



THE COVENANT VISION

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Contents

ISSUE No. **6**

Editorial.	1.
Orion. The Glorious One.	4.
The Kingdom of God	7.
Bible Cross Words.	12.
The Prophetic Ministry of Elijah.	13.
A Precious Pearl.	28.
National Sin.	30.
Study in Hebrews.	36.

“Heaven and earth shall pass away:
but My words shall not pass away.”

THE COVENANT VISION.

Editor: F.W.Dowsett.

In presenting this little magazine, it is not our intention to start up another organisation. Our only purpose is to present the Word of God in its fullness 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 return and appearing 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 that we can afford 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 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

Once again we have arrived at one of the most significant periods in the calendar of the Christian Faith. But the tragedy of the present day must surely be that this significance is almost entirely unrecognised by the very people upon whom it should have the greatest impact. One would think that in our present parlous position, which is almost daily worsening, that some sort of sanity would evidence itself in an attempt to extricate ourselves from the mire. But NO.

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God states the position quite clearly;

"A horrible thing, an appalling, has happened in the land. The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule at their beck and call.

And my people love to have it so.

But what will you do at the end of it all?"

(Jer.5:30-31 Moffat).

Never was truer word spoken. MY PEOPLE LOVE TO HAVE IT SO. Surely, one of the greatest mysteries of our present day must be the maddening blindness, (or is it the blind madness), which people not only accept, but which they appear to deliberately seek. They don't want truth. They are so used to the darkness that they seem to be frightened of the light which truth brings.

Truly has the Lord said through Isaiah the prophet;

"Go now, write it on a tablet before them, inscribe it on a scroll, that it may serve in days to come as a witness forever.

For this is a rebellious people, faithless children. Children who will not hear the instruction of the Lord. Who say to the seers, 'You shall not see.' And to the prophets, 'You shall

not prophesy to us right things. Speak to us smooth things. Prophecy delusions. Get you out of the way. Turn aside from the path. Trouble us no more with the Holy One of Israel.' " (Isa. 30:8-11 Smith & Goodspeed Translation).

Does it all sound familiar? It should. People today don't want what is right. Most of them only want what is most convenient for them. Of course, if what they want also happens to be right, then that is a conveniently added bonus.

So it is with this time of the year which we call 'Easter'. How many people really want to change this celebration back to what it really means? Not many. Sincere Christians compromise themselves, even if it is unintentionally, and thereby discredit both their faith and their God. They soundly criticise the 'unbelievers' for their ungodly actions and attitudes and idolatries. Then they themselves stock up with easter eggs, easter bunnies and hot cross buns. By some strange mechanism, being a Christian apparently sanctifies the use of these pagan customs. But of course we can't deprive the children of these little pleasures can we. They would feel so left out of things if they didn't get the same as other children. What hypocritical nonsense. Our children would be far, far better off if they WERE left out of these heathen customs. We might even manage to propagate a future generation of adults who desire to follow God rather than indulge in their own fancies.

Stripped of all its paganism, Passover - for that is its true and Biblical name - celebrates the greatest event to date in the entire history of the world. It far surpasses the Birth of Christ, because it is the celebration of the REASON for His birth. It celebrates both the DEATH and the RESURRECTION of THE SON OF GOD, the only Mediator between God and man. **THE MAN - CHRIST JESUS.**

He didn't come to be a good man. He didn't come to be a great philosopher. He came to pay the price of

sin. To be the perfect and eternal sacrifice so that we may be reconciled to God.

It was at this time every year that His people Israel, through their High Priest, offered up the great sin offering without which they could not remain in covenant relationship with their God. The absolute importance of this was fully illustrated in the events of the 'Passover' when the children of Israel were required to paint the blood of the slain lamb on the lintel and doorposts of their homes. But let us clearly realise this fact. If they had only obeyed this part of the Lord's command, they still would not have been fully preserved. They had to equally obey the rest of the instructions, which were that they were to remain inside their houses and not go outside. In other words, they were to remain under the covering of the blood.

Christians today would do well to recognise the awful import of this requirement. We have never been given the 'freedom' to celebrate this "Passover" in any way we like. The full blessing can only come FROM God when we show full obedience TO God.

We hear so much about God being Light, and Love, and Life, all of which are wonderfully true. But God is also TRUTH. His Word is TRUTH. And there is absolutely nothing in this world that we dare place before the Truth of God, especially ourselves. God's major controversy with His people was always that they insisted in worshipping Him their way instead of His Way. The ridiculous part of it all is that it is just as easy to do things God's Way as it is to do them our way. What we are missing is the full blessing, and alas, so many don't seem to get any blessing at all. What should be a time of complete surrender and communion with our Blessed Lord has now, generally, deteriorated into a Christ-less festive season.

Let us put aside the things of this world, and serve Him not only in Spirit, BUT IN TRUTH.

ORION

THE GLORIOUS ONE

Howard B. Rand.
Destiny Publishers. U.S.A.

As we seek understanding of the scope of what the prophet Ezekiel envisioned when 'the heavens were opened' to him, (Ez. 1:1), our attention has been called to the presence of a glowing cloud of gas and new stars (designated astronomically as M-42), seen in the sword of the constellation ORION. Its luminescence, caused by the strong ultraviolet radiation of the hot stars within it, reminds us that the sharp sword in the girdle of ORION is emblamatical of the sword Moses was told the Lord will use in the impending Great Day of Divine Wrath.

"See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with Me. I kill, and I make alive. I wound, and I heal. Neither is there any that can deliver out of My hand. For I lift up My hand to heaven, and say, I live forever. If I whet My glittering (bright and lightning-like) sword, and My hand take hold on judgment, I will render vengeance to My enemies, and I will reward them that hate Me."

(Deut. 32:39-41).

We are also indebted to the Rev. Ralph D. Bullock of Kowloon, Hong Kong, from whom we have received an item of significant interest entitled "Astronomers Report Beauty Beyond Imagination." This report gives us the following astronomical descriptions of the magnificent display of light and colour radiating from the Great Nebula of ORION.

"One of the most inspiring and thrilling of secret disclosures of astronomers is that there is a great empty

space in the north in the Nebula of the Constellation of ORION - a cavity so gigantic that the mind of man cannot comprehend it, and so brilliantly beautiful that words cannot adequately describe it.

"The revelations were made possible by gigantic lenses, plus exposures of photographic plates which, in turn, can be further magnified. This increases the vision of man so tremendously that he is able to peer into the depths of interstellar space and glimpse the vastness of infinity itself. What has been found correlates with the words of Job:

"He stretcheth out the north over the empty space, and hangeth the earth upon nothing."
(Job 26:7).

"All astronomers agree that there is a huge opening in ORION which is perhaps more than 16,740,000,-000,000 miles in diameter. The diameter of the earth's orbit is 186,000,000 miles, which is, in itself, incomprehensible to man. Yet the opening into this heavenly cavern of ORION is 80,000 times as wide. In other words, there could be 30,000 solar systems like our own sun in the middle, and still there would be room to spare.

