



THE COVENANT VISION

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**“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

"And at midnight there was a cry made,
BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH!
GO YE OUT TO MEET HIM!"

There comes a time in the lives of all servants of God when they must speak out regarding God's Word without fear of possible criticism, scepticism, and even indifference. One of the main platforms of our ministry is in respect to what God refers to in Ephesians 1:18 as "The Hope of Our Calling," and identifies that hope in Titus 2:13 as being "The glorious appearing of the Great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." It is our firm and sincere conviction that Christians who are not today living in constant - and by this we mean moment by moment - anticipation of the fact that this momentous event is literally about to happen, are in very grave danger of finding themselves left behind among 'the foolish virgins' who were unwise enough not to possess sufficient oil to last the distance. If you read the account in Matthew 25:1-13, you will realise that when the cry went out that the Bridegroom was actually on His way, they had to run around trying to find more knowledge about what was going on, and that while they were doing this, it all happened without them. They had left it too late. They were 'virgins', that is, they had qualified for the white robe of righteousness through their acceptance of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ; they were in possession of some oil, which represents the Holy Spirit; but they had overlooked the full importance and mission of the Holy Spirit. God's Word tells us very clearly that the Holy Spirit leads us into ALL truth. (John 16:13). But the unfortunate fact today is that so many Christians, in fact I would go so far as to say the majority of Christians, are not interested in ALL TRUTH. They are mostly only interested in the portions of truth that don't require too much study, or which seem to give them the greatest possible spiritual or

even emotional uplift at the time, or which are part of the particular doctrines of their own church. Thus they are not equipped with ALL the oil, or truth, available to them. There seems to be a sad lack of acceptance, or appreciation, or even knowledge of the fact that the very best which we now experience as Christians is absolutely insignificant when compared with the conditions of the Kingdom of God which are about to burst upon our sight.

So that when someone comes along with 'facts and figures' as they say, it's almost unbelievable to hear the reactions and excuses that are put forward by people by which they shut out the immediate urgency of the subject, and thus justify, at least to themselves, a bit more breathing time to do all the things that they feel the Lord still wants to be done. Let's be very honest about this friends. If Christ waits until we have all done everything we want to do, even for Him, and then applies the same patience with the next generation, and the next, and the next, He'll NEVER return. There just has to be a cut-off point somewhere.

As one studies the Word of God, one thing comes through loud and clear. And that is, that it has always been God's intention that we should have sufficient knowledge and understanding of His plans and purposes to be able to correctly assess the timing of His return, and its associated activities. The only thing that we are told that we would not know is the actual day or hour. And it is as we look at the events which are happening all around us today that we realise their full collective import. Let me emphasise the word "collective". We could quote many factors which on their own could have little if any real significance to our subject. But when we put them all together, we are faced with no other conclusion but that they are not isolated coincidences, but that they are all pointers which God has placed there for those whom Daniel referred to as "the Wise", (Dan. 12:10), or as Paul referred to as "children of light", (I Thess. 5:5), or as Ezekiel referred to as "Watchmen unto the house of Israel", (Ezek. 33:7), by

which they can understand the mind of God in this tremendous matter, and pronounce the cry that the time has come. That the "times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His prophets since the world began", (Acts 3:21), has at last arrived.

Now quite apart from the fulfillment of obvious prophecies, consider the following factors:

1. This year, 1986, falls on the 70th anniversary of Israel's year of Jubilee. Every 50th year was the 'Year of Jubilee' when liberty was to be proclaimed throughout the land. It terminates at the time of the 'Feast of Tabernacles'.

2. Jehovah, as Jesus Christ, came the last time at the period of 'The Feast of Tabernacles'. This was the time when He dwelt with His people. Is He going to change the system now?

3. Even the 'Statue of Liberty', which in one of the major Israel countries, America, stands for this proclamation of liberty, has been prominently in the news this year with special celebrations as if to draw our attention to its meaning.

4. This year has been officially designated as 'The Year of Peace' by the world organisations. And God's Word states clearly that "when they shall say 'peace and safety' then sudden destruction cometh upon them". This will be the 'Day of Wrath' which will come upon the earth following the first resurrection, and prior to the physical return of our Lord to this earth. The time when Israel's great prophet Elijah will return to turn the hearts of the Israel people back to God whilst the present evil world systems are being destroyed, and when the greatest national revival in history will occur.

5. We have had the appearance of the star 'Haley's Comet' which passed through the heavenly bodies in such a way that its message could surely not be misunderstood, as explained previously in our Issue No.5.

6. This year of 1986 is 38 years from the year when the prophecy of Ezek.11:15 was fulfilled by the expulsion of true Israel from the Holy Land by 'the inhabitants of Jerusalem', being exactly the same period of time during which the children of Israel wandered through the wilderness from Kadesh-Barnea to Zered, as stated in Deut. 2:14, and the same period of time which the impotent man, representing Israel, waited for his healing at the Pool of Bethesda.

Coincidences? May be. Only time will tell. But I can't help asking myself the question, "If God wanted to disclose His purposes and set up markers or milestones along the way to guide us in our understanding, THEN HOW ELSE WOULD HE HAVE DONE IT??"

Quite frankly, when it comes to the outworking of God's Word, we just don't believe in coincidences. Maybe we are only dreaming. Maybe we have been carried away with the glory that is to be revealed. Maybe our desire to meet our Lord and Saviour has clouded our judgment.

But maybe we're right. What then? One thing we wish to make very clear is that we are NOT trying to set dates. We are only trying to apply the information which we believe God has placed before us. If the events associated with the return of our Lord Jesus Christ are to commence, as we believe they will, at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles, (irrespective of which year), then let us realise that the next period of this Feast occurs towards the END OF SEPTEMBER, only a matter of weeks from when you read this article. Now I don't know what this fact does to you, but I assure you that as far as we are concerned, we are trying our best to be counted worthy of this great event, that we may receive the unprecedented honour of being invited to attend "The Marriage Supper of the Lamb". The 'times and seasons' are here. Please join us as we look up, and lift up our heads, for our redemption draweth nigh.

"BEHOLD! THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH!"

Thy Reign Begin

HOWARD B. RAND

(Courtesy 'Kingdom Digest')

We live in an epoch of great confusion, a time of which Jesus said, *"Insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect"* (Matt. 24:24). This grave possibility of total deception is emphasized in the kind of literature continually coming to our notice. Much of it purports to be based on the acquirement of wisdom which is the acme of Christian perception and comprehension. Yet, because Old Testament pronouncements are ignored, or more often repudiated, the deductions drawn, based upon the New Testament alone, are invariably misleading.

Those responsible for rejecting the utterances of Moses and the prophets fail to take the fact into account that the early Christians had no New Testament. Their Bible consisted of the books of Moses and the prophets, together with the Psalms, etc. In other words, what we today call the Old Testament was what Jesus and His disciples accepted *in toto* as their Scriptures.

Jesus confirmed the authenticity and accuracy of the Scriptures as a whole (Luke 16:31) and He taught that, altogether, they give a true testimony (Luke 24:27). Jesus Himself was declared by the Apostle John to be the Word made flesh (John 1:14) and His Name is called *"The Word of God"* (Rev. 19:13). Thus, any doctrine purporting to be New Testament-based, being nevertheless in opposition to the declared purposes of God as disclosed through His prophets in the Old Testament, is in error.

