



THE COVENANT VISION

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

THE COVENANT VISION

EDITOR:

Pastor Frank W. Dowsett.

In presenting this magazine, it is not our intention just to indiscriminately add to the number of Christian journals already available. Our only purpose is to present the Word of God in its fulness as we feel God has revealed it to us, in order that the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob may be glorified.

It is our firm conviction that we are living in the very last days prior to the appearing and return of our Great God and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are also convinced that never before in the history of our nation and people has there been such a need for the "Watchmen in Israel" to sound the alarm in order to awaken God's people to the urgent need to repent, and to return to God with all their hearts, and with all their minds, and with all their strength.

Denominational doctrines and differences are not our concern, and it is not our intention to enter into such arguments. There is not enough time left to waste it on such unproductive, and indeed, destructive, exercises. We are concerned **ONLY** with what the Word of God says and teaches.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for all people to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour, as the only means to Eternal Life.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people to recognise their identity, their inheritance, and their responsibility, as the literal descendants of God's people Israel.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for all who would faithfully serve God to 'receive the power from on high'

(continued on inside back cover)

FINAL REMINDER.

Dear Reader,

Just in case you overlooked returning your ANNUAL REMINDER FORM, we have taken the liberty of forwarding to you this Final Reminder.

As advised in that reminder, it is our policy to enquire at this stage as to whether or not you wish to continue receiving our publication. Naturally we do not wish to intrude upon your wishes in any way, not for that matter to waste our resources by continuing to send it to you should you no longer wish to receive it.

To this end we request that you return this form to us, appropriately marked, so that we may know your wishes. If we do not receive a reply prior to the publication of our next issue we will assume that you do not wish to continue receiving it, **and no further issues will be sent.**

Whilst offerings towards our costs are welcomed and encouraged, they are not mandatory. If you are financially unable to contribute, but wish to continue receiving our magazine, we will be quite happy to send it to you free of charge.

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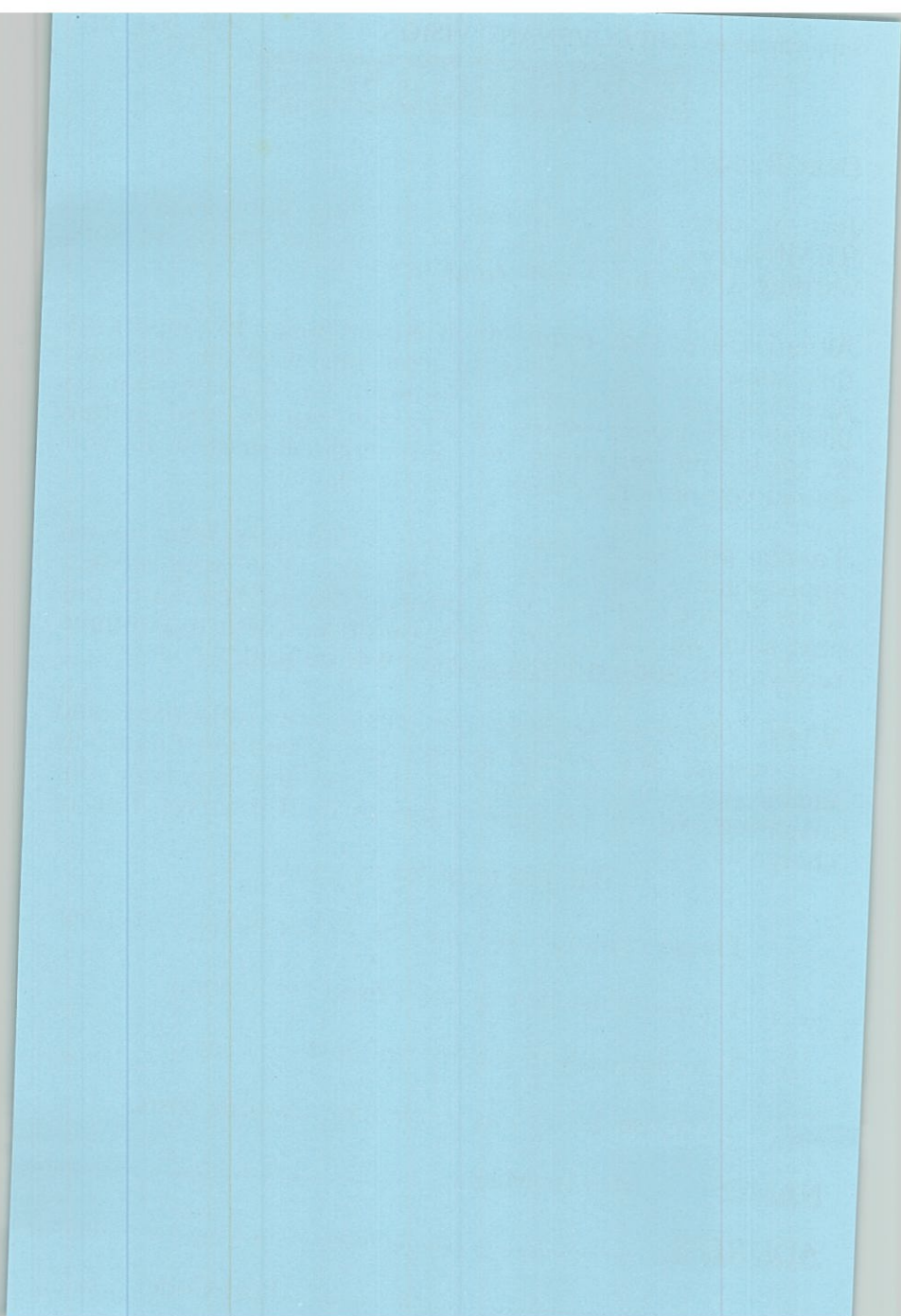
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EDITORIAL

By the time this is read, we will have entered the year of 1993, and it will be at least four or five weeks after the time of writing, Dec. 21, 1992. What could transpire in that time is anyone's guess, but one thing we do know is that the plans and purposes of God, as revealed through the prophets, will not falter by a single day. History has proved this fact all down through the ages. There is absolutely no excuse for Christians to doubt that this principle will continue.

At midnight, December 31, 1992, Britain will have officially become a member state of the European Community. The fact that the treaty ratifying this situation will not be signed for several months later, will not alter what has already become an accomplished fact. For the first time in our long history, Britain, the custodian of God's Word, will have sold their birthright, despised their God-given separation from other nations, and surrendered its government and its crown to an anti-God power.

It is not without significance that the very last sign given as to the end of the age is that the "power of the holy people will be scattered." (Dan. 12:7). In the light of this prophecy, the present economic and political turmoil within the British nations, together with the upheavals within the Royal family, the custodians of the throne of David, should come as no surprise to those who are rightly dividing the Word of Truth. The individual details of how this is happening is of no consequence to the ultimate outworking of the very last detail of God's plan prior to our Lord's return.

As we have pointed out on many previous occasions in these pages, this, we firmly believe, constitutes the death of the Two Witnesses of Rev. 11:7-11. We do not accept that these Two Witnesses are two of the prophets, or any of the early martyrs, as excellent as their individual witness might have been. God's Word speaks of no witnesses, in this context, other than the two families which He has chosen, and to whom He made those everlasting and immutable covenants as enumerated in Jeremiah chapters 31 and 33 with the NATION, and the THRONE. These are the DOMINION and the SANCTUARY of which He spoke in Psalm 114:2. Even the phrase 'state and church' can be misleading, as the only connection between the throne and the church is that the monarch has the distinction of being the head of the national church, which in these days may be seen as being a somewhat dubious honour.

These two elements of our national life, our dominion and our throne, have ever been the target of the enemy of God and His people. We only have to look at what the Psalmist said to realise this fact. In Psalm 2:2-3 we read, "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed, (His anointed people) saying 'Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.' " Psalm 83 :2-5 echoes the same sentiments. "For, lo, Thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate Thee have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Thy people, and consulted against Thy hidden (covered or protected) 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.' "

This year of 1993 marks the final time cycle revealed to the prophet Daniel. The first cycle of 1260 day/years culminated in 1917/18 with the release of Jerusalem. The second cycle of 1290 day/years, being a further 30 years, culminated in the setting up of the abomination in the very same city in 1947/48. Do we seriously expect that the fulfilment of the third of these cycles can be ignored? It constitutes a further 45 years, making 1335 years in total, and will culminate in 1992/93. It differs from the other cycles only in that it promises a specific blessing to those who live to see that day. The details are not given, but of two things we can be absolutely assured. It will happen exactly as the Lord has promised and foretold, and it will concern Jerusalem, either literally, or in its prophetic sense as applying to God's Israel people.

The days that lie immediately ahead are fraught with tremendous possibilities. We are about to enter into the final period of "the time of Jacob's trouble" as prophesied in Jeremiah 30:7. It is to be a time of tribulation that will exceed anything that has ever gone before, as our Lord Himself prophesied. It will be a time when our enemies, the enemy of God Himself, Esau/Edom, represented in modern Zionist/Jewry, will be absolutely exultant at what they see as the final death of the Christian west, their religious faith, and their God. But just as surely, they will have but three and a half years left in which to rejoice, after which, the greatest national revival in the history of our nation, and indeed of the world, will occur when the 'dry bones' of Ezekiel, and the Two Witnesses of Revelation, will stand on their feet as a great army, filled with the Spirit of God, and completely confound our enemies. Is it just a coincidence that the prophet Elijah first appeared on the scene just 3.1/2 years before the rains came, to which our Lord made special reference in Luke 4:25? We will see. □

THE JEHOVAH TITLES

Introduction.

by Frank W. Dowsett.

To any sincere student of the Bible, it is quite apparent that the central person in the entire Scriptures is our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet despite this fact, it is surprising to find how many Christians there are who really know very little about Him. The normal extent of knowledge begins and ends with Jesus as their own personal Saviour, or their healer. Beyond this, there seems to me to be a woeful ignorance as to the enormity of His glory, and indeed the enormity of His full attributes and ministry. This is not to say that their knowledge is in any way wrong. But I find it incredible that so many Christians seem to be satisfied with the elementary teachings of the Word, or 'the milk of the Word', without becoming aware of the far deeper, and more glorious facts relating to our Lord and Saviour.

