



THE COVENANT VISION

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Contents.

ISSUE No. 44.

Editorial.	1.
The Two Gospels.	3.
Patterns For The End Times.	7.
Judeo-Christian?	...	...	...	...	...	16.
Book List.	...	...	...	...	...	19.
COVENANT WATCH!	...	...	...	...	...	22.
Frightening Days.	...	...	...	...	...	30.
Study In Revelation.	...	...	...	No. 25.	...	35.

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

THE COVENANT VISION

EDITOR: Pastor Frank W. Dowsett. J.P.

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.

One of the secrets of writing editorials is to be able to concentrate on a topical subject and analyze it and put forward suggestions of how and why it all happened, and the possible ramifications and consequences of the particular event. In both these aspects, that is, the 'whys' and the 'wherefores', the opinions expressed will be directly related to the training, education, background and circumstances of the particular editor. The attitudes of his employer will have a very direct bearing on what he says, and particularly on how he says it. His very livelihood and promotional chances depend on the degree to which he promulgates the policies of his employer. Thus we are now experiencing a situation in the reporting and analysing of news events and world situations that almost defies credibility. We see men, who are convicted terrorists, rise to the highest levels of leadership, not only with the full knowledge of the various media outlets, and heads of governments, but with their full support. Evil, and the promulgation of evil, has now become a very saleable commodity, because the powers behind the scenes realise the truth of what God's Word has been saying for thousands of years, "that the thoughts of men's hearts are towards evil continually."

So what we are now experiencing throughout the world is the culmination of centuries of disinformation, and misinterpretation, presented in such a way that the most basic animal instincts in man are satiated, and everything that is noble and upright is denigrated and destroyed. We now live in a cesspool of vice, crime and degradation that must surely rival the worst days of any previous civilisation on the fact of this earth. Our new gods are sport - heathenised to the fullest extent possible - sex, and the covetous pursuit of everything that seems good to our eyes and imagination. In fact, the pursuit of these three factors violate, in some way or other, every one of the Ten Commandments that Jehovah/Jesus gave us.

So as an editor, I have to ask myself two things. Firstly, who is my 'employer', and secondly, what are His policies? The answer to these questions must then control and permeate everything that I write. Why is it that so many Christian editors think that they can make religious comment on present-day issues when it is quite obvious from their remarks that they know very little, if anything, about the policies of the One of Whom they purport to write, and in fact have as little knowledge of the true identity of Who He really is?

It is not sufficient to refer to Him simply as 'God.' The world is full of gods. We will only succeed in honouring Him when we refer to Him by the title which He Himself chose, that is, "The Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." The recognition of this fact must surely then recognise that His Divine plans and purposes are primarily to be achieved through the very people of whom He is God. Having reached this conclusion, we then realise that these policies must be those which He gave to these very same people. They are clearly expressed through the laws, statutes, commandments and judgments which He gave to them.

In whatever capacity we serve God, we see then that the two primary requirements are that we recognise the true identity of the One we serve, and that we recognise the true nature and extent of His policies. If we base our comments on these foundations, then we will be in a position to offer a starving people the food for which they so obviously crave, but which, sadly, they have little knowledge of its very existence.

To state that the world is in a fearful mess, and growing steadily worse with every passing day, is to state the ridiculously obvious. But to responsibly comment on this fact, from a Christian point of view, is not so easy. It requires an understanding not only of the nature of the troubles, but of their basic causes. For this reason, we accept as our 'employer', or the One to whom we are fully and solely responsible, "The Lord God of Israel." We accept as His policies, fully and unequivocally, those which He has set forth in His Word, the Bible. For instance, when we see pictures of the devastating drought that covers some three quarters of the state of New South Wales, we are not interested in reporting on conservation methods, or even prayer meetings. We simply report that the remedy is found in obedience to God's Laws which promises us rain, where it is needed, when it is needed, and in the quantities that is needed. When we see the devastation in the area of unemployment, we don't comment on social security and the ever increasing man-made systems being implemented to supposedly overcome the position. We simple refer to the fact that God promised that if we disobeyed His Laws, then the foreigners would take over our lands and industry, and we would end up serving them.

The blessings of God do not depend on following the pious expressions of would-be religious experts, no matter how sincere they might sound. Our nation will only experience the good things which are our God-given right when we truly humble ourselves and seek His face. Any other comment or advice is God-dishonouring negligence.

THE TWO GOSPELS

by E. B. Clements

In any English town or hamlet are found churches with spires majestically pointing heavenward, many surrounded by clusters of houses marking the sites of communities in the land. In Australia, Canada and other colonies of the former British Empire, similar situations arise, because the righteous beginnings of the Anglo-Celtic-Saxon people sprang from the Word that the Christian Church was commissioned to preach. A flight in an aircraft demonstrates the extent to which the gospel (good news) has penetrated, even in many outlying and seemingly remote places.

Insofar as the gospel of personal salvation is concerned, its glad tidings have been preached in most cities and towns and the Bible itself has accompanied that message. The same is true wherever the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people are found, for in all their settlements, into whatever lands they have gone, churches have been established to minister to their spiritual needs. Although quite a few of those places of worship are no longer active witnesses as they once were, and ignorance of God's word and message, and His Book is too often scorned or ignored, what was the meaning Jesus implied when in Matthew 10:23 He stated "*Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel till the Son of Man be come.*" Jesus made this statement after He commissioned His disciples to go forth and to announce that "*the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.*"

It was NOT the gospel of salvation of which Jesus then spoke, for the church witness has preached that message in all the cities of any note wherein Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples reside. It was the phase of the Gospel designated as the Kingdom evangel that would not be proclaimed in all the cities of Israel before the arrival of the Son of Man, that is, before the Second Advent takes place. The Gospel of the Kingdom is the call for God's people to

return to **national** righteousness: that is, to the observance of all the commandments, statutes and judgments of the **LORD**.

It is in the recognition of the ultimate triumph of this call to the nations of Israel to return to Him that the **LORD** speaks through Ezekiel. "*Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: (a national event; and does not this sinful generation need it?) from all your filthiness, and from all your idols* (drugs and sexual deviations, etc.) *will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give, and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes* (the kickback from our walking in the wrong direction) *and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them*" (Ezekiel 36:25-27.) Note that **GOD** says this **'I WILL'**. Israel never wants, nor is able to, do it herself. God Himself steps in and says: "**I will**." And the events of the next few years tribulation will indicate to what extent He is angered and we are admonished.

It is important to take into consideration the extent of our failure and of His anger at us for not cleaning up our own house. It is also important to consider the fact that there are also two phases to the Gospel. First, and most vital to the individual, is that of personal salvation, for all who believe on Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour receive eternal life, and will be assured of citizenship in the Kingdom. The second phase is the gospel of the Kingdom, the acceptance of which by God's people (Israel) will guarantee the restoration of the righteous administration of the law of the **LORD** in the land, which will bring to pass Isaiah's declaration: "*And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.*" (Isaiah 32:17.) The prophet goes on to point out that, under the government of the **LORD**, God's people shall dwell in a peaceful habitation, in sure dwellings and in quiet resting places. To the selfish believer, it is not good enough to say "I'm all right, Jack," as some Christians may think they can afford to do. But can they? Does this exhibit one's love to one's neigh-

bour, an essential requirement for 'so-called' Christians? I think not! Don't they want friends or relatives to enjoy the status they think they will acquire? The prophet emphasises that under the government of the LORD, the people shall dwell in peaceful habitations, in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

In instructing His disciples, as stated in the 10th Chapter of Matthew, Jesus commanded them to specifically carry the **gospel of the Kingdom** (the gospel of salvation is NOT referred to here) to the **people of the Kingdom**, i.e. to the House of Israel, who, in later generations would become known as the nations of the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples. That phase of the Gospel was, however, to be published abroad throughout Israel's lands as a witness to all the nations before the age would end: *"The good news of the Kingdom, however, shall be proclaimed throughout the whole Empire, as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come."* (Matthew 24:14, Ferrar Fenton translation.)

No curse is pronounced upon those who do not accept the Gospel of Salvation. The failure to do so means immeasurable personal loss, of course, yet if at any time, the individual repents and accepts the Gospel, he will be forgiven and will receive salvation through Jesus Christ.

This is NOT SO, regarding the Kingdom. Jesus said that the city or household that refused to receive those commissioned to proclaim the Gospel of the **KINGDOM** would risk severe condemnation.

"And if it will not receive you, nor listen to your discourse, departing from that family or that town, shake the dust from your feet. I tell you indeed, that it will be more endurable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment than for that town." (Matthew 10:15, Fenton translation.)

There is no question that the message of personal salvation has reached into every city throughout Celto-An-glo-Saxondom. The Gospel of the Kingdom, on the other

hand, now being preached as a witness only, has not yet accomplished this, nor will it be able to do so before the Lord returns, according to His own words. The Christian Church must nevertheless **AWAKEN** to the necessity to accept both phases of the Gospel, and **ADD** the good news of the coming restoration of the Kingdom to the glad tidings of personal Salvation. Then her converts will experience not only forgiveness of sins, but will have the assurance as well of prosperity and well-being in a secure dwelling place, free from violence and oppression, for these two will have passed away when the Kingdom of God is established upon the earth in its full perfection.



Covenant Vision Fellowship.

Pastor:- Frank W. Dowsett. J.P.

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PATTERNS FOR THE END TIMES.

by Frank W. Dowsett.

*"Whatsoever has been is that which will be.
And whatsoever has been done is that which will
be done.
And there is nothing new under the sun.
Is there a thing of which it is said, 'Lo, this is
new'?
It was already in existence in the ages which were
before us."*

Thus spoke Solomon, the wise King of Israel.

If there is one thing that is coming through loud and clear from a wide cross section of Christian teaching, it is that the end of this present age is very close at hand. Admittedly, much of it is generated by a personal, and even selfish desire for the end to come simply because no other answer appears to be available by which the present world conditions can be resolved. So the vague hope with some is for Jesus to return and fix up the mess we've got ourselves into. This might be very comforting, but not, I'm afraid, very convincing at times. Too many Christians seem to base their belief in the Lord's return on denominational doctrines, rather than upon a knowledge of any specific details.

