



THE COVENANT VISION.

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

THE COVENANT VISION

EDITOR: *Pastor Frank W. Dowsett.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(continued on inside back cover)

EDITORIAL.

Violence seems to have now become a part of our everyday life. And it is not restricted to Australia. The whole world seems to have gone mad. But naturally, one takes more note of what happens in one's own country. I was watching the national news recently on T.V., and the first five news items were about murder. It was almost unbelievable. The sorry truth though is that this pattern does not seem to be diminishing to any marked degree. More and more people are adopting an attitude of complete indifference to the sanctity of life, and are taking out their spite and anger on innocent victims. It shouldn't then come as any surprise to find that there is a growing outcry for the re-introduction of capital punishment.

No doubt, many Christians will be confused by this trend, and possibly very much against it. Executing murderers and such like seems to them to be no different to committing the same kind of murder with which the offenders have been charged, and is looked on with absolute abhorrence. It is claimed that this practice violates the sixth commandment. But as Christians, let's look at the cold, hard facts as set forth in God's Word.

God's Law requires that anyone found guilty of premeditated murder, rape, sodomy, incest, child sexual abuse, treason, blasphemy, and several other offences, is to be put to death. It states furthermore that there shall be no satisfaction taken (that is, the commuting of the death sentence to a period of imprisonment) for the life of such an offender. The present widely taught doctrine that we are no longer under this law, but under grace, totally undermines this Divine requirement, and produces a situation of deliberate disobedience to Almighty God.

The teachers of this doctrine never seem to worry about explaining to their flock that the Ten Commandments on which they base their objections are themselves a part of the Law of God which they claim is no longer in operation, nor that there are several different Hebrew words which are mostly translated into the one English word "kill". They cover murder, involuntary manslaughter, slaying, as in warfare, and execution. The word used in the sixth commandment means murder, and it is this crime that carries the death sentence. God is quite emphatic in His judgment that whoever sheds man's blood, will have his own blood shed, or be executed. Furthermore, the executioner is not guilty of any sin or crime, as he is acting as the Lord's servant in the matter. The reason for this sentence is clearly stated as being so that sin shall be removed from within Israel. It's

about time that we realised that God's main priority is the safety and well being of the innocent, not a pussy-foot treatment of criminals, many of whom act no better than animals. The execution of murderers, and the like, is not an act of revenge, as so many would claim. It is an act of justice, and God's justice at that.

The ridiculous alternative today is that we put such criminals in jail, and the community, (including the devastated loved ones of the victims) pay something like **\$60,000 per year** to keep each prisoner in jail. Then, if they are good boys, they are let free early, and all too often commit the same crime all over again, and destroy the lives of other families. We despair of the decline in morality, the ever increasing incidence of violent crime, we claim to worship a God who has promised abundant life, and then we virtually tell Him to mind His own business when it comes to implementing the statutes and judgments which He Himself gave us whereby we can eradicate these problems.

It should be added here that God also set down very strict requirements regarding evidence in securing a conviction in order to obviate wrongful executions. Anyone found guilty of giving false evidence automatically became liable to the same sentence that had been, or would be, imposed on the person accused. If the sentence for the crime was death, then the false witness would be executed, whether or not the sentence had been carried out.

Today we have courts that are grossly overloaded with cases waiting to be heard. We have a prison system which cannot even begin to handle efficiently the number of inmates. The cost to the country of the penal system is astronomic beyond the comprehension of the man in the street. And all this because we insist on disregarding the instructions and laws which the God which we worship gave us. How stupid can we get? When we compare the present situation with what it would be under God's Laws, we would find that the great majority of people would not even be in jail. In fact, jails are unknown in God's Laws. Rehabilitation, as we now know it, would be a thing of the past, because a great proportion of offenders, such as thieves, would remain in their employment, and would be repaying two to four times what they stole. They would remain as contributors to society, instead of the constant burden they now are.

Our Lord Jesus Christ never abrogated any of His Laws. The road to peace and security within our nation lies in obedience, not emotionalism, and the sooner we realise and act on this, the sooner we will enjoy the abundant life which the Lord has promised. □

THE JEHOVAH TITLES.

No. 5.

JEHOVAH - SHALOM.

The LORD Sends Peace.

by Frank W. Dowsett.

We come now to the fifth of the Jehovah Titles, that of Jehovah-Shalom, meaning, "The LORD Sends Peace."

But because of the fact that these articles are written two months apart, let us firstly be reminded of the three major principles to be adhered to in these studies.

1. Jehovah, of whom we read and speak, is no other than our Lord Jesus Christ. In most reliable Bibles, such as the Authorised King James Version, the New American Standard Bible, and Smith and Goodspeed, the Hebrew word rendered into English appears in capital letters thus, LORD. It is interesting to note that Dr. Young, the author of Young's Concordance, in his translation of the Bible, uses the actual word 'Jehovah' on each occasion.
2. The initial application and usage of this title was to, and through, the nation of Israel as God's Kingdom on earth. Whilst each revelation was given by God through a chosen individual, it was NOT intended to apply simply to indiscriminate individuals. All of Jehovah's attributes which were to be revealed and exercised through His Kingdom were revealed in the Old Testament, whilst the New Testament constitutes the teachings on how individual people can become acceptable citizens and rulers of this Kingdom, thereby sharing in these tremendous attributes of Jehovah, their King.

3. To fully comprehend the meaning and application of any subject in the Bible, we must adhere to "The Law of First Mention". This will give us the context in which the statement is made, and will reveal the initial meaning and intent of what God is saying.

This particular title is first mentioned in Judges 6:24, but we quote verses 22-24 to give the context of the statement. We strongly recommend that you read the full account from verse 1 to verse 24 before proceeding so that you have a clear mental picture of the entire incident which led to the use of this title.

"And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O LORD God! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.

And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.

Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah-shalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites."

It should be recognised from the outset, that this is not an article on the subject of 'peace', but rather of its relationship to Jehovah as the One who sends, or gives, peace.

The scene is set in verse 1 where we read;

"And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years."

As we see from this statement, the basic problem was Israel's sinfulness. It has always been thus. The position today is no different in principle to what it was in the days of Gideon. The wonder of it all is that despite this continued wickedness by His people Israel, God never gave up on them. It is a mark of the greatest evidence of God's capacity for forgiveness and love towards us. If someone had continuously treated us personally in the

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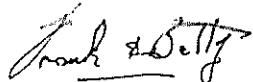
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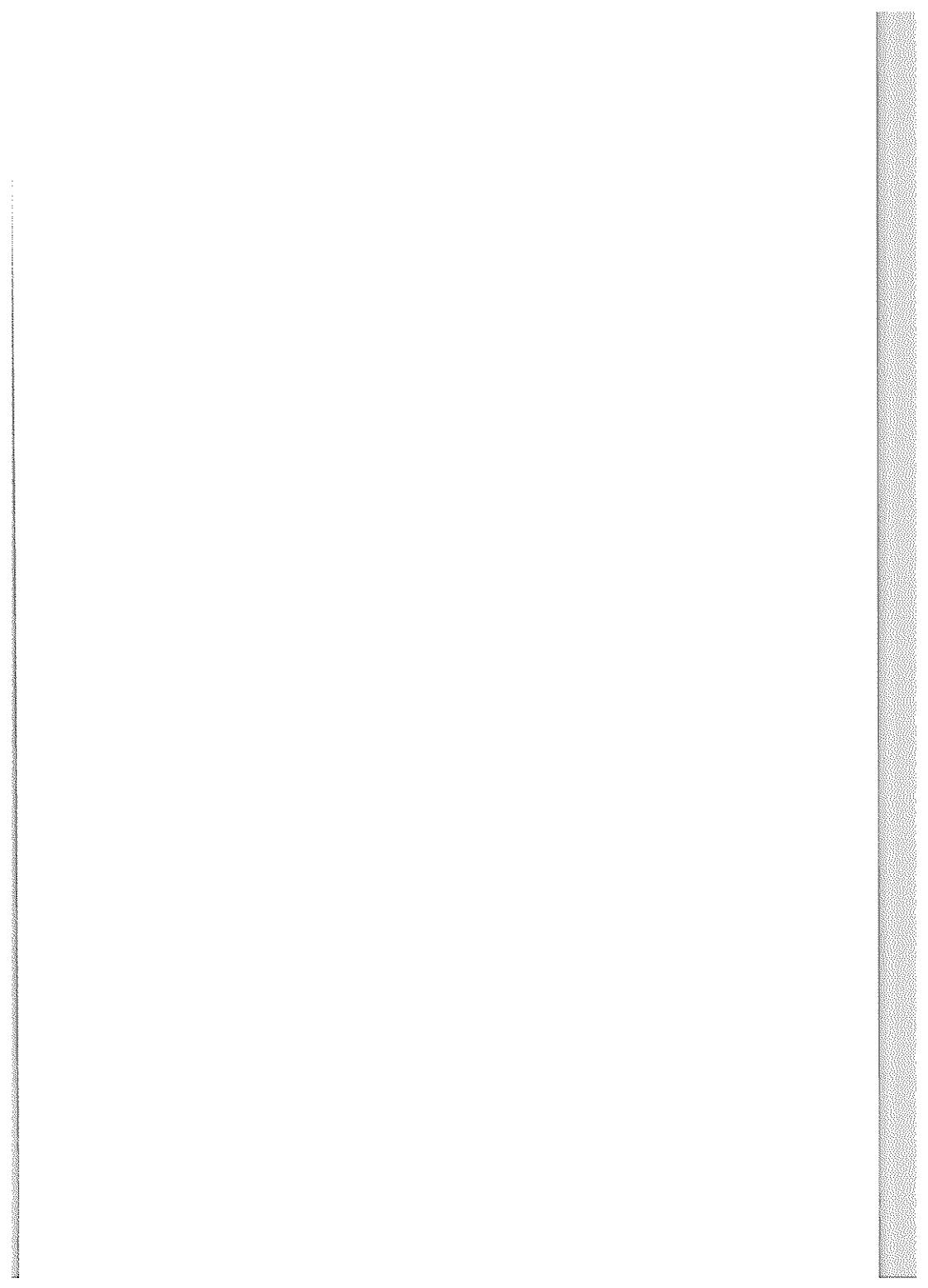
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With sincere Christian greetings,



FRANK and BETTY DOWSETT.



same way that Israel treated their God, we would have cast them aside and ended our relationship with them long ago. But not so with Jehovah. His love for them was so all-consuming that He gave His life in order to redeem them from the curse that their own sinfulness had brought upon them. You see, the faithfulness of God in regard to the great promises that He made to His people was not conditional on our reaction to Him. It was based on the integrity of God's own Name. As we read in Hebrews 6:13;

"For when God made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He swears by Himself, saying,

Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

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

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

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

These 'two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie' are recorded in Jeremiah 31:35-37, and 33:17-26, and refer to the everlasting nature of the two great covenants which God made concerning the nation and the throne of Israel.

"Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD."

"For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel;

Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually.

And the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, saying,

Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season;

Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers.

As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.

Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,

Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the LORD hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them.

Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth;

Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them."

God could never, under any conditions, go back on such promises and covenants. But that does not prevent Him in any way from punishing His people when they turn from him and disobey Him, any more than it decreases our love for our own children when we have to chastise them when they are disobedient to us as their parents. And as we study the Word, we find that without exception, when Israel disobeyed God, He **delivered them to punishment**. It has never been any different. It is no different today. And whilst we continue to disobey Him, it will continue to be no different.

It is not a scrap of good for us to blame Satan, or to blame the communists, or the Jews, or the government. It is of no use for the Protestants to blame the Catholics, or the Catholics to blame the Protestants. The **ONLY** people to blame for our present predicament is **OURSELVES**. As a nation we have become disobedient to the Law of God, the only source of national peace and security, and to put it into the simplest of terms, we have become a sinful nation. The evil forces which are now causing such havoc amongst us are God's instruments through which He is punishing us for our sinfulness.

We need to be assured of this one thing. Contrary to what most people might suppose, we will not defeat these forces just by fighting against them.

Victory over our enemies will only be finally achieved

when we stop being sinful.

When we read on in Joshua 6:2-6 we find the method which the enemy used to destroy us.

"And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.

And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them;

And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass.

For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it."

By this account it is obvious that the enemy did not attack Israel by means of military action or warfare. They used a far more insidious method. They infiltrated Israel by stealth. They employed what is now referred to as 'gradualism.' They settled in amongst the Israel people in such numbers that they soon took charge of the nation by the sheer weight of numbers. As the wise King Solomon once said, *"What has been is that which shall be. There is nothing new under the sun."* These infiltrators were so successful that we are told that they left Israel with no sustenance. Things are no different today. The enemy has infiltrated our midst by stealth, under the auspices of United Nations treaties and trade pacts and irresponsible immigration policies - which Israel was forbidden to make - and now our sustenance has been destroyed. Our industries have all but disappeared from our land in a deliberately devised plan to lower our standards to the level of third-world countries, in what is euphemistically called 'the level playing field' policy. The result is that here in Australia we now have over one million people out of work, with little if any hope of the situation improving despite the ravings of our politicians who DO know better. And

to add insult to injury, we still bring in hundreds of thousands more people a year from other countries to either take jobs from Australians already here, or to lengthen the dole queues.

The result was inevitable. Despite their sinful condition, the time came when the people realised that the only thing that could save them was direct intervention from the God of their fathers. Thus we read in verse 6;

"And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD."

Now I'm sure that most Christians would interpret this as meaning that they just called a few prayer meetings, or even a national day of prayer. But contrary to what most Christians think, prayer, **on its own**, can very often be fairly useless. Proverbs 28:9 makes the position very clear.

"He who closes his ears from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination."

It is high time that our people realised, and were taught by those who claim to be shepherds of God's sheep, that peace does not come simply as a result of prayer. Peace is the automatic result of righteousness, which in turn is the result of obedience to the Law of God. Because of this, our prayer has to be accompanied by repentance. Crying unto the Lord in time of trouble only works if we repent of the deeds which brought about the trouble in the first place. It is the height of stupidity for people to pray to God to save them from the result of their deliberate disobedience to His Laws, and then continue to break these laws and thus continue to add to the suffering from which they are praying to be delivered.

Thus we find that God did not answer them just by relieving their suffering, and removing the infiltrators from their midst. There was something else of far greater importance that needed to be done before that would happen. So we read in verses 7-10;

"And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites,

That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage;

And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drove them out from before you, and gave you their land;

And I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice."

We see that the first thing that the Lord did was to send them a prophet, or watchman, who was given the specific responsibility of warning the people of their disobedience. He reminded them of how Jehovah had delivered His people from their Egyptian captors many years earlier, and chastened them for the fact that despite this act of great deliverance, they still remained disobedient. It was only after this that God set His plan of deliverance into operation. We read in verses 11-16;

"And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

And Gideon said unto him, Oh my LORD, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, where-with shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man."

Now surely this should give us all heart. Gideon, like most of us, was not a man of high rank in the community. He was not a recognised leader. He was not even a priest. He was the youngest (which is what the word 'least' means), in a poor family. He was not even entitled to the double inheritance of the eldest son. Yet God chose him. Let us learn a very important lesson from this. God really does choose the small things of the world to confound the mighty. He does not look at us the way the world looks at us. He knows our hearts, and what may look totally unsuitable to the world can be just what the Lord wants. Never let us underestimate our potential in God. We are never too lowly for God to use in His service. All we have to be is obedient and dedicated. The Lord will do the rest.

But it was at this point that Gideon acted with great discernment and wisdom. He was not like so many of his counterparts today who take upon themselves the role of prophet or watchmen without ever checking to determine whether or not their calling is really of God. You know, it is the easiest thing in the world for people to claim to be anointed and appointed by God. All you have to do is to utter the magic words, "Thus saith the Lord", or "the Lord has spoken to me thus and thus", and people will accept it if for no other reason than they are not game to contradict the claim in case it is real. But not so Gideon. He wanted to be real sure that it was really the LORD that had called him, and not just his own desires. So he asked the Angel of the LORD for proof. This was not a demonstra-

tion of doubt, as many will conclude, but rather an obedience to the principle of 'testing the spirit.' Thus we read in verses 17-23;

"And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again.

And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it.

And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so.

Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O LORD God! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.

And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die."

What was it that convinced Gideon of the authenticity of his calling and appointment? **It was the fact that the fire consumed the offering that he had offered.** This was the proof that he needed, because it was the hallmark of God's acceptance right from the time when Aaron offered the sacrifice for the sins of the people on the alter in the Tabernacle. It was only when God saw that the sacrifice was acceptable that the Fire of His Presence came

down and consumed the offering. Thus Gideon knew for a certainty that he was in the presence of Jehovah Himself. How do we know this? Simply because of the wording used. It was a well known fact in Israel that nobody could look on the face of God and live. Gideon would be quite aware of this fact, so why would he be concerned at seeing the face of an angel? The answer lies in the simple fact that 'the angel of the LORD' was in reality Jehovah Himself. That is why He assured Gideon, in verse 23, that he would not die, and placed a benediction of peace upon him.

It was at this juncture that Gideon built an altar, and called it Jehovah-Shalom, meaning, "The LORD Sends Peace."

"Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah-shalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites."

You see, the gift of peace that Jehovah placed upon Gideon was not because of victory in warfare, or victory over sin, or for multitudes of other reasons which could be used. Gideon received this blessing because he had seen Jehovah God face to face. He not only experienced peace at not being slain because he had seen the face of God, but he actually met, and spoke with, the God of Peace Himself. No wonder he built an altar and worshipped.

Thus we find that to experience the true Peace of God requires two basic things;

1. We must meet the LORD face to face!

The great Israel national formula is set forth in II Chronicles 7:14;

"If My people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek

My face, and turn from their wicked ways;
then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive
their sin, and will heal their land."

I am convinced that too many Christians today are afraid to really meet the LORD face to face. They will talk about Him, and talk to Him, and read about Him, but they never really meet Him! We might reasonably ask, "What constitutes meeting God? How do we meet Him face to face?"

Well firstly, we must humble ourselves. We must surrender all sovereignty to God. We must realise, and acknowledge, that in ourselves there is no good thing, and that all our righteousness is as filthy rags in God's sight. We must acknowledge that we are totally dependant on the righteousness of God in Christ. All self-aggrandisement must be put aside so that we become totally and exclusively dependant on Him.

Secondly we must pray. Now what exactly does this mean? There are probably as many formulas and methods of praying as there are people, and it is not up to any of us to condemn someone for praying less often, or at different times than what we might do ourselves. I well remember the incident some years ago when a member of my own family was told by his pastor that unless he prayed for at least three hours every day he would never become a Christian, and that he might as well tear up his Bible and throw it away. Such teachings are not only quite destructive, but the height of arrogance. Prayer, in its simplest form, is simply 'communion with God'. It is not just a matter of talking TO God, but talking WITH God. It is a two-way street. We must not only talk to God ourselves, but we must give God a chance to talk back to us. Unfortunately, this is not the experience of all too many Christians. They are not particularly interested in what God has to say to them. Their main interest in making sure that God knows about all the things they want, and about all the things that they consider that they have done for Him. I have a very favourite passage in the Book of Jasher 3:1-2 which, in reference to Enoch, says;

"And Enoch walked with God after having begot Methuselah, and he served the LORD, and despised the evil ways of men.