A spurious teaching has been brought to our attention for comment, which undertakes to discount the establishment of a kingdom on earth, over which Jesus Christ will exercise rulership as King. It attempts to maintain the credence of its contention by discounting the literal application of Revelation 20:4, wherein reference is made to the qualifications of the martyrs of the past and those who earn the title of *"companion in tribulation"* (Rev. 1:9). When John beheld in vision the future position to be awarded them, he proclaimed: *"And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."*

The Book of Revelation in the Bible is a message from our Lord Jesus Christ to His most intimate followers, given through His Apostle John and couched in the metaphors, analogous types and representations of figurative language. It is no less a book of literal truths, howbeit they are

symbolically expressed.

Do the Scriptures confirm the establishment of a kingdom on the earth over which Jesus Christ will reign with those to be associated with Him in His government? They do indeed declare that the Kingdom of God was organized at Mount Sinai and the seed of Abraham constitutes the nucleus of that Kingdom. The Lord Himself proclaimed to the people assembled at the foot of the Mount that they would be a peculiar treasure unto Him. Then the pronouncement: *"And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation"* (Ex. 19:6).

The foundation of the Kingdom of God was laid on earth at that time. This is the Kingdom that the Prophet Daniel informed King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon about, that would be established over all the earth; "which," Daniel said, "shall never be destroyed": *"And the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms [Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and its subdivisions into continental Europe] and it shall stand forever"* (Dan. 2:44).

Later Daniel, in vision, beheld the coming of the Son of man in the clouds of heaven to claim the Kingdom and bring all nations, governments and peoples into subjection to Himself: *"And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed"* (Dan. 7:14).

That this Kingdom is to become universal and exercise authority and rule over all nations — whose people will then willingly accept its sovereignty over them — is confirmed by the Prophet Micah:

"Many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain [Kingdom] of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Micah 4:2-3).

The future universality of the Kingdom of God on the earth is also confirmed by the Prophet Zechariah: *"He shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth"* (Zech. 9:10).

Daniel verifies the all-embracing rulership of the Kingdom: *"And the*

kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High [a confirmation of the accuracy of Rev. 20:4], whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions [i.e. rulers] shall serve and obey him'' (Dan. 7:27).

Forty days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, His disciples stood with Him on the Mount of Olives. The New Testament record states: *"While they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).*

As the disciples stood there, staring upward: *"Behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:10-11).*

The Prophet Daniel had been given a preview of this return, as recorded in his book in the Old Testament: *"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before him" (Dan. 7:13).*

Thus, in prophecy and by the testimony of two angels, assurance is given that what was foretold will come to pass. Furthermore, in informing His disciples concerning the agenda of future events, Jesus testified to His own coming in the clouds, following the shaking of the powers of the heavens; that is, the splitting of the atom: *"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matt. 24:30).*

In His first advent, Jesus was to accomplish the redemption of the divorced House of Israel so that they could be recovenanted to their God (Isa. 50:1-2; Isa. 53) and He also became the Saviour of the world (John 3:16). To this end Jesus partook of the frailties of human flesh:

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who, through fear of death, were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Heb. 2:14-17).

The Prophet Isaiah refers to the birth of Jesus: "*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.*" He is great David's Greater Son.

After fulfilling the work of redemption, the ultimate purpose of the birth of Jesus Christ is stated: "*The government shall be upon his shoulder.*" Then the titles follow, designating the authority of His Kingly office: "*His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*"

Isaiah continues his exalted recital, showing that, from the small beginning at Mount Sinai, the rule of the Kingdom of God will expand until peace is established throughout the entire world: "*Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.*" The throne is mentioned, from which He will exercise His sovereignty, at the center of the Kingdom, from which the glad tidings will go forth, assuring the establishment of universal peace: "*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.*" Finally, the prophet guarantees the consummation of all this by his exclamation: "*The zeal [i.e., the enthusiasm] of the Lord of Hosts [i.e., the Lord of Battles] will perform this*" (Isa. 9:6-7).

The subsequent order of events was uniquely stated by Isaiah, by which the way to be prepared for the Divine objective to be brought to pass (Isa. 9:8).

First: "*The Lord sent a word into Jacob.*"

The incarnation of Jesus took place, the Word made flesh, when He was born in Bethlehem of Judea. However, He was repudiated as their Messiah by the then-resident Nation of the Jews, whose citizens partook of the unregenerate nature of unconverted Jacob. Therefore, Isaiah stated what would next occur concerning the Word.

Second: "*And it hath lighted upon Israel.*"

In fulfillment of this foretold transfer of the Word, Jesus informed those who rejected Him: "*Therefore say I unto you, The Kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof*" (Matt. 21:43).

In order that the Word might be reassigned to the nation bringing forth the fruits thereof, Jesus instructed His disciples: "*But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand*" (Matt. 10:6-7).

It is a historical fact that, following our Lord's ascension, and as a result of the Jewish persecution of the early Christians, the Word went westward as the disciples carried the Glad Tidings to the Isles north and

west of Palestine. Into the same Isles the clans of the House of Israel, also trekking westward through southern and central Europe, were gathering. Continuing their westward trek, they were to spread out to inherit the desolate heritages (Isa. 49:8); that is, the North American Continent, Australia, New Zealand, Southern Africa, etc. Altogether, these various lands comprise the prophetically foretold "appointed place" (II Sam. 7:10).

Our Lord's followers have been assured that, as they proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom, the ending of the age would overtake them before their task was completed: "*Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel [that is, to finish the mission of witnessing], till the Son of man be come*" (Matt. 10:23).

While the Gospel of salvation by grace has been proclaimed throughout all Israel lands, and to the ends of the earth, as the result of world-wide missionary efforts, the Gospel of the Kingdom has had no such extensive coverage; nor will this be so before Jesus Christ returns as Lord of lords and King of kings. All the event signs today, including the very fact that the Gospel of the Kingdom is going out in ever-increasing volume — for it is the Elijah message — demonstrates that His return in power and great glory will not now be long delayed.

Therefore, the revelation of His presence is imminent, in fulfillment of His gracious promise to those who are alert and faithfully watching. Afterward what Jesus also foretold will come to pass: "*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory*" (Matt. 25:31).

The Throne of His Glory! In the annunciation to Mary, the mother of Jesus, the Angel Gabriel identified this Throne of Glory upon which Jesus will sit, also designating the people who will constitute the citizens of His Kingdom: "*The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever: and of his kingdom there shall be no end*" (Luke: 1:32-33).

It is of interest to observe that the people of the Kingdom are designated as "the House of Jacob" by Gabriel's announcement, rather than as Israel. This, however, correctly applies to the people while they are not fully conforming with the requirements of this covenant position with their God. It is the proper appellation until the awakening comes when, "with a voice of singing," the proclamation will echo around the earth: "*The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob*" (Isa. 48:20).

When the Lord Jesus Christ returns to occupy His Throne of Glory, which is the Throne of David that was promised to Him, the following

sovereign action will take place: *"Before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"* (Matt. 25:32-34).

Inherit the Kingdom of God! What does this mean? To inherit means "to come into possession of" and a possession is something owned, over which one may take control. Therefore, those who inherit the Kingdom of God will have the God-given right to exercise rule therein.