As one studies the Scriptures, it becomes apparent to the really studious seeker after truth that most of what is happening in the world today is not new, but in fact was well known to, and well publicised by, the prophets of God's Word. Professor Roger Rusk, in his excellent book "The Other End of the World," page 235, makes this important statement; "The principle is simple. Read the Book and look out the window. If what you think you see is not to be found in the Book, then either we have poor eyesight or God is not in control of what is going on."

But not only are the problems set forth, but more importantly, so are the solutions. From the very beginning, God set forth His intentions by the use of 'patterns', whereby future generations could seek guidance as to how God intended to accomplish His plans as well as the method whereby God wished them to act. So we find that not only the enemy's means of destruction are set forth, but so are the Lord's means of deliverance.

The prophet Amos enunciated a very important principle when he wrote;

"Hear the word the Lord has spoken against you, O people of Israel - against the whole family I brought up out of Egypt.

You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your sins.

Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?

Does a lion roar in the thicket when he has no prey?

Does he growl in his den when he has caught nothing?

Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground where no snare has been set?

Does a trap spring up from the earth when there is nothing to catch?

When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble?

When disaster comes to a city, has not the Lord caused it?

Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets.

*The lion has roared - who will not fear?
The Sovereign Lord has spoken - who can but prophesy?"*

(Amos 3:1-8. N.I.V.)

The ministry of 'prophesying' is no different today to what it was in Old Testament days. Why should it be? Its purpose, both then as now, is to tell forth, or expound, the mind and purposes of God. And in order for this ministry to be properly carried out, God reveals His will to those whom He chooses - those who are called to be watchmen. He made the principle very clear to Daniel when He said;

*"The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand.
But the wise shall understand."*

(Dan. 12:10).

It must then be patently obvious that if there are going to be those who will understand, then there must be something for them to understand. What then is the nature of God's revelation?

Is it a revealing of something entirely new which He has never previously mentioned?

Will He reveal something, even today, which is contrary to His expressly stated will and purpose?

Will He reveal something which is contrary to the pattern He has already established?

Or is it a revealing of understanding and application of what God has already recorded and demonstrated?

The Word tells us that *"God is not a man that He should lie, neither the son of man that He should repent."* (Num. 23:19). The Word also tells us *"For I am the LORD, I change not. Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."* (Malachi 3:6).

The simple fact is that if we wish to understand what is really going on around us, and how God is going to deal with it, then all we have to do is to go to His Word and find the pattern that He has set out therein. There is nothing new. There is nothing happening now, or destined

to happen, that hasn't happened, or at least been described and spoken of in the past.

One of the most outstanding evidences of this principle is found in the Lord's Feast Days. They were given specifically and solely to His people Israel. They were given in three sections or divisions. First there was the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which included the Passover. Secondly there was the Feast of Weeks, or as it is now called, the Feast of Pentecost. Thirdly, there was the Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast of Unleavened Bread itself was divided into three sections. Firstly there was the Passover which spoke of our deliverance and justification before God. Then there was the week of Unleavened Bread which speaks of our cleansing and preparation. And finally there is the Firstfruits at the end of the Feast which sets the pattern for the resurrection. At the other end of the year is the Feast of Tabernacles which represents the time of God's dwelling with His people. This was when our Lord was born. If He came at the time of this Feast the first time, then why should we doubt that this would be also the time of His reappearing? The pattern has been set. If we followed these patterns today, we wouldn't have the ridiculous situation where the Christian church celebrates both the birth and the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ in accordance with totally pagan symbols and ceremonies.

Then we have the matter of the events associated with the Lord's return. The orthodox teaching today is that when the trump of God sounds, all the Christians of all ages will rise silently and secretly to meet Him in the air. But that is contrary to the pattern set down by God. Numbers 10:3-4 clearly tells us that when two trumpets are sounded, then all the congregation of Israel assembles. But when only one trumpet sounds, it is the call for **only the elders**. If you check with I Cor. 15:52, and I Thess. 4:16, you will find that only ONE trumpet is referred to. Thus the call at that time is for only the elders, or those who will rule and reign with Christ as distinct from those who will, by virtue of their salvation to everlasting life, be citizens of the Kingdom. So we see that if we understand

the pattern that was set, then we will understand the pattern for what is still to come. There is nothing new. "What has been is that which will be."

What of that wonderful event, the resurrection of the dead and the translation of the living? How much has been written and preached about this subject. Yet there is still major confusion among Christians about what happens. Why, I will never know, because again, the pattern has been set. We have recorded in God's Word an excellent example of each of these situations. When the Lord's friend Lazarus died, Jesus told His disciples that he had fallen asleep. But they mistook what He meant and the Lord had to tell them plainly that Lazarus had died. He remained dead for four days, plenty of time to go up to heaven and have a wonderful look round, seeing that he was no longer restricted by time as previously. But what happened? The Lord didn't creep up to the entrance of the cave and whisper to him to come back. He shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." There was nothing secret about this. Everyone there heard Him. One can't help but notice the absence of any description of heaven by Lazarus when he came out of the grave. What a golden opportunity that would have been to instruct us in what happens immediately we die. I wonder why he didn't say anything about that. Or is it just possible that the Word is correct when it says that the dead know not anything. And what about the translation? Again we have an excellent example in the translation of the prophet Elijah. Again, it was certainly not a silent secret event. There were many folk there, not only watching it, but fully expecting it. Suddenly the fiery horses and chariot of Israel came swooping down, and in the subsequent whirlwind, Elijah was caught up to heaven in their sight. Why should we expect that the coming translation will be any different? "What has been is that which shall be."

Doctrine, that is, true Biblical doctrine, is not difficult to understand if we only obey the rules. The answers lie within the Bible itself, not in all the airy-fairy ideas and imaginings of so-called theology.

We hear so much these days about right-wing and left-wing politics. There's not much difference now, but there was a great difference earlier in the system. But, as the Bible says, there is no new thing under the sun. When we turn to Ecc. 10:2 we read;

*"The heart of the wise inclines to the right,
but the heart of the fool to the left. (N.I.V.)*

Perhaps this gives us a fresh insight to the constant attack on what is called the "right wing."

One of the most important aspects of God's Word is in respect of the pattern which it lays down regarding the sequence of events in these last days. Whilst it is quite true that we will not know the day or the hour of our Lord's return, the Bible is quite explicit as to the fact that we will, or at least should, know the times and the seasons. But how are we to know these 'times and seasons' without some guides or signposts? I really get quite annoyed with those people who immediately crack down on anyone who mentions time periods or dates. All of us, at some time or other, have driven along a road and noticed the signposts which tell us how far we have to go to reach the next town. Sometimes we will hazard a guess that it's so many miles or kilometres away. But when we come to the next signpost, we find that out estimate has been a bit short or a bit long. Nobody gets upset about this. It's just a part of the journey. But if anyone has the audacity to apply the same principle to the length of time we have left before the Lord returns, he suddenly becomes one that has to be avoided at all costs. So what if his estimate is out? What difference does it make to the facts? It is not the intent of prophecy to forecast the future as much as it is to explain where we are now in God's timetable. The watchman's job is to sound the warning as he sees the event approaching. The responsibility of the people is to continually go back to the watchman for regular updating of the progress of things. If the watchman knew the exact timing of everything before it happened, he would tell everyone that asked the first time, and there wouldn't be any reason or necessity for them to go back to ask again. For

this reason, the watchman has a real responsibility to continually upgrade and update his knowledge and understanding in the light of developing events in order to correctly apply the Word of God.

The most outstanding pattern recorded about present events is contained in the writings of the prophet Daniel. What he was shown absolutely amazed him. But he was told that understanding of these things would not occur until the very last days. He had been informed of three major time periods, as set forth in his 12th chapter. They were 'a time, times, and a half a time, (verse 7), which equals 1260 days, or prophetic years. In the 11th verse there is the time period of 1290 day/years. Then in the 12th verse there is the period of 1335 day/years. Remember that Daniel wanted to understand these things, but he was told that they wouldn't be understood until the time of the end. Now if God didn't want us to know what they meant, and what was the pattern set forth in their fulfilment, then why on earth did He go to the trouble of including these details in the Sacred Record? The only reasonable answer is that He put them there quite deliberately so that when the appropriate time came, those who were looking for the pattern of God's plans in world events would recognise just where we were in God's great Time Clock.

It is generally recognised by teachers of the Histori-cist school of prophecy that the 1260 period was fulfilled in 1917 when Jerusalem was freed from the heathen by the British forces, and returned to its rightful Israel owners. This date was forecast by the highly respected Bible teacher Dr. Grattan Guinness as far back as 1890. It should be remembered that any date in a year on our calendar which falls after the day of the Feast of Trumpets, which was the beginning of the Israel civil year, and which falls nominally about October 1, would be the next year on the Israel calendar. Thus Dec. 11 1917 would be 1918 on the Israel calendar. The second time cycle of 1290 day/years given to Daniel is 30 years longer than the first of 1260, and this comes to 1948, the very year that the present abomination of the Israeli State was set up in the

Holy Land. (verse 11). Are we really supposed to ignore the very real possibilities of what might transpire at the conclusion of the final cycle of 1335 day/years? Will the pattern alter? Surely not. I think that what frightens people is the fact that this period finishes at, or near the end of, this year of 1992, and for most folk, that is a bit too close for comfort. When we add to this the fact that the last sign given to Daniel, as distinct from the time cycles, is that these things would be finished or concluded when the power of the holy people was scattered, and when, as recorded in Deut. 32:29 God enjoined His people to be wise and consider their latter end, then the pattern becomes quite clear. We can now, with a reasonable degree of certainty, know the 'times and the seasons', not on the basis of our own desires and emotions, but on the firm basis of what God's Word reveals.