"But surpassing the immensity of its size, its exquisite beauty and luminous colours are unlike any on earth. Professor Larkin, at Mt. Lowe Conservatory, gives us the following description;

" 'These photographs reveal the opening and interior of a cavern so stupendous that our entire solar system would be lost therein. I have watched it since the days of youth in many telescopes of many powers, but never dreamed that the centre is the mouth of a colossal cave. Pen of writers and brushes of artists alike are lifeless and inert in any attempt to describe this interior.

" 'The depths of the ORION Nebula appear like torn and twisted objects, and rivers of shining glass, ir-

regular pillars, columns of stalactites in glittering splendour and stalagmites from the mighty floor. The appearance is like that of light shining and glowing behind the clear walls of ivory and pearl, studded with millions of stars.'

"There must be some reason why all this grandeur is lavished on this one spot in the heavens. The colours are a hue peculiar to the ORION Nebula and studded around the opening so that they appear as a pavement of starry sand. No wonder the astronomers (many of them are religious), say that they feel in some Almighty 'Presence' while scanning this part of the heavens, and become speechless before this great outburst of grandeur extending for trillions of miles through space."

Meditating upon the broad spiritual implications of this fascinating information, the exclamation of the prophet Isaiah immediately comes to mind;

"For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside Thee, what He hath prepared for him that waiteth for Him."
(Isa.64:4).

We join the Psalmist in his paeon of praise to God, the Almighty Creator:

"The Lord reigneth, He is clothed with majesty. The Lord is clothed with strength, wherewith He hath girded Himself. The world also is established, that it cannot be moved. Thy throne is established of old. Thou art from everlasting."
(Psalm 93:1-2).

THE heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

By F.W.DOWSETT.

PART 3.

IDENTIFYING THE KINGDOM.

In studying the subject of the Kingdom of God, it is imperative that we understand TWO major factors about it. They are;

1. WHAT is the Kingdom of God, and
2. WHERE is the Kingdom of God.

In regard to these basic questions, quite incredibly there appear to be at least THREE different opinions and points of view. They are;

- (a). That the 'church' is the Kingdom of God.
- (b). That the Kingdom of God is a spiritual condition within our hearts.
- (c). That the Kingdom of God is a literal nation here on earth.

Now it must surely be obvious to even the most elementary student that there must be a considerable degree of confusion on the subject to allow for such a seemingly wide divergence of opinion. Yet despite these differences, it becomes more and more obvious as we study the subject that ALL THREE factors are required for a complete picture of God's Kingdom. The trouble seems to be not so much in the divergence of opinions as much as in the fact of the exclusiveness in which these opinions are held and expressed. The general rule seems to be to believe in ONE of these points of view to the exclusion of the other two. Most people just

don't realise, and sadly all too often simply don't want to realise, that both the NATIONAL and the SPIRITUAL aspects of the Kingdom go hand in hand, and cannot be separated from each other.

God quite clearly and concisely expressed this important fact when He first commissioned the nation of Israel, as recorded in Exodus 19:6. He said;

"Ye shall be unto Me a 'kingdom of priests',
and 'a holy nation'."

So let us examine these three aspects in order to determine the true nature of this Kingdom.

I am convinced that a great deal of misunderstanding and wishful thinking is exhibited by most Bible teachers when it comes to the subject of 'THE CHURCH'. So let us get our thoughts straightened out on this before proceeding any further.

The word 'church' in the Hebrew is 'qahal', and means "an assembly called together". The word 'church' in the Greek is 'ekklesia' and means "that which is called out". (Young's Concordance). So we see that in both the Hebrew and the Greek language, the word 'church' means the same thing.

Now whilst I have given the Hebrew word for 'church', it is imperative to note that the word 'church' does not appear once in the entire Old Testament, and that the word 'qahal' does not appear once in the entire Old Testament in relationship to what is presently referred to as 'the Church'! This word is ALWAYS used in the Old Testament of the nation of Israel. If you don't believe me, then look it up in your concordance. You will find that in every reference, 'the congregation of the Lord', which is the phrase translated from the Hebrew word 'qahal', is ISRAEL. As a matter of fact, the only reason that this particular Hebrew word is associated with the word 'church' is because of its identical meaning with the Greek word. In

its original sense and usage, it referred to an assembly or congregation of Israel on a national scale. But with the passage of time following the captivities and dispersion of Israel, and following the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, small groups of Christians, mostly Israelites, began to band together and formed what we now call 'churches'. This was as a result of the commission given to the disciples, as set down in Matt.-10:5-6 where Jesus Himself told them;

"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not.
But go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel."

The serious student might like to read and study Ezek. 34:6-12, Matt. 15:24, Matt. 18:12, and Luke 19:10, for further light on this situation. But I would draw the readers' special attention to the words of our Lord Himself in Matt. 15:24 where He said;

"But Jesus answered and said,
I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel."

This was not so much a statement of exclusiveness, as one of PRIORITIES.

These groups did not come into being or meet just in a national sense, but as people who had accepted the atoning sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, and who believed on His Name, accepting His call to come out from the world system and follow Him. It should be recognised that with few exceptions, these people were Israelites who then went out to take the gospel, or Good News of Israel's redemption to their dispersed brethren so that they in turn could turn back to their God, grow into the Nation and Company of Nations which their father Abraham had been promised, and then become the greatest missionary force ever seen to take the bless-

ings of God's Word to all the families and nations of the earth, which was their GOD APPOINTED DESTINY AND RESPONSIBILITY.

Christ thus worked through these 'called out ones' within His Israel people. Paul, under the inspiration of The Holy Spirit, designates them as "the BODY of Christ." In both Ephesians 1:22-23, and Colossians 1:18 we read respectively;

"The head over all things to the church, which is His body, ..."

"He is the head of the body, the church."

Thus we see that this 'body' or 'church' operated within the nation. But under no circumstances did it ever replace the nation OR LITERAL KINGDOM.

To substitute the Church for the Kingdom is to spiritualise the Word of God in a totally unwarranted manner, and not only destroys the opportunity of God's faithfulness in performing His covenants WHICH WERE NATIONAL, but confuses our understanding of His great plans and purposes.

It is a sorry fact, but a fact nevertheless, that much of the preaching and teaching today which is applied to 'the church', does not apply to 'the church' at all, but to God's literal Kingdom here on earth.

The second belief commonly held regarding the Kingdom of God is that it is a spiritual condition in our hearts. We have already dealt with this in Part 1 of this series of studies, as arising from a misunderstanding of the meaning of Luke 17:21 where we read, "For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you." As previously mentioned, the original Greek word used does not carry the intention of the subject being 'inside' us, but rather of being 'among' us, that is, 'in the midst of us'. You can check this for yourself in both your concordance and some of the other translations.

There would seem to be no doubt but that this view gains much support from the previously discussed view that the 'church' is the Kingdom, and the statements made relative to that opinion as outlined above will be found to be also relevant to this belief.