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray; that is, not in a mechanically repetitious way, but with understanding and sincerity, the essence of the prayer given was its petition concerning the Kingdom. Jesus instructed all of His followers throughout the Christian era: *"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"* (Matt. 6:9-10).

The phrase *"Thy kingdom come"* is more meaningfully rendered in the Moffatt translation, which reads as follows: *"Let this be how you pray: 'Our Father in heaven, thy name be revered, thy Reign begin, thy will be done on earth as in heaven!'"*

Thy reign begin! This is an entirely accurate choice of words, for they imply restoration. The Kingdom had already "come" since its foundation was laid at Mount Sinai. The disciples were not in doubt that its reign would be restored when they asked Jesus this question: *"Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?"* (Acts 1:6.) They were only seeking information about the time of its restoration and they were told this would not take place in their generation (Acts 1:7-8).

In view of the multiplied evidences all around us today of the demolition of the present world order, can it be said that the epoch of the exaltation of the Kingdom of God is at hand? The prophets of the Lord have pointed to the very conditions now extant throughout the world as signalling that the day of its restoration is indeed approaching. The Prophet Isaiah declared: *"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him [or, as rendered in the margin: 'put him to flight']"* (Isa. 59:19).

The enemy has come in like a flood today. Even many political leaders holding high office in our government, through their utterances and actions, are giving aid and comfort to our foes, both within and without our borders. They are certainly numbered among our adversaries.

We are in the flood tide of enemy activity and Isaiah stated that at such a time: *"The Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord"* (Isa. 59:20).

With the coming of the Redeemer, the call will go out to the Kingdom people: *"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee"* (Isa. 60:1).

Following this a description of the glorious Kingdom is given, extending its reign over all the earth. Then the statement: *"The nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted"* (Isa. 60:12).

There will be a meticulous selection of rulers in the Kingdom, who will be righteous without exception, with the result: *"Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders"* (Isa. 60:18).

The outcome of the establishment of a government of peace under an administration of righteousness will bring abundant blessings to all, for the statement is made concerning the citizens of the Kingdom: *"They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them"* (Isa. 65:23).

Concerning those who will be accounted worthy to be associated with Jesus Christ, their King, in the government of His Kingdom, John was informed: *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power. but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years"* (Rev. 20:6).

Both the Old and the New Testaments are in full accord in confirmation of the ultimate establishment of a worldwide Kingdom, with its rulership entrusted to those who are privileged to have their part in the "first resurrection." In vision, John beheld this unequaled and glorious company who stand with the Lamb; that is, with Jesus Christ, on Mount Zion (Rev. 14:1-5).

●

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THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

By. F.W.DOWSETT.

PART 6

THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE KINGDOM.

There are FIVE aspects or requirements for the setting up of a kingdom. They are:

1. A country, or geographical location.
2. Natural resources.
3. People.
4. Leadership.
5. Government and Laws.

So we will now proceed in our study to examine these features in regard to the setting up of the Kingdom of God on earth.

1. THE LOCATION.

That God had planned right from the very beginning for a place for His Kingdom here on earth is quite apparent when we read Deut. 32:7-9;

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

When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.

For the Lord's portion is His people. Jacob is the lot of His inheritance."

Now this statement will probably mean very little, if anything, to those who have no knowledge or understanding of God's purposes in a literal kingdom here on this earth. But the implications of what God has said are in fact quite stupendous when we examine them. Let us turn our mind back to the period of the creation as recorded in Genesis chapter one. Who knows how long each of these 'days' or ages lasted? But one thing we do know is that God ordered these various creative periods with meticulous care and precision. Each period was a complete work in itself, in preparation for what was to be created in the following period. It was during the early stages of the third age that we are told, in Gen. 1:9-10, that God accomplished the formation of the various continents and land masses. Sciences such as geology give us a wonderful insight into how God achieved this, and we can only look in awe at the foreknowledge and sheer brilliance of God's planning as we see the evidence spread out before us. What a tragedy that modern theology has presented theories that not only deny the evidence of science and thereby ostracise both the scientist and his testimony, but have thereby induced scientist and layman alike to reject the role that God has played in all this. We are not talking here about such anti-God theories as "Evolution", or as it is more correctly termed "the evolution of the species". We are discussing the unbelievable operation of the mind and purpose of God. Truly has the Psalmist said, "the firmament sheweth His handiwork". (Psalm 19:1).

The extraordinary feature to be noted here though, is that in the process of organising all these continental shelves and land masses into their final positions over thousands of years, God had one very important goal in mind. And the final location and size of all the land areas was totally dependant upon this goal. But not only was the execution of the plan important, but in fact we realise as we consider the situation that this goal was preplanned and perfected in the mind of

God before the very first event in this creative process even started.

And what was this goal? It was simply this. Before anything even started to happen, God knew, as part of His plans, exactly where His future nation of Israel was to settle and live, and He made full provision for this plan. If we restrict Israel's lands to a very small area in the Middle East we completely miss the whole point. God actually planned the bounds of the nations in accordance with what He had predetermined and designated as the territories of and for the Children of Israel. So that when He set into motion His creative plan, He set into position every mountain, every valley, every sea, and every river, in accordance with the requirements of the nation and people of Israel.

For example, the 'isles afar off', referred to by the prophet Isaiah, (Isa.66:19), were brought into existence so that who knows how many thousands or millions of years later, God would, and could, speak through a certain prophet to a certain king and promise him that: "I will appoint a place for my people" (II Sam. 7:10), that is, another different place from where they were then living. Revelations 12:6 also tells us of the place which God had prepared for the woman, representing Israel.

The land masses of Australia, North America, and South Africa were also formed in accordance with this same plan and purpose. Look for instance at our own country of Australia. Long before Captain Cook arrived on our shores it had been discovered by explorers of several other nations. Why didn't those nations settle here and annex the country as part of their empires? A similar thing happened to America. Why was it left to the descendants of Israel to finally settle there and gain control? And why was it that when the Dutch and British first settled in South Africa that the only people inhabiting the land were wandering groups of what were called 'bush people', a people somewhat akin to our own 'aboriginals'? The great majority of people today are

completely unaware of the fact, (because the powers of evil in high places don't want them to know), that there were no negro people as we know them living in that part of the country when the first white man settled there. The Negro people migrated south into what is now South Africa only after they heard of what they could gain out of the white settlers' civilization and development.

The answer and explanation of this situation lies simply in the fact that these places were not settled by others because they had been created for, and set aside for, the future nation and people of the Israel Race. When we read in Deut. 32:9 that "Jacob was the 'lot' of his inheritance", remember that the word 'lot' means 'the cord, or measuring line;' something by which other things are set out. Jacob, or Israel thus was used by God as the 'standard', or 'template' by which everything else was formed.

So in summarising what we have said above, we find that:

1. The geographical location of the nation of Israel, as God's literal Kingdom here on earth, was firmly and deliberately settled in the mind and purpose of Almighty God long before His creative work even commenced.
2. That the territories and lands intended for the other non-Israel nations and peoples were similarly, and at the same time, settled and planned in the mind and purpose of God.
3. That the territories of the non-Israel nations were deliberately apportioned to them by God in strict accordance with what He had already apportioned and destined as being the territories of Israel.

**WE CAN NEVER UNDERESTIMATE, OR OVER-
EMPHASISE, THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING
THIS FACT!**

It reveals the reason for the present fanatical opposition to us for being WHERE we are, and for being WHAT we are.

