seven last plagues? I suggest that this can only be understood as we relate it to a specific phrase used in verses five, six, and eight. That phrase is "the temple." Why is John, at this stage, given a vision of '*the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven*'? Why are the seven angels having the last plagues shown as coming out of 'the temple'? Why is 'the temple' revealed as being filled with the smoke from the glory of God, and restricted from entry until after the last plagues are completed? Let us read verse 5 again;

"And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened."

When John closely examined, or had a good look at what was being shown to him, he noticed four very distinct features. First, he saw the 'tabernacle', which is the dwelling place of God. Secondly, he saw within this dwelling place the innermost sacred part in which was manifest the actual presence of God, 'the temple'. Then he saw the 'testimony' which was the witness or declaration confirming what was revealed. But finally he saw that this witness was no longer sealed, but was now opened for

those who have 'eyes to see' in order to finally understand the immensity of God's faithfulness. This was in complete conformity with our Lord's injunction as expressed in chapter 22 verse 10;

"Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand."

Now what was this witness or 'testimony' that was associated with 'the temple'? We will only understand this as we understand what 'the temple' is. Firstly let me say that we, as individuals, are not the temple of God. We are quite clearly identified as 'the temple of the Holy Spirit', as we read in I Corinthians 6:19;

"Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God."

But 'the temple of God' is something quite different. In that well known passage in II Corinthians 6:16 we read;

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God."

This does not refer to our personal bodies, although obviously the meaning of the phrase can be applied to us as individuals. The very same verse goes on to clearly identify who 'the temple of God' is. It reads;

"As God hath said, 'I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.'"

This is a direct quotation from Leviticus 26:11-12 where God addresses Himself specifically to His people Israel in these words;

"And I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you."

And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be My people."

Thus we see that 'the temple' refers to the people of Israel as a nation, and as the Kingdom of God here on this earth, not as they presently are, but in the completion and perfection destined for them. We have here the Divine and perfect Pattern on which was based the earthly. It was within this scene that John saw the victors, and I believe that the reason why the Lord placed the description of the victors at this point in the account was in order to encourage us in the light of the frightening judgments that were about to be enumerated and pronounced upon an apostate world and its evil Satanic system.

John was shown, and through him we see, the magnificent scene of unrivalled joy and praise from those who have been victorious over the beast, over the image of the beast, over his mark, and over the number of his name. We dealt with this subject in a previous chapter. They are seen on a sea of glass mingled with fire. This takes us back to the statement in chapter 4 and verse 6. This sea is shown to be in front of the Throne of God where the Four Living Creatures, representing the perfected and completed 12 Tribed House of Israel as the perfected Kingdom of God on earth, are found. In Book 1 of our four part series, we described this 'sea' in the following terms;

"The next thing brought to our attention is "a sea of glass, like unto crystal". Again we ask, what does this represent? And again, we go back to the Old Testament. In Exodus 30:18-21 we read of God's instructions to Moses to make a laver, or bowl, which was to be filled with water. It was absolutely essential for Aaron and his sons to wash in this bowl prior to offering the sacrifice. Failure to do so would result in death. In later years when King Solomon built the temple, this was replaced by a much larger vessel referred to as "the sea", but its purpose was the same. In Leviticus 16:4 we read how Aaron, before entering the Holy Place within the veil, into the presence of the Mercy Seat, must "wash his flesh in water". This whole ritual

looked forward to our Lord Jesus Christ, and is the reason why our Lord insisted that He be baptised prior to His sacrifice on Calvary. The pattern had been set, and must be followed to the letter. He could not enter the Holy Place before the Father with the blood of the sacrifice, which in this case was His own, without first washing Himself.

"In Matthew 14:22-33 we read the account of Christ's miracle when He calmed the raging sea during the storm. We have dealt in detail with this in our book "The 8 Miracles of Jesus". Whilst Jesus was outside the boat, the wind was boisterous and the sea was very rough. But when He entered the boat the wind ceased, and we can conclude that the sea became calm. But the sea described as being in front of the Throne of God was not only calm, it was like glass. There is no trouble or upheaval at the Throne of God. That is the place of perfect peace, and that is exactly how John saw it."

But this is not just a place or time of peace. This, as we have commented, is now a place and time of victory. And this is exemplified in the fact that they are not only a rejoicing people, but that they are a singing people. But what are they singing? I heard only recently of a minister who taught his congregation that they could forget all about the Old Testament. All they had to know about was Jesus. Have you ever heard anything like it? How on earth can we understand Jesus if we don't understand and accept the Old Testament? It was this very same Jesus - that is, if they are talking about the same Jesus - who told the people that the prophets of the Old Testament wrote of Him. So how are we to understand the second song these victorious people sang, the Song of the Lamb, if they cannot understand the meaning of the first, the Song of Moses, which is contained in the Old Testament.