The trouble seems to emanate from the fact that whilst most committed Christians accept the everlasting nature and existence of our Lord as an essential part of the Godhead, and accept the fact that He is 'the beginning and the end', they seem to have little, if any, knowledge of where and Who He is from the very beginning. You ask people where Jesus was, or Who He was prior to His human birth, and all too often you will be greeted with blank looks which seem to imply that you shouldn't be treading on such delicate ground. The fact that all the evidence of Scripture points conclusively to the conclusion that the Jesus of the New Testament is the Jehovah of the Old Testament seems to have completely evaded them. It is not our intention to labour this point here, as the subject has been fully dealt with in the chapter "Jehovah/Jesus" in our book "CAMEO STUDIES No. 2". (\$6 posted in Australia).

Jesus Christ, whilst always available as our friend and helper, is not some 'hail-fellow-well-met' person which all too many Christians seem to treat Him as. He is not some supernumerary who hangs around somewhere in space waiting for us to fix everything up so that He can come back and take over a converted and reclaimed world. We will only share the full blessings of Christ when we accord to Him the full glory and majesty which is His due. It is only as we recognise the tremendous fact that Jesus is indeed Jehovah that we realise the full potential of His power and ministry, not only for the present, but throughout all the everlasting ages, both past and present.

So let us commence these studies with a clear statement as to His glory.

"I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Which in His times He shall show, 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. Amen".

(I Timothy 6:13-16).

Thus to understand more fully the Jesus of the New Testament, it is obvious that we must start with a clear and full understanding of the Jehovah of the Old Testament. So let us turn back to the beginning. The first usage of the word translated in our Bibles as 'Jehovah' is found in Gen. 2:4 where we read;

". . . in the day that the LORD God (Jehovah Elohim) made the earth and the heavens."

As both John and Paul clearly state under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that it was Jesus who created all things, (John 1:3, and Col. 1:15-17), then it is obvious that the Genesis reference is to Jesus Christ, NOT the Father. Going on to Exodus chapter three, we read of the incident where Jehovah revealed Himself to Moses. In answer to Moses' question as to what name he should call Him, the Lord said in Exodus 3:14-15;

"And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: This is My name for ever, and this is My memorial to all generations."

Then in Exodus 6: 2-3 we read;

"And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD.

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

The question naturally arises, 'What is so special about the name JEHOVAH that the Lord should use it in such a very special way, and in such a very special relationship, with His people Israel? We should especially note that this name is not used in relationship with any other nation on the face of the earth. Its initial and primary application has always been to and through Israel as God's kingdom here on this earth. It was given specifically to the nation of Israel, and not just to individuals. In other words, it is a national relationship, not simply a personal relationship, although it obviously includes personal relationships with the Lord. Whilst the New Testament

7. **JEHOVAH - ZIDKENU.**
The Lord our Righteousness. Jeremiah 23:6.
8. **JEHOVAH - SHAMMAH.**
The Lord is There. Ezekiel 48:35.
9. **JEHOVAH - ELYON.**
The Lord Most High. Psalm 7:17.
10. **JEHOVAH - ROL.**
The Lord My Shepherd. Psalm 23:1.

Thus we commence our studies of the individual Titles of Jehovah.

1. JEHOVAH - JIREH.

The Lord Will Provide.

As with all our studies, we will adhere to the 'Law of First Reference', and turn to Genesis 22:1-18;

"And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad

will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide** himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

And Abraham called the name of that place **Jehovah-jireh**: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord **it shall be seen**, (or **provided**).

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time. And said, By Myself have I sworn, saith the Lord,

for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as he stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed My voice."

As we see, the primary intent and application of this wonderful Title was that God would provide an offering or sacrifice. But very importantly, that offering was to be a substitute. The context of this entire episode is extremely important. This substitute offering was not made on behalf of individuals generally. It applied fundamentally to Isaac and his descendants. Just prior to this event, as recorded in Genesis 21:12, God had promised Abraham that his descendants, or seed, would be named in or through his son Isaac. Yet unbelievably, God then instructed Abraham to slay the very son through whom he was to have the multitudinous descendants promised. If this act had been carried out, then there would have been no promised seed through Isaac. Abraham knew this. In fact, he was so sure of the integrity of God that he was convinced that God would raise Isaac from the dead as soon as he was slain in order to perform His covenant. This faith is described in Hebrews 11:17-19;

"By faith, Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promise the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead."

So in fact, whether or not Isaac was slain was not a problem to Abraham. The thing that he was absolutely sure of was that the Lord would provide the necessary sacrifice.

We might well then ask, why did God organise this event in the manner in which He did, when He obviously knew that a substitute sacrifice was to be made available? Why not show Abraham the ram caught in the thicket right from the start? There were two reasons. Firstly, it was a supreme test of Abraham's faith, which he passed with flying colours. But it was the second reason which is of such utmost importance, and strange as it may seem, it had nothing to do with the slaying of Isaac. In Exodus 29:37 we read these words;

"Whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy".

The word 'holy' means, 'separated to the Lord'. Thus, by virtue of the act of laying upon the altar, Isaac became 'separated to the Lord'. Let us be very clear on one point at this stage. Isaac was NOT a figure of, nor did he represent, 'the church' as is commonly taught today. The 'church' has nothing to do with this event. This was not the dedication or separation of the 'church', but rather, the dedication and separation to the Lord of the entire nation that was to come from the patriarch Isaac, who were to be called by his name. But having been placed upon the altar as a sacrifice, a sacrifice was then required. It was at this very point that the Lord, Jehovah, provided the sacrifice which was acceptable to Him. This sacrifice was a substitute, not for the 'church', but for the nation of Israel which was still to come from the loins of Isaac. That substitute was a male sheep or lamb. It completely prefigured the future Lamb of God Who was to come some time in the then future to pay the price of redemption for His people. So we see that whilst the future 'church', that is, the body of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ was included, and indeed made possible by this act of substitution, the primary intent of God was to provide a substitute offering for and on behalf of His people Israel.

The significance of understanding this fact cannot be over stated. Immediately following this great act of faith by Abraham, God assured him that it was because of his faith that all the nations of the earth would be blessed

through his son Isaac's descendants. This was the very basis of God's provision. This is why He became JEHOVAH-JIREH.

It was only when the Lord had dedicated and consecrated Isaac upon the altar, and provided a substitute for his descendants, that the blessings subsequently pronounced upon them by both Jacob and Moses could come into effect, as enumerated in Gen. 49:22-26 and Deut. 33:13-17;

"Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall:

The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him:

But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel: (from whom is Israel's guardian stone. Ferrar Fenton Trans.).

Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb:

The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren."

"And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath,

And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon,

And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills,

And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.

His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh."

In order that these covenants and promises might be fulfilled, Jehovah became the constant provider for His people. Many years after these promises were made to Abraham, Jacob's son Joseph was sold into slavery to Egypt. After many years of persecution and privation, he eventually became the Prime Minister of that country. But in all this, he was the chosen servant of God, raised up to provide for his brethren in later years when a severe famine struck the land. The story is familiar to us all. But the provision of Jehovah for His people never faltered. Later on, under the leadership of Moses, the descendants of this same people, now several million strong, were again provided for in a miraculous manner as they wandered for 40 years through the wilderness. In both of these incidents, Jehovah showed forth His Title of "The Lord who provides."

But this provision was not restricted to the early days of the nation of Israel. The prophets clearly reveal His intention to always continue as their provider. A good illustration of this is given in the incident described in I Kings 17:8-16 regarding Elijah and the widow of Zarahphath. Elijah promised the widow that if she was obedient to his request, the barrel of meal and the cruze of oil which is all that she had would not fail until the famine, or drought, broke. This episode is dealt with in our book

"The Prophetic Ministry of Elijah". (\$6.00 posted in Australia). But the prophetic import of this episode was to illustrate to Israel that the Lord's provision would never be entirely taken from His people, even in the most severe conditions. There would always be both material and spiritual sustenance for His people.

In addition to this, God made perpetual provision for His Word through His Spirit. In Isaiah 59:21 we read this promise to His people;

"As for Me, this is My covenant with them, saith the LORD. My spirit which is upon thee, and My words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever."

This promise is of the highest significance in view of the statement in Amos 8:11;

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD."

Furthermore, we have Jehovah's provision of protection and ultimate victory. Again speaking to His people Israel, He says in Isaiah 54:17;

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the LORD."

But whilst we can be in awe at the wonderful provisions of our Great God and Saviour in regard to His people as a nation, what about us as individuals? Let us be well assured that the very same Lord who has promised

provision for the nation has also provided as great provision for us as individuals.

Firstly, He provides for our **Eternal Life**. In John 3:15 and 16, and John 6:48 and 51 we read;

"That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal, or everlasting, life."

"I am that bread of life. . . . I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever. And the bread that I give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

Then, He provides for **abundant life**. In John 10:10 we are told;

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Secondly, He provides for our **daily needs**. The entire sixth chapter of Matthew's gospel should be read, but in verses 25 to 32 we are given the assurance of God's provision of everything we need in the way of eating, drinking, and clothing. And this is obviously not just a starvation diet. The context clearly shows this provision to be real 'abundant' life or living. But note that this is a far cry from 'luxurious living. God promises to provide what we need, not what we want. But He also promises that He is not going to be skimpy about it. Those ministers who preach what is called 'the prosperity message' should, I suggest, take special note of this distinction. The apostle Paul puts the matter very clearly in Phil. 4:19;

*"But my God shall supply all your **need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

But don't ever forget the conditions of this provision. It is clearly defined in Matt. 6:33-34;

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

Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Thirdly, He provides us with **light**. That light is shed forth through the understanding of prophecy. As we read in II Peter 1:19;

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the Day Star arise in your hearts."

It was Jesus Himself that said;

"I am the light of the world. He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

How do we know that He will accomplish these provisions for us? What is our guarantee? It is simply that He has proved both His capacity and His ability to do so by the fact that He had already done it to and through His true Israel people. If He can provide for an entire nation over thousands of years, then we can rest assured that He can, and He will, provide for all our personal and individual needs for our relatively short life span.

Truly, without hesitation, and without any doubt whatsoever, we can experience the wonder of His provision in the sure and certain knowledge that He is in every way,

JEHOVAH-JIREH

The Lord Who Provides.

THE WAGES OF SIN

By Alan Moreau

(Courtesy 'Special Alert'.

Perhaps more important to the human being than any other factor in life is his attitude towards law, for all basic laws are divine in origin. As a matter of fact, our very existence depends upon keeping certain fundamental laws which, if violated, result in sudden death!

