



THE COVENANT VISION.

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

THE COVENANT VISION.

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

In presenting this magazine, it is not our intention just to indiscriminately add to the number of Christian journals already available. Our only purpose is to present the Word of God in its 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 appearing and return of our Great God and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

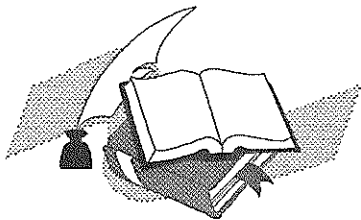
Denominational doctrines and differences are not our concern, and it is not our intention to enter into such arguments. There is not enough time left to waste it on such unproductive, and indeed, destructive, exercises. We are concerned **ONLY** with what we believe the Word of God says and teaches.

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

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

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

(continued on inside back cover)



Editorial.

From what we read in the four Gospels, it is quite apparent that our Lord was not popular with the rulers of the day, and very obvious that they were not popular with Him. If we today said and did the things that He did in relation to our all-so-beneficent leaders, we'd be hounded to death, harassed, insulted, and become the target of every crackpot political and economic organisation in the land. Come to think of it, it's just the same as what happened to our Lord. So times haven't changed much have they?

But it's interesting to read of the things He said and did. In one incident, He entered the Temple and found the money changers having a bonanza making profit out of the ordinary people who had just come along to worship. They had got onto what we would call today, "a good thing". People had to buy doves, etc. from the priests in order to have an offering for their sins. But the temple rulers had made a rule that they could not use their everyday money, but must convert it into Temple Money, which was the only currency they would accept.. Shades of the Eurodollar. The exchange rate was exorbitant - probably like exchanging the South African Rand into Aussie dollars. The scene must have resembled a small version of the Stock Exchange. Well, this "meek and mild" Jesus of whom we hear so much about these days, is recorded as leaving the Temple, obtaining a whip, and then going back into the Temple. Once inside, He set about belting the living daylights out of the money changers with His whip, drove them out of the building, and then proceeded to destroy the money lenders' furniture, scattering all the money all over the place. He then gave them

such a verbal blast that they didn't even call the local constabulary. One could reasonably conclude that here we had a real personality clash. But He got away with it, simply because He was removing false prophets and teachers - who knew they were false - from His place of worship. I wonder what would happen if we tried that today?

During the time of His earthly ministry, He called them everything He could think of. He called them liars, murderers, children of Satan, thieves, white-washed tombstones, and any other appropriate type He could lay tongue to. Try doing that today!

He accused them of "making the Word of God of no effect by substituting the traditions of men", which incidentally, were the teachings of the Babylonian Talmud. I'm not going to repeat the request to try doing that today, because it is already being done, on a massive scale, and extremely successfully, by the very descendants of these same Scribes and Pharisees, who have infiltrated the Christian Church with endless false doctrines of both man and the devil.

One of our Lord's scathing attacks on these false teachers is recorded in Matthew 16:1-4; "The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and threatening. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed." In verses 6 and 12 He proceeded to warn His disciples against the doctrines of the Scribes and Pharisees.

The "sign of the prophet Jonas (Jonah)" was that it demonstrated the fact of Christ's coming death and resurrection. And the fact of His death and resurrection was the guarantee of the certainty of what He had foretold regarding the signs which

would in the very last days of this age, prior to His triumphant return as King of Kings. He enumerated them in His Olivet discourse as recorded in Mathew chapter 24, Mark chapter 13, and Luke chapter 21. They included wars, nations and kingdoms rising up against each other, famines, plagues, diseases, earthquakes, the rise of false prophets, gross deceit, signs in the heavens, drunkenness, debauchery, sodomy, intermarriage and wife swapping, betrayal and persecution and hatred for His true followers.

They included false signs or miracles and wonders, distress among the nations, with the people in turmoil, all leading up to a situation when men's hearts would be failing them for fear of what they could see coming upon the earth. Does any of this sound in the slightest detail what is going on before our very eyes today?

About 2,000 years ago, some shepherds were just going about their normal jobs of caring for their sheep during the night, making sure they were safe and comfortable, when suddenly, within a few seconds, the entire future history of the world was changed forever. What happened with the shepherds, is just about to happen again. If you can look at the sky and foretell the weather, you can just as easily look at world conditions and recognise the fact that we have at last arrived at the time of the end of this evil age.

But take heart, because this is the very time when we are exhorted to "Look up, and lift up our heads. For the time of our redemption and deliverance has arrived".



**It's Obvious that God doesn't love money.
Just look at some of those He's given it to.**

The Heritage of Israel.

By Frank W. Dowsett.

Part Twenty.

The Covenant & The Promises. Part 15.

The Davidic Covenant.

We come now to the seventh of the eight great covenants which God made with His people Israel, the Davidic Covenant. In importance, it ranks equally with the Abrahamic Covenant, as it guarantees the unconditional continuation of the Throne of the Lord, ruling over the unconditional continuation of the nation established in Abraham. This is born out by Jeremiah, where both of these factors are recorded in his 31st and 33rd chapters.

So having promised and established the nation which was to be God's Kingdom on earth, under the terms of the Abrahamic Covenant, God now proceeds to establish the KING to govern that nation.

But having said that, it is vitally important to remember that from the very formation of the nation of Israel, God was their King. If the people had not demanded a king like unto what the other nations had, this covenant would never had been necessary. And this is how the change came about, as recorded in I Samuel 8:1-22;

8:1 "And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.

2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beersheba.

3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.

7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

10 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.

11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.

12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

13 And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.

15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

16 And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.

17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;

20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD.

22 And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city."

It is of the greatest importance that we note the progression of events. Up to this time, as previously noted, God had been Israel's King, ruling through His appointed Judges. The system under which the nation operated was an "autocracy". It was never God's intention for His people to be ruled under the present system of a "democracy". There was to be no such system as government by "the church and state". Under God, there would be no political parties; no Parliamentary committees. The nation would be governed by God-appointed Heads of Departments who would govern on God's behalf in accordance with God's Laws, commandments, statutes, and judgments. When the final judge, Samuel, became old, he appointed his two sons as judges in order to take some of the burden from himself. But they took advantage of their position to gain personal advantages at the expense of the people. Things haven't changed one bit, have they. The people became so indignant at this situation that they demanded a king, just as the other nations had a king ruling over them. It says a lot as to the extent to which the nation had sunk, in that they didn't even consider returning to God as their king. But of

course, they couldn't see God, and so couldn't partake of all the pomp and ceremony which attached to a human king.

That it was God's purpose, in His foreknowledge of what the future held, for Israel to always have an earthly king to represent Him and reign over them in a monarchical form of leadership and government, is clearly foreshadowed and established in the Word. In I Chronicles 5:1-2 we read;

5:1 Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.

2 For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's:)

Then in Genesis 49:9-10 we read of Jacob's prophetic blessing regarding Judah;

"Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."

So we find;

1. The king was to come from the tribe of Judah.
2. His emblem, or symbol of identification would be the LION.
3. He would find ultimate fulfilment in "Shiloh", which is a description of the Messiah, the PRINCE OF PEACE as foretold in Isaiah 9:6;

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

But we also find in Numbers 23:21-22 that the kingdom over which the future king would reign was associated with the UNICORN.

“He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them. God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn.”

This emblem of the UNICORN, irrespective of arguments as to what it was, or from whence it came, became associated with the other symbol of the king, the LION. Together, these two symbols, the LION and the UNICORN, were incorporated into the Coat of Arms of their “latter day” descendants.

The Kingly Line Chosen.

Saul was the first king of Israel, chosen by the people and confirmed by God. However, he was from the wrong tribe. God had promised that the future kings of Israel, which incidentally would include their final King, our Lord Jesus Christ, would come from the tribe of Judah, whereas Saul was a Benjamite. This departure from the rule was deliberately allowed by God as a lesson to Israel. Saul was a “warrior”. He clearly did not accept that he was God’s representative upon the throne of Israel, but acted as though he was a king in his own right. He is said to have stood head and shoulders above any other man, being probably about 6ft.10in. tall. (As an aside to this, if David was only a stripling of a lad as he is usually portrayed when he went to fight Goliath, then why would Saul have offered to loan David his own suit of armour which would have been made to fit a man of his own height?). It was because of his decision to do things his own way, instead of how God had instructed him, that God revoked his kingship.