And the soul of Enoch was wrapped up in the instructions of the LORD, in knowledge and in understanding."

You will recall the verse in Proverbs 28:9 which we quoted earlier;

"He who closes his ears from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination."

Enoch knew the secret of this. He wrapped himself up so much in the knowledge and understanding of the instructions, or Law, of God that finally God translated him that he should not see death. (Heb. 11:5). I suggest friends, that our aim and desire should be no less.

The other factor that we notice is that the Lord makes the final selection, and comes to us, not vice-versa. As He said in John 15:16;

"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."

The very same principle is expressed very forcefully in Matt. 7:21-23;

"Not every one that sayeth unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name have done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you. Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity."

The phrase "I never knew you" used here literally means, "I never had a close personal relationship with you." There are millions of Christians running all over the place almost skiting about the relationship that they claim to have with the Lord Jesus Christ. But this is not the criteria. What is important is not so much the relationship which we claim to have with the Lord, but the relationship which He has with us!

It is this relationship that brings us face to face with Jehovah.

2. We must be obedient to His commandments.

After humbling ourselves, and praying, and seeking God's face, the next, and vital, requirement, is that we "turn from our wicked ways." The following Scriptures detail this requirement without, I believe, the necessity for any further comment from me;

"Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the LORD God, and his spirit, hath sent me.

Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea."

(Isa. 48:16-18).

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever."

(Isa. 32:17).

"Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways!"

*I should soon have subdued their enemies,
and turned my hand against their adversaries.
The haters of the *LORD* should have submitted
themselves unto him: but their time
should have endured for ever.*

*He should have fed them also with the finest
of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock
should I have satisfied thee.*

(Psalm 81:13-16).

*"Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will
teach you the fear of the *LORD*.*

*What man is he that desireth life, and loveth
many days, that he may see good?*

*Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from
speaking guile.*

*Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace,
and pursue it."*

(Psalm 34:11-14).

*"Great peace have they which love thy law:
and nothing shall offend them."*

(Psalm 119:165).

But to those who refuse to accept and obey the Laws of God, and especially to those who teach the sheep of God's pasture to disregard them, God has nothing but judgment and condemnation. They are ranked among 'the wicked', as unpalatable as that might sound to many. The following scriptures leave us in no doubt as to God's position in this regard;

*"There is no peace, saith the *LORD*, unto the
wicked."* (Isa. 48:22).

*"How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of
the *LORD* is with us? Lo, certainly in vain
made he it; the pen of the scribes is in vain.
The wise men are ashamed, they are dis-
mayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the
word of the *LORD*; and what wisdom is in
them?"*

Therefore will I give their wives unto others, and their fields to them that shall inherit them: for every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.

For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace."

(Jer. 8:8-11).

"And the word of the *LORD* came unto me, saying,

*Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, hear ye the word of the *LORD*;*

*Thus saith the *LORD* God; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!*

O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts.

*Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the *LORD*.*

*They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The *LORD* saith: and the *LORD* hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word.*

*Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The *LORD* saith it; albeit I have not spoken? Therefore thus saith the *LORD* God; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the *LORD* God.*

And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into

the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the LORD God.

Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar."

"Thus will I accomplish my wrath upon the wall, and upon them that have daubed it with untempered mortar, and will say unto you, The wall is no more, neither they that daubed it;

To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the LORD God."

(Ezek. 13:1-10, 15-16).

Now what is the essential difference between these two groups of people? I believe it simply boils down to the fact that those who are obedient to God, and who obey His laws and commandments and statutes are those who are genuinely seeking the face of God. They are designated as being righteous by God. But those who deliberately choose to ignore God's Laws, and who teach others to do so, can never truly be seen as "seeing the face of God," and are clearly designated by God as being wicked.

Our final thought is the unshakable confirmation of Peace that Jehovah/Jesus has made regarding His people, as stated in His Word;

"Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore."

(Ezek. 37:26-28).

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

(John 14:27).

The peace which our Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Jehovah, promises us has nothing to do with this evil world system. All the man-made political and economic, and indeed religious systems that are being forced upon us today pale into insignificance before the peace which Christ offers us, and are scheduled for utter destruction.

The secret of Peace is to meet and know the Prince of Peace. We must meet and know Him on His terms. Like Gideon of old, we must be able to look at Him face to face without fear, and without doubt. We must be not only willing, but able to look God squarely in the eye, as obedient, yet humble, children and servants.

It is only when we can do this, both as individuals, and as a nation, that the LORD will truly bestow peace upon us, and in the fullest sense of the word, become

JEHOVAH-SHALOM.

"The LORD who sends Peace."



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THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

AND

THE TIMES OF THE SIGNS!

By J.R. Johnson (England)

"Behold the Bridegroom Cometh" (Matthew 25:6)

Somewhere along the passage of time this cry is made but who makes the cry and what intelligence is afforded them that they can make the cry?

If one reads the whole discourse of the Lord Jesus Christ to Peter, James, John and Andrew on the Mount of Olives in chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew, one finds that when the return to this planet earth of the Lord Jesus Christ is drawing near, (24:30), that "*at that time the Kingdom of heaven shall be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the Bridegroom. While the Bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept, and at midnight there was a cry made, behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.*

The beginning of the nineteenth century saw quite a stirring among the bible scholars of that time as so many time measures were being fulfilled regarding the northern house of Israel and there was a great awareness that this dispensation was drawing to a close. In the 1840's the preaching and teaching that the Anglo Saxon Celtic peoples are the true Israel of God really got underway and at that same time the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ began to be preached. It reached fever pitch in 1917 when on the 9th December Jerusaleim was delivered from the Turks and the times of the gentiles was fulfilled. Since then, through many false dates being predicted, the second coming message has almost ceased to be proclaimed. Men seem either fearful of the issue or oblivious to it.

The Signs of the Times

If we look at this discourse as recorded in Luke 21, we find that the Lord Jesus Christ, in verses 12 to 24 inclusive, covers the period from the time he was speaking to the time when the "times of the Gentiles" would be fulfilled in 1917.

Verses 8, 9, 10 and 11 relate to things that would happen after 1917, with a literal fulfilment, and are with us now. Men are claiming to be the anointed, or the Christ, verse 8; the second world war and only one day of peace since the end of it, and civil wars world wide, verses 9 and 10.

Earthquakes, both natural and also through the activities of man, famines and resultant pestilences since the break up of the colonial protectorates, and the development of modern weapons of war, verse 11.

Verses 25 and 26 are symbolic, for the sea and the waves have always been roaring, but, "*the peoples and multitudes, and nations and tongues*", (Revelation 17:15), have never been in such a tumultuous state, in so many parts of the world at the same time as we see them today. "*The woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars*" (Revelation 12:1) is symbolic of Israel, now known as the protestant Christian nations. The sun is to be darkened; Britain is no longer a shining light to all the nations of the earth leading and protecting them into a life of peace and plenty, "*the power of the holy people has been broken*". The moon shall not give her light; the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ had been taken to the dark areas of the earth, "*as a light that shineth in a dark place*" but now this outreach has been largely curtailed. The stars shall fall from heaven; the British Commonwealth of Nations has been forsaken and preference given to the European Economic Community by Britain; Holland and Denmark are also involved in the European Economic Community. So the twelve stars have fallen from their ruling (heavenly) position and twelve other stars are now portrayed to the world in their place. (Matthew 24:29 and Luke 21:25.)

The powers of heaven shall be shaken, literally fulfilled in the atomic explosion, the Greek word for heavens being 'Ouranos', the root word for Uranium, the source of atomic power. But this also refers to the shaking of everything that can be shaken including heaven (Hebrews 12:26; & 27), or the ruling authorities or governments, causing the distress of nations with no obvious way out of the dilemma, and men's hearts failing them in the midst of the growing anarchy.

The Fig Tree and All The Trees

This, the next sign is given as a parable (verse 29).

"And he spoke to them a parable; behold the Fig Tree and all the trees when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye when ye see these things come to pass, ye know that the Kingdom of God is nigh at hand."
In Luke 13:6 we have another parable regarding the Fig Tree.

"A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard." Isaiah 15:1-7 reveals the 'Man' and the vineyard, so obviously the people who were occupying the land at that time, that is the Jews, they were the people symbolised as the fig tree. For three (and a half) years he sought fruit there on and found none so the Kingdom was taken from them and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits.

Therefore, when we see the Jewish people and all the other peoples of the world begin to demand independence and set up their own nation and their own country, their own way of life, for a tree is known by its leaf, - a nation by its way of life, - we know that the Lord Jesus Christ is on his way back to planet earth. *"Behold the Bridegroom cometh!"* The phenomenon of all the nations demanding independence is with us now at this present time and it must be the greatest sign of the times. Yet that is not all, for the Lord God of the holy prophets has sealed this sign by marking out in his Word, when it would start and how long it would last to be completed.

Times of the Signs

We need to look now at Daniel 12:7,11 & 12.

Here the man upon the waters of the river held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times and a half, (= three and a half times). From the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Blessed is he that waiteth and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

Working on the accepted day for a year scale, and a time as 360, we have with two hands raised 1,260 years + 1,260 years = 2,520 years from the date of the fall of Jerusalem 604 B.C.