There is only one source and origin of all basic laws and this is true whether they govern the material universe, the physical creation or the spiritual, moral and economic life of man. That source is God--the fountainhead of all law and order--Who has revealed to men His Laws which govern an orderly creation. Yes, that is right, God has given mankind laws to govern and instruct us in every aspect of life, from birth to death. He has laid down laws to govern our diets, promising us freedom from sickness, laws to govern our economy, taxation, labour, national defense, choosing our leaders, punishing criminals, and every other facet covering the entire scope of human activity. If followed, the beneficent results would be prosperity, peace, protection of the individual and family, uninterrupted health, and would usher in a utopian age never possible under the present order.

Many have asked the question, "What is sin?" The answer is simple. Sin is disobedience to the commands of God, a refusal to keep His laws. The Apostle John declared this when he said, "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4).

However, law is of no use unless power is vested in some authority to administer and enforce that law. This is the sole purpose of governments, to administer and enforce God's perfect laws to insure happiness, health, and prosperity to all mankind. Almighty God never delegated to man the authority to make laws, only to administer His laws.

Human regulations, designated as law by men, are often but temporary acts of appeasement to counteract the result of the failure to keep and administer the Law of the

Lord. By such means men have endeavoured to meet their needs and to find a human solution for existing troubles which have in reality resulted from the breaking of Divine Law. History should have long ago taught us that, by departing from God's Laws and imposing temporary regulations of our own, we are running a treadmill of adversity with only one result--trouble for men.

Regardless of which course we pursue--obedience unto peace and life, or disobedience unto malcontent and death--there remains one authority in Whom is vested all power to enforce His Law. Since Adam's fall some 5,987 years ago, the Lord has sent scourges upon mankind to compel amendment. He has now sent AIDS at the beginning of the final intensified period of judgment, during which He will completely cleanse this earth of all evil and destroy His enemies and the enemies of His people.

We have reached that point in history when God is no longer going to remain silent. Thus Esdras (II Esdras 16:8-9) declares:

"The mighty Lord sendeth the plagues, and who is he that can drive them away? A fire shall go forth from his wrath, and who is he that may quench it?"

The plague has come--that is, AIDS--and no cure is available. However, even though the death toll is continuing to escalate, we are not amending our ways, but only searching for means to protect us from the consequences of sin. Further scourges are shortly to follow, culminating in what Daniel prophesies as:

"A time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time." (Dan. 12:1.)

It is indeed time for each and every one of us to get our spiritual house in order, and prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord. Essentially this involves bringing our personal lives into accordance with what God requires, obedience to His Law.



The Second Advent.

PART 1.

by Frank W. Dowsett.

I am commencing this series on the subject of the Return of our Lord Jesus Christ mainly for two reasons. Firstly I believe that the time is just so close to this great event that it behoves all Christians to be aware of the signs which are now so much in evidence. We are not talking here simply about doctrine. We are now faced with the actual and literal fact of this great event. This is "the hope of our calling," as Paul wrote to Titus, and those who are really looking forward to it, those who have this hope, should constantly be reminding themselves of the facts associated with it and thereby building up their faith. Secondly, I believe if we do this and build up our knowledge and faith in this subject, that we will have a greater ability and capacity to speak to others about it, and to engender in them a similar hope and expectancy. Now I don't know about your experience in this area, but my own experience has been that when you talk to Christians generally about the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, they seem to know absolutely nothing whatsoever about it other than the fact that He is coming back 'this year, next year sometime never' sort of thing. They have no idea **when** He is returning, they have no idea **why** He is returning, and they have no idea **how** He is returning. All they seem to have is some airy, fairy idea that it must be up in the air somewhere. You ask them to talk about it and they'll mention golden streets, and pearly gates, and the planet earth being destroyed. The more knowledgeable may mention 'the anti-Christ' and 'the great tribulation' and the Jews being converted and then going out to convert the rest of the world, which incidentally they have just said was going to be destroyed. I'll guarantee that with few exceptions, most Christians will run out of words after 30 seconds. They

simply have not got a clue what it is all about. I've heard people make statements about the Lord's return which have absolutely staggered me. I've listened to people in Christian churches who claim to be Christians who have actually said to me they don't want the Lord Jesus Christ to come back. This is beyond all belief. The reason they give for this outrageous position is that there are too many people left that they have to get saved. That was the exact expression made to me - "Too many people that they have to get saved". In other words, the criteria was that when they got everyone saved, that is, when they had led everyone to the Lord, then Jesus could come back. The logic behind this thinking was that if He came back before this happened, then millions of people would perish, and they quote the verse that says that the Lord doesn't wish that any should perish. If you take that theory to its ultimate conclusion you find that by the time you get through this generation you've got another generation that has come on and they've also got to get saved and so you've got to put the Lord's coming back another 50 or 60 years or so. That simply means that Jesus never comes back. Now admittedly, this is an extreme situation, but nevertheless, it is more prominent than most people imagine. So many Christians seem to want to set their own timetable for the Lord's return, based not on what the Bible teaches, but on their own selfish desires and plans. I think it is a tragedy that people's knowledge of the full nature and circumstances of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ is so sparse. I personally believe that the presently taught theory that all Christians are going to be 'secretly raptured' to some unspecified place in the sky where they are going to sit on clouds or in great stadiums waving palm leaves and singing "Alleluia" for millions upon millions of years is a gross insult to the majesty of God. Are we to conclude that God's intelligence doesn't go beyond this? After all that He has done in creating and preserving this wonderful world in which He has placed us, despite what we have done to it, is it reasonable to accept that all that He has planned for the future eternal ages to come is a scene as we have just described? Is this the extent of God's intelligence? Yet, believe it or not, this is exactly what most Christians accept, whether they realise it or not.

What we have to realise is that the second advent of our Lord Jesus Christ is only a part of God's plan. Our responsibility is to study God's Word in order to ascertain and understand just how it fits into this plan. So let me start off by giving you a few facts about the subject so that we might appreciate its importance. The return of our Lord Jesus Christ is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament. Do you believe that! That is an average of once every 25 verses **just in the New Testament**. Yet people say we shouldn't worry about it. Now I don't care if we're studying Theology or Science or whatever. If we find a subject specifically mentioned once in every 25 verses, or once in every few hundred words, consistently right through an entire textbook, then you had better believe that there is something important about that subject. But it doesn't stop there. In the Old Testament, the second return of our Lord is mentioned 8 times more often than His first advent. And yet we are told that there is no significance in the subject, that we don't have to worry about it. Just let it happen when it happens we are told by these people who graduate from four to five years of theological training. Just keep on living good lives, and go to church every Sunday and pay in your tithes to support the minister in teaching you anything that pleases him or his particular denomination, and when the Lord feels like it, he'll come.

Now I don't know how you feel about it, but I take a lot of notice of what the Lord Jesus Christ said to his disciples in that parable about the wise servant who, when the master comes, finds his servant working. The Lord unfortunately is going to find the majority of his servants either not working, or working in the wrong job, or even if they are in the right job, making the wrong things. It would be just like a team of bricklayers going to a building site and putting the tiles on the roof or erecting the frame of the house. There are many people who have given their lives to the Lord and who maintain that they are serving Him. I don't question their sincerity for one moment but all too many of them are just not building the building that Christ said we had to build. They don't even lay the foundations. I was in the building game for most

of my working life, and I've never been on a building site yet that we haven't started with the foundations. You just cannot commence the building in any other way. You cannot erect any building without first setting down the correct foundations. But as ridiculous but as it might sound, this is how all too many people treat their study and application of God's Word. They just don't lay the correct and full foundations. They appear to recall the verse that says that no other foundation can be laid but Jesus Christ, and no one argues about that, but don't seem to have any idea of where to go from there. Do we just say the name of Jesus Christ, or do we think of the person of Jesus Christ as the foundation? If we do, then I'm afraid that we miss out badly, and I'm not trying to denigrate the name and person of Jesus Christ nor His primary importance in the understanding of His Word. What we have to recognise is that it is **what He said** that is the foundation. You can't separate the Lord Jesus Christ from what He taught, and this is the trouble today. So many people separate Jesus Christ from what He teaches. I'll give you an example. Many people quote the verse 'that if you ask anything in My name I'll give it unto you', and then go on to demand everything in the world that looks good for them and for their particular plans. It's just like Eve in the garden of Eden all over again. So they say 'I want such and such in Jesus name' and think they are going to get it without realising that they have separated the person of Jesus Christ from the purpose and will of Jesus Christ. It is only when we go over to I John that it tells us that 'if you ask anything **in accordance with my will** that I will hear you, and if I hear you I'll answer you'. So we see that the real foundation for what we believe and ask for has to be a knowledge of God's will and purpose.

As we have found from our studies over many years, the great theme of God's Word right from beginning to end is the kingdom of God. This book, the Bible, is the history book of that Kingdom. You can go to the library, or large book shops, and you can see history books of every nation in the world. Well in exactly the same way, the Bible is the history book of Israel. It gives you an account of everything that has happened to it in the past, every-

thing that is happening now, and better than any history book about any other nation, it tells you what is going to happen to it in the future. There is no history book in any library in any country in the world which can say one word about what is going to happen to us tomorrow. The historians just don't know. But God does know, and He has made that information available to those who correctly study His Word and use the correct foundations. So as we study the history and future of God's Kingdom here on earth, we find that the subject of our Lord Jesus Christ returning cannot be really understood unless we properly understand the gospel of the kingdom. And conversely, the gospel of the kingdom cannot be fully understood unless we understand and accept the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. They go hand in hand. We have to, I believe, accept the fact that the return of our Lord Jesus Christ is not just a single event in its own right. If we think of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ simply in these terms, we are just looking for a wonderful event. I don't care how wonderful we believe it is going to be, (and we are certainly right in thinking that it will be wonderful), but if that is all we are thinking about, I believe we just do not have the proper sense and proper context of what is happening. What we have to realise is that the return of our Lord Jesus Christ is nothing more than another process in the out-working of God's overall plan and purposes. This will no doubt sound a bit strange to you, but please take it the way it is meant as it is not my intention to reduce the importance or great significance of Christ's return to something less than it will be. But most people think that the return of our Lord Jesus Christ is the be-all and end-all of everything when in fact it is really the beginning of momentous events in the future that are completely beyond our capacity to understand or visualise. Many of you will no doubt remember the verse in II Esdras in The Apocrypha where it states that *'Esau is the end of this age and Jacob is the beginning of that which follows'*. Well we are at about that stage in the history of the world right now. Just look around at what is happening. You'd have to be blind and deaf not to notice the killing, the wars, the mayhem, the earthquakes, the riots, and the famines. It is just getting to the silly stage. The world is in such a terrible

mess, and most Christians, I am sure, realise that the only thing that is going to save the world is for Jesus to come back. But you ask them what Jesus is going to do when He comes back and you'll get a lot of blank looks. Because of the prevalent teaching about everyone going to heaven to be with the Lord, most Christians have not the slightest clue of what the Lord is going to achieve right here on earth. They have no idea as to how the entire life style of people is going to change. As a matter of fact, most of them don't seem to recognise the fact that there are going to be millions of ordinary people still living on earth. I believe that there has been such a concentration on the signs of our Lord's return, that too many teachers have filled their listeners with all the gloom and doom of impending punishment and judgement without instructing them in the wonderful righteousness which it will bring. Most certainly, people have to be warned that when these signs begin to come to pass that they should look up and lift up their heads. But equally as certain, we must also inform them of what lies beyond, when our Lord takes to Himself the throne of His father David and re-introduces His righteous Laws, Statutes, Commandments and Judgments by which He will then rule with justice and righteousness. I wonder how many Christians take seriously the statement in Isaiah 65:17;

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."