We read in I Samuel 15:34-35;

“Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless

Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel."

Samuel was not mourning the death of Saul, but rather the fact that God had rejected him as king. This is clear from what is stated in I Samuel 16:2;

"And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me."

Thus the stage was set for the establishment of God's selection for the kingship over His people. The Lord spoke to Samuel in I Sam. 16:1;

"And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons."

Thus, in I Samuel 16:11-13 we read;

"And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah."

Thus commenced the chosen Kingly line or house of David as the Throne of Israel on earth. David possessed all the required conditions. He was chosen of God, not by popular choice of the people. He was of the tribe of Judah. He was a shepherd who followed the "Great Shepherd". The Spirit of God was upon him. What more could he desire?

Thus the Davidic Covenant was made. We read the details of it in II Samuel 7:8-16;

8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:

9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth.

10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,

11 And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever."

From the above, we note the following facts;

1. **It was UNCONDITIONAL.** It didn't matter what anyone did or said, there were absolutely no conditions associated with this Covenant whereby it could ever be revoked either by man or by God Himself.

2. It was EVERLASTING.
3. It was established with David AND HIS SEED AFTER HIM .
4. It was a LITERAL promise, made of a LITERAL kingly line.
5. It cannot be “spiritualised” into referring only to Christ, as it speaks of God’s chastisement upon the king should he do that which is not right in God’s sight.
6. The descendants of David would enjoy a father/son relationship with God.
7. If the king did that which was wrong, he would be chastened by men.
8. God’s mercy would NEVER be taken from David.
9. David accepted God’s promise as being literal, in that his “house” would be ESTABLISHED forever, CONTINUE forever, and be BLESSED forever.

The Throne of David is God’s Throne On Earth.

It is quite clear from a reading of I Chronicles 28:5 that Israel is “the kingdom of the Lord”.

“And of all my sons, (for the LORD hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.”

It is equally clear as to the full nature of the throne over that kingdom. We read in I Chron. 29:23;

“Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him.”

THE COVENANT VISION.

It is from this Throne from whence Christ shall reign when He returns to "sit upon the Throne of David." We read of that wonderful prophecy in Isaiah 9:6-7;

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

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

We read of the ratification of this prophecy in Luke 1:32-33;

"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 for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Let us recognise, and fully understand, that the occupant of the Throne of David, from its inception to the time when Christ comes to occupy it, is therefore Christ's representative, the TRUE Vicar of Christ, as opposed to the FALSE vicar of Christ of the Church of Rome.

THIS COVENANT WAS CONFIRMED

BY IMMUTABLE SIGNS.

1. By the endless continuation of day and night.
2. By the ordinances of heaven and earth.
3. By the promise that David would never want a man to sit upon this throne. Especially note that this does NOT say that a descendant of David would always be sitting upon this throne, but that

there would always be one of his descendants available to sit upon it. This is recorded in Jeremiah 33:17-26;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But there was another covenant made by God in order to set His seal upon the covenant He had made with David. It is recorded in II Chronicles 13:5;

“Ought ye not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt?”

“Why salt” we may ask? Well salt is used as a preservative, and God used this analogy to assure us of His intention to preserve for all time, the unconditional nature of the covenant which He had made regarding the continuation of the throne of David over Israel upon the earth. Now knowing in His foreknowledge that the Throne of David would end as far as its situation in Palestine in the reasonably near future, why would God have made this extra covenant if He didn’t intent to continue the literal line and seed of David throughout their captivities, their migrations to the west, and their final settling in the other place which He had appointed to Israel in the future years as at that time? His intentions are quite explicit as recorded in II Samuel 7:10;

“Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime.”

Thus the Throne continues. After the division of Israel into the northern and southern houses, and in accordance with God’s stated purpose, the throne remained with the tribe of JUDAH, as He had promised. It is of the utmost importance to remember that Judah and the Throne cannot be separated. Wherever we find this throne, **then Judah must also be there.**

So now for a bit of history. The last king to occupy this throne in Palestine was Zedekiah, at the time of the final captivity of the remainder of the House of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar. Zedekiah had attempted to make a treaty with a neighbouring country against Nebuchadnezzar, but his plan was found out. Nebuchadnezzar immediately retaliated by executing Zedekiah’s sons in front of him, poked out Zedekiah’s eyes, and took him captive to Babylon where he later died. Interestingly, it had been prophesied of Zedekiah that he would go to Babylon but not see it. But Nebuchadnezzar made a serious miscalculation. Under his rules, only a son could succeed to the throne on the death of his father. Daughters did

there would always be one of his descendants available to sit upon it. This is recorded in Jeremiah 33:17-26;

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not count. So as far as he was concerned, the royal line of Zedekiah was terminated by the death of his only two sons, and would finally cease with Zedekiah's death. But he reckoned without the law governing succession in Israel, where, if there was no son to succeed the king, then the eldest daughter succeeded to the throne. The principle is exactly the same as that which happened to our own Royal family. King George VI had no sons to succeed him, so his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, succeeded to the throne as Queen Elizabeth II. The Book of Jeremiah records how that prophet had taken the king's daughters to Egypt for safety reasons. It has been suggested that these were not necessarily Zedekiah's daughters, but those of the king which preceded him. But this does not alter the fact that the elder of these two young princesses automatically became the new official monarch over Israel on the death of the king. The Biblical account leaves this group in Egypt. But ancient Irish history records what happened thereafter. They record that soon after the death of Zedekiah, a prophet from the east, whom they called the Ollam Fodhla, together with a scribe named Bruch, (Baruch), and two eastern princesses landed in Ireland, accompanied by a special stone which they referred to as "Lia Fail", and which we now know to be the "Stone of Destiny." This "Ollam Fodhla", according to ancient Irish tradition was no other than the prophet Jeremiah. As well as the "stone", he is recorded as bringing with him a harp, and an ark, or chest. The princesses to which we referred were of the Royal line of Pharez, son of Judah, and twin brother of Zarah, the one who had the red cord tied around his wrist at birth. Apart from a few references within genealogies, the only reference to him is found in Genesis 38 and 46. From there, he disappears from the Biblical account. But history records his descendants crossing Europe, through Spain, where the ancient city of Zarah-gassa was founded. The name means "the stronghold of Zarah", and is now known as Saragossa. They finally settled in Ireland.

At this stage of our study I would like to add a few thoughts regarding the significance of the red cord which the midwife had tied around the hand of Zarah. When the time came for the birth of the twins, subsequently named Zarah and Pharez, Zarah's hand came forth, but soon after started to retract within the mother. Even though he had not been fully born, he was still considered to be the firstborn, and in order to identify

him as such, this red cord was tied around his hand. The incident is recorded in Genesis 38:27-30:

“And it came to pass in the time of her travail, that, behold, twins were in her womb.

And it came to pass, when she travailed, that the one put out his hand: and the midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet thread, saying, This came out first.

And it came to pass, as he drew back his hand, that, behold, his brother came out: and she said, How hast thou broken forth? this breach be upon thee: therefore his name was called Pharez.

And afterward came out his brother, that had the scarlet thread upon his hand: and his name was called Zarah.”

This “red thread” became a national symbol of Zarah’s descendants. It was initially used by the kings of Zarah, and in time graduated to use on all government and legal documents. If you were to enter the offices of any lawyer today you would find all documents tied with the “red tape”. We use the phrase repeatedly in regard to “government red tape”.

But the symbolism didn’t stop there. The red tape finally was extended to cover the entire hand, until today we have the **“Red Hand of Ulster”** encircled by a red cord - a hand, red from the blood of birth, circled by a scarlet thread or cord. This became the national symbol of Zarah - Judah’s descendants in what is now known as Ulster, or Northern Ireland, the greatest thorn in the side of Rome who is doing everything possible to destroy this people who have stood so steadfastly against the amalgamation of all Ireland into one nation under the sway of the Roman Church.

Descendants of the tribe of Dan were also resident in Ireland, referred to in their ancient records as the “Tuatha De Danann”, meaning “the tribe of Dan. The ships of the Tuatha De Danann are accredited with bringing Jeremiah, the princesses, and Jacob’s Pillar to Ireland.