If our personal conclusion as to the identity of the Two Witnesses of Revelation chapter 11 is correct, i.e., the two families of the House of Israel, the Dominion and the Sanctuary, (Psalm 114:2), and our application of this prophecy to the end of this year when Britain joins the United States of Europe is the fulfilment of the beginning of the 3 1/2 years death condition of these Two Witnesses, then we are definitely about to enter the most severe season of "the time of Jacob's Trouble." On this basis we would conclude that by mid 1996, these 'witnesses' would stand up on their feet again to the utter fear of all who thought them dead, thus commencing the greatest national revival in our recorded history.

It is my own personal conviction that the Resurrection and Translation of the overcomers - those who are to rule and reign with our Lord Jesus Christ as Elders in Israel - will by then have become a reality. Do we have any pattern for this possibility? Well, consider this. The pattern for the time period between the call to the Marriage Supper and the actual return of the Bridegroom to meet His bride, according to Judges 14:12, is seven days. Now most students of prophecy accept the theory of six 'days' of 1,000 years each, or 6,000 years from Adam to the end of this age, immediately prior to the 7th or King-

dom Age that follows. Thus, if the year of Adam's formation was 4,000 B.C., then this age would end in 2001 A.D. But this does not take into consideration the year of the birth of our Lord, which various authorities date as either 4 B.C., or 2 B.C. The most commonly held date is that of 4 B.C. which supports the overall starting date as 4004 B.C., and the subsequent conclusion date 6000 years later of 1997 A.D. If that is the date associated with the physical and literal return of our Lord, then the call to the Marriage Feast, as suggested above, would have been seven years earlier in 1990. Now either it didn't happen in that year, or else it happened very secretly and none of us made it. Neither for that matter has there been any reports of a reasonable number of people suddenly going missing. But if the later date of 2 B.C. for the birth of our Lord is correct, then the time frame would advance two years to 4002 B.C. to 1999 A.D., and the call to the Marriage Supper would be seven years earlier, that is, by the end of this year of 1992. I assure you that I hesitate to make these suggestions because of the tremendous possibilities involved. If what we are suggesting is for some years in the future it isn't so bad, because by the time the date arrives and nothing happens most people have forgotten all about it at any rate. But when we are speaking of just a few months hence, then it gets somewhat scary. It all sounds too good to be true. But as I've often said before, I'd rather sound the warning and watch and pray and then find that our understanding of the timing was in error, than to ignore the very real possibilities and carry on regardless as though there was nothing to worry about, and then find to our dismay that the timing was correct after all, and we were found not to be ready for that Great Call.

Let us then be sober and WATCH!

Remember that it **IS** God's will that we know the times and the seasons. Let us be found faithfully working when He returns. There is no greater goal that any true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ should ever have than to be kings and priests, ruling with Him in His Kingdom.



JUDEO-CHRISTIAN ?

by W. D. Ferguson

There are some who continually use the phrase "Judeo-Christian" when referring to religion in America and Australia.

To combine Judaism and Christianity in a tandem term indicates an abysmal ignorance of both, or what appears more likely, a conscious effort and desire to replace one with the other.

Judaism and Christianity have absolutely nothing in common.

America and Australia are, and always will be, Christian nations. Both the American Declaration of Independence and our Constitutions are based on the laws of nature and the laws of God as enumerated in the Old Testament and the New Testament. (And contrary to what some false prophets-pastors are telling us, the laws, statutes and judgments, except for the ordinances relating to animal sacrifices, as outlined in the Old Testament, are still in effect.)

If indeed there is any link between Judaism and Christianity, why is it only practiced and preached in America and the other Christian Anglo-Saxon nations? Why not in the present State of Israel? Instead, a Christian may not hold citizenship or public office in Israel and it is illegal to preach the gospel or pass out Christian materials. And under the Jewish Law of Return, you cannot immigrate to Israel unless you have a Jewish mother and accept Judaism. How's that for cultural exchange? Why the one-way street if the plan isn't to convert Christian Anglo-Saxondom to Judaism while at the same time protecting Israel from Christianity?

This four-pronged attack should be obvious to even the most brainwashed pastor; Moses is being eliminated

and Christ shut out in Israel, while at the same time Christ is being eliminated and Judaism brought into our Christian lands.

Judaism at one time was based on the Torah and was practiced by the Hebrews. Apparently that is no longer true. In an official statement by Rabbi Morris N. Kertzner in Look Magazine, June 17, 1952, it stated: *"The Talmud is the legal code which forms the basis of Jewish religious law and it is the textbook used in the training of rabbis."*

How many Christians who now subscribe to what is called Judeo-Christian believe we should replace the Bible with the Zionist's Talmud as Rabbi Kertzner indicated has been done in Israel? If so, it is suggested you read the book "The Talmud Unmasked" by Rev. I.B. Pranaitis. Here are a few quotes:

"... All Christians, including the best of them, are to be killed." "A Jew who kills a Christian commits no sin, but offers an acceptable sacrifice to God." "Those who kill Christians shall have a high place in heaven." "The one object of all the actions and prayers of the Jews should be to destroy the Christian religion."

And here's one that hopefully will get some of you to thinking: "A Jew may pretend he is a Christian to deceive Christians." Sound like anyone you might know?

Let's take one final quote and this one from New York Magazine for January 18, 1972, Page 32 by Zionism's spokesman Rabbi Martin Siegal:

"I am devoting my lecture in this seminary to the discussion of the possibility that we are now entering a Jewish century...I call this process the Judaisation of Christianity because Christianity will be the vehicle through which this society becomes Jewish."

Got that, thou false prophets? "Christianity will be the vehicle through which this society becomes Jewish."

The least you wolves in Sheep's clothing could do is call it Christian-Judeo. At least pretend that you put Christianity first.

Back in the days when the American Supreme Court was actually "supreme" it made this statement:

"...We are a Christian people, and the morality of the country is deeply engrafted upon Christianity, and not upon the doctrines or worship of those impostors (other religions)."

This nation was conceived by Christians, was founded by Christians and, except for this short apostate period of infiltration by "impostors", will once again be Christian.

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."



Feast Day Celebrations.

There seems to be some confusion in the minds of some of our readers as to the manner in which we celebrate the Lord's Feast Days, and as to our reasons for doing so.

Let me commence by reassuring everyone that we do NOT, repeat NOT, celebrate these as 'Jewish Feasts,' as is the practice in some churches. At our "Passover" service we concentrate our entire service on the glorious fact of the death and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, much in the same way as any other congregation. In our "Tabernacle" services, we celebrate the fact of the birth of our Lord in much the same way as others. The major difference is that we refuse absolutely to pollute these services of special worship with the totally heathen trappings that are normally a part of traditional services at Easter and Christmas. By celebrating these wonderful events at their proper Biblical times, we are thus able to separate ourselves from practices with which we do not agree, and more fully understand their meaning and application. For the sake of those who might like to join us, our Feast of Tabernacle services will be held as part of our normal Sunday services on October 4 and 11 this year.

If you are able to attend, you will be most welcome.

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

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COVENANT WATCH

WORLD AFFAIRS

No. 3 - 1992

Courtesy Pastor Nester
P.O. Box 49432, Hercules 0030
Republic of South Africa

Soweto Day

It was yesterday Soweto Day, 16th June, 1992. The ANC/SACP Alliance has called their people up for a country wide strike, and to continue with it until the government yields to all their demands. The ultimate aim is to take over the government of the country and reshape it according to the Communist Pattern which failed so dismally in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The immediate future will show where all this will lead to.

On the 20th June, 1976, I preached on the significance of the Soweto uprising. I pointed out that this was but the tip of the iceberg which had a far deeper root. It was a symptom of the approaching return of the Lord Jesus Christ to come back to earth and reign as King according to the prophets, and the heathen's opposition to it. Unfortunately this message is not available on cassette. But ten years later on 29th June, 1986, I preached on the theme **TEN YEARS AFTER SOWETO**, and this is available, and can be ordered from our office.

The King is Coming

Yes, the Bible teaches very clearly that Jesus, the Christ, the Anointed King of Israel will return to this earth very soon to come and take the government of this earth upon His shoulder. This is our only hope to have order, peace and stability on earth - there is no alternative.

But it will come to pass exactly as the prophets had said, and in no other way. (Please read *Luke 24:25-27, 44, 45*.) According to the prophets the Christ will come to sit on the throne of His father David and reign over the House of Jacob for ever. The throne of David is a literal throne here on earth, and the House of Jacob a literal people also here on earth. The West European nations today are the literal descendants of these people. We white people in South Africa are therefore part of them.

King Jesus is therefore coming back to regather us as His Kingdom People and with us as His Kingdom to reign over the nations of the earth. It will be strictly according to the principles of the Law of God as committed to His People Israel on Mount Sinai, and confirmed in His Sermon on the Mount. The system of government will be absolutely just and applied with an iron rod discipline.

The Heathen in Revolt

The heathen nations who are under the inspiration of Satan and are controlled by the principalities, the powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world and the spiritual wickedness in high places (*Ephesians 6*), know this instinctively, and are in fierce resistance against it. This is the total explanation for all our problems of today. We can have as many Codes as we like, or give very learned explanations, there will be no human solution. Likewise Church Conferences, Synods, Rustenburg Declarations or whatever, will not give the answer. There will be no solution until we return to God's Word and honestly listen to what it says and realise that what is written in *Malachi 3:6* is the truth: *"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed"* This you must understand if you want to comprehend what is really happening in our country and in the world. Write to us and ask for a complete list of our books and cassettes. You will then realise that there is a completely different explanation for the present turmoil in our politics, economics and theology as presented to us today. On the contrary, you will come to realise that it is actually the traditional thinking in these departments that is responsible for our present chaos.

Los Angeles

The recent riots in Los Angeles in the USA is a clear example of the deep seated hatred of the black man against the white man. There is no Apartheid in the USA. After years of equality by law and cajoling of the blacks, it needed only one incident such as a Rodney King to light the fires. And that is not the end. The real explanation is the same as for the condition here in South Africa: the black does not only want to be equal with the white, but he also does not want to be governed by the white.