2,520 years on the lunar scale brings us to 1842.

2,520 years on the solar scale brings us to 1917.

The impact of these two dates is just 75 years and 75 is the difference between 1,260 and 1,335 and brings us to the present year 1993 on the solar scale 2,520 + 75 years from 604 B.C.

It was in 1842 to 1843 that Edward Irving, founder member of the Catholic Apostolic church, and James N. Darby of the Brethren movement, started to proclaim the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The 75 years were divided by the man upon the waters into 30 years and 45 years and if we use this measurement, as given, we have the following result if we base our year on the Hebrew year and not on the Gregorian calender, for remember that the Gregorian was a correction of the Julian calender introduced in 45 B.C. by Julius Caesar. The Hebrew new year begins September/October, so 9th December, 1917, would fall in the year 1918. If we add to 1917-1918 the 30 years we come to 1947-1948 and what happened in 1947-1948 and since? The Fig tree, the Jewish nation was set up in Palestine 1948; also, in 1947, India and Pakistan, then later Bangladesh, the far eastern nations, the west Indies, the

whole of black Africa, except South Africa, and now in the past few years all the communist block countries demanding independence and self-rule.

Never in the history of mankind has such a thing as this happened and on such an enormous scale, this is indeed all the trees. It has all come to pass in the last 45 years, the other measurement given by the man upon the waters. This man not only gave the time when this great wonder would begin but he also measured out the exact time it would take for it to be fulfilled, $1917-1918 + 30 = 1947-1948 + 45 = 1992-1993$ and 1335 is the time of blessedness for those who come to it.

This information can only raise the cry by those who see it, "***Behold the Bridegroom cometh go ye out to meet him!***" Where do we go to meet him, where will we find him? "***Ye shall find me when ye search for me with all your hearts.***" Matthew 25 tells us that the virgins arose and trimmed their lamps, but the lamps of the foolish had gone out because they had no oil in their vessels and the light of witness is fed by the oil of present truth. For we have a progressive revelation being given unto us from our heavenly Father. The revelation of yester-year is not oil enough for today. To have present truth, our fellowship must be with the Father and with the Son regardless of who else we have fellowship with, otherwise our life in Christ can become but a religion. Christianity is a personal relationship with the Saviour by every member of his church.

There is yet further information afforded us by the scriptures about the fig tree. In the other two renderings of this discourse, that is in Matthew and Mark, the Lord Jesus only mentions the fig tree and then states that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. If we measure from 1948 one generation, and if we can accept a generation as from jubilee to jubilee, that is 49 years, it brings us to 1997 (Leviticus 25:8-55).

If we take two days from the accepted date of the Lord Jesus Christ's birth 4 B.C. on the scale of the Lord, 1,000 years to a day, for remember that he said to the Pharisees, Luke 13:31 & 32, "***Tell that far behold I cast out devils and do cures today and tomorrow and the third day I shall be perfected***", this brings us to 1997, there

being no zero date from B.C. to A.D. The date of his birth 4 B.C. can be worked out from Daniel's 70 weeks. Dr. Grattan Guinness worked out on the lunar scale that the midst of the last week would fall $29\frac{1}{2}$ A.D. Working back $33\frac{1}{2}$ years brings us back to 4 B.C. If one takes away the 40 years probation period from when Jerusalem was sacked by the armies of Titus 70 A.D. it brings us to 30 A.D., $33\frac{1}{2}$ back from that bringing us to 4 B.C.

On this scale of 1,000 years = one day, working with Bishop Ushers date from the creation of Adam 4004 B.C. six days brings us to 1997. The seventh is the Sabbath so all must be ready by then. Therefore we have the witness of the fig tree and all the trees budding forth starting at exactly the date given by the man over the river and lasting for exactly the time specified by him, so that if the other datings are correct, He must be here before or by September/October, 1997. Day by day that time is shortening.

Are we going forth to meet him?
Are we ready to meet him?
Are our lamps trimmed and burning?

Those that are ready go in to the marriage supper and then the door is shut.

It has been well marked for those who are not of the night, nor of darkness, that that day should not overtake them unawares.

The Seventh Trumpet, (the last trump), is beginning to sound -

*"The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"
"The Jubilee of Jubilee's is upon us"*

The King of King's and Lord of Lord's, **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** is coming. He is on his way to take the throne of his father **DAVID**, to rule in righteousness and truth.

"Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." □

The Second Advent.

PART 5.

by Frank W. Dowsett.

Having looked, in our previous issue, at some of the more obvious of the personal signs associated with the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, we now turn to the national and international signs which were foretold to herald this great event.

One of the most prominently held doctrines today among Christians in regard to the signs of our Lord's return is that of "The Great Tribulation." This doctrine, which is taught by those holding the "Futurist" interpretation of prophecy, and thus by about 99% of all churches, teaches that the final week, representing seven years, of Daniel's great 70 week prophecy, is yet to be fulfilled sometime in the future, at the end of this age. During this period, the supposed 'secret rapture' will occur, followed by the coming and revelation of 'the anti-Christ' who will rule the world with horrific results for seven years. Everyone in the world, except the Christians of course, who have already been raptured away somewhere, will suffer as no people have ever suffered before, after which the Jews will be converted and go out and convert the rest of the world. There are variations to the above, but that gives a general overview of this doctrine.

The fascinating thing about this teaching though is the fact that the phrase "The Great Tribulation" is not mentioned once in the entire scriptures! It is nothing more than a theological expression which is used to denote this particular Futurist point of view. This doctrine only came into existence several hundred years ago when, following the printing of the Bible and its wide distribution to the people who hitherto had not had access to it, it was realised that the Papacy fulfilled the conditions set down in

the scriptures of "anti-Christ" and "The man of sin". This recognition is quite clear from the statement made in the Dedication to our Authorised King James Version of the Bible. It says, in part;

"And this their contentment doth not diminish or decay, but every day increaseth and taketh strength, when they observe that the zeal of Your Majesty towards the house of God, doth not slack or go backward, but is more and more kindled, manifesting itself abroad in the furtherest parts of Christendom, by writing in defense of the Truth (which hath given such a blow unto the man of sin, as will not be healed) and every day at home, by Religious and learned discourse, by frequenting the house of God, by hearing the Word preached, by cherishing the teachings thereof, by caring for the Church as a most tender and loving Father."

It was this recognition that prompted several theologians to come to the defense of the Church of Rome, as a result of which the Futurist system of interpretation was born, by the simple expediency of transferring the fulfilment of prophecy to some indeterminable time in the future. This meant, of course, that the Papacy and the Church of Rome could not possibly be the fulfilment of any of these prophecies, because it was not yet time for their fulfilment. This ploy was successful beyond anyone's wildest dreams, because the very people who were to benefit the most from the revelation of prophecy became the greatest supporters of this iniquitous doctrine that destroyed the revelation. With very few exceptions today, Protestant churches are becoming more and more the daughters of the "harlot church", as evidenced by the modern ecumenical movement which has swept through the Christian churches. Instead of separating themselves from the false teachings of Rome, most churches today are falling over backwards to join in with them, and woe betide anyone who has the temerity to object. There was a time when Protestants were persecuted by the church of Rome if they would not accept their doctrines. Today, if you don't accept a liaison with the doctrines of Rome, you are persecuted by the Protestants.

However, we do not support this "futurist" theory. The fact that there is to be "great tribulation" is clearly stated in the Bible, but it is clear to anyone who studies the subject from the Bible point of view, as distinct from a denominational theory point of view, that this period of tribulation is an event that covers a much longer period than 7 years right at the end of this age, and after a supposed 'secret rapture' of all the Christians at that.

We thus intend to cover these national and international aspects of the Return of our Lord Jesus Christ under the following headings;

1. The Time of Jacob's Trouble.
2. The Scattering of the Power of the Holy People.
3. Great Tribulation & The Distress of Nations.
4. Peace and Safety.
5. The Signs of Noah and Lot.

1. The Time of Jacob's Trouble.

This period of tribulation, or trouble, is first spoken of by the prophet Jeremiah in Jeremiah 30:4-11;

"And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah.

For thus saith the LORD; we have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?

Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it. It is even the time of Jacob's trouble. But he shall be saved out of it.

For it shall come to pass in that day, sayeth the LORD of Hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst his bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him.

But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel. For, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.

For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee. Though I will make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished."

The first thing that we notice from the above readings is that this "Time of Jacob's Trouble" applies specifically to the people referred to as "Jacob". This word 'Jacob' is always used in reference to the entire twelve tribed nation of Israel, and in no circumstances can it be spiritualised into meaning 'the church'. It refers specifically to a period of great trouble for the whole twelve tribed nation of Jacob/Israel. Thus it also cannot refer just to the present Jewish people or nation of Israeli, because at very best, they only include a very small section of the Southern House of Judah, and that is even being very generous.