One of the princesses, named Tea Tephi, eventually married Eochaidh, the Heremon or king of Ireland, and of the tribe of Zarah, and thus the two houses of Zarah and Pharez were reunited. The name of the capital where the coronation

took place was "Lothair" but was changed later to "Tara", the Harp of David becoming the national emblem. Archaeological excavations on the mounds of Tara have also revealed that ancient Tara was not only the Royal Seat or Capital of the Celtic Kings, that came from Spain, but it was also the nerve centre of the country. Whilst there are several variations in some of the details, which can be expected after such a long period of time, the essential facts remain. *(The above details have been taken with grateful appreciation from the book "Jacob's Pillar" by the imminent archaeologist E. Raymond Capt. M.A., A.I.A., F.S.A., Scot.)*

From here it is simply a matter of history. The throne went from Ireland to Scotland and thence to England, and James VI of Scotland became James I of Great Britain, thus combining the two houses of Ephraim/England with Judah/Scotland. The LION and the UNICORN were now together. The two sticks of Ezekiel 37:15-22 had now been joined;

"The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.

And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not show us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.

And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.

And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them

all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all."

Significantly this entire sequence of events fulfilled the prophecy of Ezekiel 21:27;

"I will overturn, (from Palestine to Ireland), overturn, (from Ireland to Scotland), overturn, it (from Scotland to England): and it shall be no more, (overturned) until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him." (emphasis added.)

THE CONTINUING COVENANT - THE THRONE IDENTIFIED.

Is it just a coincidence that the coronation ceremony of our present British Monarchs is almost identical with that used at the coronation of King Solomon? In both ceremonies, just to quote one instance, when the new Monarch is presented to the people, they all cry out, **"God Save the King"**.

Is it just a coincidence that the Royal Coat of Arms contains the two emblems of the two leading houses of Israel - Joseph/Ephraim and Judah - the very same symbols of the Unicorn and the Lion?

Is it a coincidence that the two motto's on the Coat of Arms, translate into English as "God and my Right", referring to the birthright promised to the descendants of Abraham, and "Evil be to him that evil thinketh", the very promise made by God to Abraham in Genesis 12:3;

"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee."

Is it just a coincidence that the Royal Standard is divided into four sections, one with the Lion of Judah, two with the young lions thereof, and one with the Harp of David?

Judah is, and must be, where the THRONE is, otherwise the Throne cannot be David's.

The "Two Sticks" of Ezekiel have been joined. Israel and Judah are now one nation in the land which an all-wise and loving God had promised.

The Word of the Lord has been fulfilled. The faithfulness of the Lord God of Israel has been demonstrated.

But, as we could expect, the enemy has stepped in to do everything within its power to destroy this "Throne of the Lord."

The Monarch has been insidiously stripped of the power which has been their right under God. It has been replaced by "democracy", the rule of the people. Frantic efforts are being made throughout all the former nations of our Commonwealth for the removal of the Monarchy, and its replacement by a Republic.

The "Union Jack", the very symbol of our identity, is being defiled and reviled at every opportunity.

The members of the Monarchy themselves are reviled daily in the media, and unfortunately in many instances, with good reason. But let us not forget that of all the Kings of Israel as recorded in the Bible, most of them were referred to as "having done that which was evil in the sight of God". And as promised by God, they have been punished "with the stripes of man." But their individual actions and life-style cannot in any way change the promise of God made to his servant David regarding the continuity of his throne over Israel.

What then is our responsibility in all this?

1. We must recognise and accept our IDENTITY as God's people Israel.
2. We must accept our RESPONSIBILITY as God's people Israel.
3. We must accept our ROLE as WATCHMEN IN ISRAEL.

Finally, we must, with all our hearts and minds, look forward to that Great Day when He whose right it is returns to take to Himself that same Throne, and reign over His people with justice and with righteousness for evermore.

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

C.V.NEWS.

Once again, our Christian greetings to all our readers. We have certainly had a very busy time since our last issue, with an increasing number of books and tapes posted out, but with the stirring help of Bruce and Gordon, we got through it all. Our sincere thanks again for all those who have so regularly and faithfully continued to support us, thus making our work possible.

Which brings us to a few requests. We still receive mail from various sources of over twelve pages in length, full of questions based on a different approach to some areas of belief. Whilst we don't mind for one moment folk sharing their point of view, which we fully respect, we find that becoming involved in lengthy correspondence over personal issues takes up too much of our valuable time. So for those who send these letters, please excuse us if you do not receive the reply you might expect, as we don't intent to be placed in the position of having to engage in lengthy correspondence upon subjects which are obviously not going to change the mind of either party.

One thing that would be of great assistance is for you to include your phone number with any future correspondence. This includes overseas readers in particular, as our present phone rates are such that we can phone most places for ten minutes for the same cost as an airmail stamp. This policy of phoning saves an awful lot of time and effort otherwise used in writing back and forth, and gives us direct personal contact.

The results of our campaign to increase the number of subscribers to the Covenant Watch Extra was most encouraging, increasing our mailing list by at least 30-40. So don't hesitate to contact us re joining this list.

The offer of "back copies" of the C.V. rather overwhelmed us. So much so that we started to photo-copy earlier issues to fill the requests. But this is rather costly and time consuming, and in future, we will only send those back copies still in stock. But a big thank you for all those who have contacted us. Please don't let that deter you from asking for available copies, but let us know the specific issues required so that we may send you as many as are available.

One thing for which we are so grateful is the number of folk who have contacted us regarding Betty's health. It has been

an enormous encouragement to her to know that so many of our folk are regularly praying for her. As it has turned out, after a month of tests, two specialists have arrived at the conclusion that she is not suffering from sleep apnoea after all. Unfortunately, whilst they have discovered what she doesn't have, they haven't as yet expressed any idea as to what she might have. However, our family doctor has expressed his opinion that she is suffering from a form of depression which unlike the usual form which evidences an inability to get enough sleep, actually caused continual sleepiness. This is apparently caused by a mal-function within the immune system within the brain, as I understand it, (I hope I have used the correct medical expressions). He has placed her on a course of tablets which have apparently been designed to correct this situation, but it will take several weeks before we can see any positive effect. So hopefully we could have some good news in our next report. Your continued prayers for her would be most appreciated.

And so finally, the big news for this issue. I have been invited to speak at both the High Leigh and the Swanwick conventions in England, as well as three meetings at the Orange Street Congregational Church in London, and several smaller meetings at various centres. I will also be speaking at three meetings in Northern Ireland. I will be away for about six weeks, and it is not going to be a hurried trip, as I have been able to allow suitable rest periods between meetings. We are most thankful for the excellent assistance we have received from the organisers in the U.K. as it is very difficult to organise everything from the other side of the world. Betty, of course, will not be going with me, but one of our daughters will be with her to look after her full time while I'm away. It has been a real blessing to find how our three daughters, and those associated with the Mission, have rallied behind me in this opportunity I have been given to witness of the wonders of God's Kingdom and faithfulness in the U.K. As a matter of interest, England and South Africa are the only Anglo-Saxon Israel countries where I haven't as yet preached. We are not launching any official appeal for financial support, as the Lord has been very gracious to us in this area, but if anybody feels lead to assist towards the overseas travelling expenses, it would be very much appreciated. We will give you a full report of the trip in our next issue, which because of my absence, will be several weeks later than usual. May the Lord richly bless and guide you all.

GOG AND MAGOG.

PART FIVE.

By Frank W. Dowsett.

The Attack.

In our previous studies we have dealt with the 'softening-up' process adopted by God's enemy, Gog-Edom. They have introduced more treaties than the people could imagine, all of them without our knowledge or agreement. We have what they euphemistically refer to as "The Level Playing Field" whereby the Christian nations have been brought down to the lowest denominator. We have multiculturalism, race mixing, discrimination laws, a frightening increase in occult activities, especially in television programmes, and every conceivable method of degrading the Christian Faith.

But the time has now arrived for action. In Ezekiel 38:14 we read;

"Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?"

The Septuagint translation of this verse gives a clearer meaning;

"Wilt thou not arise in that day, when my people Israel are dwelling securely?"

The scenario is this. God's Israel people will be dwelling in 'safety'. This word means "Boldly, Carelessly, Over-confidently. They will believe that they are quite secure. A perfect description of our present attitude, where the general attitude is "eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die."

But Gog has bided his time until this very situation has advanced sufficiently for him to move with safety and assurance

of victory. We reached the height of our power, the very position which God had promised to us, and then we became complacent, just as God's Word warned in Deut. 8:11-17;

"Beware lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; lest, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, then your heart becomes proud, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint.