How do we equate this statement with the prominently held and taught theory that the Lord is going to set off a tremendous atomic bomb and blow the entire planet earth to smithereens. That is the craziest thing I have ever heard. If I love watching one thing more than anything else on television it's those nature shows that show you God's creation. Do you mean to tell me that God is going to destroy one of the most beautiful places that He has ever created just because of the stupidity of some of the human beings He put here. Just look at the way God created it. In its natural state it is absolute perfection and delight. What we are going to experience is God renewing

those parts of His creation which have been destroyed and depleted by the greed and sinfulness of man. I have no trouble dealing with species that have been wiped out. If the Lord Jesus Christ can just with a word create them in the first place, should anyone have any troubles accepting the fact that He can't do the same thing again? As a matter of a fact, there is a very very good chance that you and I could well be personally engaged in this re-creation with the Lord, or on His behalf. I feel sure that the majority of Christians concentrate so much on the person of our Lord Jesus Christ at His return that they don't realise the fact that when we see Him **we are going to be like Him**. Find out what He is like, and we will know what we are going to be like. Anyone who hasn't got that hope hasn't begun to understand the first thing about the meaning of the Christian faith. What is the use of having some religious, theological idea about things which doesn't do anything practical for us in regard to the unbelievable future that God has planned for us. But unfortunately, this is the attitude that is prevalent with most people today. Christianity and Christendom in the main accepts the doctrine of Jesus coming back, but that's all it is, a doctrine. As we have already pointed out, they would not be able to tell you a thing of what God's Word means where it says,

*"I create a new heaven and a new earth, ..
and .. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and I will
joy in My people and the voice of weeping
shall be no more heard in her nor the voice
of crying. There shall be no more thence an
infant of days nor of an old man that has not
filled his days".*

Now it should be recognised that we are talking here about the kingdom age. These statements are not restricted to the ages after that. We're talking about something that is about to start within a couple of years. Now I don't suggest for a moment that we just sit down and twiddle our thumbs for the next few years and wait till it all happens. But I must admit that I am at times staggered at the number of Christians, and particularly churches, who are putting themselves into enormous debt

and planning for the next 50 years and beyond without any apparent consideration of the enormity of the times in which they now live. If they put as much time and money and resources into waking people up to the necessity to turn to the Lord in obedience to His righteous Laws and commandments in preparation for His return as they do to building bigger and better churches and religious empires, then maybe they'd achieve something. But in general, they seem to have no idea. You might recall what the Lord said about those who say, 'Tomorrow I'm going to build a bigger and better barn.' He said, 'I've got some bad news for you folk, because you wont be here tomorrow.'

If we are going to get people really excited about the return of our Lord, then they need to be told what this 'new heaven and new earth' will mean to them. They need to be told what it will mean to be glad and rejoice in what the Lord will create. They need to be told of the rejoicing and joy of His people which will result. When He promises that 'there will be no more an infant of days', what does He mean? The Lord is telling us that you wont have any more cot deaths or little children deformed from birth. He is telling us that we wont have children that will die prematurely. Peoples' life-span will increase so dramatically that a person who is 100 years old will still be looked on as a child.

But He goes on to say that the sinner being a 100 years old shall be a curse. Now can someone please tell me where the sinners come from? If the kingdom age inaugurated by our Lord at His return operates up in heaven somewhere, and if it is comprised of only those who are 'saved' and sinless, then who are the sinners who are going to die or be cursed at 100 years of age? How on earth do they get into this perfected 'heavenly' kingdom? What tares are there going to be up there to get rid of? Where do all the 'bad fish' within the kingdom parables come from if we're talking about a perfect kingdom as soon as Christ comes back?

The key to understanding the true situation is stated in Acts 3:21 where it says of our Lord;

"Whom the heavens must receive until the times of the restitution of all things spoken of by the prophets."

In other words, when it is time to restore everything that the prophets have spoken about, then Jesus comes back. Not to a world already restored by new political parties and principles, or even great church revivals. He comes back to a world that needs restoring and He is the One, and the ONLY One, who is going to restore it. He comes back to a world filled with millions of ordinary people going about with their normal ways of life with all their usual struggles to survive. But He comes to turn that struggling life into abundant life, and those who have qualified to rule and reign with Him at His coming as kings and priests will be partners or joint-heirs with Him in this great act of restoration. People will not build a new home and then have it taken away from them by someone else. You won't build up a business, just to have someone else send you bankrupt and reap the profits from what you have done for themselves. You'll not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble. Even nature will be brought into perfect harmony. We are told 'that the wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like a bullock and dust shall be the serpent's meat.' Now that is a great verse. I don't mind admitting that I'm waiting very impatiently for the serpent, and the seed of the serpent, to go back to what God promised them, that is, to eat of the dust of the earth. That is what God promised the serpent, or whoever was pre-figured by the serpent at the temptation of Eve and Adam, and that is where they'll end up, eating the dust. But nothing will 'eat up', or be harmful to God's new creation. Have you ever considered that when Daniel was in the lions' den, that there was no way in this world that the lions could have eaten Daniel? They weren't the slightest bit interested in eating Daniel. All God did was to introduce the conditions of the kingdom of God into that particular place at that particular time. If King Darius had thrown down a bail of hay through the hole in the roof into the lion's den I believe the lions would have had a great feed, because under Kingdom conditions lions eat straw. They don't eat people. People

have to be told that in the kingdom age, when the Lord Jesus Christ returns, nothing shall hurt or destroy in all His holy mountain. The plan or the intent of our Lord Jesus Christ to return to this earth is an integral part of His plan for the total restoration of this earth back to its pristine glory. He will be instituting the very next phase of His plan.

Now this brings up a very interesting point. I do not believe for one moment that there are other human beings or people out on Mars or Venus, or any other planets in our own or any other solar system. Just think about it for a moment because if there are other human beings out in other planetary systems, we've only got two options or alternatives regarding their conditions. Either the people on such a planet are perfect or they are not perfect. Now if they are perfect then there is nothing in the Word of God that would even indicate their existence to the slightest degree because the Bible leaves us in no doubt as to the perfection of the heavens beyond the sphere of the earth. The Psalmist tells us in Psalm 115:16;

"The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth hath He given to the children of men."

But if these people are imperfect, we've got to ask ourselves this question. Will Jesus have to go to that planet and die all over again for those people? Because if He wants to make them perfect, why should we think that it is going to be done differently than what He had to do for people on our planet Earth? So one is only left with one alternative, I believe, and that is that there are no other inhabitants of this universe on the human level. I say that because I believe very seriously that we are now living in the very beginnings of God's plans. The Lord Jesus Christ, as Jehovah, formed "the Adam" (as the Septuagint translates the phrase) out of the dust. He didn't create this Adam, as stated of the Adam in Genesis chapter 1. The Adam of Genesis chapter 2 was 'formed', an entirely different Hebrew word to 'create'. He put this 'formed' Adam into a garden in a place called Eden which

had already been prepared for him. I believe that this 'garden' was a type or model of the kingdom of God. It was a place of absolute perfection. These special people were the commencement of those who were to be "the sons of God". These people, and particularly the Israel people who descended from them, were formed by God to be a very, very special people, and if you think that's hard to accept as a lot of people do, on the basis that it smacks of 'racism', then I'm afraid that that is just too bad. I'm more interested in what God says about the matter than what our present radical leaders try to tell us. In Deut. 7:6 we read these words;

"For thou (Israel) art an holy people unto the LORD thy God. The LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth."

Today, if one expresses any pride in being white, or belonging to the people whom the LORD Himself has chosen, you are immediately accused of being racist. Well as far as I'm concerned, that's tough luck. I make no apologies whatsoever for being who I am and I don't expect anyone else to apologise for who they are. I don't care what colour or race people are. If that's the way God created them, then they should be left as such in order that they might be able to fulfil the calling and purpose for which they were created in the first place. What is not presently realised is that the Satanic attempt to mongrelise and to destroy the people whom God chose to be the instrument through whom He is to bring untold blessing to all the families and nations of the earth, is also destroying the purity and purpose of the other races which the same God created for their own special place in His Divine plans.

I believe that at this point in history we are in the very beginnings of the plans of God for this earth, and indeed the whole universe. I believe that God is now separating unto Himself a people who are going to be kings and priests ruling with Him over His kingdom which is an

earthly kingdom here on this earth, and which is Divinely destined to be the instrument through which God will ultimately rule the entire universe. It is a physical and literal kingdom down here. It is to be reigned over by our Lord Jesus Christ, sitting on the Throne of the Lord. This throne is the same as that upon which King Solomon sat. We read in I Chron. 29:23;

"Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father."

It is about time that ministers realised and preached the fact that this throne isn't God's heavenly throne down here on earth, nor is it David's throne up there in heaven. It was, and still is, the throne of the LORD, Jehovah. The occupant of that throne is the divinely appointed viceroy of God, and I can assure you that it isn't the Pope. The present Monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, is that viceroy. No wonder the enemies of God's people are doing all in their power to destroy it. There is no reason for anyone to wonder at what is really going on if they really understood that this throne is the emblem and symbol and in fact the reality of the throne of the Lord here on earth. I get totally amazed at the blindness of so many people in regard to this subject. One of our prominent state members of Parliament recently made an exceptional statement to Parliament on the origin of 'the Stone of Destiny', saying that it was the Stone on which Jacob laid his head when he was given that tremendous vision of the ladder reaching to heaven. He then continued to give the members details of the Christian origin of our flag. Yet he refuses to acknowledge the Israel origin of the very people to whom these peculiarly Israel features belong. It's got me beat, it really has! If people would only realise that this nation of ours was formed, it was built, it was developed, it was protected, it was instructed, and it was disciplined to be God's witness on this earth to the fact that He is God. Everything that God's Word says regarding the relationship of that nation with the Lord Jesus Christ points to, and in fact demands, the fact that Jesus Christ is going to come back and rule over that people.