Today, the Israel nations are under a completely Satanic attack to break down these God-ordained barriers. Political and social conditions have been deliberately engineered within the western Israel nations for the express purpose of destroying God's people. And remember, that if these people are destroyed, then their God-ordained role as being God's witnesses to the fact that He IS God, is also destroyed. (see Isa. 43:12).

Do not be deceived! The land rights issues in both the U.S.A. and Australia, the present racial problems in South Africa, the deliberately engineered rise of the so-called 'third world countries', (mostly to their own detriment), and their deliberately engineered leech-like parasitic draining of the resources of the western nations, is all a part of Satan's plans to destroy us. And when you lift the veneer, and look for the real powers behind the scenes, you always come up with the same answer. Esau is still trying to recover the birthright which he despised by destroying Jacob to whom it was given. And in this, he is playing right into the hands of his father, the Devil.

As this is being written, the question is being asked as to whether the Commonwealth is about to split up over the issue of sanctions against South Africa. Let me make just a few comments regarding this, bearing in mind what we have just been saying. It is a matter of public record that the national leaders involved in this matter are either avid supporters of, or recipients of the support of, the powers which our Lord Jesus Christ designated as "the synagogue of Satan". We thus cannot expect anything different from them. As we read in Romans 6:16, (Good News Translation):

"When you surrender yourselves as slaves to obey someone, you are in fact the slaves of the master you obey."

Or as Phillips translates this passage:

"You belong to the power which you chose to obey."

Whether they know it or not, and whether they like it or not, they are being used to achieve Satan's purposes to destroy the Christian nations and faith. But they reckon without God. Let us look at what HE has to say about the present position. Firstly, in Daniel 12:7, we read;

"And when he shall have accomplished to scatter - to dash or beat in pieces, to spread out - (Youngs Concordance), the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."

Secondly, in Deuteronomy 32:36 we read;

"For the Lord shall judge His people, and repent Himself for His servants, when He seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up or left."

Thirdly, in Malachi 3:6 we read;

"For I am the Lord. I change not. Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

From all this we conclude with every confidence that it is within the plans and purposes of God for the power of His people to be scattered, or dashed in pieces in the very last days. As God's 'holy', or separated people, we are to either come out of, or be driven out of, the evil world systems to which we have bound ourselves. And we can also conclude with equal assurance that because of the eternal and never-failing faithfulness of our Great God, that we will NOT be consumed or destroyed in the process.

God has appointed His people, and He has appointed their lands. They will both remain inviolate.

Islam and Christendom: Another Confrontation

REV. J.A.B. HAGGART
Healdsburg, California

(Courtesy 'Kingdom Digest')

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE THIRD WOE?

The battle between Christians and Moslems has centered in the Middle East, beginning with the mighty Crusades in 1096 A.D. Christian armies led by Christian kings left England and the countries of Europe to wrest the holy city of Jerusalem from Moslem control. On the first crusade three hundred thousand Christians died before a single city was rescued from the infidels. While no kings actually left their thrones and sailed for the Holy Land in this first Crusade, King Richard of England personally led a second Crusade from England, sailing with an army from Dartmouth in 1147 A.D. A third Crusade left from Dartmouth 43 years later, joined in the Holy Land by kings and dukes from the different countries of Europe. While the city of Jerusalem was taken for a while, it fell again into the hands of the infidels. Whereupon the Mohammedans started an invasion of Europe, which ended only after all of Spain and part of France had been captured. The expulsion of the Moslems was effected in 1492 A.D. by edict of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain.

The Western Christian world has suddenly become aware of Islam and its power with present-day happenings in the Middle East. The crisis created by Ayatollah Khomeini's revolution in Iran has brought to our attention again this age-old threat to the Western Christian culture. Dependent upon the oil coming from Iran and other Arabian countries, Ayatollah Khomeini and the other OPEC nations have a stranglehold upon the Western economies. Although oil is an important cause for the controversy in Iran, the roots of the present struggle run far deeper than that. Oil is but a catalyst for other differences, beginning with the seizure of the city of Jerusalem by the Jews in 1967. This was an affront to the entire Arab world, who have claimed possession of the city for over a period of 1300 years. Omar, whose career began in 634 A.D., built the Mosque of Omar on the site of Solomon's temple. From that time the Moslems have considered

Jerusalem second only to Mecca as a center of worship. Contention for possession of the city has continued from Omar's day to the present. The three Crusades brought Jerusalem temporarily under the control of the Christians, but then the Sarazens recaptured it. In December 1917 the British captured the city from the Turks, and until the end of the British Mandate in May, 1948, it was an open city with freedom of worship granted to all faiths, principally the Christians, the Moslems and the Jews.

In November 1979 Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, after sanctioning the seizure of 50 American consulate employees in the city of Tehran, called for a Holy War against the Americans and the Jews within the country of Iran. While he called for the return of the former Shah of Iran for trial, this can hardly account for the great wave of hatred that hit the citizenry of the country against the Americans and British who still had interests in the country. This call to arms, where every citizen was urged to own a gun and learn how to use it, included an appeal to all Moslem countries to join in this Holy War against the "infidel." The Western Christian world became suddenly aware of Islam in a way that compares only with the capturing of Constantinople by the Muslim Turks in 1453 A.D., thus establishing a firm foothold on European soil for the first time.

Turning to the Bible and its prophecies, we ask ourselves if there is any reference to another Islamic threat at this time? Important as oil may be to the Western Christian countries of the world, we see in the surging, maddened crowds of Iran the beginning of a new religious outburst against Christianity, and of Jews as well. Though they be of Arab stock, they do not worship Jehovah, the God of Israel and the Father of Jesus Christ. Instead they worship Allah, the deity of the Mohammedan faith, whose angel descended out of the Bottomless Pit to impell him to preach, as he was led to believe, "the true religion." This event is described symbolically in the first verses of Revelation. *"And I (John) saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit."* This "star" fallen from heaven reminds us of Lucifer who likewise fell from heaven. The fall of this star to earth best describes the flight of Mohammed and a hundred of his followers to Medina and the beginning of the Mohammedan era called the Hegira. This occurred in 622 A.D. and marks the beginning of the Mohammedan era.

The swift uprising of Moslem power is described as the rabid swarming of locusts out of the earth and surging across the desert land

to conquer other lands in the name of Allah. "*And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle*" the Bible reads describing the remarkable rise to power of the followers of Mohammed. As we watch the maddened, hate-possessed crowds of Tehran on television, how remarkably well they fit the description given in the Bible.

This is the first of three such upsurgings of the Islamic peoples, whose lands stretch from Libya in Northern Africa to Pakistan in the East. Pakistan, far from the theatre of unrest in the Middle East, is frantically working to assemble an Islamic H-bomb for use against the Western "infidels."

In Revelation we find a description of three different thrusts of this Islamic, Allah-propelled powers against the people of Jehovah God. They are described by John as "three woes."

The three woes are identical with the last three of the Trumpets heard by John the Revelator. The fifth Trumpet is identified with the first woe of Revelation 9:1, 2. Out of the smoke at the Bottomless Pit came swarms of locusts, the Sarazens, which became a scourge that fell upon the Christian world as a grievous plague, like unto scorpions. These assaults upon Christian peoples increased and multiplied with the beginning of the second woe. In history this can be identified with the rise of the Ottomans, who began their invasions of the West in 1299 A.D. The Ottoman Empire blended into modern Turkey. When Constantinople was captured by the Ottomans in 1453 A.D., the Moslem military conquest began in earnest and did not end until General Edmund Allenby captured Jerusalem for the British in 1917. The power of the Caliphate declined.