In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.

Otherwise, you may say in your heart, "My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth." (NASB)

We allowed ourselves to accept the above changes over a very long period of time. The enemy's policy of "gradualism" worked wonderfully.

One of the more disturbing of these changes was in the area of disarmament. The cry to "disarm" became relentless. Our armament factories were closed down. We gave guns and armaments to the enemy as if they were our bosom friends. We financed every conceivable scheme to train them, and revealed our military secrets to them. Our respective Israel governments committed the worst kind of treason by their totally insane and unforgivable policies.

But are the enemy doing likewise? Not on your life! They are arming themselves to the teeth right under our collective noses. Are we seriously supposed to believe that they are doing this just for the fun of it? Russia has been building nuclear submarines and ships at an alarming rate. China is very busy buying U.S. military secrets from Israel, which the American government naively gave them. America, in fact, has become a virtual overseas state of Israel. They are governed by

the powers of Esau-Edom-Zionism. No wonder the forces of Islam refer to the U.S.A. as "the great Satan". This is not meant as an attack on the American people, nor for that matter on any of the ordinary people of the Anglo-Israel nations, but rather on the policies of their respective Zionist controlled governments. We are all the victims of the greatest hoax that has ever been imposed on Christendom. And one of the main reasons for this is that our false shepherds in the pulpits are paranoid about teaching the people that the forces which by every relevant statement of the Bible are identified as "anti-Christ", are "God's chosen people."

Let us ask ourselves, "where is all the money coming from that is needed to finance and arm all the tin-pot revolutions which are increasingly occurring all over the world?" Where are the Palestinians getting their armaments from? Where are so many of the tiny African States getting all their armaments from? As I write this in March, 2002, the Middle East is on the very brink of full scale open warfare. The American government has openly announced that Russia, China, and North Korea are on their hit list for nuclear attack. I'll bet that went over in certain circles like a lead balloon. But of course, we must remember that everyone is only looking for "peace". And of course, it will come very easily if the weaker nations and countries only do exactly what they are told by the stronger ones. It's a perfect solution to the world's troubles. And pigs might fly!

One of the vital signs of the end of this age, and the approach of "that great battle of the day of God Almighty" is the rise of China, and the other smaller eastern nations. We read of this situation in Revelation 16:12-16;

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

The plundering of our resources and power finally leads to the attack, as in Ezek. 38:15-16;

"And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes."

Let us study the words and terminology used here.

1. "the north parts". some translations use the expression "from the far north", that is, from Jerusalem. This would include Russia, Siberia, and China. It should be remembered when dealing with directions in prophecy that there are no words in the Hebrew for such directions as, for instance, "north-east", or "south-west". Sometimes one finds the expression "the north and the west". This does not necessarily mean two different directions, but is the expression used for our phrase "north-west". Thus, such expressions as "north" are to be understood as covering a more expansive area generally to the 'north'.
2. It clearly describes a military attack. The phrase "great company" means "a military host", whilst "mighty army" defines "a force or power".
3. "My people of Israel" cannot by the greatest stretch of the imagination be applied to the present Jews, or state of Israel. Let us examine Daniel 9:27;

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the

overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

Let us recall to mind our previous statement regarding the marginal rendering of the phrase "upon the desolate" in the Authorised Version which reads, **"and the Jews they shall be no more His people"**.

This, of course, is totally consistent with what our Lord stated in John 8:39-47, and John 10:24-26;

"They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

"Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you."

In light of the above statements by our Lord Jesus Christ, how on earth can we reconcile the present teachings that the Jews are God's chosen people, when by every criteria given in the Scriptures, they bare all the marks of being "anti-Christ?"

4. "[as] a cloud". Whilst there is no word for "as" in the Hebrew, the meaning of the phrase is similar to that used in verse 9, but now in a military context.
5. Again, the timing is stated to be "in the latter days". Dr. Bullinger informs us that this points to a then, and yet future time, when Israel shall have been "gathered", and before the "restoration" is perfected.

Thus we note the following conclusions;

- a). The enemy is forced into this situation by God.
- b). The entire event is to be used by God as a witness to the heathen of His invincible power.
- c). God is to use Gog as the means of showing and declaring His sanctified position. He is not only clean, holy, and totally separate, but is SEEN to be clean, holy and separate from the non-Israel world conditions.

We referred to verse 17 of Ezekiel 38 in a previous chapter, but repeat it here to maintain the continuity of our study;

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?"

There is only one people who fits this description. They are the Amalekites, descendants of Amalek, the grandson of Esau! These are the people of whom God stated that He would have war with them from generation to generation.

The extent of damage to Israel of this warfare is not specifically stated. Ezekiel 39:6 states;

"And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD."

Most people conclude from this that "the isles", referring to Britain and her company of nations are to be the object of nuclear bombing, and thus very heavily decimated, but a reading of the Septuagint translation of this passage is

"And I will send a fire on Magog, 'and the islands shall be securely inhabited.' "

It should also be noted that the "fire" is to be sent upon "Magog", which is the land of "Gog", and not the land of Israel.

It is even very possible that God intervenes between the time Gog makes his final decision and puts it into effect. Never forget God's promise as recorded in Ezek. 36:37;

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them;"

We cannot afford to overlook the promise of Isaiah 54:17;

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

God's final purpose in this is clearly set forth in Obadiah, verse 18;

"And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it."

(To be continued).

A TRIBUTE

TO

QUEEN ELIZABETH, THE QUEEN MOTHER

by Bruce Horner.

On Saturday August 4, 1900, a daughter was born to Lord and Lady Glamis. Seven weeks later the child was christened in the parish church of St Paul's Walden Bury, in Hertfordshire. She was given the name Lady Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon. Although her birth certificate gives her birthplace as St Paul's Walden Bury, where her parents owned a country home, Lady Elizabeth was in fact born at their London home, 20 St James's Square. The error was made when her birth was registered Hitchin.

At the time of her birth Queen Victoria still reigned over the British Empire. These were the days when there was no motor car, or radio, or manned flight. The ancestry of Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon is firmly rooted in the history of Scotland. Indeed, it dates back to the late 1300's when Scotland was ruled by Robert II Stuart, grandson of the renowned Robert the Bruce. The King's Chamberlain was one Sir John Lyon - known as 'The White Lyon' thanks to his shock of fair hair. He married the King's daughter, Princess Jean. The marriage settlement included Sir John being made Thane of Glamis and owner of Glamis Castle. And it is from this marriage that Lady Elizabeth is directly descended.

The Earldom of Strathmore and Kingshorne was bestowed on the family in the Stuart era. In the eighteenth century the 19th Lord Glamis married one Eleanor Bowes, the daughter of a wealthy industrialist and Member of Parliament, who transferred his fortune and his estates to the Lyon family on condition that they change their name to Bowes! This they did, but later readopted their original name and eventually settled on 'Bowes-Lyon'.

Lady Elizabeth's father was Claude George Bowes-Lyon, Lord Glamis. He was also Lord Lieutenant of Angus and was considered a quiet, hard working fellow. Her mother was the former Cecilia Cavendish-Bentinck, a granddaughter of the fourth Earl of Portland, a lady of outgoing character and a leading light of the social scene.

The couple had married on July 16, 1881, in Petersham, Hampshire. The young Elizabeth was the ninth child and fourth daughter born to Lord and Lady Glamis. Their first daughter, Violet, had been born eighteen years earlier, in 1882, but was to die of Diphtheria at the age of 11. Then came Mary Frances, born in 1883; Patrick, in 1884; John Herbert, in 1886; Alexander Francis, in 1887; Fergus, in 1889; Rose Constance in 1890 and Michael Claude, in 1893. A sixth son, David, was born in 1902, two years after Elizabeth's birth. The two youngest children would become very close to one another and were nicknamed 'the two Benjamins' by their mother. Did you notice that Lady Elizabeth had two sisters with the very same names as the two sisters of "Mrs Bucket", of Television fame?

To accommodate such a large family as well as the staff necessary to serve them, the beautiful Queen Anne mansion at St Paul's Walden Bury had to be extended. A new wing was added, and there the young Elizabeth received her first education. The baby Elizabeth was a happy child who was early to walk and talk. She also loved Glamis Castle, inherited by her father when he became the 14th Earl of Strathmore in February 1904. Glamis Castle was steeped in history and legend. Ghosts were said to roam the cold stone stairways. Bonnie Prince Charlie once stayed there, as did Sir Walter Scott.