Let Us Be Honest

We are condemned and cast out because of our Apartheid Policy. But under apartheid we did not have the thousands of murders that we have today. Our economy was sound and there was not the unemployment among our blacks that we have today. It was under Apartheid that universities, schools and hospitals were built for the blacks and a start was made to give them decent housing. It was apartheid that set out to restore to the black his national pride by giving to each ethnic group his own homeland.

Enormous amounts of money were spent to make the homelands viable. But the blacks did not want to work for themselves. Their culture made them to stop providing for tomorrow if they have sufficient for today.

We have spoilt the blacks by trying to please them and encouraging their basket culture each time they made the slightest demand. Our mother countries overseas were the biggest culprits in this. They allowed the liberalists with their philosophy of the noble savage to load them with an enormous guilt complex. After the second world war the European nations left Africa in shameful haste because they had been deceived by powers and influences that are aiming at world domination, to believe that they had exploited "poor innocent Africa".

But while they (these European nations), had been in control, Africa was healthy, solvent and self-supporting. After their departure Africa fell into the abyss of decay that it is in today.

Dominion

Fifty years has been long enough to prove that the black cannot govern himself, and even less govern the white. Conditions are far too serious for us to run away from the truth any longer. Unfortunately the situation has now become so bad that the truth has become extremely dangerous. To speak the truth in the present climate is to cause such an explosion that nobody wants to take the risk. But throughout the ages there arose under similar circumstances those who, inspite of the risk involved, did stand up and spoke the truth. They of course had to pay for it with their lives. Think for instance of the prophets, our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, the apostles, the martyrs, the reformers and so on.

The white man as the descendant of Israel, has been ordained of God to rule over the heathen, but then he first had to come to the place where he could rule over himself. And that is impossible without a complete rebirth. Only after the People of God (Israel) had come to a genuine conversion and have the Law of God written in their hearts, can they be worthy to fulfil their calling of dominion.

This is what is going to happen to us in this crisis. We are going to experience as a people a rebirth. A nation shall be born in a day. Then God will also remove the curse from the earth. The law of God shall be applied here on earth.

In the days of Israel in the Bible the heathen was obedient and Israel happy and prosperous during the periods when she was obedient to the law of God. But as soon as Israel became apostate and began to disobey the Lord, the heathen lifted up his heel against Israel, rebelled against her, and at times even ruled over the oppressed Israel.

Exhausted

Two of our cabinet ministers became completely exhausted through the wrangling at Codesa, one of them even left politics altogether. Blacks love a meeting, an indaba, it is their culture, the longer and more prolonged,

the better for them. But what our people do not realise, is that this conflict is supernatural in nature. The blacks are under the inspiration and guidance of Satan himself, without them realising it. He inspires them to resist, and if possible, prevent the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth. Therefore our people in their dealings with them must act in the power of God, otherwise we do not stand a chance. I do not say that our negotiators do not pray or that they are not supported in prayer, but if we do not realise what is at stake and what supernatural powers are involved, we will not really know how to pray effectively.

In the time of Daniel it was the evil unseen prince of Persia who was the counsellor of the king of Persia, who withstood the angel on his way from God to Daniel in answer to his prayer. Read it for yourself in *Daniel Chapter 10*.

We are indeed the people of the Book (the Bible). But we must not only confess it with our lips, but also by our actions. God has got a chosen people on earth, an elect race. It is exactly this great truth and fact that determine events on earth. This is also the reason why the word race is so hated in our days. The devil who is the god of this world (order) knows that when King Jesus comes to set up His Kingdom here on earth, He comes to save this race from annihilation and to restore her to her ordained place in the council of God. This is not the "Church" and also not the Jew.

Please notice how the term "non racial" is emphasised everywhere. Overseas it is already illegal to discriminate on racial grounds. It is almost the same here as well, and will soon be completely our identity has already been taken out of the population registration. This is all in preparation for the total and final take over by the heathen and the dethroning of our Lord Jesus Christ and the annulment of the divine plan of God.

But take heart dear reader, not one jot or one tittle shall be missing from God's Word. Study and pray to understand what He has revealed in His Word. All will come to pass exactly as it is written. His Kingdom shall come, and His will shall be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh! □

Courtesy "F. & L. Discussion Papers"
P.O. Box C486, Clarence Street
Sydney. 2000. Australia

Monarch, Republic or Democracy

Today, when there is no true democracy existing, practically every kind of government is being called democratic, but you can tell that they are not democracies by the smell of crime, injustice, corruption and bureaucratic despotism.

What is difficult for most people is to see that 'party' government is a WORLD SYSTEM of government and in no way related to either monarchy, republic or the democratic ideal. The structure of the party makes it impossible for the party system to operate democratically.

For want of a better name I have called the party system "Factionocracy" meaning faction power worshipping many gods. However, no matter what it may be called, the party system is controlled by people outside of the parliament and often outside of the country.

The structure of the party system is dictatorial and must remain so even without outside control. A simple sign exposing dictatorship is that the government OWNS the constitution - when a government claims the right to change the constitution you have dictatorship.

The second thing that people find difficult to accept or understand is the hidden relationship between socialism and capitalism.

Socialism is the champion of the idea that law is owned by the State. Socialism represents a special form of dictatorship. Because socialism is the tool of its anti-thesis, capitalism, this relationship must be hidden.

True capitalism is confined to an elite group of families who control world capital, which is what capitalism is. The general mass of small to large business is not part of the capital manipulative system and should be classed as private enterprise. Both capitalism and communism plan to eliminate human individuality and the power base of private enterprise.

By eliminating the middle class, capitalism will control all industry at international level and the 'working class cattle' will be maintained (or culled) as ignorant slaves to socialist equality.

It is capitalism that installs the party system of government (which it calls 'democracy') and people are fooled because capitalism also 'owns' the mass media. However, people aid their own deception when they do not value the truth.

Dictatorship by an elite rather than by an individual is still dictatorship. Socialist nations inevitably have a very impressive "Bill of Rights" but these rights are given by the State and may be interpreted by the State or the State bureaucracy as the State may desire; or, as it is usually expressed, 'according to law'. Meaning, in this case, "as the State sees fit".

Although the (very trusting) average person is totally unaware of it, this, unfortunately, is the plan behind "party system", 'democracies'.

Monarchy or republic, it makes no difference if the people, through ignorance, trust or apathy, allow the government to control the meaning of the constitution. It may be said that socialism is dead; well the name may be dead but so long as the party lives, socialist equality for the 'working' class will live.

* * * *

Courtesy "On Target"

Vilification Bill Belongs to the Days of the Inquisition from The Age, June 11:

"The Victorian Protestant Federation, the United Protestant Association of Victoria and the Loyal Orange Institution of Victoria call on Victorians to reject the racial and religious Vilification Bill before the Victorian Parliament.

"This Bill belongs to a religious, fascist state and has no place in a democracy. The legislation represents a denial of hundreds of years of experience and if it passes

through Parliament and becomes law then this state will be plunged back to the middle ages.

"The Bill represents a sharp break with the British tradition of tolerance and looks back to the European tradition of the Spanish Inquisition. It has often been claimed in Australia that a person's home is their castle, but if this Bill is passed, it will no longer be so.

"The Bill entangles the Government in the affairs and disputes between religious groups. It criminalises strong missionary activity and the vigorous proselytisation of religious groups. A first offender faces a \$2,000 fine or two months jail.

"The publishing, distributing or displaying of written or pictorial material strongly presenting religious viewpoints and criticising opposing theological beliefs is also criminalised. The possession of written or pictorial material intended for publication that strongly present religious beliefs and criticises opposing theological beliefs will also become a criminal offence.

"No home, no bookshop, no library, and no religious meeting that strongly promotes a Protestant or dissenting position with regard to other religious beliefs will be safe from the intrusion of the religious police and magistrates.

"This ill-conceived legislation is a wrong road to a wrong end.

* * * *

"I do not expect you to agree with me, but I believe that the most urgent need for Western man is to re-discover that divine element in his being, without which there never can be any possible hope or meaning to our existence in the Earthly realm."

(Prince Charles in "The People's Prince".)

* * * *
FAX CONNECTED!

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FRIGHTENING DAYS

Courtesy "The Covenanter"

There is no doubt that we are living in frightening days, and I would go so far as to say that the most frightened people in the world today are the scientists who know most about the awful potential of the hideous weapons that have been, and still are being, developed. A speaker on the BBC's programme 'Thought for the Day' said the world is being run as though it is a motor car, without reference to the maker's handbook. Maybe it is a good thing that most of us are ignorant of a lot of the things which are going on. We are certainly living in frightening days.

Three Philosophies

It seems to me that one can adopt, generally speaking, one of three philosophies. You can adopt an agnostic or atheistic philosophy and say that there is no God and that we are all subject to blind fate - a dogma of fatalism.

Or you can adopt the philosophy of many Christians, and believe that "Yes, there is a God, but this God whom we serve is limited by man, and God can only do what man allows Him to do." My observations lead me to think that this is the philosophy of a large part of Christendom today.

Or you can accept the philosophy of the Reformers and the Puritans: a philosophy which is now coming back into some of our theological colleges: a philosophy of a small, but I believe, important minority today, that God is Sovereign, absolute Sovereign, and that nothing happens by chance.

God Has A Plan

Another point I wish to make is that God has a plan. It is unthinkable that a God of infinite wisdom and power would create a world without a plan. We all plan for our work; and if it is true that practically everything relevant to our activity is done to a plan, then am I to suppose that my God, who has infinite power and wisdom, created this world and threw it into space without a definite plan for its continuance?

I believe that if we could see the world, with all its events, past, present and future, we would see that it has followed a pre-determined course with exact precision; and, of course, the proof of that is Bible prophecy.

Whether we use the microscope to see the minutest detail, or the telescope to see the remotest detail, we find organisation. If we examine with a microscope the wing of a common house-fly, we find perfect organisation; and in every sphere of nature we find the same organisation, a pre-determined plan.