We now ask the question: "Is not the present revolution in Iran led by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini the sounding of the seventh trumpet and the beginning of the third woe?" John declares, "*The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.*" How quickly would this be? If the second woe ended in Dec. 1917, with the conquest of Jerusalem by Gen. Allenby, and the third woe began in November of 1979, we have the "short period" of 62 years before the final woe begins. If this be true, then we are presently living in the beginning of the Third Woe. As we watch with unbelieving eyes the events in Iran as brought to us on instant television, we should recognize the place where we stand in the Bible's prophecies. Daily we see events transpiring where we can say, "This is that spoken of by the prophets of the Lord." We are in the third woe, but not for long!

"The seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven." Whose voices were these? Could they be the great shout of the voices of those who rise to meet the Lord in the air, as described in I Thess. 4:13-18? Let us hope so. And let us expect to be among those who are called the "elect", those resurrected and ascended.



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Questions and ? ? Answers. !!

By F. W. DOWSETT.

QUESTION NO. 2.

"Which is the correct Sabbath Day? Is it Saturday or Sunday?"

ANSWER.

This has been, and indeed still is, one of the most divisive questions among Christians today. I believe that to understand it we should start by explaining what the word "Sabbath" means as it is used in the Bible. In both the Hebrew and the Greek it means, "To rest. To cease. To desist." The Bible principle is that one day in every seven is to be set aside as a day of rest, as a day 'holy' or separated, to the Lord. It is referred to as the 'seventh day'. Exodus 16:26 reads; "Six days ye shall gather it. But on the SEVENTH day, which is the SABBATH, in it there shall be none." God Himself inaugurated this principle by 'resting', or 'ceasing', on the 'seventh day' after the six days of creation, as set out in Genesis chapter 1. It is therefore a 'creation ordinance' and thus is applicable to His whole creation.

The Divine principle is thus, that we must work for no more than six successive days, and then rest on the following, or seventh day.

The next factor to note is that this principle, or law, was not only applicable to individuals. It was given to Israel as a NATIONAL Law. The Ten Commandments, of which the Sabbath law is the fourth, as well as the whole of God's Laws, were not only applicable to individuals, but had to be obeyed on a national basis. I suggest at this juncture you read Exodus 20:8-11, and Isa. 58:13-14. We as individuals have great difficulty in so many ways in fully obeying the Laws of God, simply

because the government of our nation does not legislate for the keeping of God's Laws as a national responsibility to God. Our governments, supported by the misguided 'do-good' philosophies of so many of our leaders, both political and ecclesiastical, have freely allowed the entry into our country of every form of culture and religion in the world, all of which have no respect for a special day set apart to the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

But I suggest that the important factor in answering our specific question lies in the fact that nowhere in the Bible is the Sabbath principle stated to apply to the seventh day OF THE WEEK. Let me state again, the principle is six days work followed by one day of rest. As far as this principle goes, it doesn't matter what day we start the week on. It should be noted that the Bible does not specify which particular day begins each week. In fact, in the early days, the days of the week weren't even named. They were simply referred to as the tenth, or whatever, day of the particular month.

As already stated, God's Laws were made and given to be applied on a national basis. Thus it was the responsibility of the nation, through its government, to enforce the law requiring every single person to rest, or cease from work, in obedience to God's principle of six days on followed by one day off. It was not the prerogative of the church to decide. It was a NATIONAL prerogative and responsibility. And as a nation, we have appointed the day we call Sunday as that day. And it was not a flexible day so that some rested on one particular day, and others rested on another day. According to God, the entire nation, and everyone in it, ceased work, on the same day, irrespective of what its name was. There is no need to worry about how we run essential services, or how we get to church, or how we do everything else that we think we need. God promised that if we obeyed Him, He would bless us beyond our wildest dreams. All we have to do is have faith to believe Him, and OBEY! God is quite capable of looking after the details we only see as problems.



The Prophetic Ministry of Elijah.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

PART 6.

THE PROPHETS OF BAAL. (Continued).

As we have previously seen, there were two reasons for the lead up to the judgment on the Prophets of Baal. We dealt with the first of these reasons, which was that Israel had forsaken the commandments of God.

So now we turn our attention to the second of these reasons. Elijah went on to accuse the government of the nation of "allowing and encouraging the people to follow other gods."

The first thing which we should realise is that Elijah was not just referring to idols when he made this accusation. All too many people today think of 'gods' in a religious context. But this can be, and mostly is, quite misleading. You don't have to worship some idol on the mantelpiece, or in some niche in the wall, in order to be guilty of worshipping other gods.

Anything which takes pre-eminence in our lives over our worship of, and obedience to, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of the Bible, is 'another god.'

Let us get this fact quite clearly impressed on our minds. If on a national level, or an individual level we follow any system which is contrary to that laid down by Almighty God, whether it be religious, political, or economic, then we are following 'other gods'. Most Christians would no doubt be quite shocked if they could only realise the full significance of this fact. You see, when we disregard God's economic laws, for instance, and govern every aspect of our lives in accord-

ance with the laws of Babylon, which are completely in opposition to the economic law of God, we break God's Commandment. WE COMMIT IDOLATRY. Can we realise the dreadful import of this? By doing this, we not only become disobedient, but we become idolatrous. We have given an anti-God system pre-eminence over God's system. We have placed God second. We have followed 'another god'.

And that 'other god' has brought us to the brink of ruin and catastrophe. Our present economic problems will never be solved by any political party or economic 'expert'. All we are offered today is 'life support systems' which are as useless as lead balloons. All that our politicians, - and may God help them, many of our theologians, - can seem to do is to try everything they can think of to artificially sustain an iniquitous system that is already as dead as Julius Ceasar, but too silly to lie down. If anyone here in Australia thinks that we are going to get out of our present economic problems through the tongue-in-cheek humbug which our leaders are presently dishing up to us in order to cover their own foolishness, then they are living in fairy-land.

God is a very patient God. But He is not stupid. He gave us a free will to use, and He has let us bring ourselves to the very brink of disaster. But the time has now come when He says, "Thus far and no further."

Let me say with the full confidence and backing of the Word of God, that this evil system under which we now live (?) is about to be destroyed with a mighty crash. If you think it can be saved, then try standing under a grand piano falling from a tenth story window and try to stop it before it hits the ground. As someone once said, "It's not the fall that hurts. It's the sudden stop at the bottom that does the damage." And that 'sudden stop' is what we are about to experience.

Please don't take my word for it. Just turn to Revelations chapter 18 and read it with the eyes of your understanding wide open. If you've placed your

faith in your money or your business, instead of in God, it will scare the socks off you. And it was meant to!

But of course, this is not the only area in which we can follow 'other gods'. Turn with me to Deut. 17:2-5, where we read this;

"If there be found among you, within any of the gates which the Lord thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the Lord thy God, in transgressing His covenant,

And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded;

And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and enquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel:

Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which hath committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die."