We might logically ask, to what does this 'time of trouble' refer? Well, let us look at the above reading. Firstly, it is a time of great trembling and fear, rather than one of peace and security. In fact, the fear that envelops the nation is so great that the Lord likens it to the birth pangs of a woman in travail, immediately prior to the birth of her child. The word 'fear' is well chosen, because that is exactly the feeling among people today. As the Lord

Himself predicted, as recorded in Luke 21:26, "*Men's hearts would be failing them for fear*" just prior to His return. This was no idle statement, either by Jeremiah or our Lord, as present circumstances testify. This is not just a fear of military action by some external enemy. This is a cold fear of what is happening within the nation by the actions of the enemy within. You can look at the political, economic and spiritual situation within any of the Israel nations in the world today and you will see the same thing. Our entire heritage, and everything that we have held dear for hundreds of years is being dismantled and destroyed by the 'anti-Christ' in our midst, who has dedicated himself to our complete destruction. The seed of the serpent is indeed grasping the heel of the seed of the woman, as promised in Genesis 3:15, tripping us up, and causing us to stumble at every turn. Esau/Edom has never relented of his efforts to regain the birthright which was taken from him and given to his brother Jacob. Our entire economy has been sacrificed and our own people placed on the dole queues by the deliberate decisions and actions of treasonous governments in encouraging, and indeed providing every assistance for, foreign countries to take over our industries. The word 'trouble' used here means 'affliction, anguish, distress, tribulation.' (Strong's #6869). No wonder we groan. We surely cannot ignore the similarity of our situation with that of our forefathers in Egypt thousands of years ago when they also groaned under the weight of the oppression under which they lived. This is not something that is going to happen in the future. This is happening right now. As specified in verse eight above, we have a yoke around our necks, indicating the way in which we are being dragged against our will, and by which we are being held in bondage. Strangers, that is, non-Israelites, have taken over our countries and are having a feast at our expense. Our pain and anguish is so great that the Lord likens it to the birth pangs of a woman in labour. No wonder our people are full of fear for what the future holds.

The tragedy of it all is that those who are supposed to be leading God's people, and assuring them of God's wonderful promise of release from all these ills, are so full of their own importance and plans for building bigger and

better churches and personal reputations, that they have no time for such trifling things as national deliverance. Most of them probably don't even know that the subject occupies such a place of prominence in the Scriptures. So the people continue to languish and continue to pay their leaders to tell them that this is best for them. No wonder the Lord referred to His people as stiff-necked, and foolish.

But the Lord is not like these faithless, and all too often false, prophets and teachers. He gives us hope for the future. He has given us His Word that we will be saved out of this time of trouble. He has promised that He will break the yoke of bondage which now binds us, and that He will totally eliminate the present situation where the heathen are lording themselves over us and robbing us of our wealth and security. He has promised that our people shall be at rest, and be quiet, and that none shall make us afraid any more. This is all a part of the gospel - the 'good news' - of the Kingdom. As a nation, and as the people within the nation, we are headed not for extinction, but for a wonderful and powerful victory through our great God and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. The prophet Isaiah gives us a wonderful description of our future under the reign of the King of Kings;

"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."

(Isa. 9:6-7)

2. The Scattering of the Power of the Holy People.

This prophecy runs concurrently with the time of Jacob's Trouble, and is recorded in Daniel 12:5-7;

"Then I, Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood two others, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river.

And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?

And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by Him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."

One of the more obvious results of the Time of Jacob's Trouble is to be the scattering of the power of God's people. It should take no amplification from me to point out the perfectly obvious position which we, as a nation, now find ourselves. The British Empire was once the greatest nation that the world has ever seen. It was larger, more populous, more wealthy, and more influential than any nation before it in the history of the world. Despite its many short-comings, and the mistakes and mis-management, and even the evil actions of many of its rulers, it has brought more blessings to the other nations of the world than any nation which preceded it. It should not escape our attention that many of the countries that are now suffering unspeakable famine, disease, and internal strife, were once under the protection and rulership of this once great Empire, and that during the time of this colonisation, the present disasters and troubles within their lands were virtually unheard of. It was only after our presence was removed from these lands that they fell into their present disastrous condition. The protection of the Holy People had been removed. The consequence was disastrous. And as if to rub it in, the Anglo-Israel nations are now the people who are doing the most, and paying the most, to provide the relief and assistance to the same people who would never have required such relief if we had, as a nation, been permitted to remain in control in the first place.

Both the British Commonwealth of Nations and the Great People of America, are now virtually the laughing stock of the world, and have fast become among the most hated people on the face of the globe. We might well ask the question, 'How and why has this come to pass?'

Our territories have gradually diminished into a mere shadow of what they once were. And what is left to us is now being handed over to others, either by external treaties, sell-outs, or just plain deliberate treason on the part of many of our leaders who are completely dedicated to the concept of One World Government, and are prepared to pay any price, or should I say are prepared to make us pay any price, to achieve their evil designs. Our wealth is being systematically drained for just about every purpose than our own good, despite what the politicians say. Our military forces are a joke. Those that are not now under the direct control of the United Nations are fighting, not the enemy without, but to aid the enemy within, whose sole purpose seems to be to disarm us at any price.

This situation has developed as a direct result of the descendants of Esau attempting to regain the birthright which their forefather despised and forfeited to his brother Jacob. It has been the main single cause of all the wars that have been fought for centuries. And if anyone doubts that remark, then let them note that some of the leaders of Zionism, present-day Esau, have actually made that claim. We are now being forced to partake of the 'mess of pottage' by the very people who originally requested it in exchange for their birthright

One of the interesting factors of this situation is its timing. In Daniel 12:7, the prophet associated this 'scattering of the power of the holy people' with the time factor of 'a time, times, and half a time,' or 3 1/2 times. This, as we have seen, covers a period of 1260 prophetic years.

In his book, "Light for the Last Days" written in 1887, and published in 1893, page 222, Dr. Grattan Guinness calculated that on the basis of the length of Israel's captivity of 'seven times', or 2,520 years, that Jerusalem would be delivered from Mohammedan rule in 1917 A.D. That this was fulfilled right to the date is a matter of his-

tory, when the British General Allenby captured Jerusalem in December 1917, and the land was restored to its true original owners of Anglo-Saxon Israel. It is no coincidence that the 1,260 years of Daniel 12:7 is just half of this 2,520 period, and terminated on exactly the same date. It is fairly generally accepted that the statement that the angel raised his right hand and his left hand indicates a doubling of this 1,260 period, and when we consider that the only major time period given in the Bible for the captivity of Israel was the 'seven times, or 2,520 years, then the two periods must be considered as running concurrently. We should also consider the prophecy contained in Luke 21:24 where our Lord said, in regard to the last days, that Jerusalem would be trodden down by the Gentiles (nations) until the times of the Gentiles would be fulfilled. The word 'fulfilled' means 'to be completed or accomplished.' In regard to the non-Israel rulership over Jerusalem, this was certainly fulfilled in 1917. But I have always believed that there is a further application to this prophecy. Very often, the word 'nations' is used in reference to the 'nations of Israel', and when understood in this context, it is notable that the promises made to our forefathers of national greatness and power actually came to a head in about 1917, and were thus 'completed or accomplished' at exactly the same time. It is a matter of history that since that date, our strength and power began to wane. We no sooner received back our promised land than our leaders began to plot to hand it back to the enemy, a plan which culminated just 30 years later when we gave it to the Zionists who kicked us out of our own God-given land. The rapid decline of our once great Empire is now history. Our power has indeed been scattered. But note that the Lord did not say that it would be for ever destroyed. The Lord's promise in Malachi 3:6 is as true to day as it ever was;

*"For I am the LORD, I change not. Therefore
ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."*

We now lay as dried bones upon the ground, as foretold by the prophet Ezekiel in his 37th chapter. But we can praise the LORD God of Israel that the time for

the raising and re-vitalising of those dried bones is now close upon us. The day of our national resurrection, when the Spirit of God shall again be breathed into us, as His Two Witnesses, and when our enemies will finally fear and acknowledge that we are indeed God's Ancient People, has now arrived.

(To be continued).



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THE CONSUMMATION OF THE AGE

Excerpt from an Article by
George Hawtin, Canada

Courtesy "Different News"
Canada

When our Lord was here on earth, His whole life and ministry gave immutable evidence that He was the Christ of whom the prophets had spoken. In His first sermon, preached in the synagogue at Nazareth, He stood up to read the beautiful words of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 61:1,2), then began His sermon with the words, *"This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears!"* Luke 4:18-21. His whole life demonstrated that HE WAS GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH. He openly demonstrated His authority over SICKNESS AND DISEASE. He commanded THE WIND. He quieted THE WAVES. DEMON POSSESSED MEN fell at His feet and He delivered them. He demonstrated his POWER OVER DEATH on three notable occasions; and after He gave up His own life on the cross and lay dead for three days, HE AROSE in triumph over that triple enemy - DEATH, HELL AND THE GRAVE.

On one occasion, when those super-religious Pharisees asked Him for a sign, He called them hypocrites, and said, *"You can discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times"*, and after so saying, He walked away in disgust at their insistent unbelief. HOW MUCH SAD DISGUST DOES OUR LORD FEEL IN OUR DAY when He fills the world with evidence beyond measure that He is stirring both earth and heaven and filling our eyes and ears with signs around in earth and sky that His coming is at the door, yet we understand it not or just simply say, "I do not believe it". More than once I have heard it said, "Oh I believe the Lord is coming, but it

won't be in MY DAY". They no doubt said that in Noah's day, but the flood came and took them all away. No doubt they said it in Sodom, but the fire fell and burned them and the ten cities of the plain. The DEAD SEA now rests where once Sodom stood in all its prosperity and incredible wickedness. They carried on their filth of homosexuality right up to the last moment, but before morning there was no city left in which wickedness could exist.

Signs and portents are soon forgotten by the world and the Babylon church in its perennial unbelief EXPLAINS THEM ALL OUT OF EXISTENCE, as the Archbishops of York and Canterbury so defiantly did when a thunderbolt without thunder fell on the great cathedral at York, England. Can we not tell that **GOD IS SPEAKING** to Israel when Windsor Castle, the home of a line of Saxon kings and queens, was miserably smitten by fire during the year 1992, as the despised Mother Shipton had predicted five hundred years before it happened? Undoubtedly God is speaking - yes, shouting - the message, warning in no uncertain tones that kings and kingdoms, presidents and dictators, are being set aside, for He, the "greater David", is coming to take over His throne and rule the world in righteousness forever.