I believe that God's plan includes the minutest events in the sweep of history. I can't explain this to you, but I believe it!

The Fact of Evil

I am well aware that this may raise intellectual difficulties. Without doubt, the main difficulty is the fact of evil. How could God, who is all-powerful, all-holy and all-loving, have allowed evil to exist?

Why did Adam have to be tempted? Why didn't God strike the Devil dead when he entered the Garden of Eden?

The Bible hints at the answer, but makes it clear that man is not supposed to know the full answer until

God has allowed the Devil and all his designs to help work out His own great plan.

Long before Adam existed, it seems that God's universe was divided up into spheres of influence, each under the control of an angel or heavenly prince, all of whom were responsible directly to God. In Colossians 1, verse 16, Paul speaks of 'thrones and dominions, principalities and powers' in both the visible and invisible world.

The Bible speaks of angels and archangels operating in an established order, and our newspapers provide ample evidence of the personality of the Devil. How else would sane, thinking people behave in such a self-injuring, self-destroying way if they were not in the grip of evil?

There has been no saint, past or present, no one, who has tried to do the will of God who has not been aware, at times desperately, of the potent force of evil which digs pits for his feet and frustrates and impedes his best efforts.

The trump card of the Devil is his concealment. Oh, yes. The modern mind discards this theory, but the fact is that the ambition of the god of this world is to frustrate God's plan. The god of this world is the enemy of souls. Supremely, he is a liar and deceiver, blinding people's minds to the truth of the Gospel of the Glory of Christ.

The Problem of Suffering and Evil

The problem of suffering and evil in our midst is a matter which has troubled the Church during the whole of its history. "Why does God allow it?" is a question which is constantly asked. Very largely, the dilemma is personal to us. I have come to terms with it, although I don't claim a total explanation.

The funeral service speaks of delivering our brother or sister 'out of the miseries of this sinful world'. Some

people consider that the world is not miserable or sinful, but the facts deny this. If you happen to be a victim of disease, conflict or comparative poverty, then it is miserable, certainly in comparison with the beauty and perfection of life as God intended it to be, and as it will be when restored by Him. At the present time it is a world made miserable by the sin of man's ignorance or downright rejection of God's beneficent laws.

A Battle

We are in the midst of a battle. Even when we are on the Lord's side, we are soldiers in conflict with the evil forces, and as in conventional human warfare, the enemies' bullets make no distinction regarding the victims; we can become casualties whatever our age, sex, value to society or potential for good. When a good young Christian is struck down whilst a self-centred, greedy and perhaps cruel tyrant survives, it should occasion no surprise or problem, for, as St. Paul says: *"We are bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body."* (2 Cor. 4:8-10.)

Christ is Supreme

So we reiterate that the god of this world is a liar and deceiver, blinding people's minds to the truth of the Gospel of the Glory of Christ. Preach that Gospel to some of the followers of deviant faiths and they will agree that Jesus lived and died but they can't bear the truth of His Resurrection and present glory. The god of this world has blinded their minds to the truth.

We say in the Apostles' Creed that Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. All power and authority and majesty have been given to Him. He has been exalted far above all principalities, powers, might, dominion and every name that is named in this world and in the unseen world.

Christ is supreme - that is the Gospel, the Good News of the Glory of Christ.

The Light of His Glory and Grace

My brother was a musician in the Band of the Royal Horse Guards. He did duty many times as one of the two trumpeters who blow the fanfare at the opening of Parliament, when the Sovereign comes into the House of Lords invested with imperial glory.

My brother often spoke of the brilliance and beauty of that earthly glory; but what of the glory of Jesus Christ, who is the image of God, before whom even angels veil their faces?

My readers,

*"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace."*

May we experience the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.



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STUDY IN REVELATION.

By Frank W. Dowsett.

PART TWENTY FIVE.

CHAPTERS 19 and 20.

ON TO VICTORY.

Revelation Chapter 19

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:

19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

19:3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

19:4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

19:5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

19:12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven,

Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

19:18 *That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.*

19:19 *And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.*

19:20 *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

19:21 *And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.*

We now come to what must surely be the most exciting portion of the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. For just on two thousand years since it was given, God's Israel people, and indeed the entire world, has suffered under the influence and domination of an enemy so great and fearsome that very few Christians have had, and sadly still don't have, the slightest knowledge of its enormity, let alone its identity. I have to repeat, with the greatest respect for many good and close friends and fellow-workers in the teaching of God's Word, that I cannot agree that this age-long battle can simply be boiled down to one of Protestants versus Roman Catholics. That this difference, and even enmity exists is beyond question, and I have no intention of minimising this question in any way. But to so restrict our understanding of the great controversy that has waged for so many centuries, and indeed is still raging despite the fact that it is in its death throes, is to place a restraint on our understanding which I believe is

totally unwarranted, and indeed quite misleading. I am not saying that it is misleading because I consider it to be wrong, but because I consider it to be incomplete. Our duty as watchmen in Israel is not only to teach the truth, but to teach the whole truth. We know from the Bible that God's great adversary, as is ours, is the being called Satan. For thousands of years this adversary has held dominion over God's creation both in the Religious, the Political, and the Economic spheres. As we have previously pointed out, this plan has been carried out through Satan's false religious system, that of the Church of Rome, and the false political and economic systems which have been, and still are under the control of Satan's material agencies led by Esau/Edom. The terms of this warfare are first recorded in Genesis 3:15;

"And I (God) will put enmity between thee (Satan) and the woman (Eve), and between thy (Satan's) seed, and her (Eve's) seed; and it [he] shall bruise thy (Satan's) head, and thou (Satan) shall bruise his (the seed of the woman's) heel."

The two contestants are clearly the "seed of the woman", which constitute both the Lord Jesus Christ and His true Israel people, and "the seed of Satan" whom our Lord just as clearly identifies as Esau/Edom. Now the grandson of Esau was named Amalek. God had some very bad news for this man and his descendants. We read in Exodus 17:14 and 16;

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

For he said, Because the hand of Amalek is against the throne of the LORD (Marginal reading), the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

The descendants of Amalek became known as the Edomites, and in the days of our Lord's first advent, were known as Idumeans. They were basically those who called themselves "Jews" (or more correctly Judeans), but were not. They didn't have a drop of Israelite blood in their veins, and their descendants today are in exactly the same position. These are the people whom Jehovah said quite clearly that He hated. If you don't believe me, then read Malachi 1:2-3 and Romans 9:13. Our Lord Jesus Christ referred to them as being "the synagogue of Satan." Today's theological experts refer to these same people as "the temple of God," or 'God's Chosen people.' I know whom I choose to believe. They are the nominated enemies of God, and as a matter of real importance, nowhere in the entire Bible are we called upon to pray for God's enemies. We are certainly told to pray for our own enemies, that is, those who despitefully use us, but for ministers to get their congregations to stand whilst they pray for God's blessing on the people of His curse must be the ultimate in blasphemy. This is the real enemy in our midst who have completely controlled the entire Babylonian System which God is even now totally destroying, and which was the subject of our studies in our previous chapter. This entire system is in its final death throes, and those who are trying to patch it up, or replace it with some other system other than the introduction of the full Law of God into our national affairs are simply wasting their time and resources. Sadly, they are also misleading those who follow them into thinking that there is a way out of our present impasse other than the full implementation of the Laws of God. And this in turn leads to a complete lack of understanding and realisation by even Christians that this will only be achieved by the return of our Lord Jesus Christ when He takes to Himself the Throne of His father David and takes the government upon His own shoulders, fully implementing the terms of the New Covenant that He made with the House of Israel wherein He will write His Laws on our hearts and in our minds.

It was the realisation that that time had at last arrived that caused the jubilation expressed in the first six verses of Revelation chapter 19 which we quoted above. The destruction of this system is final and complete, as

represented by the smoke rising for ever and ever of verse three. And why shouldn't we rejoice? Can you even begin to imagine a world totally devoid of all the evil which now pervades every aspect of our national and individual lives? Well, if you are prepared to believe God and His Word, that is exactly what is just about to happen. The rising smoke signifies a continuing reminder of the permanent destruction of the enemy, not a condition of permanent suffering and agony as so many Christians seem to like to think. I will never understand this paranoia among so many Christians with the idea of everlasting screaming agony and unspeakable pain. One gets the sense of some perverse feeling of satisfaction and superiority over the alleged unfortunate victims. I'm sure that I would rather come to God as a result of the knowledge and certainty of His grace than by having the living daylights scared out of me.

Thus we are prepared for the final events which are to usher in the completed and perfected Kingdom of God here on this earth, and its everlasting effects on God's wonderful creation under the leadership of our Lord Jesus Christ and His appointed and anointed kings and priests.

From this point on, I intend to deal with seven distinct aspects of the end of this present age and the Kingdom Age which immediately follows as set forth in both the 19th and 20th chapters of the Book of the Revelation. They are;

1. The preparation for the Marriage of the Lamb. (19:7-8).
2. The Marriage Supper and the First Resurrection. (19:9 and 20:4-6).
3. The Visible return of our Lord Jesus Christ. (19:11-16).
4. The final judgment on the leaders of the godless enemy systems. (19:17-21).
5. The 'one thousand years' of TRUTH and deliverance from the adversary. (20:1-3).

6. The final period of testing. (20:7-9).
7. The final age of judgment and total destruction of all the unrighteous.

Because this study incorporates the 20th chapter of the Revelation, for the convenience of our readers we reproduce it here.

Revelation chapter 20.

20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,
20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

It doesn't take too much of a mental strain to realise as we read verses 1-6 of chapter 19 that the rejoicing that is recorded not only refers to the fact that the iniquitous Babylonian system has been totally destroyed, but that following this, the Royal Reign of our Lord Jesus Christ

has begun. From this point on, that is in verses 7-21 of chapter 19, we are given the details of what happens in the transitional period between the Fall of Babylon and the triumphant return to this earth of the King of Kings.