So before proceeding to the third point of view, namely that the Kingdom of God is a literal Kingdom here on this earth, let us take stock of the position which we have studied thus far.

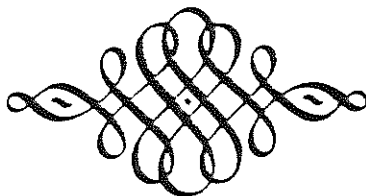
The 'church' is 'the body of Christ', comprising those who, by their acceptance of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ, are called out to do His work as individual members of that Body. Thus the 'church' operates as an entity within the Kingdom. **IT IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE KINGDOM!!** In addition to this, the spiritual nature of both Christ and His Kingdom may, and indeed must, operate within the hearts of the individual, but again, this power within us is also **NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE KINGDOM!!**

THE KINGDOM OF GOD is a literal kingdom here on this earth where it was always intended by God to be, and is the Kingdom over which it was promised that our Lord Jesus Christ would reign. Surely, words could not be plainer;

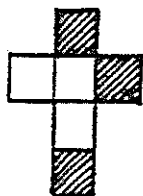
"He shall be great, and shall be called the son of the highest. And the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David;

And He shall reign over the House of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom, there shall be no end."
(Luke 1:32-33).

(to be continued.)



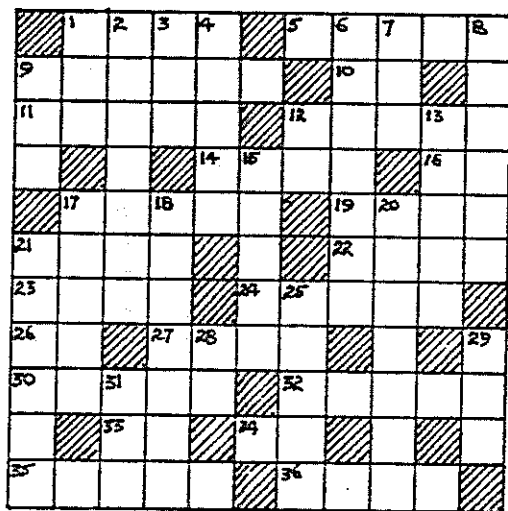
Bible



Words.

by F.W.D.

Find the word in the reading quoted. Authorised Version.



ACROSS.

1. Luke. 3:28.
5. Exodus 20:15.
9. Romans 15:13.
10. Job 39:25.
11. Rev. 14:18.
12. Judges 1:35.
14. Genesis 25:34.
16. Romans 1:17.
17. Ezekiel 16:8.
19. I Cor. 6:1-3.
21. Joshua 15:26.
22. Rev. 7:6.

23. Ezra 2:43.
24. II Cor. 8:13.
26. Old Testament (init).
27. Psalm 19:9-10.
30. I Timothy 3:12.
32. Hebrews 13:24.
33. Luke 1:11.
34. Colossians 1:18.
35. II Kings 4:39.
36. Judges 15:14.

DOWN.

1. II Kings 18:2.
2. Numbers 33:12-13.
3. Leviticus 26:3-4.
4. Ephesians 3:16.
6. Acts 5:36.
7. Psalm 17:5-8.
8. Genesis 1:16.
9. Isaiah 40:11.
12. Job 39:25.
13. Deuteronomy 21:4.
15. Psalm 18:34.
17. Isaiah 54:16-17.
18. Zechariah 8:16-17.
20. Genesis 41:45.
21. Acts 8:40.
25. I Chronicles 27:25.
28. Colossians. 1:16.
29. Matthew 7:1-5.
31. Proverbs 4:20-22.

The Prophetic Ministry of Elijah.

By F.W.DOWSETT.

PART 3.

THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH.

"And the Word of the Lord came unto Elijah, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks. And he called to her and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

And she said, As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse. And behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it and die.

And Elijah said unto her, Fear not. Go and do as thou hast said. But make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after, make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.

And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah, and she, and he, and her house, did

eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the Word of the Lord, which He spake by Elijah."

(I Kings 17:8-16.)

With his sustenance dried up at the Brook Cherith, Elijah was instructed by God to go to Zarephath. Here we have another wonderfully prophetic situation. In our last chapter, we found Israel separated from God, and spiritually, as well as materially, dried up. The curse of disobedience to the Law of God lay heavily upon her. But through all this, God had kept a remnant. Not only a remnant in the form of people, but a burning remnant of Truth and Faithfulness which, being of God, could never die. So let us look more intently at this situation.

The first thing that we notice is 'the woman and her son.' We also note that the woman is described as being 'a widow', which indicates that she had no husband. If we refer again to the twelfth chapter of the Revelation which we studied earlier, it is quite apparent that we are again presented with a representation of Israel, together with Israel's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The fact that the woman had lost her husband is quite compatible with the condition of her counterpart Israel, because she too was without a husband. Because of Israel's sinfulness, Jehovah her God and husband had divorced her and put her aside. (read Isa.50:1, and Jer.3:8). She was thus left to fend for herself, having lost the protection and provision previously afforded by the husband. In fact, her position had become so parlous that she was almost at the point of extinction, being reduced to the final humiliation of poverty and starvation.

But the account describes two other factors. The first factor is that when Elijah arrived at Zarephath, he met the woman at the gates of the city gathering sticks. In other words, she was no longer able to obtain her needs from within her own city or dwelling place.

She had been forced by the circumstances which had developed to scrounge around the outskirts of her own domicile in order to find that which was necessary for her continued sustenance.

The second, and most tragic factor, is that she had become resigned to her seemingly hopeless position. She had lost hope, and had lost faith. She was resigned to imminent death, both for herself, and her son.

One could search for a long time to find a more apt or fitting prophetic description of God's true Israel people today.

As has previously been pointed out, Israel's spiritual condition had degenerated to an all-time low. So serious had the position become that God, her Husband, was obliged by the requirements of His own Law to divorce His wife Israel, and set her aside, thus leaving her husbandless. Her continued sinfulness, brought about by her willful and deliberate disregard of God's Laws, guaranteed her relentless decline into what must be, from a human point of view, ultimate oblivion.

Such is our present material position. We have, as a nation, been reduced to absolute penury. We are no longer able to enjoy the benefits and blessings of our own lands. They have been usurped by the strangers within our midst. Our prosperity, and our very heritage, flows to everyone but ourselves, until we are fast becoming strangers in our own country. God's Word has proved to be relentlessly true. Because we have disregarded, and indeed spurned, the Law of God which is our national 'life support system' between ourselves and our God, we are now indeed the 'tail' and not the 'head', as promised in Deut.28:15, and 43-48;

"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do -all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and

overtake thee.

The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.

He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him. He shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.

Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkened not unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded thee.

And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever.

Because thou servedst not the Lord thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things.

Therefore thou shalt serve thine enemies which the Lord shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things. And he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee."