Now I know that a lot of people reading this will react in two fairly predictable ways. Firstly, they will immediately recognise the sinful practice of which God is here speaking. Look in any newspaper or periodical, and you will find the section on the stars, or your horoscope. It seems that every second shop one goes into you can buy your 'zodiac sign' in some form or another. You find column after column of advertisements for Tarot card readings, and fortune telling. In fact, astrology has become so common-place that most people seem to accept it as a normal part of our everyday existence. And that, of course, is just how Satan would have it. Little do we realise that it was this very practice that finally caused God to come down and punish an earlier civilisation. The Tower of Babel of Genesis 11:4, whose "top reached unto heaven", was actually a tower, the

top of which portrayed the heavens, and was the forerunner of our present practice of astrology, or worship of the stars. It was totally evil then, and it is totally evil now. But having recognised the nature of the sin, the second reaction is one which unfortunately rejects the cure. The very thought of the implementation of the death penalty is a very touchy subject, particularly among Christians. But why should this be? We are prepared to accept God's authority in diagnosing the complaint, so why can't we also accept His authority in providing the cure. I've lost count of the number of times I've read the Bible, and I can't remember a single verse which gives anyone the authority to do away with the death penalty for capital offences or crimes. And fortune telling, horoscopes, tarot cards, zodiac worship, etc., are all capital offences in the sight of God, and as such, are punishable by the death penalty.

It's not a matter of whether or not we like it. It's a matter of whether or not we wish to obey God. The quality of our walk with God doesn't depend on our emotions. It depends on our obedience to Him. And this is exactly the question which Elijah raised to the people of Israel in his day.

But before analysing Elijah's question, let us turn to the religious aspect of worshipping 'other gods'. And from the outset, let me make it clear that I am not talking here about the 'church' aspect. I am referring to the 'religious' aspect of our lives. That is, our personal and national relationship to, and with, God. One of the greatest examples of sin in this area quoted in the Bible is 'the sin of Balaam'. Peter referred to this as "the way of Balaam". (II Peter 2:15). Jude refers to it as "the error of Balaam". (Jude 11). Whilst our Lord Jesus Christ, in Rev. 2:14, refers to it as "the doctrine of Balaam".

Now it should be fairly obvious that a subject must be of considerable importance to be mentioned so consistently. So what was this "sin, or way, or error, of Balaam"? The account of the activities of this man are

recorded in Numbers chapters 22 to 24. It is too long a passage to reprint here, and readers are urged to read the account for themselves. The main thrust of the incident was that Balaam was hired by a King Balak to pronounce a curse on the nation of Israel so that they could be defeated. But try as he might, Balaam could not do it. Every time he opened his mouth to curse Israel, he pronounced a blessing. Finally, Balak fired him, but before he went, Balaam informed Balak that the only way he was going to defeat Israel was for him to take his sons and daughters down to the Israel people and intermarry them with the Israelites. This is supported by the historian Josephus, who gives a very graphic account of what transpired as a result. (see "Antiquities of the Jews" Book 4, chapter 6). This turned out to be a master stroke. Not only did it destroy the racial purity of Israel, a factor of extreme importance in God's sight, but it allowed pagan religious practices to be introduced with what turned out to be devastating results.

People will have to make up their own minds before God as to the first of the above factors, but the result of the introduction of other religious beliefs into our nation is clear for any Christian to see. It will no doubt surprise many Christians to find out that the second largest Buddhist temple in the world is in Scotland. Yes, you read that right. More money is being poured into Britain from the Islam nations to convert the British people to the Moslem religion than is being made available for the maintaining of Christianity. And we wonder why we are in such a mess. And like so many other things that are happening to us, it is all so subtle and gradual that we don't realise it is happening at all. The enemy of God has cunningly introduced one little thing at a time, and we have become so blinded and distracted by sports, and arts, and overseas holidays, and everything else which we have been assured represents the 'good life', that we have now allowed the little drops to swell into a great ocean. Do you really think that it is just a coincidence that official forms, such as passports, entry permits, census forms, etc., no longer ask for your "Christian" name, but now use the term

"given name" ? Of course, we can't possibly afford to offend the heathen, or non-Christians in our midst. That apparently would show a lack of true Christian love. I'm sorry friends, but this is not what God is all about. God is sick and tired, and always has been sick and tired, of those who serve Him with their mouths, but whose hearts are far from Him. Hypocrisy is not one of God's strong points.

I believe that we have now, both as individuals and as a nation, reached the limit beyond which God is not prepared to allow us to go. God is no longer going to sit on the sidelines and watch us knock each other out. He is about to step across the line in a very literal way and take charge of the game. He did it before in the days of Elijah, and if there is one thing that is certain, it is that He will certainly do it again. He didn't bring His people this far just to see them destroyed.

Again He says to us, just as He said to our forefathers,

"How long will you hesitate between two opinions?

If the Lord is God, then follow Him.

But if Baal, then follow him"

(I Kings 18:21).

Decision time has arrived. Everything that is happening around us is ringing out the warning. God is not going to be mocked. We are to reap what we have sown as long as we reject His offer of forgiveness and refuse to repent.

The lesson of the past must be learned. The decision for the present must be taken. Only then will the future be secured through the love and mercy of our Great God and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

LET US CHOOSE THIS DAY
WHO WE WILL SERVE.



Pharaoh's Heart.

Courtesy Bible Research Handbook.
Covenant Publishing Co. London.

In the account of the miraculous plagues of Egypt, the Book of Exodus mentions, on nineteen occasions, that the heart of the Pharaoh was hardened, and he refused to be convinced that the sparing of the Israelites from these disasters was a mark of the providence of God for them.

The mummy of the Pharaoh considered by scholars to be the Pharaoh of the Exodus (Menephtah) was discovered in 1907, and its finding provided a most convincing proof of the accuracy of the Biblical account concerning him. The preservation of his body was such that it was possible for eminent modern physicians to pronounce **with certainty** that his heart had, very literally, been hardened, for he suffered from the disease known as atheroma, in which calcium salts were deposited in the walls of that organ, making it rigid and inelastic. A consequence of this disorder is narrowness and inflexibility of mental outlook, of a type so apparent in the case of the Pharaoh of the sacred record.

Though the phrase "hardened his heart" has now passed into common currency, there is proof positive that with the Pharaoh of the Oppression the physical organ had been reduced to such a state that the mental processes of the man himself must have been profoundly affected.

POINTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

1. The story as a whole of the Book of Exodus is now known to be true to the discovered facts of Egyptian history of that period.

2. The discovery of the mummy of Menephtah is in itself important, showing that the particular ruler referred to in the Bible story actually lived, and was not a merely imaginary person.

3. Whereas the 'hardening' of Pharaoh's heart has generally been taken in a symbolic sense, which in itself is quite permissible, the Biblical account has been shown to be very literally true.

EXTRACT FROM the report of a lecture by Lord Moynihan on 'Surgery Ancient and Modern', in The Times, 23rd. October 1929.

Literal Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart.

Lord Moynihan on Ancient Egyptian Medicine.

Lord Moynihan, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, lectured last night at Leeds on 'Surgery, Ancient and Modern'. He showed some remarkable slides of results of surgical operations performed a thousand years before Christ, and of the actual anatomical remains of the Pharaoh of Moses' time, and of those of Napoleon.