I have great sorrow for Queen Elizabeth, yet I feel sure she will be the one who with joy will yield her throne of David to Jesus Christ, who is both the "ROOT" and the "OFFSPRING" of David, the BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR. Queen Victoria once said, "If Jesus came today, I would take my crown and lay it at His feet".

Many who are reading these lines have read the APOCRYPHA. Its inspired writings are included in many Bibles, but the translators of the King James Version declared the writings were not "canonical". I do not know by what authority the "canons" of any Babylon church made that decision for us, but I have found much wisdom in the books that make up the Apocrypha. I have been reading "THE APOCALYPSE OF BARUCH". Baruch was a contemporary of the prophet Jeremiah and is named as Jeremiah's scribe. (Jeremiah 36:26 & 32.) Therefore he was no obscure character, but one in whom the great prophet Jeremiah had much confidence. What follows in

the remainder of this article is based on the prophecies of Baruch. The twelve statements he makes concerning the consummation of this age are all brief and very clear, and every one of them can be easily confirmed by the Holy Scriptures.

In Baruch 25:1-4 the Lord is telling the prophet that in THE END OF THE DAYS A STUPOR SHALL SEIZE THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH, Baruch 25:3, and they shall fall into MANY TRIBULATIONS and GREAT TORMENTS, and the people will say, "THE MIGHTY ONE DOTH NO MORE REMEMBER THE EARTH". Baruch 25:4 - I need not for a moment repeat any of the tribulations and torments that are visiting the earth at this very instant. Our newspapers and radio news reports speak of practically nothing else. As to the statement, "THE MIGHTY ONE DOTH NO MORE REMEMBER THE EARTH", this was the kind of unbelief the Archbishop of York was expressing when he declared, "WE ARE LIVING IN EXTRA BIBLICAL TIMES", putting forth the idea that GOD IS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN, which is certainly gross ignorance.

Then Baruch asked the question, "Does this tribulation embrace many years?" The Lord gave answer. Baruch 27:1. "And He answered and said unto me: Into twelve parts is that time divided, and each one of them is reserved for that which is appointed for it. In the first part there will be THE BEGINNING OF COMMOTIONS. In the second part there will be SLAYINGS OF THE GREAT ONES; and in the third part there will be the FALL OF MANY BY DEATH. And in the fourth part the SENDING OF DESOLATIONS. And in the fifth part FAMINE AND THE WITHHOLDING OF RAIN. And in the sixth part EARTHQUAKES AND TERRORS. (Unfortunately the seventh part is missing from the manuscript.) And in the eighth part A MULTITUDE OF PORTENTS AND INCURSIONS of the SHEDIM. And in the ninth part THE FALL OF FIRE. And in the tenth part RAPINE AND MUCH OPPRESSION. And in the eleventh part WICKEDNESS AND UNCHASTITY. And in the twelfth part CONFUSION FROM THE MIN-

GLING TOGETHER OF ALL THOSE THINGS AFORESAID.

THESE PARTS OF that time (the END TIME) are reserved and will be mixed one with the other and will minister ONE TO THE OTHER. I can think of no TWELVE STATEMENTS MORE CONCISE THAN THESE no matter where we look. But, lest we should in any wise to astray to believe that which is not true, let us take time to check these declarations with the Holy Scriptures, which have never yet led anyone astray.

The prophet Daniel was very anxious to know at what time the end of all the troublous years would be, but God only gave him a problem to work on, saying, *"From the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days But go thou thy way TILL THE END BE: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at THE END OF THE DAYS!"* My estimate in counting up the days was that the time called THE END OF THE DAYS would be 1978-79 A.D.

I was somewhat mystified that at that time (1979) little appeared to happen immediately, but it is clear to me today that the TIME OF THE END indicated a SHORT PERIOD OF TIME in which there is a cross over period similar to that little period when John the Baptist was preaching that the Kingdom of heaven was at hand, and Jesus was bringing the age of the LAW to an end to bring in the age of the GRACE OF GOD. I am sure that you will remember that in the period between the climax of World War II and 1979 the world had been humming along quite nicely. Jobs were plentiful, crops were better than normal and prices were high, and nations were reasonably peaceful. But suddenly, as the 1980's began, one calamity after another took place, starting with COMMOTIONS WORLD WIDE. Some synonyms of commotion are: fuss, excitement, tumult, uproar, turmoil, perturbation, and, above all, INSURRECTION. Do you remember the great WATTS disturbance in Los Angeles? And the commotion in the same city when a black man was beaten by some police?

You will notice that on one occasion, when our Lord was talking with His disciples in the temple, He dis-

tinctly told them of the total destruction of the temple, Luke 21:6, and that they would hear of WARS AND COMMOTIONS. Luke 21:10. It is often a COMMOTION that is the spark that begins the conflagration of mighty wars, as was the case in 1914 when Franz Ferdinand, heir of the Austrian throne, was killed by a bomb while driving through Sarajevo in the Austrian province of Bosnia on the Serbian border, 28th July, 1914. There have been strikes and marches among school teachers, strikes and lock-outs in factories, protests against this and that. Police and even parts of armies have been called in to quiet the commotion. Possibly the greatest commotion short of outright war was the falling apart of the Communist empire in Russia and many countries in Europe.

The second part mentioned by Baruch was the SLAYING OF THE GREAT ONES. It is difficult to know whether the reference here is speaking of the death of great men, but certainly many prominent and notable men have been slain since 1979 and attempts made on the lives of notable persons such as Mrs. Thatcher. Since the Kennedy brothers were slain in the sixties, attempts have been made on men like Ronald Reagan, the Pope of Rome, and ministers of Pakistan, Egypt, and India.

The third event mentioned by the prophet was the FALL OF MANY BY DEATH. Thus we hear of vast numbers being slain in former Yugoslavia and from the wars in Africa, Ceylon, Georgia (USSR), Iraq and Thailand. During the 1980's there was a period when 140 wars were raging in different parts of the world at one time. Even now, in 1993, some 40 localised conflicts are in progress at this time of writing. While many perish in the wars, even more die of starvation, famine, plagues like AIDS, T.B., and cancer, and this on an ever increasing scale.

The fourth part of this tribulation is the SENDING OF DESOLATION. There is positively no way of knowing how much desolation has been caused to public and private property by wars that are raging. And who can estimate the damage and destruction caused by the hurricane and tornados that devastated Florida and the unseasonable snow storm that reached from Florida to Toronto, requiring government to declare them disaster areas. Add to

that all the enormous destruction by vandalism and terrorism the world over and you have part of the picture. Disasters and desolation are mentioned some 210 times in the scripture, and I greatly fear that, when our Lord returns to earth, He will find a world utterly desolate - and not the earth alone, but the rivers, the atmosphere and the oceans. Mankind with all his modern ideas seems to be bent on making the earth desolate, and himself along with it.

The fifth part of this end time was to be FAMINE AND THE WITHHOLDING OF RAIN. During the course of history the earth has known thousands of famines. Many times they have been sent by God for a particular reason. It was a great famine in Egypt and Canaan that brought Jacob and his sons to Egypt, and through that same famine Joseph himself was promoted to the throne to become the second ruler in all of Egypt. Famines have been used of God to move whole populations. Famines often have been sent as portents of things to come. Famines were predicted by Jesus as signs of the last days. Matthew, Mark and Luke all mention famines as signs of the end of the age. Revelation 18:8, speaking of the end time destruction of Babylon, foretells plagues, famine, mourning, fire and death in **ONE DAY**. Certainly there have always been famines, but it appears there will be a great increase of this particular sign, even as there is of earthquakes.

The sixth sign mentioned by Baruch is EARTHQUAKES AND TERRORS. Earthquakes and terrors naturally go together. Earth always appears to be very steadfast and unshakable, but when it goes into one of those terrible convulsions such as history has recorded, mountains are shaken, cities are destroyed and whole populations sent into flight by its power. When the last great earthquake struck Los Angeles some twenty years ago, people living two hundred miles away in the desert noticed that for an hour or so before the earthquake struck all the birds stopped singing. The Bible makes mention of several exceptionally great earthquakes that took place on very notable occasions. One was at the crucifixion of our Saviour. Matthew 27:50-54. It split the great veil of the temple from top to bottom, and opened the graves of the saints who arose from the dead after Christ's resurrection. On

the occasion of the rising of Jesus from the dead, "Behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it". Matthew 28:2. Another tremendous earthquake is forthcoming when our Lord returns to earth, as recorded in Zechariah 14:1-5.

The book of Hebrews tells us of another earthquake that lies ahead when the voice of God, which once before shook the earth, will once more shake not only the earth, but the heavens also, and remove in preparation for His glorious Kingdom all the things that were made by man. Hebrews 12:25-29. Please read this revealing passage. History's largest earthquake to the present date (1993) was in Shensi, China, in A.D. 1556 and 830,000 people died. The next largest was at Calcutta, India, where 300,000 perished. I would suggest that the earthquake to come (Hebrews 12:25-29) will exceed all others together, since it is to remove all the works of man. Since this final earthquake is necessary to remove all man's works and undo the harm and damage he has done in his six days of labour, it is essential that it be at least as extensive as Noah's flood once was. After the flood men began to restore after the old order of things, but Revelation 16:17 & 18 tells us that at the time when the seventh angel pours his vial into the air, there will be a voice from God's throne, saying, "*It is done*", followed by voices, thundering, and lightnings, and an EARTHQUAKE SUCH AS WAS NOT SINCE MEN WERE UPON THE EARTH, SO MIGHTY AN EARTHQUAKE AND SO GREAT. Please read Revelation 16:18-21.