We have sown the wind. We now reap the whirlwind. Our Commonwealth of Nations, once the bastion of freedom, once the Defender of The Faith, once the greatest source of blessing to the other families and nations of the earth ever seen; this once great and Christian nation is now, humanly speaking, at the point of death and extinction. And let us not be deluded into overlooking the fact that the plans of the enemy include not only the death of the nation - the 'widow' - but also the death of her SON, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many of her former territories and possessions have been handed over, mostly as a result of treachery within, to non-Israel heathen peoples, many of whom, when the western veneer is stripped away, are only slightly removed, if at all, from the original savagery from which they came. The tragic, yet evident truth, is that despite many years of painstaking and sacrificial

service by such a gallant band of dedicated and sincere missionaries, very little lasting or overall results are evident in the final analysis.

Although it may be unpalatable to some, it is nevertheless an undeniable fact that missionary endeavour and enterprise has only enjoyed lasting and overall results where the Western Christian Nations have colonised the various lands where they have gone, and remained in control. As soon as our colonisation has been terminated, so too have the missionary enterprises which they supported become increasingly difficult to maintain, with many of them actually becoming completely extinct. Our Common Law is based on God's Law as expressed in the Bible, and although it has been drastically perverted over the years, the foundations are still there. As the Law was introduced, even in its weakened state, so the blessings of the Lord, through the Love of God, have been experienced. But once this basis of Law was removed and disappeared, so its inevitable and automatic blessings quickly disappeared with it.

The Law of God cannot be separated from the Love of God. Most certainly **IT CANNOT BE REPLACED BY IT!** You cannot have love without Law, as evidenced by our Lord Jesus Christ when He said;

"If ye love Me, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS."

When we take into consideration the destructive mechanisms of the 'tares' sown in our midst, that of Esau/Jewry, the avowed enemies of God, and the recipients of God's hatred, as stated in Malachi 1:3 and Romans 9:13, then our present position of imminent national death and extinction can be readily understood by those who have 'eyes to see and ears to hear'. Even the attacks of these same "seed of Satan" upon the Christian Faith and the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself are becoming more and more prolific, sustained and savage. How anyone in their right mind can hold to the God-dishonouring and Satanically inspired theory that this diabolical collection of people are God's chosen

people is in itself a tragic evidence of the success which Satan has achieved in deceiving even the very elect.

Thus the nation has almost reached the end of her tether. We are about to use up the little of the blessings still left to us, and then lie down and die, as it were, leaving the carcase to be finally torn apart and devoured by the eagles, and every vulture and wild beast in sight.

Fortunately, the prophetic pre-enactment of Elijah's visit to the widow of Zarephath didn't end at this point. Despite her perilous position, she still had a little bread and a little oil remaining. It is not difficult to understand what these represented in their prophetic application to Israel in the latter days.

In regard to the bread, was it not our Lord Himself who uttered those wonderful words;

"I am that bread of life.

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

(John 6:48,51).

Then we have the oil, which is emblematic of the Holy Spirit. The prophet Haggai was inspired to write;

"According to the word which I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remaineth among you. FEAR YE NOT."

(Haggai 2:5).

The prophet Isaiah confirms the continuity of this promise when he stated;

"As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord. My Spirit which is upon thee, and My words which I have put in thy mouth,

shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, for henceforth and for ever."

(Isa.59:21).

In her extremity, the widow grieved at the low level of her remaining sustenance. But the point to be noted is that IT STILL EXISTED. Despite the conditions, there was still a place where bread and oil had survived. THE WORD OF GOD, and THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT were STILL THERE, and STILL AVAILABLE!

There could be no doubt but that the widow must have been extremely surprised to hear Elijah's words.

"For thus saith the Lord God of Israel. The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth."

The lesson is clear. This incident was being used to pre-figure the future of Israel, to whom Elijah had been sent. What he stated was completely in accord with the future statements of prophets not yet born, as we have previously read.

Under NO circumstances did God intend to completely remove His Provision, nor the faithful fulfillment of His Covenants and Promises from His people. There would always be some little area where the Word of God would faithfully continue; where the Holy Spirit would be active. This would never cease. The nation might be wicked. It might turn from God. But God would NOT completely turn from them. Somewhere within the nation would be 'the barrel of meal and the cruse of oil.' Just as God used His miraculous powers to reproduce and regenerate the meal and the oil for the widow of Zarephath, so He has promised to use the same miraculous powers to preserve His people Israel, irrespective of how low the level to which she has sunk.

Is it any wonder that many years later God inspired the prophet Isaiah to record these wonderful words, not only in terms of Israel's widowhood, but also in terms of her continued existence and redemption under God's everlasting covenants with her.

"Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child. Burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labour. Because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband, saith the Lord.

Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back. Lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left. Your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.

Do not be afraid. You will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace. You will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.

For your Maker is your husband. The Lord Almighty is His Name. The Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer. He is called, The God of all the Earth.

The Lord will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit, a wife who married young only to be rejected, says your God.

For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back.

In a surge of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you, says the Lord your Redeemer.

To Me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never

again cover the earth.

So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again.

Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor My covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord who has compassion on you.

O afflicted city, lashed by storms and not comforted. I will build you with stones of turquoise, your foundations with sapphires. I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of sparkling jewels, and all your walls of precious stones.

All your sons will be taught by the Lord, and great will be your children's peace.

In righteousness you will be established. Tyranny will be far from you. You will have nothing to fear. Terror will be far removed. It will not come near you. If anyone does attack you, it will not be My doing. Whoever attacks you will surrender to you.

See, it is I who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forged a weapon for its work. And it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc.

No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you.

This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from Me, declares the Lord.

(Isaiah 54. N.I.V.).

That God's will and purpose in His people Israel is sure and unchangeable is attested to in both Isaiah 55:1 and Numbers 23:19 where we read;

"So is my word that goes out from my mouth. It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire, and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

"God is not a man that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind.

Does He speak, and then not act?
Does He promise and not fulfil?"

But if the poor widow of Zarephath was surprised at Elijah's promise that her meagre provisions would not expire, what must she have felt at his previous instructions? Let us be clear in our minds as to the actual situation. She had enough provisions for just ONE meal for herself and her son. She had fully accepted the fact that once they had eaten this meal, they would both die of starvation.

Elijah was also fully aware of this fact. Yet he imposed upon this poor woman a condition which had all the appearance of being utterly selfish, and completely out of character. Of course, this was not the case, for in fact Elijah was putting the widow, AND THE NATION WHICH SHE REPRESENTED, to a very important test. In addition, he was teaching both her and us a very wonderful and necessary lesson. Elijah said to her;

"Fear not. Go and do as thou hast said. But make me thereof a little cake FIRST and bring it to me. And AFTER, make for thee and for thy son."

He then went on to say that if she obeyed this instruction;

"For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, the barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth."

(I Kings 17:14).

We hear very little of the faith of this poor widow. Yet to a very great extent, it paralleled that of her forefather Abraham. He had no children, and had grown too old to have any. Yet knowing this, God said to him;

"I will make of thee a great nation!"