Now I believe that we can be in the Kingdom when the Lord returns either as citizens or as rulers. To be a citizen of this kingdom, with everlasting life, will cost you nothing. The price for eternal life has already been paid. All you have to do is have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and accept His sacrifice on your own behalf for the remission and forgiveness of your sins. To be a citizen in the Kingdom costs you nothing. It is a free gift. But to go further than that in order to be a King and a Priest ruling over that Kingdom with the Lord Jesus Christ could cost you everything you've got. God does not hand out positions of responsibility to people who are totally irresponsible in the way they deal with His Word.

It is my firm belief and conviction that we have now reached the point in history when the operation of this distinction is to be put into operation. He has already formed the people or "the nation". He is now separating those to whom He refers as "the few". Remember His words.

"Many are called but few are chosen".

The chosen remnant are being called. These are they who are going to be the rulers or Elders in Israel. These, I believe, will have charge of various areas where I believe God will be setting up further worlds, further places for His people to live. We have no concept of the grandeur of this plan. No wonder He says to us in Isaiah 64:4;

"For since the beginning of the world, men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside Thee, what He hath prepared for him that waiteth for Him."

What I have written above is only an introduction. I don't know how long it will actually be before these things become a reality. I'm not particularly worried. My greatest hope is that I will qualify for the 'high calling in Christ Jesus' which is the prize set before us. But as ser-

vants and as followers of the Lord we have to know what we believe. We have to know where we're going. The Bible tells us that we should always be in a position where we can give an account of our belief. I'm not suggesting for one moment that everyone is going to be able to give a sermon or go into great depths about their beliefs, so please don't get upset because you don't remember everything. God never gave everyone the capacity to know everything. He hasn't given it to me, nor has He given it to anyone to know everything about everything. But He does reveal His Word to us as we go to Him. As we commit ourselves to Him, He will give us as much information as we need at that particular time. There is a well known expression used in the intelligence services, which I'm sure you will all have heard at some time or another. "You'll get it on a need-to-know-basis". In other words, the head of the department will only tell you what you need to know at any given time. We need to realise that in our Christian service the same rule applies. The Lord Jesus Christ reveals information to us on a "need-to-know-basis". The further we go in His work, in His ministry, and in our witness to Him, the more we need to know and the more we will know. But if people don't try to understand the Word of God and they don't try to understand the mind and the purpose of God they simply don't need to know. So they won't know. It doesn't mean to say that God has said that one person is going to be told and another is not. Anyone can be admitted into the knowledge of the Word of God if they genuinely seek to know the plans and purposes of God because as they seek Him further they will 'need to know'.

When the Lord Jesus Christ came here the last time, nearly 2,000 years ago, there was some men out in the field just getting on with their business of minding the sheep, and they were standing on guard to make sure the wolves didn't get in or make sure the gate was shut or whatever they did, and they were just there doing their job. Without one solitary bit of warning there suddenly appeared before them an angelic choir singing praises to God. Now how would you have liked to be one of those shepherds? That must have been some experience. Well

that is now history, as we know. What we now have to remember is that the second return of our Lord Jesus Christ is going to be just as certain, and to most people who are not earnestly seeking the truth, just as unexpected.

What we're trying to do, God willing, is to lift the veil a little bit on some of the details, not necessarily on things we've never heard of, nor just on things we don't know about, but in order to sustain and exhort each other as we see that great day approaching so rapidly, and to help each other grow in our faith and in our witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

(to be continued).



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TRUE

By Pastor K. Chant

*A spiritual law comes into operation
where the people of God gather in Jesus name.
Something is generated among them,
which cannot come into existence
while they are separated.*

*God can do some wonderful things with us
when we are on our own,
and we can do some wonderful things for God
when we are on our own,
just Me and the LORD.
We can have some mighty experiences with God
and miracles can take place.*

*But there are certain aspects of the Ministry
of the Holy Spirit, certain dimensions
of the power and presence of God
which isolated Christians can never enter into.
A miracle takes place when the people of God
gather together in His name to worship Him.*



*"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without
wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)
And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and
to good works:
Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the
manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so
much the more, as ye see the day approaching."
(Hebrews 10:23-25).*

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COVENANT WATCH!

Courtesy "Herald Sun"
December, 1992

Darkest of Days Since 1936

WAS it an omen when the skies darkened over London last night at the witching hour of midnight during a full eclipse of the moon?

It's a question the National Party Leader, Mr. Fischer, asked himself as he and his wife Judy travelled back to their London hotel after hearing of the separation of Charles and Diana.

Mr. Fischer observed yesterday that the last full eclipse was the night King Edward VIII abdicated from the throne 56 years ago.

Mr. Fischer, a staunch defender of the royals, was in the House of Commons yesterday when the announcement was made.

He said he spoke to several British MPs who were "subdued and saddened" by the announcement.

But he said there was considerable disquiet at the suggestion Princess Diana could still be crowned Queen after the separation.

Mr. Fischer told the *Herald-Sun* of his own sadness at the event.

But he said he thought it would be "callous" if republicans in Australia tried to use the event to give spur to their cause.

"The debate about an Australian republic is a debate that should be decided on Australian soil at a proper time."

* * * *

Putting Women in the Picture

FOR CENTURIES, Leonardo da Vinci's depiction of male disciples surrounding Jesus has been the dominant image of the Last Supper.

A group of Uniting Church people are chipping away at that image through the Last Supper Project. The project has involved four artists being invited to submit paintings, drawings and sketches showing women present at the fellowship meal.

The artists, selected from over 40 entrants, are Margaret Ackland, John Coburn, Kerry Martin, and Carol Ruff. Their works were launched at the Centre for Ministry on the 20th July.

The \$10,000 project has been partly funded by the World Council of Churches Women's Desk and the rest is being raised by contributions from women and men who see the project as a creative way of making a statement about the hoped-for wholeness of Christian communities.

In launching the works, the convener of the Uniting Church Assembly Task Group on the project, Mrs. Janet Wood, said the aim was to portray the church as a whole in which both men and women participate with equal joy and service.

"We are not looking for something saying 'this is how it actually happened' but something which shows the Last Supper as an occasion both historical and also a living reality", she said.

Of the five references to the Last Supper in the Gospels, she said none stated that women were absent. "It allows us to think of the possibility that women were there. It seems to me unthinkable that Jesus, who included women in his fellowship along the way, would on the very night before his death somehow eliminate all these people on the margins of society from such an important event."

An occasional paper has been produced by Dorothy Lee, from Ormond College in Melbourne, which outlines the project's theological underpinnings.

Mrs. Wood countered criticisms that the project is blasphemous, heresy, or a combination of both, by saying: "Whatever attitude you have towards the scriptures, they allow us to think about the participation of women and the theology insists that we think about it."

And to those who ask why \$10,000 is being spent on the project when there are many in society with pressing needs, she says: "Artists also have to eat, and people who give to a project like this are people who give

to other projects as well. This is one of the ways they can give to create a church which is more and more aware of what it means to be a whole church."

Rev. Rod Pattenden, one of the six people making up the Assembly Task Group, said the artwork will raise awareness in the Uniting Church nationwide. "The images will hopefully raise discussion on the role of women in the Church."

The project is seen as a creative contribution to the Uniting Church and other churches, especially to women who struggle with a history of exclusion in the Church. It is also an Australian contribution to the goals of the Ecumenical Decade of the Churches in Solidarity with Women.

It is anticipated the painting commissioned by the Last Supper project group will link the institution of the Lord's Supper with the Welcoming Christ. The works will be exhibited around the country and it is planned to reproduce the commissioned painting in poster and card form.

"Insights". Sept. 1992.

* * * *

Courtesy Logos Foundation
P.O. Box 347
CURTIN ACT 2605

Church Schools Threatened with Loss of Freedom

The Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Quentin Bryce, has recommended that the Federal Government amend the Sex Discrimination Act to prevent church schools considering the sex and marital status of its employees or potential employees.

At present the Act enables church schools to consider matters such as de facto or homosexual relationships among teachers, in order to protect their special Christian character.

It was widespread objections from several Christian denominations (including Anglican and Catholic churches)

and other independent church schools which caused the Hawke Government to amend the 1983 Act so that church schools would be free to consider such matters with respect to their employees.

But now the Commissioner proposes to widen the legislation, thereby denying this freedom.

Were this to occur, schools would no longer be able to ensure that teachers reflect the moral, ethical or religious values which church schools were established to uphold. Their reason for being would therefore be effectively over-ridden.

Christians should ensure this does not happen!

* * * *

World Affairs.

Pastor F.W.C. Neser.

P.O. Box 49432,

Hercules 0030

Republic of South Africa.

We have come to the last edition of World Affairs for 1992. As the year commenced, so it is ending, with a continuing tendency for things to get worse. Here in South Africa the ANC/SACP Alliance is relentlessly pursuing its set course to bring down the present government and seize control of the country by force. The signals are clear that where they accuse the whites of discrimination against the blacks, they will reverse discrimination in favour of the blacks when they come to power. It does not concern them at all if they destroy the whole country in the process, as long as they can reach their goal.

But it is not only in South Africa that the world has become an ethnic and racial powder keg. It is the same the world over. In the U.S.A., the country is hovering on the edge of a racial explosion. The tragic events of Los Angeles in the case of Rodney King was but the tip of the iceberg. In the former Yugoslavia the struggle is likewise of an ethnic nature. In Germany there is violent resistance against the many foreigners flooding the country, and so we could continue.

NATURAL DISASTERS. There is tremendous increase in earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Droughts are on the increase and un-

usual floods and tornadoes plague the earth. It is as if nature is beginning to warn mankind and starting to shout louder and louder that man must begin to prepare himself for the worse yet to come. But the louder and clearer the warning, the harder and more indifferent man becomes. He looks for all kinds of explanations, and has many theories, but the real cause he does not even want to consider.

SPIRITUAL BANKRUPTCY. The real cause of all these disasters and upheavals is that man is out of harmony with God. Man has become his own god and abrogated to himself the right to prescribe his own laws and regulations. Unfortunately circumstances will have to become much worse still before he will find out that this god has feet of clay. Man and his gods cannot help himself, and is heading for the biggest catastrophe that he has ever experienced. He is not only going to completely destroy nature, but himself as well. This is where our Lord Jesus Christ declared that unless the days are shortened, no flesh shall be saved. Man, and the white man in particular, has become an endangered species. It is not only racial conflicts and natural disaster, but there are pestilences as well (AIDS for example) and all kinds of diseases that can assume epidemic proportions.

THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN. The prophet Daniel said to the heathen king Nebuchadnezzar *"But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets."* The Bible teaches us that it is He who made the heavens and the earth, and all that is in it. In His wisdom He has also made Laws according to which this earth and man are to be administered. These laws He committed to His chosen people Israel, and they also received them from Him as such, and assumed the responsibility for them when they declared with one accord at Mount Sinai, *"All the words which the LORD hath said will we do."* (Exodus 24;3).

There is irrefutable proof that the white Western Nations of Anglo-Saxon-Germanic descent are of these people. They carry therefore both the privilege and responsibility of God's covenant people unchanged. But there were also punishment clauses included in this covenant. These punishments are now beginning to reach their climax in this generation. All the calamities that are descending upon us have this one purpose to bring us to repentance and lead us back into the conditions of the covenant. One of the main elements in these punitive clauses is that God would raise up the heathen to be the rod in His hand. We can see and experience it at this very time as the heathen is on the move to destroy the white man.

THE CORE OF THE MATTER. The main point is that God has a programme for this world, which is fiercely contested by the devil. It

revolves around the genuine Israel people whom God has chosen to carry out this programme. They are the barometer of the whole world situation. When they come into harmony with God, that is, live according to the conditions of God's covenant with them, all will be well with this world in every respect, and vice versa.

CONFUSED THINKING. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans: *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."* (Romans 12:2). Our whole thinking has been confused through a complete disregard of the covenant which God has made with the true Israel. It was unconditional, everlasting and unchangeable. In its conditions it is nowhere stated that it would ever be transferred to another people or be spiritualised. The prophet Jeremiah stated that the New Covenant would be made with the House of Israel and the House of Judah only. The law was to be put in their inward parts and written in their hearts (read Jer. 31:31-34 and Hebrews 8:8-13). It was for this that the Lord Jesus, the Christ (the anointed King of Israel) both died and rose from the dead.

Shortly after the death of the last apostles a completely different interpretation of the meaning of this Covenant developed. And that is, that on the Day of Pentecost God transferred this Covenant from a specific people Israel, to all nations on earth and called it 'the church', or the New Israel. According to this new thinking, the basis is now no more the Law of God, but grace. On top of this, the understanding of this 'grace' is so vague, that no concrete definition for it exists.

POLITICS AND THEOLOGY. Most of the problems in our country and the world are of a political and theological nature; it is because of our polluted thinking. The political claims of our non-white people can be traced back to a faulty theology. God's blueprint for His Israel people has not changed by one jot or tittle. This very significant fact and the false claims the non-Israel nations make on the rights of Israel, is the basic cause of all the problems in our country. Our politicians, theologians, philosophers, sociologists, and what have you, may continue with their "learned" analyses as much as they like, they will never find a solution while their thinking is based on a faulty premise.

A NEW REFORMATION. As the reformation, which the Protestant World commemorated on 31 October, shook the world in its time, down to its very foundations, we need likewise today a New Reformation. A certain person said to me years ago, that if my views are correct, it means that he needs a complete re-education. Those were

great words, but I give him full credit that he was humble enough to say it. God Almighty will not depart from His predetermined plan, and the non-Israel nations, under the instigation of the devil himself, will also not change their determination to destroy God's Israel people. It is therefore two very powerful forces that are heading for a final collision, and the time for it has now arrived.

The Bible calls this conflict "the time of Jacob's Trouble." (Jer. 30:5-7), "the Day of the Lord" (Joel 2:1, 11, 31; Zeph. 1:14, and many other related scriptures), "the time of the heathen" (Ezek. 30:3), and "a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation" (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21-22). According to the prophets, the new birth of the true Israel (made up of the core of the white people) will take place during this time of trouble. The true meaning of the Bible and the true council of God will be re-discovered. The shock wave of this New Reformation will shake the whole world. (See Isaiah 66:8).

DIVINE INTERVENTION. This will bring the fury and revolt of the heathen to its climax. The riots that have erupted already in our own country and overseas, is but the beginning of this conflict. The scurrying around of our government and the Western Nations to appease the heathen will come to naught, but will only serve to strengthen him in his arrogance. He will continue his campaign to wreck our economy with his diabolical methods of mass action, strikes, arson, murder, robbery, intimidation, and so on, until they have either destroyed or enslaved our people.

I believe this will lead to an awakening within the real Israel. There are already clear signs of this. There is a search for truth that is gaining in momentum by the day. In this twilight of the **new day** that is coming, there are of course also many false and misleading voices that are calling to be followed. Our people who inherited an open Bible from the First Reformation - and many thousands laid down their lives to leave us this precious inheritance - have neglected it. Now we have fallen into this unrest of the hour; every wind of doctrine (see Eph 4:13-14) has carried us along. While the "Old Churches" are beginning to fall apart, literally hundreds of smaller groups are springing up like toadstools. And which of these two, the "old" or the "new", proclaims the biggest error, is difficult to say.

But we believe that our Lord Jesus Christ said, "*I will build my church* (Gr. ecclesia); *and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*" (Matt.16:18). God is going to restore the ministries of apostle, prophet, pastor, teacher and evangelist to His church as it was in the first church. Such mighty ministries will shake God's people into such

a mighty awakening that will even surpass that of the Day of Pentecost.

That will strengthen us to go through the coming distress, and prepare us for the return of our King, Jesus the Christ, the Son of David. His appearing will of course be the **FINAL INTERVENTION** of God to save His people and the world He has created, from total destruction. **Let your mind be renewed.**

* * * *

Courtesy "Thy Kingdom Come"
November, 1992

News Scan

by Kerry Rosvold

* **BIG OZONE SCARE** was summer's blunderstorm. There are two versions of the great ozone scare of 1992: either NASA pulled a space age 'chicken little' when it warned of a giant new hole in the earth's protective shield, or the media went too far on a story. More than six months after NASA went public with warnings of a hole over Canada, Europe, Russia, Scandinavia, and parts of the northern U.S., it's clear the predictions were wrong. In Canada, federal officials say ozone levels this summer, while lower than in the eighties, were about average for the past couple of years in most parts of the country. Wayne Evans, an atmospheric scientist at Trent University in Peterborough Ont., is extremely critical of NASA. "It did us a lot of long-term harm. The reality is, it is quite possible some winter or spring we will have that kind of depletion, but people may not believe it." In the months that followed the warning, NASA scientists were criticised by those who said they were mostly interested in more funding and attention.


* **JAPANESE WRITER BLAMES JEWS** for economic woes. A Japanese author has found 650,000 buyers in recent months for two books contending that a world-wide Jewish conspiracy is to blame for Japan's economic

woes. Masami Uno maintains in his two best-sellers that a Jewish conspiracy is behind the yen's surge against the U.S. dollar, as well as rising unemployment and growing American demands for trade laws to reduce Japanese imports into the U.S. Jews living in Japan are worried about the public appetite for Uno's works and a flurry of other recent books with similar themes. "We know of about 12 to 14 books that propel the conspiratorial theory. . . that Jews control the world and are trying to bring Japan to its knees" says an American rabbi, Michael Shudrich. One of Uno's books, entitled '*If You Understand Judea You Can Understand the World*') states: "The outflow of massive capital away from Japan because of the high yen at home and high interest rates abroad is a plot to increase the value of international Jewish capital at the expense of Japan."



OUR SPECIAL THANKS to all those readers who so kindly sent us Greeting Cards for 1992. Your good wishes and prayers are very precious to Betty and I, and we trust that you will accept this as an expression of our appreciation to each of you individually.

We have no doubt that this New Year of 1993 will be one of, if not THE most momentous in our long history to date. If things develop as we anticipate, then we are going to need all the prayers and support that you all can give in order to have the strength and the capacity to meet the ever increasing demand on our resources in order to handle our work load. Please pray earnestly about your priorities.

May the Lord God abundantly bless you as we labour together as 'Watchmen in Israel' to His Glory. 



Oh Lord, Save Thy People!

Courtesy "WAKE UP!"

During the nineteenth century there was remarkable prosperity and advancement. People had a sense of purpose and direction, even dealing with the squalor that somehow prevailed. Above all others, one thing accounted for this change. The hearts of men and women were turned to Christ through the Evangelical Revival. The people put God first, sought His Kingdom and Righteousness and the promise was fulfilled: "... all these things shall be added unto you" (*Matthew 6:31-33*).

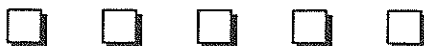
Earlier revivals produced comparable results for their own period, but in each case many were not reached. Time wore on and tiredness took its toll and believing souls slept. So it is today, and the Nation is degenerating into a state destitute of moral rectitude.

Joseph de Maistre said that the people get the government they deserve. Perhaps it is the other way round: the government gets the people it deserves. It is true that representative government disappeared long ago, because of which the latter condition holds good and the people become discontented. It strains the credulity to believe that the *electorate* decided what would be the incoming government's agenda for its term of office. The electorate was never asked. Indeed, each political party drew up its own agenda and offered it in its manifesto. That is the business we chose to have enacted; someone else's. Always it is someone else's. By this process government is licensed to cover, with the family inheritance, losses at the European gaming-table. Such is the wisdom of "big brother".

Our view concerning what part we should play in the ultimate European State (Europa) has never been an election issue: they were afraid we would say "No". They will not petition Her Majesty to call the *Nation* to a day of *Repentance and Prayer*: they fear that by some mystic mode Almighty God might just hear them and save them

from the terrible calamity planned for Europe and the world. But who are "they"?

They are those who say "Yes" to Maastricht; who favour the United Kingdom's integration in a United European State; who are of the Toynbee school, and who play the Thorneycroft card: *"the people must be led slowly and unconsciously into the abandonment of their traditional economic defences"*.



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Malachi

Nearly twelve months ago, we commenced a series of studies in the Book of Malachi, but after printing the first study, we decided to temporarily discontinue the series in order to allow space to complete our study in the Book of the Revelation. We now recommence the series on the Study in Malachi, but because of the intervening time, we have decided to commence from the beginning by reprinting Part 1.

A Study
by Frank W. Dowsett.

PART ONE

Introduction.