Perhaps the most interesting visceral discovery, he said, was that which afflicted the Pharaoh of the Oppression. The large vessel springing from the heart of this monarch was found in such a well preserved state that they were able to make sections of it and compare them with those of a man recently dead. The two sections were seen side by side on a lantern slide, and no pathologist could tell which was the ancient and which was the modern vessel. Both were attacked by the disease atheroma, a condition in which calcium salts were deposited in the walls of the vessel, making it rigid and inelastic. The vessel did not expand adequately to the stream of blood coming from the heart, blood pressure was therefore high, and the vessel was apt to give way, forming an aneurism, or, if the ruptured vessel was in the brain, a stroke. Mental changes went with that rigid

arterial system. There was a narrowness and rigidity of outlook, loss of enthusiasm, or dread of new adventure, and restriction in all enterprise. They had the clearest proof that those mental defects were not lacking in Mer-en-ptah, for the Book of Exodus, chapter 9, verse 12, said, "And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he harkened not unto them". "It is interesting", said Lord Moynihan, "to have an ocular demonstration of the truth to the Old Testament."



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To understand the Law of God is to understand the method whereby we can show our love for Him in practical terms which honours God and blesses us. It was our Lord Himself who said, "If you love Me, keep my commandments."

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Gratitude

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"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord," says the Psalmist (Psalm 92:1). Let us thank the Lord for all His protection, for all preservation, for all guidance, until this hour; for all grace that He has bestowed upon us.

Let us thank the Lord, but let us also thank the people who were His messengers in our life, whom He sent to us as a help and support. Let us not forget the kindness God has shown to us, but neither should we forget the kindness which people have shown to us.

In Luke 17 we read of ten sick people who were healed by Jesus. *"One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice, glorified God and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks . . . Jesus answering said: Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"* (v. 15-17)

Where are the nine? Do we ourselves belong to them? May God grant us the spirit of gratitude, the spirit of maximum gratitude. Without this we are lost, and will lose everything which we have received until this day. Enjoy everything with thanksgiving, because whatsoever has been given to us today can be taken away from us again tomorrow, if we are ungrateful.

Let us not take the good things in our life for granted, but let us look upon them only as a grace and a testing — a testing of our gratitude. Let us think of it every day, especially in days which God has set aside for us as a time of contemplation. These are days of love and gratitude, of conciliation and of making peace.

We should make peace with God, with all people and with ourselves. We should balance our "annual account" and recognise how much kindness has been shown to us by God and by men. Let us recognise it and let us step gratefully through the gate into the coming days.



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These Bible Days Nottingham, England

ANTI-CHRIST and THE MAN OF SIN.

By F. W. DOWSETT.

ANTICHRIST.

In our last study, we referred to the three different entities spoken of by three of the writers, or authors, of the New Testament. They were:

1. ANTICHRIST. referred to by John.
2. THE MAN OF SIN. referred to by Paul.
3. THE SYNAGOGUE OF
 SATAN. referred to by Christ.

From our studies, we concluded that these titles all referred to exactly the same thing, or the same entity. So we will now proceed with a study of the first of these, ANTICHRIST. The only references to this entity in the entire Bible are found in the Epistles of John, and read as follows:

"Little children, it is the last time. And as ye have heard that ANTICHRIST shall come, even now are there many ANTICHRISTS; whereby we know that it is the last time.

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us. But they went out that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ.

He is ANTICHRIST, that denieth the Father and the Son.

Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father, but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.
(I John 2:18-24).

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God. Because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Hereby know ye the Spirit of God. Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God.

And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God.

And this is that spirit of ANTICHRIST whereby ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them. Because greater is He that is in you, than he which is in the world."

(I John 4:1-4).

"And this is love, that ye walk after His commandments. This is the commandment, that as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

For many deceivers have entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

This is a deceiver and an ANTICHRIST.

Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in

the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. But he that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not unto your house, neither bid him God-speed.

For he that biddeth him God-speed is partaker of his evil deeds." (II John 6:11).

As usual, in studying any portion of God's Word, it is imperative that we establish the context in which the particular passage in question was written or given. In this instance, there are THREE important factors which should be recognised. Firstly, it is clear that "antichrist" is not just one person or thing. We are told that there are MANY antichrists. I suggest that this makes quite a mess of the commonly held theory that we are to expect the rise of some grotesque individual sometime in the future. Secondly, we have the timing of the operation of this particular entity, that is, the period of time during which the activities of these antichrists would be evident. John clearly states that at the time he was writing that particular epistle that they were already operating. He also makes the very important statement that the fact that they were then operating was in itself proof of the fact that the people of his own time as he wrote were living in 'the last time'. If 'antichrist' was not to appear until some two thousand years later, how could its existence then prove that the 'last time' had commenced in John's own day? The Greek word here translated as "time" means "a definite, limited, determined period", and I suggest refers to the 'Christian Age' in which we are now living, which we know is of a definite pre-determined length, because our Lord Himself stated that He would shorten, or determine, its length so that all flesh would not be destroyed. But we should also note that if 'antichrist' was evident at the time of John, then it must have commenced at some time before he wrote. Thus, the 'time frame' of the operation of antichrist starts at some time prior to John's statement, and concludes with the return of our Lord Jesus Christ at the end of this age or dispensation.

This fact alone must surely rule out the Roman Catholic church as being the complete, or even the main, fulfillment of antichrist. There is no doubt at all that some of the statements regarding anti-christ can be applied to this particular church. There can also be no doubt but that this church fulfilled this role up to a certain extent, and for a certain period of time. But this should not be surprising when we consider that she is only the ecclesiastical section of the overall system of which she is a part, the system, identified in Revelation chapter 17 as "The Great City Babylon" and represented by the woman seated on the beast. This section of the Book of the Revelation takes on a whole new meaning when we realise that Babylon, which includes the Roman church, is controlled and supported by the beast which itself represents antichrist.

Now I realise that many of my very good friends and fellowservants in Christ will tend to disagree with me in this matter, and I can only trust that they will not take offense. But I am convinced that Satan has brilliantly deceived God's people by employing the age-old tactic of subterfuge. He has allowed us to see only part of our enemy, and has managed to convince us that this part is all there is, when in fact that is not the case at all. By convincing us to direct our attention, and our efforts, and indeed our resources to fighting what is in fact no more than a part of the enemy, he has completely deceived us, and drawn our fire away from the real enemies' main forces. Thus the main body of antichrist has been relentlessly pressing forward until it is now in complete control over us, whilst we have been fighting what has been no more than minor skirmishes on the sidelines with what now turns out to be only the diversionary forces.

The third point to be noted is that John was referring, similarly to Paul, to an enemy that was known about at the time of writing. Not only this, but the expression used by him described the enemy in a way that would be understood by those to whom he wrote. Believe me, they were not at that time confused by theo-

logical terminology and speculation as we have become today. Their whole understanding of his statement would be entirely based on the Scriptures, (the Old Testament), and the teachings of Jesus and the disciples to that time. The Roman Catholic church did not come into being until some hundreds of years later.

We should also note the meaning of the word "antichrist". Dr. Bullinger, in his 'Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament' defines it thus: "An opponent of Christ. That which sets itself in the place of Christ, which appears as Christ in opposition to Christ, as distinct from a false hypocritical representation of Christ." Vine's 'Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words' says: "It can mean either against Christ, or instead of Christ, or perhaps, combining the two, one who, assuming the guise of Christ, actually opposes Christ." A further point which is of the utmost importance is an understanding of the word "Christ". This word is the English translation of the Greek word "Christos", which actually means "anointed". Now there is absolutely no doubt but that this refers to Jesus as the "anointed One of God". But it can be, and sometimes is, applicable also to "the anointed People". Thus in its fuller and broader sense, antichrist is not only opposed to "the anointed ONE", but is also opposed to "the anointed PEOPLE".