But despite this seemingly impossible situation,
ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD!

In the same way, this little known widow believed the seemingly impossible and did what she had been instructed. She obeyed in complete faith, and when she obeyed, God acted. The food and oil lasted for as long as she needed it.

The lesson is clear, both to the nation and to the individual within the nation.

BLESSINGS FOLLOW OBEDIENCE.

God does not hand out free samples as bribes or inducements. When you get into your car to go for a drive, you know that you are absolutely dependant on the engine working. And no amount of promises, guarantees, manuals, talking, or argument is going to start that engine. The only way to start it, so as to obtain its automatic benefits, is to turn on the ignition. There are NO alternatives.

In exactly the same way, the blessings of God follow ONLY when we turn on our faith through obedience to the Will of God.

However, there is another and very important and vital teaching contained in this incident. The Law of God, as given to Israel, included the requirement that the firstfruits of everything belonged to God. As we have already seen, the name 'Elijah' means 'God is Jehovah'. By his insistence that he should be fed first, Elijah - 'God is Jehovah' - was teaching both the widow

and us that it was mandatory, not optional, but MANDATORY for us to first honour God with the firstfruits of our substance. How many times in the Scriptures do we find God criticising Israel for her failure to do just that. How terribly easy it is for us to forget God, even at the very times that we are receiving His blessings.

To receive the FULL blessings of God, so that 'our cup runneth over', there are two requirements. Firstly, we must be obedient to His Word and His Commandments so that we step out in faith. Secondly, having received the blessings of faith, we must be obedient to our obligation to God. We must give him, in fact WE OWE HIM, the firstfruits of what He has given us.

In other words, in all things, WE MUST PUT GOD FIRST. If we do this, both as a nation and as individuals, He has promised to open the storehouse of His blessings to such an extent that we will be completely overwhelmed.

We come then to the final incident in this episode of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath.

"And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick. And his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.

And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? Art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?

And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.

And he cried unto the Lord and said, O Lord my God, hast Thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, I pray Thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah. And the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother.
And Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.

And the woman said unto Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the Word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth."
(I Kings 17:17-24).

In order to properly understand the prophetic impact of this incident, we should remind ourselves of who the individual characters represent.

The woman, as we have previously seen, represents Israel. Elijah, whose very name means 'God is Jehovah' obviously represents God, and in this relationship, or representation, we have seen how God has illustrated His continual care and provision for His people.

The widow's son clearly represents our Lord Jesus Christ, Israel's GREAT SON. Only one Son of Israel could possibly fill the part. The prophet Isaiah, speaking later to the same people, says;

"For unto us (Israel) a child is born.
Unto us (Israel) a son is given"
(Isa.9:6).

But the son died. How wonderfully this incident pre-figured the future death and resurrection of our Lord, right down to the last detail.

The very first thing that happened after his death was that Elijah took the dead son from his mother, and took him UPSTAIRS, placing him ON HIS OWN BED.

In that final moment on the cross, as our Lord gave up His life, He said;

"Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit."
(Luke 23:46).

We are then informed that Elijah stretched himself upon the child THREE TIMES, after which he revived. It surely cannot be just coincidence that our Lord was THREE days and nights in the grave before being resurrected back to life. Nor can it be just coincidence that this was achieved by the Father, represented in this incident by Elijah, for in Romans 6:4 we read;

". . . that like as Christ was raised up from the dead BY THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, ."

The application to the nation of Israel is also quite obvious. In Hosea 6:2 we read;

"After two days will He revive us.
In the THIRD day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight."

But as wonderful as the revival of the child must have been, and what it pre-figures, the important thing to note is the affect that it had on the widow, and on her counterpart Israel. Her immediate response was;

"Now I know that thou art a man of God, and that the Word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth."

In other words, the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, illustrated by the revival of the widow's son, proved not only the existence, but THE POWER AND TRUTH OF GOD. It proved that He was, and is, what He claims to be, that is,

THE GREAT AND TRUE AND LIVING GOD
ALMIGHTY. THE EVERLASTING, FAITHFUL,
COVENANT-KEEPING GOD OF ISRAEL."

God had formed, chosen, and equipped His people Israel to be His servant nation, the instrument through whom He was to bless all the families and nations of the earth. Through their sinfulness, Israel had lost the capacity to fulfill this calling, having been divorced by God. But now, through the sacrifice of her Kinsman - Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, she has been redeemed from the curse of the death sentence which had become her lot, and under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, could now go forward under the terms of God's covenant, and become at last God's servant nation - God's witness - the role for which she was originally formed and destined.

(to be continued).



Notice, there is a satanic counterfeit for every Divine reality. There is a true church, and a false church; there are true Christian festivals, and counterfeit pagan festivals. There are true gifts of the Spirit, and counterfeit gifts; true miracles of healing, and counterfeits of healing; true gifts of tongues, and counterfeits of tongues. There is a true Israel of God and a false

Israel. There is a true Kingdom of God soon to be established, and a counterfeit Kingdom intended to take its place. There is a true God of the universe, and a false god of the world. There is a true Christ, the Son of the Living God, and there is a false usurper who is satan, the devil.

From "Britain's Royal Throne"
by Brian Williams



A Precious Pearl

A. E. JONES

Courtesy, New Jerusalem Fellowship

This pearl needs no preface or little note. This precious pearl is one for delight. It makes anyone happy who possesses it. It is the beautiful pearl of the Scapegoat (Lev. 16:21). Many, many people have never seen the beauty of this pearl because artists and preachers formed opinions instead of studying Holy Scripture for Truth.

What is truth? The truth is that at times we all do something wrong. Afterwards it worries us and vexes us terribly. We sincerely regret having done it and wonder how we could have been so foolish. Long afterwards, maybe many years, the incident comes to mind and brings a tinge of vexation or a blush of shame.

Now read Lev. 16:7-10. Two goats are brought to the door of the Tabernacle. Lots are cast upon them. The one is doomed to die for the sins of the people; thus are the sins of the people forgiven (v. 15).

Sins once forgiven do not have to be forgiven a second time, but although our sins are forgiven, yet the memory of them remains to torment and vex us. This is

where God provides the Scapegoat—the escape goat!

Thus the one goat is the Lord's goat (Lev. 16:8) and the Lord accepts the blood shed by this goat instead of the death of the sinful people. The other goat, the Scapegoat i.e. the escape goat, is to let the people know that they have escaped. They are free, free of all sin and even the memory of it, because of their repentance and God's forgiveness. How great is His mercy!

Cast your thoughts back for a moment. First, Aaron, God's High Priest (Heb. 9), placed both hands upon the head of the Scapegoat. This is not done in any other sacrifice. He confesses all the sins of the people over it, placing all sins entirely upon that goat.

Then, by the hand of a fit man (this phrase occurs nowhere else in Holy Scriptures as there is only One fit man for this purpose!), the sin-laden goat is led away and set free in the great and terrible land of lostness, beyond recall, utterly gone, never to be found again, clean out of memory and utterly forgotten.