Thus we come to the first of our headings;

The preparation for the Marriage of the Lamb.

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

The first thing we should realise is that this statement does not refer to the actual wedding ceremony as happening right at that point in time. It specifically refers to the preparation of the bride, and indeed the preparations generally, in anticipation of the wedding which is to occur. When we read the phrase 'for the marriage of the Lamb is come,' we need to realise that the word here translated 'come' means 'in the process of coming as distinct from being here now.' The word 'marriage' used here refers especially to the 'wedding feast', which, as we read in Judges 14:12 in respect of Samson's wedding, lasted seven days.

*"And Samson said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you. If you can certainly declare it me within **the seven days of the feast**, and find it out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty changes of garments."*

I believe that it is absolutely vital for us to clearly understand the order of events associated with weddings in those days if we are to fully understand what this passage of scripture is all about. The failure of both students and teachers in the past to appreciate these details and apply

them to the events described in this passage has led to considerable confusion in its interpretation and prophetic application. Unfortunately, people interpret this passage in the light of what happens today in respect of a wedding, not realising that in one important detail, the sequence of events is entirely reversed.

Once the period of courtship was completed and the engagement of the couple was officially announced, preparations for the wedding were put into motion much the same as it is today. But this is where the pattern differed. The bridegroom sent out invitations to his friends, not the bride's friends, to attend the marriage supper which was held before the actual wedding ceremony. The only people who attended this marriage supper were the friends of the BRIDEGROOM. This marriage feast, as we have said, lasted for seven days. At the conclusion of this feast, the bridegroom, together with his friends with whom he had supped, went out together to meet the bride, and only then did the wedding ceremony take place. Let me repeat. The marriage supper did not take place after the wedding ceremony as it does today, and present weddings can not be used as an illustration of the sequence of events associated with the marriage of the Lamb to His bride.

At the risk of being repetitious, allow me to list the sequence of events so that they will be absolutely clear in your minds.

1. There was the period of courtship followed by the official announcement of engagement.
2. The bride then commenced to prepare herself for the forthcoming wedding ceremony. She especially prepared a beautiful white wedding dress.
3. At the same time as the bride was preparing her wedding dress, the bridegroom entertained his own personal friends at the marriage supper to which he had specifically invited them. It was the custom in those days for the bridegroom to give to each invited guest a special garment which was to be worn at the wedding supper. Nobody could attend this

supper unless they were wearing this special garment which the bridegroom himself had provided. This explains why, as recorded in Matt. 22:11-14, that when the king came to his wedding feast and saw there a man who was not wearing the wedding garment, but had gatecrashed the feast and come along because he considered that he was good enough to be there, that the man was immediately recognised and ignominiously expelled from the feast. Truly, as it states in verse 14, many are called, but only the few are chosen.

4. At the end of this seven day feast period, both the bridegroom and his specially selected friends concluded the feast and went out to meet the bride who by this time had finished making her preparations, and was now dressed in all the finery of her white wedding dress.
5. Then the wedding took place.

Now this leaves us with a few more questions which must be understood. I'll guarantee that the reader never ever suspected that there could be so much to understand in just two verses of scripture as those with which we are dealing. But this is why we are told in II Timothy 2:15 to;

"STUDY to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (or handling) the Word of Truth."

The first of these questions must surely be, "Who is this wife or bride to whom the Lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ, is to be married?"

The second question is, "By what process does this bride make herself ready?"

The third question is, "What is the nature of the Marriage Supper, and who are the friends of the bridegroom who are invited?"

1. THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB.

If there is one subject more than any other, except of course that of our identity, which will buy you an argument among your Christian friends, it is the answer to this question. You ask virtually any minister, and any Christian, "Who is the bride?" and almost without exception you will receive the answer, "The bride is the church." Yet despite this almost universal answer, **NOT ONCE, in the entire Bible from Genesis to the Revelation, is this statement made.** It is no more than a theological conclusion derived from inference and incorrect doctrine.

"The Church" is clearly identified in Ephesians 1:22-23 and Colossians 1:18 as "Christ's Body." It is **NEVER** identified as His Bride or Wife. This practice of identifying the church as the bride has derived from the theory of substituting the church for Israel, whereby the literal nation of Israel is considered to no longer exist as such, being replaced, together with all the material promises made to literal Israel, by what is now called 'Spiritual Israel' or 'the church.' Now if this theory is correct, then the identification of the church as the bride would be correct. But this theory is quite simply not correct as it completely defies the clear and concise statements and promises of Almighty God as to the fact that the nation of Israel would always exist as a **nation** as long as the sun and the moon and the stars existed. He made this great promise on the sanctity of His own Name, and those who so offhandedly disregard this fact and substitute something else for what God promised, are to say the least, placing themselves in great jeopardy.

The original marriage of Israel to Jehovah God occurred at the giving and receiving by Israel of the Old Covenant as recorded in Exodus chapter 24 when the whole of the people made that still-famous wedding vow, "I DO." From that time onward, Israel was always spoken of in terms of being Jehovah's wife. Consider the following;

"Return thou backsliding Israel ... Turn O backsliding Israel, saith the LORD, FOR I AM MARRIED UNTO YOU."

(Jer. 3:12-14).

"Thou (Israel) shall not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For THY MAKER IS THY HUSBAND." The LORD of Hosts is His Name."

(Isaiah 54:4-5).

"Therefore, behold, I will allure thee (Israel), ... and it shall be at that time saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me HUSBAND, and shall call me no more lord. ...And I will betroth thee unto Me forever."

(Hosea 2:14 and 19).

Now unless the meaning of the words of the Bible has changed, and God Himself has changed His mind - both of which conclusions are completely out of the question, - then we can come to no other conclusion but that Jehovah's wife or bride is the literal nation of Israel. But at this point you get some really clever folk who come up with the answer to all this as being that while Israel is admitted as being Jehovah's wife, that was all in the Old Testament. That doesn't apply any more. We are now, so it is claimed, talking about a different person in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that the church is HIS bride. So now we are stuck with TWO brides. The one which Jehovah married and subsequently divorced, and then promised to remarry again, and a completely new bride who has never ever been mentioned before who is going to be married separately to Jesus Christ. No consideration is given to the fact that the Jehovah of the Old Testament and the Jesus of the New Testament are one and the same person. This being the case, there can obviously be only one bride, unless of course, Jesus is going to marry two wives, and there is certainly no scripture that would sustain such a conclusion.

But there is one further point which must be considered in the context of this Royal Marriage, and the relationship of Israel and the Church to it. When we studied the messages to the seven churches, we pointed out that the word 'church' originally applied to the nation of Israel, and quoted the passage in Acts 7:37-38 which reads:

"This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me. Him shall ye hear.

This is He, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the Mount Sinai, and with our fathers."

Now if we accept that 'the church' in its original sense and usage was the nation of Israel, then we can correctly identify this 'church' as the bride. But unfortunately, as we have already stated, this is not the manner in which the word is commonly used today. Thus we must be very careful in the terminology which we use lest we be understood to align ourselves with teaching which is incorrect.

Whilst it is true that in the marriage state the husband and the wife become one flesh, it in no way whatsoever changes in the slightest degree the separate entity and personality of either the husband or the wife. They are still two separate individuals. So if, as we have seen, the nation of Israel constitutes Christ's Bride, then who constitutes His Body? The remarkable, yet undeniable fact, is that if our Lord Jesus Christ is the Bridegroom, and that there are those who are referred to as being His Body, then those specially chosen friends are no longer just a part of the Bride in the sense of being Israelites, but have now become a **part of the Bridegroom**. And just as the husband has authority over the wife, so those who have now been appointed as part of the husband as a result of having achieved the higher calling in Christ Jesus referred to by the apostle Paul in Phil. 3:14, now have similar authority over the Bride or nation. They are those who will rule and reign with Christ, as distinct from those who will only be citizens in the Kingdom.

The question which we should all ask ourselves at this time is this. "Am I content to receive the wonderful gift of eternal life and remain a citizen in God's Kingdom, or am I going to press on toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus and be a King and Priest, ruling with Christ over that Kingdom?" That is a question that only you as an individual can answer. It is an aim that only you as an individual can achieve. No one else

can do it for you. Remember this. Eternal life is absolutely free. There is nothing that you now have, or ever will have which will buy it. It is a free gift from God as a result of His boundless grace. Citizenship in God's Kingdom will cost you nothing. But to be a King and Prince with Christ, ruling with Him over that Kingdom, will cost you everything that you have.

2. MAKING HERSELF READY.

As we have previously pointed out, there are now two separate things happening when we reach this point of time. Firstly, we have the bride being prepared for her forthcoming marriage, and secondly we have the bride-groom preparing his own particular friends for what is to happen, and one can assume with a fair degree of certainty, assigning to them their various roles in the forthcoming marriage. This second event we will study at some length a little later, but first, how is the bride made ready for her husband-to-be? The only statement as to the nature of this preparation is given in verse 8 of chapter 19 where we read;

"And to her it was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

Now what does this mean, to be 'arrayed in fine linen, clean and white?' The very first clue is contained in the verse itself. The 'fine linen' represents 'the righteousness of saints.' Most other translations render the word 'saints' as 'the saints', some of them using the phrase 'the righteousness of God's people.' I consider that this is a very important distinction to observe. In other words, this applies not to those who consider themselves to be saints, but to those whom God has called to be saints, that is, THE saints. But how do we obtain this garment of 'fine linen, clean and white'? You will note that in the verse quoted above, it is specifically stated that the bride was granted the privilege, or right, to wear this glorious garment. So it must follow that the only way be which she

could wear this wedding dress was to be given the right to do so. And this raises the next question. What does she have to do to obtain this right? Let us turn back to chapter 3 and verse 18 where we read;

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

A little further back in verse 4 we read;

"Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white; for they are worthy."