The seventh part is missing from the text.

The eighth part speaks of a MULTITUDE OF PORTENTS - signs or indications of things about to happen, especially calamitous and momentous things. Dear people of God, I feel sure that from time to time you have already been aware of that OMINOUS feeling that important and calamitous things are at hand. For years you have known that our Lord would soon come, but now that nearness grips you as never before. It is evidence of the portents warning us that all things are soon to perish that God's new order might appear. The great leaders of the world - kings, presidents, prime minis-

ters and dictators - boast of a NEW WORLD ORDER, which they imagine THEY will set up, but all they do will fail and disintegrate, for **GOD IS ABOUT TO FULFIL THIS PROMISE** that Christ, who is the root and offspring of David, **IS THE ONE WHO WILL BOTH SET UP AND RULE THE KINGDOM OF GOD**, which will NEVER pass away.

The ninth part foretells of FALL OF FIRE. Many, many times in my now lengthy life, when called upon to answer a question, it has been necessary for me to shake my head and reply, "I don't know", and to this question I freely admit I do not know the answer. Fire is used as a symbol of God, of Christ, of the Holy Spirit, of God's Word and of judgement. It is also used as literal fire, saying, the earth, being on fire, shall melt with fervent heat. Fire is among the most remarkable elements in the world. It is a most helpful friend and a terrible enemy. It will keep your house warm and in a moment burn it down. The terrible fires of Moscow, Chicago and London were great calamities, yet it was the great fire of London that stopped the awful plague called THE BLACK DEATH. I think, though, what is spoken of here refers more to God's judgement than to any other thing. It was falling fire that destroyed Satan's armies. Revelation 20:7-10. Many fires that have fallen upon the earth are of great significance, especially those that have destroyed notable landmarks, such as the disastrous fire that brought such ruin to Windsor Castle, and the thunderbolt, without thunder, that smote York Cathedral and many others. Terrible as these fires are, I am convinced that the world is yet to see fire falling in the last days which gives no room for human explanation, such as the fire that Moses saw in the burning bush, Exodus 3:2, and in the fire that fell on the sacrifices offered by Elijah, 1 Kings 18:38, and for the transgression of Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1 & 2), and other such instances of God's judgement against the rebellion and blasphemy of men. As to the future of falling fire we may well refer to these passages. Revelation 8:8 & 18; 13:13; 16:8; and 20:7-10.

The tenth part speaks of rapine and oppression. The word "rapine" has reference to the taking of property by force as in war or insurrection, such as we now see in

Yugoslavia. This was continually done under communism and is still being done by communist nations. We have not seen the last of Russia by any means, nor of China, both of whom have a terrible part to play in the future rapine of the countries of the Near East - all those spoken of in Ezekiel, chapter 38. And, when it comes to oppression, to use a common expression, oppression is the "MIDDLE NAME" of all such rapacious governments. Look for more and more even in our own governments, who spend their time in little else than bedevilling the people with ever increasing taxation.

With this short recapitulation I close our short epistle on the 'Consummation of the Age'.

- Number 1 - Commotions.
- Number 2 - Slayings of the great ones.
- Number 3 - The fall of many by death.
- Number 4 - Desolations.
- Number 5 - Famine and lack of rain.
- Number 6 - Earthquakes and terrors.
- Number 8 - Portents and incursions of the Shedim (evidently devil worship).
- Number 9 - The falling of fire.
- Number 10 - Rapine and oppression.
- Number 11 - Wickedness and unchastity.
- Number 12 - Confusion and the mingling together of all the aforesaid.

(*Number 7 is missing from the text.)

Now consider these two scriptures: "As it was in the days of Noah" when the sons of God - that is, the descendants of Adam, who was the son of God, Luke 3:38, were intermarrying with the daughters of men - that is, the pre-Adamites - and God saw that the WICKEDNESS OF MAN WAS GREAT ON THE EARTH, AND THE IMAGINATION OF THE THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART WAS ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY, AND THE EARTH WAS CORRUPT, FOR ALL FLESH HAD CORRUPTED HIS WAY. Genesis 6:1-12; also Matthew 24:3-39.

Read also of the incredibly evil and disgusting habits of the Sodomites, among whom God could not find

even ten righteous. Genesis 18:20-33. For an insight into the abominable wickedness of these ancient homosexuals, properly called sodomites, please read Genesis 19:1-11 and see the falling fire as judgement on their city. Genesis 19:12-28.

Can we possibly disagree that all twelve points covered by Baruch's prophecy and the words of Jesus (Matthew 24:37-39) all speak together? All the mingling together of the prophecies of Baruch, confirmed by Jesus Christ our Lord, attest with the voice of thunder that we have now reached the consummation of this age. Every tick of the clock now brings us second by second toward the last moments of man's six days of his evil labour and the coming of the kingdom of God with Christ taking His everlasting throne. How joyfully we may now sing:

*In these, the closing days of time,
What joy the glorious hope affords
That soon, O wondrous truth sublime,
He shall reign, King of kings and Lord of lords.*



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Malachi.

A Study
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PART FIVE.

The Covenant With Levi. Part 2.

Having established the fact that God's covenant with Levi has never been abrogated or done away with, and that the Law of God, which was the specific responsibility of Levi was similarly not done away with, we turn now to God's injunctions regarding those who have the duty to teach these laws, statutes and commandments to the people. In Malachi 2:7 we read;

*"For the priest's lips should keep knowledge,
and they should seek the law at his mouth:
for he is the messenger of the LORD of
hosts."*

Now there are three distinct aspects of a priest's ministry, as set out here.

Firstly, the priest is the messenger of the Lord. It's about time that the great majority of ministers today woke up to this fact. The popular modern concept seems to be for the minister to be looked upon as being equal with, if not down right superior to God. And that remark is not made facetiously. I've heard them, and I have no doubt that you have also heard them, time and time again, explain God's Word in terms which give their own particular idea of what God meant whenever He makes a statement, irrespective of the fact that what they are saying, in so many instances, has absolutely nothing to do with what God said. Thus, they place themselves above God. And because they sound so plausible, and because they have such a gift of speech, they delude their listeners into accepting what they say as being the last word in truth. I've

lost count of the number of times that I have heard someone get up in church and give what they claim is a 'word from the Lord', which is nothing more than a mini-sermon on their own particular pet theory which has nothing to do with the actual statements made by the Lord in His Word. They then put a divine seal upon what they say by adding the magic words "thus saith the Lord", and no one is then game to take issue on the matter for fear of contradicting the Lord. Such people are not 'messengers of the Lord', but are false prophets whose main concern seems to be their own standing and aggrandisement in the eyes of the congregation. A true messenger of the Lord states nothing other than the message which the Lord has given, and the Lord will NEVER give any message which contradicts the plain statements of His Word. In either case, such people, whether in or out of the pulpit, are not priests, but false teachers.

Secondly, **the priest's lips should keep knowledge.** It's interesting to study the word 'keep' as used here. According to Strong's concordance, #2287, it means, 'to move in a circle, to march in a sacred procession, to be giddy, to celebrate, to reel to and fro.' Now how many teachers of God's Word, or priests, have you seen that are so filled with the knowledge of the Word of God that they become giddy with the sanctity of the wonder of what God is revealing? I have to admit that I have seen many who have attained this condition as a result of their own prognostications, and who 'run around in circles' in the imaginations of their own hearts. But the true priest, or servant of God, will be so full of the knowledge of God that his head will spin with the wonder of it all. So much so, that it will lead to the third situation.

When people realise that the priest is truly filled with the knowledge of God, and that he is in truth a messenger of God, then **they will come to him for instruction in God's Laws.** Why not in the Word of God generally? Simple because the true priest or messenger of God realises the prime importance of the Law of God in the life of the individual, as well as the nation, and will consequently be able to inform the people of the abundant

blessings of God which automatically flow from obedience to these laws. The priest is not primarily a teacher of religion. He is, or should be, a teacher in righteousness and obedience.

Such then are the attributes and requirements of the priest. But alas, it didn't turn out that way. In verse eight, God pronounces His sentence on the priests who have failed in their charge.

"But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts."

Again we notice three statements by the Lord in regard to the priests. Firstly, **they have departed out of the way**. This simply means that they have departed from the truth of God's Word, and the teaching and administration of that truth. It is a sad fact, but a fact nevertheless, that all too many ministers today teach the traditions of men, rather than the unadulterated truth of God. They are experts at platitudes and entertaining their congregations. In all too many instances, they take great care not to say anything that might offend anyone. If the truth will hurt, then it is watered down. The principle seems to be to give people what they want to hear, rather than what they need to hear. You can't afford to offend them, because they might leave, and then the offerings would be adversely affected, and we couldn't have that, could we. I well remember some years ago being soundly berated by the senior pastor of the church I was at that time attending because I placed truth before people. I was told in no uncertain terms that people were more important than truth. I told him that he was out of his brain. It didn't increase my popularity, I assure you. Not long afterwards, one of the ministers of the same church was asked why they didn't openly preach and teach our Identity message at their services, a belief which they claimed to accept. The answer was that sometimes they had Catholics attending the services and they didn't want to offend them. Such

priests have well and truly departed out of the way, to use God's own words.