Our sins are not only forgiven, but forgotten, yes, forgotten beyond recall. *"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us"* (Ps. 103:12-16). The distance is beyond comprehension. Infinity. Think and rejoice. What a delightful pearl to possess. Read what God did with *your* sins (Is. 43:25). Be glad and rejoice and

read Isaiah 44:22, 23 and sing as you have been instructed!

Isaiah 53 tells of Christ Jesus performing the work of both goats, and Isaiah 54 tells of God accepting you back out of the womb of death, cleansed of all sin through Jesus Christ our Lord—pure, holy, undefiled children of God. What a precious pearl!



The following was published in 1961 by an unknown writer.

The average age of the world's greatest civilisations has been 200 years. These nations progressed through this sequence;

From bondage to spiritual faith.
From spiritual faith to great courage.
From courage to liberty.
From liberty to abundance.
From abundance to selfishness.
From selfishness to complacency.
From complacency to apathy.
From apathy to dependence.
From dependency back into bondage.

Every indicator points to the fact that we are well into the APATHY TO DEPENDENCY stage. Whether this cycle is inevitable depends upon whether or not individuals are motivated to action to halt the sequence.



NATIONAL SIN

Parliament is the legislative body of Australia, and consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senators and Representatives comprising the parliament are sent there by the people, to not only enact laws themselves for the good of the people, but to uphold the Constitution and rule the people on the basis of Constitutional Law. In other words, Parliament is a rule of the people through duly elected representatives on the basis of Constitutional Law.

What is generally lost sight of these days is that men who occupy positions in government are not there to exercise their own free will, or that of a political party, upon the people, but they are there as representatives of God. Government is as much the institution of God as is the Church, and the men who rule in governmental positions are as much the ministers of God in government, as is the preacher, the minister of God in the Church.

Paul says as much in Romans 13:1-4, (N.I.V.);

"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an

agent of justice to bring punishment on the wrongdoer."

The State, in the care of the lives, the property, and the welfare of its citizens, is a kind of earthly providence entrusted by God Himself with this authority. It is a high office that is to be filled with great dignity. How far we have strayed from this Divine concept of government. Only too often our leaders are governed by a form of humanism that makes man his own god. He is thus left to do as he wills or thinks best, regardless of any Divine injunction to the contrary. There is no Divine standard to which he must conform. If the people want it, or if that is what some political party has assayed to do, that makes it right or best. In other words, we are taking the way that seems right unto us. We are groping in the light of our own understanding, and it is leading us into the ditch.

THE AUTHORITY TO RULE COMES FROM GOD.

We would also seem to have lost sight of the fact that the right of man to rule over his fellowman, in whatever form the government may take, can only come from God. Armies can compel submission. The popular will may create offices, and choose men to fill them. But man can never create authority. It belongs to God. And what is "ordained of God", is the maintenance of law and justice for the welfare of the people and the punishment of wrongdoers by lawfully constituted public authority.

This is God's world. In His providence, He gave man dominion over it, not to do as he pleased, but as God pleased. Man, regardless of his office or position, was to carry out the will of God in seeing that justice was done for the good of all.

GOD. THE SUPREME RULER.

What the judges and rulers of men today would

seem to have forgotten, or overlooked, is that God is the Supreme Ruler and Judge to whom all those who undertake to fill this office must answer. In Psalm 82:1 we find the Psalmist saying;

"God (Jehovah) standeth in the congregation of the mighty. He judgeth among the gods."

At first, this might seem to refer to angels. But verse six points out that God speaks of judges and rulers as "gods". The reason for this is, that to them was given God's Word, and God gave them authority to speak and act in His Name. It was, and is, the Divine purpose that judges and rulers should feel that God is in them in their judgments and decisions, and that they dishonour Him when they render unjust or partial judgments. God has appointed them to a Divine work. They represent the justice and righteousness of God. And not only that, God holds them responsible for doing what is right. He is the Judge of the judges. Actually, the word 'judge' has a much broader usage than what we commonly give it today. It suggests all kinds of official positions in which we may stand, all places in which we are placed to rule or influence others.

THE RULERS AND THEIR DUTIES.

With these thoughts in mind, we would do well to note God's charge or accusation of the judges. In Psalm 82:2 He asks;

"How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked?"

The magistrates of that day (like many in our day), were guilty of favouring the rich, and the mighty, of accepting bribes, and showing a general indifference to justice, and were neglectful of their duties.

What were those in public office to do? In Psalm 82:3-4 we read;

"Defend the poor and fatherless. Do justice to the afflicted and the needy. Deliver the poor and needy. Rid them out of the hand of the wicked."

The Moffat translation reads;

"Rescue them from the grip of evil men."

Now the failure to mete out justice; the failure of magistrates to rule in righteousness and to obey the Divine precept, was, and is, an act of sin. Sin is a transgression of Divine Law. And what is not generally recognised these days is that public officials who transgress God's Law for the nation are guilty of national sin. You see, a nation is a moral personality. Personal pronouns are used of nations. Nations can sin through the acts of their leaders, and only national leaders can repent of their ways and get the nation back to God. It is not enough to have parliamentary prayers and church services, and call on God for help, while all concerned make no confession of sin or no appreciable effort to turn from the evil of their ways. And what with many preachers looking upon the Law of God as something outmoded and done away with, there is often no consciousness of sin and wrongdoing on the part of our leaders.

A MAJOR NATIONAL SIN.

From the day that parliament gave control of our money to the international banking and financial institutions, they have been guilty of national sin. And that sin has led this nation ever closer to the brink of national bankruptcy. Wicked and unscrupulous men have been preying on the weak, the fatherless, and the poor, through interest-bearing debt and mortgage foreclosure, until the Australian people are becoming renters of the land which they once owned. The banking institutions profit from debt. They force individuals and corporations into debt by refusing to spend and issue into circulation the money needed for the conduct of business.

There would be no profit for them in doing that. The banks are the cause of depressions and recessions. They are the cause of inflation and the economic crisis in which we find ourselves. Under the control of these financial institutions, the Australian people have no alternative but to go into debt. And ever-increasing interest-bearing debt is the cause of ever-increasing prices which in turn necessitate ever-increasing wages. Yet so cleverly have the money lenders carried on their trade, that even most politicians have not caught on to the evil of the system and the cause of our economic dilemma.

OUR FAILURE TO CANCEL DEBT.

According to Biblical Law, every 50th year was to be a year of jubilee in which all debts were to be cancelled and forgiven. This was to prevent the strong and the greedy from amassing great wealth at the expense of the poor and the weak, and to prevent oppression and injustice. They were to do this in the fear of God, that God might bless and prosper them. Read Leviticus 25:8-17. Our failure to abide by this Law is the basic reason for our present economic plight and the enormous debts and financial worries under which we suffer.

Only parliament can right this wrong. It was parliament who got us into this mess, and any time they muster the wisdom and moral courage, they can get us out of it. But this they will never do as long as they get their advice from the so-called 'money experts' who have abused the power in their hand to dispossess the Australian people of their property and their wealth.