In this issue I am going to commence a study of the Book of Malachi. We have at some time or another all heard or read comments regarding certain parts of this book, but I can't recall that I've ever heard or read a series of studies on the whole of this prophecy. Although it has such a great deal of teaching in it for us, unfortunately it is so very rarely heard of these days. So my purpose in writing this is to study and explain the various aspects of the words of this prophet, especially as it relates both to the events of our present day, and to the material and spiritual position of our nation as the present-day development of God's people Israel, the specific subject of the book itself. We will find from our studies of this prophecy a very wonderful message which God has recorded for our instruction and admonition.

In II Peter 1:19-21 we read these very pertinent words;

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in our hearts:

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scriptures is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Again, in II Timothy 3:16-17 we read;

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

I have always found it quite amazing that despite such positive injunctions as those we have just read, and the obvious blessings which accrue from following them, that today we are very rarely ever given teaching on this all-important subject of prophecy. I was reading a little booklet recently, which dealt with facts and figures related to the Bible, in which it was pointed out that about 75% of the Bible dealt with prophecy. So on this basis, we find that if we don't study prophecy, then it is quite obvious that we are ignoring 75% of the Bible. Thus it behoves us to look at these prophets. One would think by the absence of teaching that we receive today, that they are of no further consequence, and that God virtually wasted His time inspiring these men to write. Let us be very clear on this point, that these men did not write of their own volition. These men, as we are told quite clearly, wrote these prophecies as they were moved by the Spirit of God. It was God who actually wrote these prophecies, using the various prophets purely as His scribes. Just the same as a company executive will call in his secretary to take down a letter as he dictates it, so with the prophets. As the Spirit of God spoke to them, they wrote down the thoughts that were put into their minds, and so what they wrote down is the inspired Word of God. We have no right whatsoever to relegate the prophets into the background simply because we don't understand them. I read a little caption recently which read, "Whatsoever man does not understand he finds unconvincing". I thought that was a very good

expression of people's attitude today in regard to the subject of prophecy. They don't understand the prophets, so they find them quite unconvincing. They can't understand them, so they put them to one side and say, 'Let's forget about them, and concentrate on the New Testament', completely forgetting of course that the great bulk of the New Testament refers back to the prophets which they have just discarded.

I have always believed that it is necessary when commencing the study of any book in the Bible, and particularly a prophetic book, to carry out a short investigation of the technical points of the book before you start because it helps to adjust your mind to the right era, and helps to give one the right perspective and context of the book. For argument sake, you could get a different understanding of this book if you thought it was written prior to the captivities, than what you would have knowing that it was written afterwards. So it is obviously necessary to know this fact so as to have the correct basis for your understanding of the prophecies contained in the book, otherwise the reader could apply the message of the book to the period of the first captivities instead of to a much later period of time.

The name "Malachi" means literally "My Messenger". There are a few different opinions expressed regarding the person of Malachi when one studies the various authorities. Some have suggested that "Malachi" was not the name of the person who wrote it, but that the book was written by someone who was the messenger of God, and denoted that fact rather than the name of the actual person. Another authority claims that it was the name of the person as well as his position, adding "by Malachi, who was Ezra the scribe". I don't know where he got that from, but I'm only quoting what some other authorities say about this. Others take it, as I take it, that it was the actual person, "the prophet Malachi". What people don't seem to realise when they make these statements which I previously quoted, is the fact that God constantly used names of people as a message in itself. There was always a meaning in people's names. There was often

a purpose for which God had a particular person named as he was. Abraham means 'a father of many nations', Isaac means 'laughter', Isaiah means 'Jehovah saves', Daniel means 'My judge is God', and so on. If you go through the Bible, you find that the names all had a meaning. And just because a man's name has a meaning, doesn't give us the right to suggest that it wasn't actually that man, but just a title that had reference to some person's ministry. This is quite wrong. The man Malachi was so named because of God's call upon him to be His Messenger.

The book was written about 374 B.C., (Bullinger), although there is some slight difference of opinion among various authorities. There is no dating given within the text of the book itself. It is the last of the minor prophets as recorded in the Bible, and in fact, as we observe, the very last book of the Old Testament. It is interesting to note that these prophets are not called "minor" because they are less important, or because they are less factual, or because we can place less credence upon them, but simply because they are shorter. They are short books, and so are called "minor". The major prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, - are long books, and are called "major" for this reason. So the term 'major' or 'minor' simply relates to the size of the book. It is also interesting to note that there are just 12 "minor" prophets, six of which are undated. Malachi is the last of these six and of the three written after the captivities. So now let us examine this very wonderful message as it unfolds in this book of Malachi.

CHAPTER ONE.

The first verse starts off, *"The burden of the Word of the Lord to Israel"*. The word "burden" doesn't mean 'a load', but means 'a warning or exhortation'. This is similar to the 'woes' in Isaiah, which also mean 'a warning or exhortation', not 'sorrow'. So the two words have a similar meaning. But the word is not just directed to a small group of people. It is directed to the whole House of Is-

rael. This can be seen quite clearly. For instance, in chapter 1 and verse 2, God introduces the two peoples of Esau and Jacob. He speaks here of Jacob, not Israel, and Jacob was always used in relation to the entire 12 tribed House of Israel. As we go through the book, we find other references, e.g. Chapter 2 verse 4 *"and ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you that my covenant might be with Levi saith the Lord of Hosts"*. That covenant with Levi was made at a time when the whole 12 tribes were together. Then in verse 11 we find, *"Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem"*. The prophet covers the whole three aspects - Israel, Judah and Jerusalem itself, the inhabitants of Jerusalem. So he covers the whole context of Israel. He covers the whole people. It is not just to the remnant left at that time or any other time. It is a message to the entire House of Israel, and we need to realise this in order to fully and properly understand its message.

But I feel that the basis of our understanding of the whole book rests upon the very next verse. In verses 2 and 3 we have a statement made by God about which, I personally believe, there is a complete lack of understanding. I further believe that this is the reason why we have so little understanding of the tragic situation in which we find our nation today.

"I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the Lord: Yet I loved Jacob, and I hated Esau . . ."

We read this without realising the enormity of the statement that God has made. He says to Jacob, *"I have loved you."* That sentence forms the basis of the entire prophecy which is contained in the four chapters of this Prophecy of Malachi, because with the exception of just two verses, (verses 2 and 3 of the first chapter), God goes right through His dealings with the people of Israel. He tells of how much He loves them, and why He loves them, and what He is going to do about it. *"I have loved you,*

saith the Lord", and yet, we find that He replies, "*Yet ye say, wherein hast Thou loved us?*" Israel says, how do we know you've loved us. Prove it to us. We can't see any evidence of this at all. God declares His love. He then questions Israel's doubt of this love, and then He answers Israel's doubt. But isn't it amazing, that today we have this very same attitude so prevalent in our midst. "*Wherein hast Thou loved us.*" I'm sure you will agree with me that 99% of people in our country of Australia, in Britain, the U.S.A., Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, in fact everywhere in the white Commonwealth countries, are looking at their respective countries and saying, "what on earth has happened to us?". And if they have any religious thoughts at all, they will be asking God, "why have you allowed this to happen to us? How on earth can you possibly say you have loved us, and let us get into the mess that we are in now.?" How would you answer that question, for instance, to the people in Northern Ireland and the people in Britain now, where they are experiencing increasing bombings and anarchy? How would you answer the people in our own country suffering so terribly through unemployment and an ever increasing incidence of terrible crimes? And so it is going on in all the Western Christian nations today. We now have a situation for which nobody seems to have the slightest idea of how to reach a solution. And people, whether consciously or unconsciously, are questioning whether or not there is a God at all, let alone whether or not He loves us. There is very little evidence of God's presence among us today. This is the very sad feature of our times. And you know, we have achieved this all on our own. We have thrown God out and said that we could make a better job of running our national affairs than God could, simply because we didn't recognise the part that God had to play in our history, our politics, our economics, our home life, our national life, or our religious life. In every phase of our existence we have taken God out of it. And we turn round to God and say, "How do we know that you love us? Where is the evidence that you love us?"

And God turns to us and makes a reply, giving the basis for His love for us as His people Israel. He says,

"Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Now what sort of an answer is that? Why did God choose this particular subject as His reply? Why did God answer the question, "Prove to us in what way You have loved us" with the reply, *"Was not Esau Jacob's brother?"* Would you have answered this question with an answer like that? I'm sure you wouldn't have, and neither would I. God is an absolute marvel at answering questions with what seems to be the most unrelated and unusual answers. He is just so far ahead of us with His reasoning that it is staggering to our understanding. How very true is the statement recorded in Isa. 55:8-9, and how happier we would be if we recognised and accepted it;

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

How seldom we realise or comprehend the enormity of God's statement; *"Wasn't Esau Jacob's brother?"*, for in saying this, God put His finger on the heart of the whole matter. The secret of the present world situation, and the calamities through which we are passing lies in the answer that God gave here.

"Was not Esau Jacob's brother? Yet I loved Jacob, but I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness."

This is the secret of the whole question.

"I have loved Jacob, but I have hated Esau."

Now with this statement in mind, I want to quote for you a passage from Romans 9:10-23; (N.I.V. trans.).

"Not only that, but Rebekah's children had one and the same father, our father Isaac.

Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad - in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls - she was told, 'The older will serve the younger.' Just as it is written: 'Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.'

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses,

'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.'

It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: 'I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.'

Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

One of you will say to me: 'Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?' But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?' Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath - prepared for destruction?

What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory? . . ."

Now let us have a brief look at this passage. Rebekah had conceived by her husband Isaac and had even-

tually found that she was to give birth to twins. The children had not yet been born. They had not had the chance to be good or bad, to do right or wrong. **Yet God had made an act of election in regard to both of them.** He had selected, and indeed **elected**, one of these as yet unborn children in preference to the other. He had made this decision and this choice before they were even born. It is absolutely essential that we fully realise that this act of election by God had absolutely nothing to do with the unborn condition of the children themselves. **It was a matter of the call and purpose of Almighty God.** He said, 'It is My prerogative to choose whom I will,' and He made His choice before the children were even born. And that choice was not made on the basis of favouritism, but on the basis of His Divine foreknowledge of what the two children would develop into. If God had allowed these two babes to be born and grow up and had then chosen them, people would have criticised God ever since on the grounds of favouritism. God forestalled this. He said, "It is My prerogative to chose whom I will", and He made the choice before they were even born. It was said unto her, Rebekah, quoting from Malachi,

"The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, and Esau have I hated. What shall we say then. Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

For He said to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then, it is not of him that willeth nor of him that runneth, but it is of God that showeth mercy."

It's God's business, not ours. Look again at part of the above scriptures.

"For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: 'I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.'"

Do you see the point of this? God deliberately allowed Pharaoh's heart to be hardened so that He could display His power and His might through what He did to Pharaoh. He then answers His critics, who incidentally complain, no matter what He does;

"But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?' Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?"