When we go back to the Old Testament we always find that God's priests were always dressed in fine linen. It symbolised purity and righteousness before God. In fact, one could not officiate as a priest of God unless they were so dressed. In view of the fact that God had already declared that Israel was to be unto Him a kingdom of priests, (Exodus 19:6), it is thus absolutely essential that Israel be properly clothed for the execution of this calling and commission. Thus, as a nation, she has to do several things. Firstly, she has to become rich by obtaining from the Lord 'gold tried in the fire.' In other words, she has to be purged of all error and sin, and be purified with the Word of Truth by returning to full obedience to the Laws, Commandments, Statutes and Judgments of God. Secondly, she has to cast off entirely all her defiled garments by completely eradicating all activities which are contrary to God's strict requirements. As Jude expressed it, 'she must hate even the garment spotted by the flesh,' (Jude, verse 23), thus becoming 'worthy.' And finally, she has to 'anoint her eyes with eyesalve that she might see.' There are many ways in which this can be applied, but at this particular stage of her preparations, I believe that this specifically alludes to the necessity of Israel having the

blindness removed from her eyes whereby she at last recognises her true identity as God's chosen servant nation.

The obvious question at this stage must surely be, "How is this achieved?" What happens to cause such an about-face by an entire nation? Believe me, we are not talking here about some great revival in the churches, as so many fondly imagine. I don't know of any church in the world that has the capacity, spiritually or materially, to achieve such a revival. With very few exceptions, the church, generally speaking, is so lukewarm that the Lord Himself has promised to spue them out of His mouth. That doesn't sound like the basis for a great revival to me. And furthermore, there is not a living human being whom people these days would listen to, even if such a revival was attempted. I don't care how grand and eloquent and charismatic a speaker may be, there is not one human being referred to in the entire Bible who would be able to stop the present apostasy and decline into total godlessness. I don't care how many churches got behind him, and how many T.V. stations broadcast his message, I am convinced that nothing short of something, or someone, supernatural will have any effect on the sheer indifference of the people of our nation today. Generally speaking, they are sick up to the back teeth with the churches, the parsons, and anything else that has any Christian connotation, simply because to the main bulk of the people, Christianity has failed. This is why so many folk are turning to alternative religions.

If this national turn-around cannot be achieved through human agencies, how then is it to be achieved? Does God have any alternative by which the people will have no choice but to sit up and take notice? Does He have some supernatural means planned by which He will achieve this momentous revival of an entire nation? Does He have some Divine Plan by which His bride can make herself ready as we have described above? Of course He has. He wouldn't be God if He didn't. The answer is simply and clearly stated in Malachi 4:4-6;

"Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

I firmly believe, and have taught for many years, that this is the final fulfilment of Elijah's ministry. He certainly didn't achieve it during his time on earth several thousand years ago, and he certainly hasn't fulfilled it since. It must therefore still be in the future. (This is discussed at length in our book, "The Return of Elijah."). If he is to return to perform this ministry prior to the return of our Lord, and indeed, prior to the First Resurrection, then the necessity of his translation, rather than his death, is apparent, otherwise he would have to be resurrected before anyone else, and if he was John the Baptist as so many choose to believe, then he would have been the first-fruits of the dead, and not our Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe that under the supernatural ministry of this chosen prophet and servant Elijah, the nation will be awakened to the full realisation of their identity and responsibility, and will be prepared to meet her approaching Husband. The eyesalve of truth will remove her blindness, and awaken in her the desire to throw off the garments spotted with every unclean thing which she now wears, in readiness for being clothed with the 'fine linen' wedding dress of purity and righteousness.

THE MARRIAGE SUPPER

and

THE FIRST RESURRECTION.

19:9 "And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."

20:4 "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.

This is the first resurrection.

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

As we have seen, the only ones who attend the Marriage Supper are the specially chosen friends of the Bridegroom. Not everyone attends this feast. Most Christians seem to think that everyone who ever became a Christian will be there, but I cannot agree that this accords with the pattern set forth in the Scriptures. So what is the nature of this Supper? What is its main purpose? It is fairly safe to say that very few Christians have the faintest idea of the subject. To most, it is simply a phrase associated with the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if we have the idea of it being some super feast, complete with gold cutlery and extra-terrestrial pavlovas, then forget it.

There are three occasions recorded in God's Word where a special meal involving God is mentioned, and in order to understand the full significance of the Marriage Supper, which is the third of these feasts, we are obliged to go back to the first one, because this sets the pattern for them all. In Exodus chapter 24 we find recorded the account of the giving and acceptance of what is known as 'The Old Covenant.' Immediately following this event, which incidentally was the original marriage of Jehovah to His wife Israel when they, as a nation, answered "I Do," we read the following account;

"Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under His feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. And upon the nobles of the children of Israel He laid not His hand.

Also they saw God, and did eat and drink."
(Exodus 24:9-11).

Let us note the major features of this incident. Firstly, those who participated were not the citizens of the kingdom, but the nobles, or elders. Secondly, they went UP for this ceremony. Thirdly, they saw "The Lord God of Israel," Jehovah, whom we know to be Jesus. Fourthly, they were not struck down for having seen God. They were given a rare privilege reserved for only the few. Fifthly, they ate and drank with Him.

It is interesting to speculate on what they ate and drank. When Melchizedec, the Priest of the Most High God, whom I believe was no other than Jehovah/Jesus Himself, met our forefather Abraham after the battle on the plains, he gave Abraham 'bread and wine.' He didn't share this with all the troops, nor all the people. Only the prince, or leader, Abraham partook of this feast. At a much later time when Moses had constructed the Tabernacle in the wilderness, two things were clearly in evidence. They were the Shewbread, and the Blood of the Sacrifice. Again, it is noted that the only ones allowed to eat the Shewbread were the priests, not the congregation or citizens of Israel. And of course, the only ones who were allowed to handle the sacrifice were also the priests, because the bread and the blood were shadows, representing the body and blood of their coming Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, which could not be handled as a common thing by all and sundry.

So what an occasion that must have been for these 74 elders of Israel. But this set a pattern for future events.

The second reference to a similar feast is recorded in the Gospels. We refer to it as "The Last Supper." Let us note the amazing similarities with the first feast. Firstly, those who were invited were only the Lord's disciples. The Lord did not invite all those who had accepted Him during the few years of His ministry. There were many who had come to Him, and who had received His salvation, but they were not invited to this feast. Only those who were to be rulers or elders in His kingdom were there. How do we know this? Well, in Luke's account of the Last Supper, he records this statement by Jesus following the disciples' question about what was to happen to them.

*"I appoint unto you a kingdom, as My father hath appointed unto Me.
That ye may eat and drink at My table in My Kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel"*

(Luke 22:29-30).

Only the elders attended this feast.

Secondly, they went UP to partake of it. Luke 22:12 tells us that they went into a large upper room.

Thirdly, they saw the Lord God of Israel, the very same Jehovah with whom Moses and the elders dined so many years before, and they ate and drank with Him. They partook with Him of the bread and the wine, still representing the body and blood of our Saviour. But not only that, the Lord clearly indicated in verses 16 and 18 that He would again partake of this feast with His co-rulers at the inauguration of His Kingdom.

So we come to the third mention of a feast, that of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Is it just a coincidence that those invited are only the special friends of the Bridegroom? Is it just a coincidence that they are invited to go UP for this feast? Is it just coincidence that the Bridegroom whom they see and with whom they will dine is the very same Jesus? Do we really believe that this wonderful occasion will be any different in structure from the preceding occasions when only the elders dined with the

Lord? I think not. When the Lord sets a pattern He sticks to it. He doesn't change His mind and do things differently every time, as we might. The pattern is set for all time for our instruction, so that we might more fully understand the wonderful ways of God, even though through a glass darkly. As Solomon recorded in Eccles. 1:9-10;

"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? It hath been already of old time, which was before us."

But what will those blessed "friends of the Bridegroom" eat? What is the symbolism of this? How will the 'body and blood' of our Lord Jesus Christ be represented at this feast? Personally, I don't think for a moment that it will constitute a feast of 'eating and drinking' as we now know it. I believe that this is the time when those who will be appointed to the unbelievable positions of "Kings and Priests" will be completely filled with the knowledge and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will literally become His 'body', and will figuratively have fully 'eaten of Him'. And having 'become like Him', we will then be installed into our positions of rulership and priesthood. It is interesting to read the Ferror Fenton translation of this as recorded in I Thess. 4:16-17;

"For the Lord Himself in command, with the voice of an archangel, and with a signal from God, will descend from heaven; and first the dead in Christ will rise again; then we, the living remnant, shall at the same time be carried up in clouds for an introduction by the Lord into the eternal condition, and then we shall always be with the Lord."

That those who will take part in this First Resurrection are only the "overcomers" or "elders in Israel", is surely made plain by the wording of Rev. 20:4-6;

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.

This is the first resurrection.

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

As we pointed out in chapter three of Part Three of our studies, these specially chosen 'friends of the Bridegroom', or 'overcomers', are 'the firstfruits to God and the Lamb'. These, I believe, constitute 'the armies' referred to in chapter 19 verses 11-16;

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he

treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Thus we arrive at the stunning climax of this, the greatest and most spectacular event in the world's history,

The literal and visible return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here will be a display of power and majesty and glory the like of which this earth has never seen. Even to try to imagine it is completely beyond our mental capacity. But the inhabitants of the earth will most assuredly know that the Great God Almighty, the Lord God of Israel, the One whom they have rejected for so long, is here, and here to stay.

Thus will begin the 'thousand year', or as it is referred to, 'the millenium', age of the Kingdom of God here on this earth under the Kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And He is certainly not coming to organise a Sunday School picnic. When the Bible refers to 'the great and terrible day of the Lord', you'd better believe it. Look at the expressions used in chapter 19. He is going to judge and make war. His eyes will be as a flame of fire. He is going to smite the nations and rule with a rod of iron. All His enemies are to be totally destroyed. In the symbolic phraseology of the Revelation, the birds of prey are to have the biggest feast they have ever had in removing and cleansing from the earth those whom the Lord will slay and destroy.