May God be pleased to open their eyes to the acknowledging of His Truth.

(By courtesy of The National
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STUDY NO. 5.

FAITH.

Before commencing this study, the reader is requested to get out their Bible and to read the Book of Hebrews from chapter 10 and verse 38, to chapter 12, verse 2.

This study is not intended to concentrate only on 'faith' as a subject, but also on what can be achieved BY faith. It is no use 'having' faith unless we first of all know what it really is, secondly that we know how to use it, and thirdly and most importantly, proceed to put that knowledge into action.

So in the area of faith, there are three kinds of people, and we might illustrate this by examining the attitude of a man who needs some clothing.

1. There are those who know, by definition, what faith is, and acknowledge that it is there, and available, but never go any further. They are like the man who just accepts the fact that the clothing he wants is in the shop and will cost money, and just leaves it at that. He never gets his new clothing.

2. Then there are those who not only know what faith is, but decide that they should find out how to use it, and so read up everything that they can find about it, and so become very knowledgable about the subject. But they don't go any further. They are like the man who, knowing the cost of the clothing he wants, draws the money out of the bank, but then keeps it in his wallet and doesn't bother to go into the shop to actually buy the new clothes.

3. Then there are those who know what faith is, know how to use it, **AND PROCEED TO PUT IT INTO PRACTICE.** This man takes his money into the shop and buys the new clothes which he wants.

As we see in our little illustration, all the knowledge and good intentions in the world didn't get the man his new clothes. He had to physically enter the shop, hand over the money, and **ACCEPT** what the money made available to him. In like manner, all our academic knowledge about faith, and even our belief in faith, won't do a thing for us. We have to **PUT OUR FAITH INTO ACTION!** As the apostle James said, "Faith without works is dead."

1. THE DEFINITION OF FAITH.

"Now faith means that we have full confidence in the things we hope for.

It means being certain of things we cannot see."
(Heb.11:1. Phillips)

The 'things we hope for' are not those things which bring us personal gain. What we 'hope for' represents our trust in God's faithfulness to perform all HIS promises. Thus, we do not seek material things, but things that are eternal. As we read in II Cor. 4:18;

"Whilst we look not at the things that are seen, but at the things that are not seen. For the things that are seen are temporal, but the things that are not seen are eternal."

Romans 8:24-25 also bears out this principle, and should be read.

So put into personal terms, it means that we thank God for what He has done:

(a) Before we see that He **HAS** done it; and

(b) Before we understand **HOW** He has done it.

Note the following progression.

(a) It's too hard to have faith.

"Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet believe."
(John 20:29).

(b) How much faith do I need?

"All things are possible to him who believes."
(Mark 9:23).

(c) The size of the miracle is directly proportionate to the extent of the faith.

"According to your faith be it done to you."
(Matt. 9:29).

2. THE NECESSITY OF FAITH.

(a) Hebrews 10:38 tells us that "The just shall live by faith." This is a direct quotation from the Old Testament Book of Habakkuk, 2:3-4, which reads;

"For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie. Though it tarry, wait for it. Because it shall surely come, it will not tarry.

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him. But the just shall live by his faith."

The context of this quotation shows quite clearly that the original intent and meaning of the statement was that we are meant to live our whole lives in the complete assurance and confidence that God will perform every promise that He has ever made, even though we might not be able to recognise them, and thus become impatient.

(b) Hebrews 11:6 tells us;

"But without faith it is impossible to please God. For he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him"

It means exactly what it says. We cannot please God by what WE do, but only by believing in what GOD does. The verse is divided into two themes:

Firstly, we must believe that God IS, that is, that He actually exists. But we are not required to believe that He is just A God, but that He is THE God. We cannot move in the realm of faith by continuing in our own ways and desires, or those of some heathen philosophy, or some humanistic ideal. God is a God of Faith. He is A FAITH GOD! He moves and acts and has His Being IN A FAITH ENVIRONMENT. Thus, God has full confidence in the things WE hope for, because GOD is certain of the things WE cannot see. HE IS FAITH! Just as much as He is Love, and Life, and Light.

The only way that we can move in this faith is for us to step into the same environment that God moves in. This is what happens to us when we are baptised with the Holy Spirit. We are completely encompassed by the very environment in which God Himself is encompassed. When we stay in this environment, we operate in the 'Faith Environment' in which God operates. We have THE FAITH OF GOD.

Being FILLED with the Spirit is not necessarily the same as being BAPTISED in the Spirit. Take for example, being baptised in water. The element in which we are baptised, that is the water, completely envelopes us. But we don't drink the water. In the same way, the Holy Spirit which baptises us completely envelopes us. We become completely immersed in, and into, the Spirit of God. But this does not always mean that we are automatically FILLED with the Holy Spirit at that time. Many Christians are, of course, but by the same token, many are not, and they wonder why they don't feel like others seem to be feeling, and back away instead of

pressing on, not realising that the extra effort is required. On the other hand, I believe that it is possible for us to retain the INFILLING of the Spirit, that is, to retain the knowledge of the Power inside us, but to step outside the environment of the Spirit, thus losing the power of what we have inside. We have it, but can't use it, and wonder why.

What has happened is that the external 'shield' is no longer there to protect us from the attacks of Satan. We have stepped out of our armour. And so the power inside us becomes hemmed in by the powers of evil which surround us and press in on us, in just the same way that an army will surround a city and besiege it and thus nullify the strength of the internal defences. We need to remember the incident of the prophet Elisha who, when surrounded by thousands of the enemy who were out to destroy him, showed absolutely no fear, because he could see the 'horses and chariots of fire', the forces of God Almighty, **BETWEEN HIM AND THE ENEMY**, completely encircling him and protecting him and his servant. (Read II Kings 6:15-17).

Secondly, we must believe that God rewards those who earnestly seek Him. This does not mean that we look for prizes. It means that God will reward us with the evidence of His own faithfulness, which then becomes the basis for our own faith. Nowhere is this more evident than in our earnest expectation of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. So our aim should not be what God does **FOR** us so much as what God does **TO** us and **THROUGH** us.

3. THE RESULT OF FAITH.

When we study the circumstances of all the great men and women of faith listed in Hebrews chapter 11, we find that the secret of their faith was that they all lived in this faith environment. Phillips translates Heb. 11:2 as, "It was this faith that won their reputation for the saints of old."

These examples fall into three groups.

1. Those who UNDERSTOOD by the use of Faith.

This is spoken of in verse three, and strangely refers not to the saints of old, but to the saints of to-day. The word 'worlds' as used here does not refer to the earth, nor to 'the world system.' It means "the ages or dispensations". We are being informed that everything that has happened, is happening, and will happen in the future, has been prepared in the foreknowledge of God. The whole of history is completely under God's control. Thus we can truly live by faith, or in the complete assurance of God's love and guidance. We don't have to worry, for example, about total nuclear destruction. Christ is to reign over His Kingdom here on this earth, and God has 'shortened', or set a time limit, on the activities of mankind in order not only to foil their stupidity, but to allow His plans to be accomplished.