So what is 'The Song of the Lamb'? In chapter 5, verse 9, it is referred to as 'a new song' praising the worthiness of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the 15th chapter which we are now studying, this 'new song' is clearly defined in verses 3 and 4 as follows;

"Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest."

Why are His great and marvellous works associated with the Song of Moses? Well, let us read them and find out. There are two songs of Moses, one recorded in Exodus chapter 15, which was sung after Israel's deliverance from Egypt, and the other in Deuteronomy chapter 32 after God gave Israel His law. In the interest of space we will only quote the highlights from these songs, and the reader is encouraged to get their Bibles out and read the entire passages.

"Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. . . .

Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? . . .

Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

. . . Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away.

Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O Lord, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.

Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

The Lord shall reign for ever and ever."

"And Moses spake in the ears of all the congregation of Israel the words of this song, until they were ended.

Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. . . .

Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.

When the most high divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.

For the Lord's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. . . .

For they are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them.

O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!

How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up? . . .

To me belongeth vengeance and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

For the Lord shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left. . . .

Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.

And Moses came and spake all the words of this song in the ears of the people, he, and Joshua the son of Nun."

Here is a victorious people praising Jehovah for His great victory over their ancient enemies, and using this example as the basis for their future victory over our present-day enemies, and our exaltation to the throne of God.

So we see that it was on the basis of this victory that the seven angels delivered their final messages. They came out of this temple. In other words, the events which they symbolised and depicted could only come to pass when the fulfilment of the promises and covenants made to the fathers, on which the exultation of the people is based, had been completed. It was even one of the four living creatures, which represented the complete Kingdom, who gave the last seven plagues to the angels. This signifies quite clearly that the punishment about to be sent upon the non-Israel world, and particularly the remnant of the Roman Empire, was absolutely dependant upon the successful rescue and protection of Israel.

The final verse of the chapter is particularly significant;

"And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till

the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."

The glory and the perfection of the Kingdom, and the dwelling in the full presence of God, could not be accomplished until after the judgments of these last seven plagues had been accomplished. It is only after this final period of judgment that the people will be able to fulfil the glorious cry of chapter 19:1;

"And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven saying, 'Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God.' "

As we shall see, God willing, in our next study, these judgments have been pouring out on the earth for some 200 years. They are now reaching their climax. The present world situation, with all its troubles and disasters, is no mere coincidence. They are not simply the result of bad politics and power hungry politicians, although they of course have their part in what has happened. They are the outworking of the righteous judgments of a righteously angry God. When we see the hand of Almighty God in the affairs of our nation, and of the rest of the world, then, and only then, will we be able to distinguish the end from the beginning. Only then will we be able to understand and appreciate the fact that we are indeed living in the very end days of this age. Only then will we have the assurance that God is really in control. Only then will we be able to look through and beyond all the trouble and strife and see the glory that lies before us under the reign of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

That great day is now very, very close at hand. There is absolutely no excuse for us to ignore the fact. Everything else that God has promised and foretold through the mouths of His prophets has come to pass exactly as He said it would. Do we really think that He will not complete the final act, and usher in that perfect Kingdom here on this earth for which He commanded us to

pray? I think not. The night is far spent. The dawn is now at hand. We see all these troubles coming upon the earth just as our Lord said it would. Let us then follow His injunction as we wait. Let us look up, and lift up our heads, for our redemption in very deed draweth nigh.

(To be continued).



A Tribute To
Howard Benjamin Rand.

June 13, 1889 to October 17, 1991.

We join with all our Israel Identity brethren throughout the world in paying our respects to the memory of Howard B. Rand. We felt that we could pay him no better tribute than to record his own words as to the source of his great faith and dedication as stated in his article "This I Believe."

"The early lesson that taught me to make my beliefs conform with the facts, plus a thorough training in the Scriptures, led me later to apply the logic and reasoning acquired through legal training to an analysis of the Story the Bible tells. An inward urge drove me on to continue research in the Bible, covering many years, the results of which firmly established my belief that there is a Divine plan being worked out in the world, not only in the personal lives of men, but in the affairs of nations as well. I discovered that events are following a timetable, keeping a schedule as accurately synchronised as the movements of the earth, sun, moon, and stars. And this further strengthened my beliefs. I am aware that many are fearful today as they contemplate the possibility of atomic destruction. However, the knowledge that there is an overruling God who has set bounds, beyond which evil men and nations will never be able to pass, has given me peace of mind in spite of the present confusion, turmoil and strife. I believe that it is being made quite clear by events that God is even now moving in judgment to compel men to bring their beliefs into conformity with the facts."

Let us make full use of the fine legacy which he has left us.

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.

**"Let us hear the conclusion
of the whole matter.**

*Fear God,
and keep His commandments.*

**For this the whole duty
of man."**

(Eccl. 12:13).

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