Secondly, they have corrupted the covenant of Levi.
As we saw in our previous study, this covenant was one of life and peace, and was directly associated with the keeping of the Law of God, the teaching and administration of which was the direct responsibility of the tribe of Levi, or more especially, the Levitical Priesthood. And again, as we saw, this priesthood was never ever cancelled or done away with. It is as lasting as the everlasting covenant which God made with David, simply because it was a part of that very covenant. The general teaching today is that we are no longer under this law, but under what is called 'grace'. This teaching is totally corrupt, as the law of which Paul was speaking was the Aaronic law, or laws contained in ordinances, as expressed by Paul in Colossians 2:14;

*"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances
that was against us, which was contrary to us,
nailing it to His cross."*

If the Levitical priesthood has been done away with, then why didn't God say so in Hebrews 7:11? Let us read it;

"If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?" (emphasis added).

Our Lord Jesus Christ became, for all time, the High Priest of the Order of Melchisedec, replacing the Aaronic priesthood, which was responsible for the sacrificial ordinances, NOT replacing the Levitical priesthood, which was responsible for the administration of God's Commandments, Statutes, and Judgments. No minister, or priest, has any mandate whatsoever from God to teach that Christians are now exempt from obedience to God's

Laws on the grounds that they have been done away with, and that they now only need grace. Those who teach such doctrine might carefully, and prayerfully, study and absorb God's condemnation of this practice as expressed in Jeremiah 7:8-10;

"Behold, you are trusting in deceptive words to no avail.

Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, and swear falsely, and offer sacrifices to Baal, and walk after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered!' - that you may do all these abominations? (The 'not under law, but under grace' syndrome).

Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your sight? Behold, I, even I, have seen it, declares the LORD."

(New American Standard Bible).

Thirdly, the corrupting of God's covenant with Levi by the modern priests has caused many to stumble at the law. This is a most serious situation. Many people, including a very great proportion of the priests, are going to answer to God Almighty in the very near future for their perfidy in so misleading the people of God, and corrupting their obedience to God. From my own experience, I have found that the majority of Christians know practically nothing about the Law of God, other than the fact that it has supposedly been done away with and replaced by grace. Yet strangely, they still believe in the Ten Commandments. One can't help wondering at their thinking process. The problem arises mainly because the priests themselves have never properly understood the various sections of God's Laws, nor their relationship to each other. As we have said so many times, the only section of the Law which was done away with was the ordinances, or sacrificial laws, by which the shed blood of the sacrificial animals was offered for the remission of the people's sins. The Bible is quite clear in its demand that "*without the*

shedding of blood there is no remission of sin". In point of fact, even this requirement was never done away with. The only thing that changed was that instead of the people and the nation selecting and offering its own lamb which was then acceptable to God, we now only have to accept the Lamb chosen by God, that is, our Lord Jesus Christ. John's pronouncement was quite clear when he said, "**Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.**" The result of this mis-teaching has been that the people have stumbled at the law, refusing to recognise their responsibility under God to remain absolutely obedient to it, and to put it quite bluntly, have become disobedient Christians. They have a total misconception of the entire subject of God's Law, thinking, quite wrongly, that we teach that salvation comes from obedience to it. Let me state quite categorically that forgiveness of sin comes ONLY through our acceptance of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf. Forgiveness and obedience are totally separate subjects. It is only when we are disobedient to God's Law that we commit a sin. "*Sin is the transgression, or breaking, of the Law*" as we read in I John 3:4. Forgiveness can only become operative when we sin, or break God's Laws. If these laws have been done away with, then how on earth can we sin? And if we cannot sin, then why do we need forgiveness? The grace of God would then become absolutely meaningless. The failure of the priests to properly explain this situation to the people, and their almost paranoid refusal to accept the need to continue to obey God's laws, statutes, commandments, and judgments, has caused the people to stumble before the Lord. It is because of this situation that we read God's condemnation in verse nine;

"Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law."

Here in a nutshell is the reason so many people reject the call of Christ in their lives. The word 'partial' in the Hebrew means 'half truth - showing half a face'. And this is exactly what people see in the way the Christian

faith is so often presented today. On the one hand it hears all about the love of God, and how we must love others, which of course is quite right. But on the other hand the Christian faith, as generally presented, gives little, if any, answers to the major problems facing our nation beyond the necessity for some form of spiritual revival. But what on earth is the use of a spiritual revival if it continues to teach the people that we still don't have to obey the Law of God, the breaking of which caused the problem in the first place. These days we hear quite a lot about Divine healing, and there is no doubt but that many folk are miraculously healed of various infirmities by the power of God. But healing is not God's main priority. His first priority is HEALTH. Ill health is the automatic result of sin. It can result from some immediate cause or wrong doing, or from the environment in which we live, or can be handed down genetically. But the basic cause is always the same. It is the direct result of disobedience to God's Laws. If you don't believe me, then read Deuteronomy chapter 28. Therein are listed 23 separate blessings which will automatically accrue to us if we obey God's Laws. Today, we do not enjoy a single one of these blessings. On the other hand, we are given 95 curses which will just as automatically accrue if we disobey God's Laws. Today we are suffering from every one of them. If God has done away with His Laws, then why did He not also do away with the attendant penalties? Surely this is absolute proof of the statement that the priests have shown only 'half a face' in their dealings with God's people, which in turn has made both them and their message contemptible in the sight of the people.

At this stage, God puts His finger right on the source of the trouble. In verses 10-11 He says;

"Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holi-

ness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god."

The entire nation of Israel, both Israel and Judah, have dealt treacherously with the Lord by becoming involved in the customs of strange gods, thereby substituting them, the strange gods, as her husband instead of the God of Israel. Not only this, but we are dealing treacherously with our brethren. And the reason is not that we have become 'backsliders' or any of the many descriptions used today of those who loose their 'spirituality.' The reason is plainly stated as being that we have profaned, or broken, the covenant of our fathers, which in this context, includes the covenant made with Levi. In other words, our treachery is a direct result of our rejection of the covenant of Levi, which is the necessity to obey the Laws, Statutes, Commandments, and Judgments of God in their entirety, both individually and nationally. The Lord makes no bones about His attitude to the offenders. In verse 12 we read;

"The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts."

God proceeds to make the position quite clear. He is sick and fed up with the hypocrisy of both the people and the priests. We weep before the Lord, with bitter tears; we enquire of the Lord as to why all these terrible things have overtaken us. But we never consider that our offerings in this respect are not even seen by the Lord. It is a classic example of, "I can't hear what you're saying because of the noise of what you're doing." Our whole approach to the Lord has become contemptible and hypocritical. The secret of receiving **much** blessing is not **much** prayer, but **much** obedience. It's about time that we paid more attention to what the Lord has to say in Proverbs 28:9;

"He who closes his ears from hearing the Law, even his prayer is an abomination."

We cover our violence with a cloak. We weary the Lord with our words. And then we have the hide to question God as to why He isn't answering and prospering us. We ask, '*Where is the God of judgment?*' It's wonderful, isn't it. People rarely thank God for all the blessings and good things that they receive. But let something go wrong, and the first person they blame is God. A loved one dies, and they blame God and criticise Him for taking them. Yet not once in their entire lives did they ever thank God for giving the loved one to them in the first place. No wonder the Lord has become weary with our words.

We now live in the days when black is white, and white is black. I remember the story of the old Chinese sage who was once asked what would be the first thing he would do if he wanted to gain control of other people. His answer was that the first thing he would do would be to change the meaning of words. How true. This is exactly what has happened. Everyone is now taught to do their own thing. The morality of the action does not come into consideration. If it feels good, do it. That is today's motto. That which is actually evil in the sight of God is now spurned and ridiculed. Today you 'have to be with it'. All these old principles are now taught as being restrictive of our 'freedom of expression'. What was once considered as evil, and rightly so, is now not only presented as being good, but given Christian (?) sanction. The practices which in God's Word are designated as being abominations are now referred to as 'alternative life styles', and gaining more general acceptance, even in the churches. We now have the syndrome that 'God hates the sin, but loves the sinner'. And so people who are in the churches who engage in these abominable practices are now welcomed, and given a big hug, and told how Jesus loves them, and they go home feeling well contented with their abominations, with little, if any, conviction of sin in their hearts.

*"Ye have wearied the LORD with your words.
Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him?"*

*When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is
good in the sight of the LORD, and he de-*

lighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?"

The perfect Law of God is the ONLY standard that God has given us whereby we can show our obedience, and consequently our love to Him. *"If ye love me, keep My commandments"* is just as essential today as it has ever been. It is the essence of God's covenant with Levi, and is still as immutable as His covenant with night and day.

If we wish to experience the blessings of God in the way that He intended us to, then we do so under His conditions. Our opinions count for nought. We can choose good and life, or evil and death. We obey and are blessed, or we disobey and are cursed. It is the covenant of peace made by God with Levi, and as with all God's covenants, they are being fulfilled on the sacredness of His own name, whether we like it or not.

"Therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live. That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him. For He is thy life, and the length of thy days."

(To be continued).



SPECIAL MEETINGS.

For those who can attend, we advise the following

Special Meetings:

The Day of Atonement: Sunday September 26.

The Feast of Tabernacles: Sunday October 3.

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

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

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

THE RETURN OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

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

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

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

With our Christian love,

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

*"Then they that feared the LORD
spake often one to another.*

*And the LORD hearkened, and heard it,
and a book of remembrance was written
before Him for them that feared the LORD,
and that thought upon His Name.*

*And they shall be mine,
saith the LORD of Hosts,
in that day when I make up My jewels;*

*and I will spare them,
as a man spareth his own son
that serveth him."*

(Malachi 3:16-17.)

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