2. Those who displayed automatic, natural, or INSTINCTIVE faith.

Their faith was not based on any particular recorded promise or statement made to them by God. It was an inborn faith, and would no doubt equate with the Holy Spirit's Gift of Faith. For example;

(a) In verse 4 we read of Abel's faith. Both he and his brother Cain obviously believed in God, but whilst Cain sought his acceptance through the offering of the fruit of his own labour, Abel sought his acceptance by faith, in offering that which was not his own, i.e., the blood of a sacrifice. In this he recognised the total inadequacy of human endeavour to gain access to, and acceptance by, God.

(b) In verse 5 we read of Enoch. Apart from a short reference to him in the Book of Jude verse 14, the only thing we are told about this man of God is that "he walked with God", (Gen. 5:22,24), and that "he pleased God." (Heb. 11:5). But a very profound state-

ment regarding Enoch is found in the Book of Jasher, 3:2, (a non-Biblical book), where it is recorded, "The soul of Enoch was wrapped up in the instruction of the Lord, in knowledge and in understanding." Could this refer to the fact that Enoch was completely immersed, or baptised, in the Holy Spirit? Whatever it means, it is certain that his faith was so strong that God 'took him', the word 'took' being the same word used elsewhere as 'translated.'

3. Those who OBEY by faith.

(1) Noah obeyed, being in complete ignorance of what God was referring to. At that time there was no such thing as rain, (see Gen. 2:5-6). Yet his faith in God, and his desire to obey Him irrespective of whether or not he understood what God said, not only saved his own family, but gave us one of the most graphic illustrations in the Bible of the manner, timing, and conditions of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Matt.24:37-39).

Thus Noah teaches us to have faith in God, not because we understand how God is doing things, but in spite of the fact that we do NOT know how He is doing things.

(2). Abraham is mentioned twice. In the first instance, (verses 8-12), Abraham believed God for the impossible. As a matter of fact, it was because of this particular instance of belief that God counted it to him for righteousness and called Abraham His friend. (James 2:23). In the second instance, (verses 17-19), Abraham believed God for a miracle. Without any recorded precedent, he showed his absolute faith in God to perform unheard-of miracles in order to fulfil His promises.

Abraham teaches us to have faith in God, because He is a God of both the impossible and the miraculous. The important point to note here is that God performs the impossible and the miraculous, not for our sake, but for His Holy Name's sake, and in order to prove to us

that He is a trustworthy and faithful God. No wonder that God warns us in Hebrews 2:3;

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation."

(3). Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses all showed the faith that comes from absolute and unquestioned obedience to God's Word and command. (verses 20-29). They are the perfect illustrations of God's command for His people to be 'holy', that is, separated, not only from other people, but from other cultures and systems. The Holy Spirit, through Paul, emphasises this requirement in II Cor. 6:14-17, where we are told, as God's people, not to be unequally yoked together. READ IT.

(4). Moses showed his belief in both the impossible and the miraculous when he believed God when He said to stand still in the face of the enemy and what looked to be certain defeat and disaster. But because of His faith, an entire nation was not only saved, but baptised. Read Paul's statement to the Corinthian Israelites in I Cor. 10:1-2.

As a matter of interest, it has been suggested that when John the Baptist was baptising in the river Jordan, the people actually rehearsed this event by their forefathers by walking through the water from one bank across to the other. There is nothing in the Biblical account to indicate that John laid the people down individually in the water as we do today.

Thus we too, through faith, can have a similar assurance of protection and deliverance. If God can do it on a national scale, He can certainly do it on an individual and personal scale.

(5). The walls of Jericho fell, not just through faith by obedience, but through faith by FULL obedience. Six times around the walls was not enough. They had to go the full distance. Naaman, in order to be cleansed of his disease, had to bathe in the Jordan

seven times. After the sixth time he was still as sick as he had been before the first time. God only kept His promises to him when he met the FULL requirements.

We too can secure the reward of faith, but only on the same conditions. This is why so many Christians miss the blessings of the Lord. They think that if they obey half the requirements that they will at least receive half the rewards. But God does not work like that. With Him, it is **ALL OR NOTHING AT ALL.**

(6). Rahab was another instance of deliverance through faith by obedience. The point to be noted is that not only was Rahab saved, but her faith covered her entire family. It is important to realise that our faith **affects and blesses others.**

The results, and THE PRICE, of faith are listed in verses 33-39. The question that we must ask ourselves before God is, "Am I running the race before me with the same patience and faith?" We can if we do it the right way. It is the way that this 'Great Cloud of Witnesses' did it. We must step from the natural into the spiritual, or supernatural. We must not live as ourselves. It must be **CHRIST LIVING IN US.**

Only in this way can we live in the Faith Environment in which God Himself lives.



"Our eyes are holden that we cannot see things that stare us in the face until the hour arrives when the mind is ripened. Then we behold them, and the time when we saw them not is like a dream."

—Emerson

which can only come through the infilling 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, THE RETURN OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

The production, publication, and distribution of this magazine, THE COVENANT VISION, is being undertaken as a faith ministry. It is sent out without any charge, to all who wish to receive it. Naturally, it costs money to do this, and whilst we have dedicated our own personal resources to the continuation of this ministry, the support of those who read it, and are blessed by it, is vitally necessary for its continuance and growth. To this end we invite your prayerful consideration.

We also invite you, our readers, to send us the names and addresses of any whom you think could be blessed by receiving a free copy. In this way you can share in the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Kingdom, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified.

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

With our Christian love, Frank and Betty Dowsett.

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A DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

By Publius Lentulus, Governor of Judea, addressed to Tiberius Caesar, Emperor of Rome. Found in an excavated city, written in Aramaic on stone.

"There lives, at this time, in Judea, a man of singular virtue whose name is Jesus Christ, Whom the barbarians esteem as a prophet, but His followers love and adore Him as the offspring of the immortal God. He calls back the dead from the graves, and heals all sorts of diseases with a word or a touch.

He is a tall man, and well-shaped, of an amiable and reverent aspect; His hair of a color that can hardly be matched, the color of chestnut full-ripe, falling in waves about His shoulders. His forehead high, large and imposing; His cheeks without spot or wrinkle, beautiful with a lovely red; His nose and mouth are formed with exquisite symmetry; His beard thick and of a color suitable to His hair reaching below His chin. His eyes bright blue, clear and severe, look innocent, dignified, manly, and mature. In proportion of body, most perfect and captivating, His hands and arms most delectable to behold.

He rebukes with majesty, counsels with mildness, His whole address, whether in word or deed, being eloquent and grave. No man has seen Him laugh, yet His manner is exceedingly pleasant; but He has wept in the presence of men. He is temperate, modest and wise; a man, for His extraordinary beauty and divine perfections, surpassing the children of men in every sense."

— — Selected

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