So who was this enemy of which they had already heard, and of which John himself, as well as other writers, had already written and taught? In the Phillips Modern Translation we read these words;

"But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said, 'Who warned you, you serpent's brood, to escape from the wrath to come? Go and do something to show that your hearts are really changed. Don't suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We are Abraham's children.' For I tell you that God could produce children of Abraham out of these stones.' " Matt. 3:7-9, Luke 3:7-8.

"You serpent's brood, how can you say anything good out of your evil hearts? For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart. A good man gives out good, from the goodness stored in his heart. A bad man gives out evil from his store of evil." (Matt. 12:34-35.)

"Alas for you, you hypocritical scribes and Pharisees! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look fine on the outside but inside are full of dead men's bones and all kinds of rotteness. For you appear like good men on the outside, but on the inside you are a mass of pretence and wickedness.

What miserable frauds you are, you scribes and Pharisees! You build tombs for the prophets, and decorate monuments for good men of the past, and then say, 'If we had lived in the times of our ancestors we should never have joined in with the killing of the prophets.' Yes, 'Your ancestors'. That shows you to be sons indeed of those who murdered the prophets. Go ahead then, and finish off what your ancestors tried to do!

You serpents, you viper's brood, how do you think you are going to avoid being condemned to the fires of destruction?

Listen now to the reason why I sent you prophets and wise and learned men. Some of these you will kill and crucify, others you will flog in your synagogues and hunt from town to town.

So that on your hands is all the innocent blood spilt on the earth, from the blood of Abel the good to the blood of Zachariah, Barachiah's son, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.

Yes, I tell you that all this will be laid at the doors of this generation." (Matt. 23:27-36).

Now it is important to note two things about the above readings. Firstly, the people to whom these accu-

sations were made were identified as being 'the seed of the serpent'. I believe that this identification was made in a very literal sense, and was not just a 'spiritual' statement. By this I mean that the statement can not be 'spiritualised'. This surely takes us right back to Gen. 3:15 where the enemy of God, the 'seed of the serpent', is first mentioned and identified. The second thing which we should understand is that the word 'generation' used here does not refer to a period of time as so many seem to think. That is to say, it does not just refer to a time period of 40 or 70 years from the time when those particular people lived, and when the actual statement was made. The original word translated 'generation' means "progeny, or offspring, from the point of view of race." Thus it is the 'race' or 'children' of this 'serpent's brood' who are implicated and condemned and identified here by our Lord Jesus Christ.

And this judgment and condemnation was not to be subject to any restriction of time. Christ's own enemies themselves confirmed this very principle when at His trial they said, "His blood be upon us, and on our children." (Matt.27:25).

But let us proceed to another of our Lord's statements, as recorded in John's gospel. Speaking to the Pharisees and their followers, He said;

" 'I know that you are descended from Abraham, but some of you are looking for a way to kill me because you can't bear my words. I am telling you what I have seen in the presence of My Father, and you are doing what you have seen in the presence of YOUR father.'

'Our father is Abraham!' they retorted.

'If you were the children of Abraham, you would do the sort of things Abraham did. But in fact, you are looking for a way to kill me, simply because I am a man who has told you the truth that I have heard from God. Abraham would never have done that. No. You are doing YOUR FATHER'S work.'

'We are not illegitimate!' they retorted. 'We have one father, God.'

'If God were really your father', replied Jesus, 'You would have loved me. For I came from God, and I am here. I did not come of my own accord. He sent me, and I am here. Why do you not understand My words?

It is because you cannot hear, (learn, or be informed by), what I am really saying.

Your father is the devil, and what you are wanting to do is what your father longs to do. He always was a murderer, and has never dealt with the truth, since the truth will have nothing to do with him. Whenever he tells a lie, he speaks in character, for he is a liar, and the father of lies.

And it is because I speak the truth that you will not believe me.

Which of you can prove me guilty of sin? If I am speaking the truth, why is it that you do not believe me?

The man who is born of God can hear the words of God.

And the reason that you cannot hear, (understand), the words of God is simply this.

THAT YOU ARE NOT THE SONS OF GOD! ! " "
(John 8:37-47. Phillips Translation).

"Then came the dedication festival at Jerusalem. It was wintertime, and Jesus was walking about inside the temple in Solomon's cloisters.

So the Jews closed in on Him and said, 'How much longer are you going to keep us in suspense? If you really are Christ, tell us so straight out.'

'I have told you', replied Jesus, 'and you do not believe it. What I have done in My Father's name is sufficient to prove My claim.

**But you do not believe, BECAUSE YOU ARE
NOT MY SHEEP! !" "** (John 10:22-26).

The above words from the gospels of Matthew and John are the words of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. They are spoken to, and about, His enemies. And it is these same enemies of whom John is speaking in I John 2:19, which I will quote from three separate translations;

"They went out from us, but they were not of us. For if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us. But they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." (Authorised Version).

"Those rivals of Christ came out of our own number, but they had never really belonged. If they had belonged, they would have stayed with us. But they left us, to prove that not one of them ever belonged to us." (Jerusalem Translation).

"These men went out from our company, it is true, but they never really belonged to it. If they had really belonged to us, they would have stayed. In fact, their going proved beyond doubt that men like that were not 'our men' at all." (Phillips Translation).

Added to all this, we have the identity of 'anti-christ' quite clearly stated by John as being those who:

1. Deny that Jesus is the Christ, i.e., THE ANNOINTED OF GOD.
2. Deny the existence of BOTH the Father and the Son.
3. Deny that Jesus Christ, (the Messiah, or Anointed One), is come in the flesh.

When we add this to what has already been recorded of Christ's own statements as to the real identity of the Scribes and the Pharisees and their followers, there would appear to be no room for any further doubt as to who ANTICHRIST really is today.

One further point. The present followers and supporters of Judaism, the religion of the Pharisees, claim to worship the God of the Old Testament, thus claiming, and being credited by today's Christian leaders, with being the foundation upon which is built our Christian belief and ethic. This principle is called "the Judaeo/Christian Ethic", and is completely untruthful, being a lie straight from Satan. The statement is a complete contradiction in terms, Judaism being founded on their father the Devil, whilst Christianity is based on the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Its purpose is to deceive God's people, by associating and confusing them with God's enemies. Consider the following.

Question. "Who is the God of the Old Testament?"

Answer. The God of the Old Testament is JEHOVAH.

Question. Who was Jesus Christ before He took the form of man and came to this earth to pay the price of redemption and salvation?

Answer. Jesus Christ in the Old Testament was, and in fact still is, JEHOVAH.

Statement. If Judaism and its followers reject Jesus Christ, then they must be rejecting Jehovah. If they reject Jehovah, they reject the True God of the Old Testament. If they are rejecting the real and true God of the Old Testament, then under no circumstances can they be worshipping the real and true FATHER!

QUESTION. What god, and what 'father' are they then worshipping?

Answer. PRAY ABOUT IT! But first read John 8:44.



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.**

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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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"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."

(Mal. 3:16-17).

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