William Shakespeare is reputed to have dreamed up the plot of MacBeth during a visit to Glamis. The young Elizabeth took all this in and often acted as an unofficial guide, showing distinguished visitors around the Castle. One such guest was Lady Scott, wife of the famous Antarctic explorer Robert Falcon Scott. They also stayed at Streatlam Castle, the home of the Bowes line of the family, in County Durham. The London residence was their base during 'the season'. During the 1905 season the 5 year old Lady Elizabeth attended a children's party at which she met, for the first time, Prince Albert, grandson of King Edward VII. Lady Elizabeth's education was broadened by a French and later a German governess. She learned drawing, dancing and music and she was a devout churchgoer. She grew into an extremely pleasant and likeable young woman, with bright, violet-blue eyes and a rosy complexion. She was a happy and sociable girl, considered to be mature and sensible beyond her years.

As a ten-year-old, Lady Elizabeth visited a fortune-teller's tent during a garden party at Glamis Castle. It is

30.

said that the gypsy foretold that she would one day become a Queen. The young girl dismissed the notion as nonsense, saying, "Who wants to be a Queen anyway!" A week after the declaration of war Lady Elizabeth and her mother travelled north to Glamis Castle, which was to be used as a convalescent hospital for wounded servicemen. Lady Elizabeth was closely involved too. Her main duty was the collection of the mail and its distribution amongst the patients. She remembered all their names and also ran errands for them, helped them to write letters home, played the piano and sang to them, played cards with them, took meals with them - in short, her presence helped to keep up the morale of the hospital. Tragedy struck the family in September 1915 when they suffered the loss of Fergus in the Battle of Loos only the day after he had returned from leave.

On a Saturday evening in the autumn of 1916, Lady Elizabeth spotted a pall of smoke coming from high up in the central keep of the castle. She quickly telephoned for the local fire brigade. Then she called the Dundee brigade before organising the castle staff into a makeshift chain of buckets and bowls. In the event, the calling of the Dundee brigade actually saved the castle and many of its treasures, as the equipment of the local force was unable to cope with the emergency.

In 1917 Michael was reported missing in action. It later transpired that he was a prisoner-of-war in Germany, and eventually came home in 1919. Eventually she met, once more, Prince Albert, affectionately called "Bertie" by the family members, and later becoming King George VI. He wooed her for two years. On Saturday, January 13, 1923, she finally accepted the engagement. The wedding took place in Westminster Abbey on April 26. Her life is now better known to all of us. Her marriage was in all respects an inspiration to all her subjects. Her devotion to duty was legendary. The War years sealed the love that people had for her.

This great Lady of the House of David has now died at the extraordinary age of 101 years. It is the belief of some of us that God Almighty had preserved her life until this moment when the life of the nation is resting so precariously in the balance, so that the memory of her life and service will tip the scales towards life and service in Israel.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

I would like to add a postscript. There are a number of tales that are worth recounting. They cannot be verified, but I think that many of you would love to hear them. We believe that all of the members of the Royal family in England have not only been acquainted with British-Israel truth over the last 200 years, but have embraced them as well. It is well known that Queen Victoria expressed the great desire of her heart to be privileged to hand over the Crown to our Lord on His return to earth. Alas, it was not to be; perhaps our own gracious Queen Elizabeth II may be the one. It is impossible to know where some of these stories come from, but there has been a belief that this would be done by a female occupant of the Throne. Even Edward VIII was considered for a long time for this event, on the understanding that he was the 100th generation from King David.

In New South Wales we got to know a certain gentleman, Bert Spillett by name, who attended British-Israel gatherings in the Blue Mountains during the sixties and seventies. He had been an English soldier stationed in Jerusalem during the years when British troops were used to keep the peace in that city. You may remember the hostility of the time, when the British troops were waylaid and murdered in the streets by their unwilling hosts. Bert told us how he went back to Britain on a furlough, determined to go to Windsor Castle and view the documents relating to the Davidic descent of the Royal Family. This he did, and the charts were spread for him on the large table in the Library. As he pored over the charts he was disturbed by a gentle and hesitant voice behind him, asking, Did he understand the charts and would he like some help? He readily agreed, and for some hours, I believe, the King went through it all with him, explaining in detail many things in a firm authoritative manner, showing no sign of hesitation in his speech. Considering his well-known infirmity, even though he controlled it well, it is evident that he must have known his subject extremely well.

A second story, of which I have personal knowledge, came about when Mr Harold Stough, well-known as the Secretary of the BIWF in London, made a world trip to meet the various Branches during the early sixties. I was privileged to have been Vice-President of the Adelaide Branch at the time.

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Harold met with us for about a week, and among the things that he told us are the following. We were surprised to learn that it was the Queen's request that a copy of every new publication of books printed by National Message Ltd should be placed in the Queen's Library in the Palace. This was meticulously done. He also told us that the Queen privately gave a special present to Prince Charles on the occasion of his being created Prince of Wales. This present was a copy of "The Most Valuable Thing in the World" by Mrs Winifred Dodd, MBE. It is a brilliant resume of each book in the Bible, from a British-Israel viewpoint.

Incidentally, it is probably not known by many that the Headquarters Building at 6 Buckingham Gate, just opposite the Palace itself, was a gift to the Federation from King George V. It was said that on many an afternoon he would appear in the bookroom for a cup of tea and a chat. Unfortunately in fairly recent years the London Council required the Federation to update the building according to new regulations. This they were not in a financial position to do, and so the building was sold. This was a great pity!

These stories are not about the Queen Mother, of course, but are certainly about her nearest and dearest. She was a great Christian Lady, and I have no doubt whatever that she shared all of these beliefs, even if she was in no position to mention-them to all and sundry.

Finally, we must mention HRH Princess Alice Cambridge, only daughter of Leopold, Duke of Saxe-Coburg Gotha. The Princess Alice was Patron of the British-Israel World Federation for many decades until her death. Her husband was HSH Major-General Sir Alexander Cambridge, DSO, Duke of Athlone, Prince of Teck, of the Royal House of Wurttemberg, whose sister was our own Queen Mary, Consort of King George V. She died 3 January 1981 at the age of 98 years, a greatly loved and hard working Lady. One begins to see how widespread this wonderful knowledge that we share was throughout our Royal Family.



HEROES OF FAITH.

Part Nine.

By Frank W. Dowsett.

Gideon.

There wouldn't be too many people who have not heard of the man Gideon. From as far back as our Sunday School days, his exploits have been a constant source of wonder, as were the tests he submitted before the Lord in order to establish the authenticity of what was happening.

The account of these exploits are recorded in the 6th and 7th chapters of the book of Judges. They are obviously too long to reprint in full here, so the reader is encouraged to get out their Bible and read these two chapters before continuing with this study, so as to have the overall picture in mind.

We read of his inclusion in the "Hall of Fame" in Hebrews 11:30-34;

"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens."

Without any doubt, he is among a very exclusive company of saints. We will be studying each of these in turn in subsequent issues. As we pointed out in our previous study, these nine people, or groups of people, all illustrated three most important attributes which we all, personally, must evidence in order to properly serve our Lord and Master.

1. The faithfulness of God.
2. The reward for obedience to God's commands.
3. The absolute necessity to **BELIEVE GOD!**

As in any Bible study, it is important to understand the background of what is to transpire. We read this in Judges 6:1-6;

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

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

And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it.

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

Now if anyone ever tries to tell you that the Bible is an out-dated book, just refer them to this passage.

The basic fact is that God allowed the foreigners and aliens to take over every aspect of Israel's national life. They over-ran the entire country; they destroyed their increase, or profits; they introduced their own life styles; and left Israel so destitute that they were finally driven to appeal to God for help.

This process has become a national habit, right up to our present day. Do what you like, and then when everything that could go wrong has gone wrong, rush to God for help. Israel had been doing that which was evil in God's sight. In other words, they were deliberately breaking and abusing God's righteous laws, statutes and judgments. We are still doing the same thing, with the same results.

The amazing aspect of this is that when the people really cried to Him, He always delivered them. We look forward to that day which is very quickly approaching when, in accordance with Ezek. 36:37, we will finally implore the Lord to save us from the hands of our present enemies:

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock."