We can use a simple illustration. Take the furniture in your own home. We don't find one of the chairs complaining because it may not be the same quality as another of our chairs, or because it wasn't made into the table. What has been made has no say as to what it has been made into. It's the person who makes it that has the say. And yet we have the audacity to turn to God and complain to Him that He, the Creator who made us, made us as we are. We want to change things. We want to say to God, "You had no right to make this person thus, and that person something else." And so we find ourselves in the mess we are in today. We have all this intermarriage, integration and inter-everything else in a deliberate attempt to make everything uniform. There is a song currently being aired on the radio, the words of which go something like this. "Get a large pot, place all the races of the world in it; stir it round and round for a few hundred years, and out will come scores and scores of coffee-coloured people". This sort of thing is sheer, unadulterated blasphemy, as it was no doubt intended to be. If God had wanted everything and everybody to be the same, He would have made them all the same in the first place. Look at all the trouble He would have saved. But He made peoples different because He wanted them different. And He wanted them different simply because He had different purposes for them all. This is the thing we forget today. We look at people of other races, and before we know what's happening, certain forces in our

midst are breaking their necks trying to make them into people of our race. What on earth for? If God wanted them to be of our race, He would have made them of our race. But He made them of their own race, because He has a particular and specific purpose for that race within His Divine will. By turning people of one race into people of another race, we are not only destroying our own race and heritage and the purposes of God in us, but we are also destroying them from being what they are, and thus destroying the purposes of God in them. And this is what Paul is saying, *"Who are we to question the wisdom of God?"*

So we find three important conclusions:

1. It is the Creator's right, and His alone, to decide what He wishes to make, and how He wishes to make it.
2. That which is made has absolutely no say whatsoever in what it is made into, and
3. We have no right or authority to change God's decision.

But in studying this subject in the strict context of Malachi's prophecy, we find that it concentrates specifically on just two people, as yet unborn, and the future people and races which would develop from them. In the Bible passages which we read above, there is specific reference to 'two vessels' or 'objects'. In Romans 9:22-23 Paul wrote;

"What if God, willing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects (or vessels) of his wrath - prepared for destruction?"

What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects (or vessels) of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory? . . ."

The context of this statement, as recorded in verse 13, shows that these two 'vessels' or 'objects' were none other than Esau and Jacob. Esau was the vessel prepared for destruction, whilst Jacob was the vessel prepared for glory. This was the predetermined decision and judgment of Almighty God, and there is absolutely nothing that you or I can do about it. We are not asked to like it. We are expected to accept it. The decision has nothing to do with us. It is entirely God's, and to reject it is tantamount to throwing God's Word back into His face.

What if God did make one vessel, Esau, for destruction? That's His business. What if God did make one vessel, Jacob, for mercy? That's also His business. That is just the way God purposed it. The one He made to honour, and the other He made to dishonour. He could not have expressed it more clearly; *"Jacob have I loved, and Esau have I hated."* If it wasn't so, then why did both Malachi and Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, say that it was. And here we have the secret of understanding what is going on in the world today.

I've said this many times before and I want to say it again. When you study the Bible, study the words. This is absolutely necessary. You will never understand the **WORD** of God unless you understand the **WORDS** of which it is comprised. Get yourself a good concordance, and with its aid, **STUDY** the Word of God. I repeat something else I've said before. Nowhere in the Bible does it say to just read the Word of God. It says;

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

(II Timothy 2:15).

No one can study the Word of God just by getting out the Bible and flicking through the pages and doing a speed reading course through it. You have to study it. Pull it apart. Study the words. You get wonderful things out of it. In this passage we read, *"Jacob have I loved."*

The word "loved" means "to have affection as for a friend." Now doesn't this immediately turn our mind to another verse - "To have affection for someone as a friend". Have any of you any friends you don't love? It doesn't work that way, does it. To be a friend, they must be someone you love. You don't say of someone you don't like, or love, 'That's my friend'. You call someone your friend because of the feeling you have towards them. You introduce someone to someone else and you say, 'meet my friend?' You don't introduce your enemies this way. But when you say, 'I'd like to introduce to you my friend', you say this as an indication of the love and respect which you have for that person, and you indicate that you love, or like or respect the person whom you are introducing. So in this context, to love someone is to have regard for them as a friend. In the 15th chapter of John's Gospel, and in this context, we read this;

"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and

bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another."

Do you notice the deeper implications of this wonderful passage from John 15? It makes us realise that this word "friend" is so closely associated with God's love for His people Israel. He loved them as "friends". He refers to them here as friends. You will recall the title that Abraham had - the only man recorded as being referred to as "the friend of God". And this was a very special relationship which God has, not only with us as individuals, but also with His people Israel. "Ye are My friends", He says to them, and what a depth of meaning is behind that verse, *'that greater love hath no man than this, than a man lay down his life for his friend'*, - those whom he loves. This was His people Israel, for whom He went to the cross to redeem. This is the love referred to in the statement, *"Jacob have I loved"*.

But God also went on to say, *"but Esau have I hated."* The word "hated", as used here, means "to hate as an enemy, or foe. Something which is odious", and the idiom of the Hebrew word used means that the hatred is to its fullest extent and is all-embracing. It is utterly hateful. This is the exact meaning of the Hebrew word. It is not just a feeling or attitude which is 'intermittent'. It is not just some minor displeasure. It does not refer to something about somebody which you may not like. It is a completely, utterly, all-consuming hatred of that thing. This is what the original Hebrew word means. A complete despising of it. And that is what God thinks of Esau and his descendants. Just look at the two different aspects. *Jacob have I loved.* God outlined in that extract from John to which we previously referred, the fruit which He said would come from them. *"Ye have not chosen Me"*, He said, *"I have chosen you and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit."* You will no doubt remember that in Matthew 21:43 when the Lord spoke to the Jews of that day, He said, *"The Kingdom of God shall*

be taken from you (i.e. the Jews) and will be given to a nation which will bring forth the fruits thereof." This is exactly what John has said in the passage we referred to earlier. *"Ye have not chosen me, I have chosen you and ordained you that you should bring forth fruits,"* and these are fruits which Christ has here said would be evidenced in the Kingdom which was taken from the Jews and given to another particular nation. Now, it is not my intention at this stage to go through the fruits of the Kingdom, we should all know what they are. The Gospel - the Good News - of the Kingdom of God, was the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ had returned and redeemed His people, and now because of this fact, they were able to go forth and fulfil the terms and conditions and blessings of the covenants which God had made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This was something that they couldn't do up till this time because they had been divorced from God. But now, Christ had paid the price and fulfilled the conditions of His Own law which then enabled Him to re-establish that wonderful Husband/wife relationship with His people Israel. He had died. The curse or sentence of the law had been broken, and Israel was now free to march forward under the covenants which God had made with them, and perform the duties and services which God had laid upon them, and in fact bring forth the fruits which were appointed to them, i.e. to go out and take the message of the Lord Jesus Christ to all the nations of the world. And this is exactly what we have done. We have sent missionaries to virtually every country on the face of this globe, and yet the people whom we are told are God's Chosen People have been, and still are, the greatest enemies of these missionaries and the Gospel which they have tried to teach. I've never yet heard of these people having sent out Christian missionaries to Christianise the rest of the world. Neither have you, and I'm sure you never will. And this is simply because they were never elected to bring forth the fruits of the Kingdom. Our Lord Jesus Christ said it in the simplest of terms when He said of these people, *"Ye are NOT My sheep."* (John 10:26).

But when we come to the descendants of Esau, that is quite a different story. These are the ones who were

hated. It was of these that God said, *"But these mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither and slay them before me."* (Luke 19:27). The return of the present Israeli's to Palestine has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with the promises of the land made to Israel. Rather, it is the fulfilment of the words of our Lord just quoted. In the words of Paul, they are 'the vessels for destruction', and they are now gathered exactly where Christ told them to gather for that specific purpose. There are going to be a lot of very shocked and surprised, and indeed ashamed, Christians in the very near future when this sentence of the Lord comes into effect. And so we find the two very contrasting destinies of these two peoples. One of them the people whom God loves, whom He has chosen, whom He has called "His Friends", for whom He died. The other, a people whom He said in plain language He completely and utterly despises, because they are His enemies. These are the people of whom in the verse 4 of Malachi 1 we read;

"Whereas Edom said, 'We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places,' thus saith the Lord of Hosts, 'They shall build, but I will throw down. They shall call them the border of wickedness,'"

And note this,

"They shall be called the people against whom the Lord hath indignation forever".

That is the complete opposite of what God said about his people Jacob/Israel. These are the people whom He swore He would love forever.

Thus we have the introduction to the message of Malachi. Here is the context and foundation of his prophecy. It is this great controversy that has raged ever since these two children were born - in fact before they were born - and we have it reaching its culmination right now in the world in which we live. In this year of 1992, we see in front of our very eyes the final battle which is

being fought between these two children and their descendants, Esau trying to destroy his brother Jacob/Israel. They have brought out every part of their armoury they can lay hands on. They are using deception, degradation, insult, persecution, indeed, every evil that you can possibly imagine, and they have aimed it against us. You just look at what is going on in our country; the pornography, the drug scene, the filth which is ceaselessly pumped into peoples' minds through virtually all avenues of the media, abortion, the destruction of all moral standards, the destruction of our Bible-based legal system, to say nothing of the pitiful and compromising stand now evidenced in so many if not most of our churches; and you will have just a small glimpse of the depths to which these enemies of God, the descendants of Esau/Edom, modern Zionist/Jewry, have gone in order to destroy the descendants of his brother Jacob/Israel. Such is the state to which we have sunk, simply because of this enemy in our midst which has been fanatically aided and abetted by false shepherds who not only keep on pounding and pounding the idea that we no longer have to worry about the Law of God, but who then unbelievably teach that this insidious enemy is itself the chosen people of God. May God have mercy on us.

This enemy is not actually mentioned by name any further in the Book of Malachi, by the way, but we will still keep them well in mind because of the manner in which God speaks to Israel in subsequent chapters, and their relationship to what God says.

(to be continued).



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

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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.

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

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

With our Christian love,

Frank and Betty Dowsett.
Phone/FAX: (02) 623-4691.

*My Covenant will I not break,
nor alter the thing that is gone
out of My lips.
Once have I sworn by My holiness
that I will not lie unto David.
His seed shall endure forever,
and his throne as the sun before Me.
It shall be established forever as the moon,
and as a faithful witness in heaven.
(Psalm 89:34-37).*

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