But there is one very important and noticeable feature of this warfare of Christ against His enemies. He will only need, and will only use, just one weapon. He doesn't use bolts of lightening, or floods, or atomic explosions or earthquakes at this time. Only one weapon is mentioned. It is "a sharp sword which proceedeth out of His mouth."

Here is a description of the same Person that is described in the very first chapter of The Revelation.

"In the midst of the seven candlesticks was one like unto the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the breast with a golden girdle.

His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow;

And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters.

And He had in His right hand seven stars.

And out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword.

And His countenance was as the sun shining in his strength.

Now what is this "sharp sword"? The fact that it proceeds out of His mouth clearly indicates that it is associated with speech, or what is spoken. We read of it in Isaiah 11:4;

"And He shall smite the earth with the rod if His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked."

The apostle Paul again refers to this in reference to the destruction of the Man of Sin as recorded in II Thess. 2:8;

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the spirit of His mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of His coming."

(The reader is referred to our book "The Enemy Within" for an in-depth study on this subject).

In Ephesians 6:17 we read;

"And take . . . the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God."

Hebrews 4:12 informs us;
"For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword."

Thus we conclude that the only weapon that the Lord Jesus Christ is going to use to destroy not only His enemies, but the enemies of His Kingdom, is,

THE WORD OF TRUTH!

TRUTH is the only offensive weapon that we need in the fight against wickedness. TRUTH brings light, and light banishes the darkness. It is more important than doctrine, churches, nations, circumstances, or people. It is only when people and leaders, both political and religious, compromise TRUTH in order to satisfy doctrine; to create bigger churches; to accommodate other nations; to justify circumstances; and to please people, that truth is corrupted, and evil ensues. When our Lord Jesus Christ resumes His rightful place on the Throne of David, and fully implements His righteous laws, commandments, statutes and judgments, the world will at last know the TRUTH and it will set them free.

There will be no mistaking just who He is. His Name will be written upon His vesture and on His thigh. The word 'vesture' refers to the outer garments or mantle. The thigh is where a man placed his hand when making a solemn oath, as illustrated in Gen. 24:2 and 9. Thus our Lord will not only BE truth, but will be SEEN to be truth. And His Name will be **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**. He will be, and will be seen to be, the One of whom Paul refers in I Timothy 6:15-16;

"Which in His times He shall shew, Who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto;

whom no man hath seen, nor can see; to whom be honour and power everlasting."

So we come to the final judgment of the leaders of this godless enemy system that has enslaved God's people for so long.

In our studies of chapter 16, we observed these to be represented as 'The Dragon', 'The Beast', and 'The False Prophet'. The Beast and The False Prophet, as the agencies by which Satan, the Dragon, has dominated the world, are the first to be destroyed in what is symbolically referred to as 'the lake of fire burning with brimstone.' All false systems and false religions within the kingdom will be totally eliminated. Israel, as the Kingdom of God on earth, is to be finally cleansed and freed from all that is not of God. She is to become the ultimate example of perfection here on earth. So much so, that as recorded by the prophets, the other nations will send envoys to her to learn of her ways, and to be taught of the perfect Law of God as a means of governing their own nations. We will truly be God's Witnesses, and a blessing to all the nations and families of the earth as God originally ordained.

But what of the arch-enemy, Satan, the Dragon? It is obvious from the wording of the first few verses of chapter 20 that he is to be totally restrained for a specified period of time. He is to be bound, or chained. He is to be shut up or confined. He is to have a seal placed upon him, that is, made secure. And he is to be cast into the 'bottomless pit' or 'abyss'. This is exactly the same word used in Rev. 9:2 as the place from whence the plagues enumerated by the fifth angel came. It is also the same word used in Luke 8:31 when Jesus cast the demons out of Legion. They pleaded not to be commanded to go out into 'the deep', the same word as 'abyss.' It would thus appear that this 'bottomless pit' refers to the domain of Satan, and to the fact that he was to be securely restricted to this domain for a thousand years, from whence he could not exercise any dominion or power whatsoever over God's Kingdom and people, nor for that matter, the entire earth. This Kingdom would thus quickly develop into the perfection planned for it without any interference from Satan. Other nations would, as we have already pointed out, fol-

low Israel's example, inheriting the blessings of God in proportion to their obedience to God's righteous Laws. But the final test was still to come. Nothing was to be left to chance. God was not about to run the risk of allowing 'fifth columnists' to remain in the camp. There would be obviously those who would jump on the band-wagon, as we say, for no other reason than to obtain the benefits, but without any real change of heart inwardly. Thus, in the perfect plan of God, the great deceiver, Satan, is to be released for a short period at the end of the Kingdom Age as a means of final testing. And how necessary that period of testing will prove to be. Satan is to organise his earthly forces again, under the symbolic name of Gog and Magog, God's old enemy, in a last desperate effort to dethrone the King of the whole earth, Jesus Christ. Don't ever forget that Satan is at present, and by Divine authority, the Prince of this world. He owns the kingdoms of this world, otherwise he could have never offered them as a bribe to Jesus at His temptation. He is not about to give up this position without a fight. But the revolt is to be short-lived. Satan's armies are to be instantly destroyed by God, and Satan himself finally and forever destroyed in the same manner as the beast and the false prophet before him.

Whether this happens at the latter end of the Kingdom Age or immediately following it is not stated. We don't really know the time factors involved. We are only given the course and the certainty of the events. As a matter of fact, there is no guarantee that the 'thousand years' mentioned is based on our present time scales. Peter tells us that with God, a day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as a day. Mathematically, this could be projected into 365,000 years. But the actual length of the time span is of no real consequence. What we need to understand is the outline of the Plan. We need to realise that the Kingdom will not consist only of those with eternal life. Those who are alive at the time of our Lord's return, and who have not inherited eternal life, will continue to live on into the Kingdom Age. This is quite clear from Isaiah 65:20 where we are told that anyone who dies at 100 years of age will be still considered to be a child. So everyone there will not have everlasting

life. People will go on living as they do now, but with one tremendous difference. They will all be taught of God. They will seek to do only that which is right and good. Conditions will get better, rather than worse as they are now. The curse will be lifted. Peace and security, at last, will be a reality.

The final act prior to the ultimate perfection of the Kingdom being established, as so graphically and wonderfully portrayed in the final two chapters of our Lord's Revelation, will be the Judgment Age, when all the dead, from the beginning of creation, will be resurrected to stand before the judgment seat of God. We note in verse 12 of chapter 20 that there are two sets of books mentioned. Firstly, there are 'the books' wherein are recorded the works of those standing before the Judgment Seat. Absolutely nothing will be hidden. All the works that the particular person has committed, both good and bad, will be made manifest. Judgment will be made of every man in accordance with those works. Have you ever wondered what happens to those in centuries past who had never heard of the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, nor of the Christian Faith? Are they to be destroyed because they never believed in something or someone of whom they had never heard? I think not. They will be judged according to their works. I feel sure that if the record shows that they lived a righteous life according to the standards of their own day and circumstances, then their name will be entered into the other book referred to, the Book of Life. What their status will be from that time on we have no idea. But one thing we do know is that God is a righteous God. He will not destroy the innocent. But on the other hand, those who are found to be unrighteous according to the record of their works will not have their name recorded in the Book of Life, and will be totally and finally destroyed, as symbolised by being cast into the lake of fire. The soul, as distinct from the body, will suffer final death in accordance with the Lord's command that "The soul that sinneth, it shall die."

By the time we reach this stage, all Godless systems will have been destroyed and eliminated; the leaders of these systems will have been destroyed; the Satanic force behind these leaders, and in fact Satan himself will have

been destroyed; and finally all evil people will have been destroyed. The only remaining enemy still to be dealt with will be death itself. And as a fitting finale, both death and the grave will themselves be eliminated. God's Word clearly tells us in I Cor. 15:26, that "*the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*" The lake of fire is not a symbol of cleansing by which all people are ultimately to be cleansed and restored to life, as claimed by those who believe in the doctrine of "ultimate reconciliation." If it is, then not only will the people cast into it be cleansed and saved, but also the beast, the false prophet, Satan himself, and of all things, death and the grave. I don't wish to be around when and if that happens.

Our God is a Great God. He has great plans. They are beyond our wildest dreams to even begin to imagine. But they are perfect in every way. We who read these words are at the very first stages of this plan. We have been given, as have those before us, the opportunity to be a part of this plan. Those of us who have accepted the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ are now in a race. The last prize, believe it or not, is Everlasting Life as citizens of His perfect Kingdom. But the prize which we should have our eyes concentrated on is that of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus. Our aim should be to qualify as Kings and Priests, ruling with Christ over the Kingdom. That should be our goal. Remember what we stated earlier in this study. Membership into the Kingdom of God will cost you nothing. It is a free gift made by the grace of God. But rulership in that Kingdom can, and possibly will, cost you everything you have. The choice is ours. It won't come to any of us automatically. We have to choose it, individually. And having chosen, we have to work at it with all our might.

(To be continued).



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

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

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

THE RETURN OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

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

We also invite our readers to send us the names and addresses of any whom they think would be genuinely interested in receiving a sample copy. In this way you can share in the proclamation of the Gospel of the Kingdom, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified.

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

With our Christian love,

Frank and Betty Dowsett.
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Keep not thou silence, O God:
Hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God.
For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult:
And they that hate thee have lifted up the head.
They have taken crafty counsel against thy people,
and consulted against thy hidden ones.
They have said,
Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation;
that the name of Israel
may be no more in remembrance.
For they have consulted together with one consent:
They are confederate against thee: ... Who said,
Let us take to ourselves the houses of God
in possession.
O my God, make them like a wheel;
as the stubble before the wind.
As the fire burneth a wood,
and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire;
So persecute them with thy tempest,
and make them afraid with thy storm.
Fill their faces with shame;
that they may seek thy name, O Lord.
Let them be confounded and troubled for ever;
yea, let them be put to shame, and perish:
That men may know that thou,
whose name alone is JEHOVAH,
art the Most High over all the earth.

Psalm 83.

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