But there is a very interesting aspect to this in regard to the identity of the enemies involved. The Midians were descendant from Abraham through Keturah. We read in Genesis 25:1-2;

"Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah. And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah."

On the other hand, the Amalekites were descendant from Esau, who was also descendant from Abraham. We read in Genesis 36:12, and Exodus 17:8, and 14-16;

"And Timna was concubine to Eliphaz Esau's son; and she bare to Eliphaz Amalek: these were the sons of Adah Esau's wife."

"Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim."

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

And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi:

For he said; Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

These enemies were Adamites, of the seed of Abraham, but they were not Israelites. They were not of the chosen line through Isaac.

So once again there arose an urgent need for another Judge/Deliverer. We read in Judges 6:7-10;

**"And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites,
That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage;
And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians,
and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land;
And I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell;
but ye have not obeyed my voice."**

It is interesting to note the seven things which God had done for Israel, as underlined in the passage above, and yet Israel still insisted in doing things their way. One can only wonder what it will take for His wayward people to wake up to themselves as to the ONLY remedy for our parlous position. One thing though is for certain. This will not happen until we cast aside the God-dishonouring beliefs that the present anti-Christ are God's Chosen People, or that God has changed His mind and transferred all the promises made to the fathers, to what is euphemistically called "The Church". I must have missed something along the line. I seem to remember a verse in Malachi 3:6 which says quite the opposite;

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

But I forgot. That's in the Old Testament isn't it, and that doesn't count any more.

So we find, as we will always find, God appointed another Judge to rule over Israel. He has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us. We read in Judges 6:11-16;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thus Gideon comes upon the scene. And we note four aspects of his character which ably qualified him for selection.

- a) His name means, “He that bruises - Great Warrior”.
- b) He bewailed Israel’s plight. (v13). In this he had the same mind as Lot, of whom we read in II Peter 2:7-8;

“And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds).”

- c) He had the Lord’s assurance. (V14 and 16), and
- d) He had a truly humble spirit. He was not too proud to admit his lowly birth and position.

God does not always choose the mighty and those of noble birth to serve Him. Paul reminds us of this principle in his letter to the Corinthians - I Cor. 1:25-29;

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

That no flesh should glory in his presence."

Then comes a very important incident, one which most Christians seem to shy away from. There is one absolutely important principle which we dare not overlook. It doesn't matter how certain we are as to accepting that the Lord has spoken to us, we are enjoined to "Test the spirits". Satan is a great deceiver, and he has no trouble at all in deceiving people into believing that it is the Lord speaking, when in fact it is he, Satan, who is deceiving us. This principle of testing what is said is clearly shown in I John 4:1;

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

Gideon did the correct thing. He asked the Lord for a sign as to the authenticity of what he had heard. God was not one bit put out by this. In fact it was just what He would have expected. The test is recorded Judges 6:17-24, and commences with verses 17-18;

"And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then show me a sign that thou talkest with me. Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again."

The account goes on to record how Gideon prepared an offering for the Angel of the Lord, and the following actions of the Angel made Gideon realise to whom he had been speaking.

Verses 22 to 24 record his reaction;

“And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face. And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.

Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah-shalom:” (*Jehovah brings peace*).

The first requirement for victory is recorded in verses 25 to 32, where Gideon was required to remove all forms of idolatry from among the people.

He started at the correct place - with his own family. His father's altars of Baal were destroyed, and an altar to God was erected in a selected position, as stated in verses 25 and 26.

Then he turned his attention to the general populace. When night came, he took a party of ten men and under cover of darkness, destroyed the altars to Baal with its grove. The people got real mad about this and threatened to kill Gideon for what he had done. But his father, Joash, intervened in the words recorded in verse 31;

“And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar.”

Shades of Elijah and the prophets of Baal, isn't it. In both cases, the people were told to allow their false gods to protect themselves, seeing they were supposed to be so powerful. But of course, they couldn't defend themselves, despite which the people still continued to support them. What a stupid race of people we are.

It was only at this point, when Gideon had proved his worthiness, that the Spirit of the Lord descended upon him; v34;

“But the spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.”

But Gideon was taking no risks. Having determined that the call of the Lord was genuine, he now asked for assurance as to the promise of victory. This is recorded in Judges 6:36-40;

“And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said,

Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.

And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.

And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.”

The two main lessons to be learned from this is firstly, that we should never use an insignificant test to prove God. By that I mean, never use a test that can fairly be duplicated by man. Make it reasonably impossible. The test should be of such a nature that it glorifies God, not man.

Secondly, we should recognise the difference between testing God and tempting God. Sadly, many Christians fall into the latter category. I well remember two incidents which really shocked me. Many years ago, before we started this Mission, we attended the Wednesday night prayer meeting of the church we then attended. One of the ladies there made a great show of praying for God to fix her washing machine which had broken down. All she had to do was to call a technician and make use of the gift that God had given him - whether he realised it or not. The second incident involved a young man who got into his car, which was parked next to ours. It wouldn't start, and I actually witnessed him as he got out of his car, gave it a good kick, at the same time saying, "In Jesus Name, start." Such actions are a

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disgrace to Almighty God, and fall under the classification of "tempting" God. Pounding the table and demanding God to do what we want is a sin of the highest order. But we have every right to test the spirits to make sure it IS God speaking and directing us.

The next lesson we learn from Gideon's experience is that **"Big is not always best"**. In Judges 7:1-2 we read;

"Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me."

So God introduced what we would today refer to as a culling procedure. In verse 3 of chapter 7 he told Gideon to reduce the overall number by eliminating those who were 'fearful and afraid';

"Now therefore come, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is afraid and trembling, let him return and depart from Mount Gilead.'" So 22,000 people returned, but 10,000 remained."

This was one of God's Laws in respect to warfare as recorded in Deuteronomy 20:8;

"And the officers shall speak further unto the people, and they shall say, What man is there that is fearful and fainthearted? let him go and return unto his house, lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart."

But the number was still too many, so in verses 4-7 we read;

"Then the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many; bring them down to the water and I will test

them for you there. Therefore it shall be that he of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go with you; but everyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "You shall separate everyone who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, as well as everyone who kneels to drink."

Now the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was 300 men; but all the rest of the people kneeled to drink water.

And the LORD said to Gideon, "I will deliver you with the 300 men who lapped and will give the Midianites into your hands; so let all the other people go, each man to his home."

Thus their suitability was tested. Those who were chosen were they who placed their hands in the water, thus disturbing the surface of any pollution, and lapping the water out of their hands. This also meant that they were able to keep their weapon in the other hand, ready for instant use, whereas those who kneeled down to drink would have to have laid down their weapon.

In the final battle against the enemy, God requires only those who are ever watchful, alert, and dedicated. God does not want those who are "people followers", only desiring to go along with what the majority do. Most Christians today can't accept being a member of a small group. They feel too vulnerable. But God's Word constantly refers to His use of "a remnant". We read in Isa. 1:9; Matt. 7:14; and 20:16;

"Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah."

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."

The third test is recorded in Judges 7:9-14, where God gave Gideon assurance as a result of his obedience in the face of such superior odds;

"And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand.

But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host:

And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host.

Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that were in the host.

And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.

And when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along.

And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host."

God never intends us to exhibit what we call 'blind faith'. We are repeatedly exhorted to constantly 'check the spirits', so that we may determine that it is really God speaking, and not Satan pretending to be God with the intent of leading us into error and danger. Every step we take must be checked in accordance with God's Will. God knows our human weaknesses, so He expects us to check with Him.

When all these considerations have been double checked and confirmed as being the will of God, we put our faith into action with complete confidence of success.

And from this we learn that success comes only by Total Obedience. We read in Judges 7:16-22;

“And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man’s hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do.

When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.

And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.

And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man’s sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath.”

When God’s servants stand united and obedient, they are invincible.

If we let down our guard, the enemy will pour in through the chinks and play havoc with us.

But when we stand firm in obedience, and in the strength of the Lord, the Lord fights for us. The enemy will self-destruct, and flee.

Gideon rightly deserved his place in the “Gallery of Faith”.

In these final eventful days, the Lord requires Gideons - those who will serve with an unflinching dedication, patience, reverence, and FAITH, constantly testing all things so that we shall be worthy of the High Calling which the Lord has placed upon us.

Let us, as Gideon, be Great Men of Valour.

A WALK THROUGH THE GOSPELS.

Part 21.

By Bruce Horner.

PARABLES LEADING UP TO THE RAISING OF LAZARUS.

Luke 17: 1-10 (KJV)

1. *Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!*
2. *It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.*
3. *Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.*
4. *And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.*
5. *And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.*
6. *And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.*
7. *But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?*
8. *And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?*
9. *Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.*
10. *So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things that are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*

There is very little that need be said about most of these verses except to point out that they contain matter which had

been spoken by the Lord on a former occasion (Matt 18: 6-7, Mark 9: 42) and repeated here with a variation of certain words. Verses 3 and 4 also had been spoken before, and recorded in Matthew 18: 21-22 (but not in Mark). The passage here is therefore not out of its context, but is repeated with special reference to Luke 16: 14-30. That is to say, that the offence against any of his little ones is not against children as such but against any of His little ones in the faith, and in the context of the matters under discussion with the Pharisees in the previous chapter.

Similarly with the forgiveness of trespasses by your brother against you, where Luke says to forgive seven times in a day, whereas Matthew records the number as seventy.

This is not a discrepancy, but was spoken on a different occasion. The number itself is irrelevant, and is meant to convey the idea of times without number. Luke 17, verse 3 is worth taking note of. It says '*if thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.*' It does not say that we are to forgive when our brother has not repented of the offence, as I have so frequently heard church people say. Certainly God does not forgive our offences if we do not repent of them. Verses 7 to 10 are also worth bearing in mind. How often do we expect thanks for a job that was our duty to perform! Robertson, at this point in his harmony, turns to Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Baker, in his harmony, has already dealt with this occasion after Jesus returned to Bethabara beyond Jordan from Jerusalem at the Feast of Dedication. However, I am going to follow Dr Bullinger at this point, and continue through with Luke to chapter 18, verse 14, as, indeed, Baker does in his harmony.

Bullinger allows Luke to proceed straight through here. But Baker takes verses 10 to 19 and places them immediately after the seventy are instructed and sent out in Samaria, which is Luke chapter 10: 1-16. Indeed, Robertson does the same.

JESUS STARTS ON THE LAST JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM BY WAY OF SAMARIA AND GALILEE

Luke 17: 11-37

11. Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

12. *As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance*
13. *and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"*
14. *When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.*
15. *One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.*
16. *He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him— and he was a Samaritan.*
17. *Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"*
18. *Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"*
Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

How characteristic, that out of ten men, it was only the foreigner who came back to thank Jesus. We notice also, that Jesus did not fail to send them back through the proper channels, to observe the ritual due to the priest, for, after all, He had not yet made the sacrifice for sin required by the law.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Luke 17: 20-21 NIV

20. *Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation,*
21. *nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."*

The main point in many of the parables of both the Old Testament and the New is that the Kingdom has been hidden: the people of the Kingdom were lost; the nation was buried in the field of the world, unrecognised and unknown. It is God's great secret and mystery; and there would have been no need for parables and symbolic, mysterious teaching if the Kingdom had not been in hiding. While the time had not come for its restoration and manifestation the mystery deepened and the wonder grew.

The Pharisees were anxious to know when this secret would be made known, and when the Kingdom, which was centred in the Kingdom of Israel, would be re-established in the earth.

They wanted to see it; they desired the Kingdom to appear; and in His reply to their question Christ tells them that it is not coming openly; it will not for a long, long time be observed or recognised by men. It will grow and develop unseen: while hidden it will come to a position of strength and power, yet no one will know it.

"The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation." How true was this saying! Ever since our Lord's day the Kingdom has been growing and developing in secret, and although until recently it has been the greatest force amongst the nations, it is still unrecognised and unidentified except by a scattered few.

Neither have men said, *"Lo, here it is,"* and all the time it has been in their midst, a secret known only to God.

"For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you." *"Behold, be it known unto you, take notice!"* By these words our Lord wishes to enforce his meaning, and to arrest their attention. He has something important to state, probably the key to the mystery.

And what did Christ really say to them? There are hundreds of examples in the Bible where alternative words are given in the margin, and this is one. In these cases the revisers were undecided as to the correct word to put into the text, this or that, so they have given us both, and the meaning must fit both. One is given as the interpretation of the other. In this instance the word "among" is given in the margin as the alternative of "within", so the text reads "the Kingdom of God is within, or among you."

At once it is plain Christ did not indicate inwardness; He did not say the Kingdom was within their hearts, a spiritual experience only. He really told them that the Kingdom was "in the midst of them", or as the RV states, among them, but within, i.e. hidden from view, within the veil, not open to their ken.

It certainly was among them, for there standing before them was the King Himself, and beside Him were twelve men

THE COVENANT VISION.

who would sit on twelve thrones in the Kingdom, and they were quite ignorant of the fact.

They had eyes and could see not; they could not observe, it was all "within", beyond their understanding. Some of the Lord's parables of the hidden Kingdom were apparently told with the express purpose of explaining the idea that lies behind this word "within".

He spoke of the seed buried in the earth, and growing secretly. It was "within", yet active in their midst. He told of the treasure hid in the field of the world. It was "within", yet among them, for it had not then been taken from the Jews. He gave the illustration of the leaven hid in three measures of meal, but working all the time, and preparing to burst forth and come to light.

Baker makes a very significant comment in his *Harmony* at this point. He states "Rather *among you*, for the kingdom of God was not *within* the Pharisees". He erroneously proceeds to say, but it is *within* all genuine believers, its seat being in the heart; and so it escaped the observation of the worldly-minded Pharisees. He thus ignores the fact that the statement was directed by Jesus straight at the Pharisees with whom He was talking.

CHRIST'S COMING WILL BE SUDDEN

(Luke 17: 22-24)

Luke 17: 22 NIV. *Then he said to his disciples, "The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it."*

23. *Men will tell you, 'There he is!' or 'Here he is!' Do not go running off after them."*

24. *For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other."*

This is interesting, for we are used to hearing that this is a reference to the end times. But it is to the disciples that Jesus is speaking. And He is telling them that they will not, indeed, see "*one of the days of the Son of Man*", no matter how much they will long to see it. Hence when men say that He is here, or He is there, do not go running off after it. Not only is this not the right historical moment, but also when it comes it will be of such a dazzling nature, that nobody will be able to miss it.

Luke 17: 25. *But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.*

This reference to His suffering and rejection was something that the disciples had not even yet been able to come to terms with.

Jesus then goes on to describe the day of His return. He compares it to the days of Noah and Lot, in that in both cases they did all the same things that every generation is involved in doing. Life appeared uneventful, until sudden destruction fell. In less than a day the people of Noah's time were drowned in a flood. A thing that had never happened before – but Noah and his family were saved out of it by God's providence.

Similarly the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were overwhelmed by fire and Brimstone, which we may presume had never happened before in their experience. It was only Lot's family that was preserved out of it, by God's good grace. The important thing to note is that it was the wicked who were removed, whilst the righteous were preserved by God through the experience. They were removed to a place of safety, or to use a common present day expression, they were 'saved'.

So, 'in His day', Christ's return will come in a future day when the people are doing all the same kinds of things that every generation has done before them, completely unaware of impending doom, just as in the days of Noah and Lot.

Luke 17: 26. *“ Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man.*

27. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

28. "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building.

29. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

30. "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything.
Remember Lot's wife!"

This is a timely warning that we should not forget. It is a warning directed straight towards us and all of His sheep in these last days. Remember that Lot's wife looked back, probably with regret and the intention of turning back. She did not get the chance to return, but was overwhelmed just as the Sodomites were.

Luke 17: 33. *Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.*

34. *I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left.*

35. *Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left."*

Matthew 18 gives this same parable, but on a different occasion. Hence the illustrations are extended, but the message is still the same. People in all walks of life, and people in all different places, will be subject to the punishment that God is going to deal out to the wicked. It will be on the same basis as the judgment dealt out in Noah's time and in Lot's time. It will be sudden. It will be unexpected. It will be remorseless. And it will be the wicked that will be taken. The righteous will be saved out of it, if necessary in the same manner as Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. It will be the time when the angels begin reaping the tares out of the wheat.

Luke 17: 37. *"Where, Lord?" they asked. He replied, "Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather."*

At first this question seems to be a bit of a conundrum, but a little thought will show us the very simple answer.

Both the destruction at Noah's flood and the holocaust at Sodom and Gomorrah caused widespread violence to places and people. The events of our Lord's return will be similar. The wicked will be removed, but the righteous will be taken to a safe place. In modern parlance, they will be "saved". We are told that the wicked will be destroyed. The disciples asked, *"Where, Lord"*. Jesus does not give a specific answer, but simply says, *"the eagles will be gathered together wherever the body is"*.

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THE IMPORTUNATE WIDOW. THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN

Luke 18: 1-14 NIV

1. *Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.*
2. *He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men.*
3. *And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'*
4. *"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men,*
5. *yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"*
6. *And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?"*

Obviously times have not changed, nor has human nature changed. Men still remain the same. But the message is clear. We should never give up, but our efforts ought always to be accompanied by prayer. If our cause is just, Christ promises that justice will prevail.

8. *I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"*
9. *To some that were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable:*
10. *"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.*
11. *The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men— robbers, evildoers, adulterers— or even like this tax collector.*
12. *I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'*
13. *"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'*

14. *"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

**What commentary is needed
on most of the words of Christ?**



Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892).
The Prince of Preachers.

The famous English-born, American Baptist evangelist, considered one of the greatest Bible scholars ever, in *The Treasury of the Old Testament* (Vol. 2, p. 154) declared:

English history, from the first day until now, is as full of instruction as the history of Israel from Egypt to Babylon. Our nation has been as much under the special, and peculiar providence of God as were the descendants of Jacob themselves; therefore, God deals with us as He does not with any other nation.

Spurgeon once addressed the students of his college, stating, "Do not violently strain a text by illegitimate spiritualising. Never spiritualise for the sake of showing what an uncommonly good fellow you are: and in no case allow your audience to forget that the narratives which you spiritualise are facts, and not mere myths and parables."

Further, Spurgeon preached to his congregation, "The indwelling of the Holy Ghost is a subject so profound, and so having to do with the inner man, that no soul will be able to truly and really to comprehend what I am about to say, unless it has been taught of God If you cannot comprehend me, I am much afraid it is because you are not of Israelitish extraction; you are not a child of God, nor an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven."

(Surgeon's Sermons vol. I, p. 58).

❖ THE DAY OF THE LORD. ❖

Part Six.

The Olivet Discourse. Part 3.

by Frank W. Dowsett.

We continue in this issue with our study of “The Olivet Discourse”, as it impacts on events leading up to “The Day of the Lord.”

Having dealt briefly with the subject of “wars and rumours of wars”, and “persecutions”, we now turn to another of our Lord’s prophesises, that relating to what He refers to as;

“The Abomination of Desolation.”

We find this phrase in both Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14. It is not mentioned by Luke. It reads;

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)”

The phrase (whoso readeth, let him understand:) is of great importance. It is used in various forms throughout the Scriptures, such as “he that hath ears to hear”, etc., and always enjoins us to study very carefully the statement preceding it.

There is a constant policy in the understanding of prophecy which we cannot afford to overlook. This is that of both the “Short Term” fulfilment, and the “Long Term” fulfilment. We find that on many occasions the event prophesied occurs shortly after it is given, and then occurs on a much larger scale at some time in the future. It is the classic “history repeats itself” syndrome. But it is quite Scriptural, as we read in Ecclesiastes 1:9-10;

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

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

It is generally accepted that the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Roman army under Titus was the early, or initial, fulfilment of this prophecy. One only has to look at the description of the conditions which were extant at the time to recognise the resemblance. We note the following readings;

"Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:" Matthew 24:16-20.

"And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house:

And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment.

But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter."

Mark 13:15-18.

"Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto."

"But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people."

Luke 21:21 and 23.

These days were also designated as “days of vengeance” etc.. We read in the following verses;

“For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.” Luke 21:22.

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”

Daniel 9:24-27.

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Matthew 23 27-39.

It was this last verse which prompted the disciples to ask their third question of the Lord, **"And what shall be sign of Thy coming?"**

Here we have a direct reference to some time in the future associated with what the Lord was telling them.

But we are also told that these days were to be those of "great tribulation", as recorded as follows;

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

Matthew 24:21.

"For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be."

Mark 13:19.

“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” Luke 21:24.

Each of these readings give a little more information in the way in which they are expressed, but the common feature is the reference to some time in the future, or a latter fulfilment.

So to what could our Lord have been referring in regard to a future fulfilment of this prophecy?

Remember His statement as recorded in Matt. 24:15;

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)”

Surely, the obvious thing to do here is to look at what Daniel actually said, because he and the Lord are the only ones recorded as ever having used this expression.

In Daniel 9:27 we read the first reference by Daniel in the following statement;

“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”

Whilst this verse only refers obliquely to “the abomination that maketh desolate”, I have quoted it because of the importance of the marginal reference in the Bible to the portion I have underlined in the above. It reads;

“And the Jews they shall be no more His people.”

His second reference is found in Daniel 12:5-13;

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

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

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

8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?

9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

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

13 But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days."

Dan. 12:5-13.

As far as these latter days in which we are now living, the above verses are without doubt the most important in this 12th chapter of the prophet Daniel. He specifically mentions three distinct time period, namely; 1260, 1290, and 1335.

The first of these is found in verse 7;

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

You may well ask, "Where is '1260' mentioned here?" Well, let us examine some details of the verse. The "time frame" mentioned is actually "a time, times, and a half." A "time" in prophetic terms is a period of 360 years. We can arrive at this by comparing Rev. 12:6 with Rev. 12:14;

6 * "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days."

14 "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent."

Thus, the period of 1260 days - or prophetic years - is equated to "a time, times and half a time", or 3.1/2 "times". The fact that the Angel was stated to have held up His right hand and His left hand, as distinct from saying the He held up both hands, indicates that each hand represented 1260 years, thus giving us a total of 2,520 years, the great "Seven Times" of Israel's captivity and punishment. It was the late Dr. Grattan Guinness, writing in about 1890, who pointed out that 2,500 years from the final captivity of Jerusalem would bring us to the year 1917, at which time we could expect that city to be freed from the then inhabitants. History has revealed just how accurate he was, because it was on December 9th 1917 that General Allenby marched into Jerusalem, thus freeing the city from the Turkish-Muslim power. Remembering that the Israel New Civil Year commenced at about the beginning of October, on the average, that date would have occurred in the equivalent Hebrew year of 1918. It is surely no coincidence that the year 1917 was the year 1335 on the Islam calendar.

Looking back over history from that date, it is clear to see that "the power of the holy people" began to decline as from that date, until now it is well nigh scattered, just as prophesied by the prophet Daniel.

The next period quoted by Daniel is 1290. This is 30 years more than the 1260, which brings us to 1947/48, when
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Zionist Jewry took control of Jerusalem from the hands of Israel/Britain, thus fulfilling Ezekiel 11:15;

"Son of man, thy brethren, even thy brethren, the men of thy kindred, and all the house of Israel wholly, are they unto whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, Get you far from the LORD: unto us is this land given in possession."

The "Abomination of Desolation" of Daniel 12:11 had arrived.

The time frame of 1335 is just 45 more than the 1290, and brings us to the years 1992/93, the very time when Britain officially entered the Common Market, thus defying the command of God not to be reckoned among the nations.

It is no wonder that the Holy Spirit caused Peter to write that the more sure word of prophecy would be like a light shining in a dark place. (II Peter 1:19).

In Mathew 24:22 the Lord concluded this section of His discourse with these words;

"And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Now, as in those former days, the Lord has no intention of allowing world events to develop to the stage when His Israel people will be destroyed. He is not - as I'm sure many Christians believe - going to look down on us from heaven and suddenly realising what danger we are in, decide to abruptly step in and do something about it.

To "shorten the days" simply means that He has already determined exactly how long this age will last. He has already placed a time limit upon it so that it will not continue for an infinite period of time.

And in doing so, He has absolutely guaranteed safety not only for the "elect's" sake, but for all flesh, as the enemy brings all their forces, both literal and spiritual, to bare upon God's Israel people whom He has chosen to be His witnesses to the glorious fact that He is indeed the only God and Saviour and Redeemer.

(to be continued).

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

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

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

THE RETURN OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

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

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

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

With our Christian love,

Frank and Betty Dowsett.

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**Behold, I come as a thief.
Blessed is he that watcheth,
and keepeth his garments,
lest he walk naked,
and they see his shame.**

Rev. 16:15.

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