

The British-Israel-World Federation Victorian Branch

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British-Israel World Federation

(VICTORIAN HEADQUARTERS)

501

MONTHLY NOTES

Dec. 1990-Jan. 1991

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THE TIME OF THE END

I believe mankind now alive is living in the days known as the time of the end, and that believers should be taking a closer look at the days in which we are now living. Some time ago a reverend gentleman named Samuel McEwan, explained the prophecy concerning the 'eagle' of 2 Esdras chapter 12 in the Apocrypha (R.V.) as representing the axis powers of the second world war operating in Europe. Verse 30 identifies the time in history when these events were to take place, viz, "these are they whom the Most High hath kept unto his end". The 'lion' rebuking the 'eagle' for unrighteousness, (verse 32 states) "is the anointed one, whom the Most High hath kept unto the end of days, who shall spring up out of the seed of David. (Either the Lord himself, or a member of the Royal House of Israel sitting on 'the throne of the Lord' (the British-Israel throne). Verse 34 states "For the rest of my people (Israel) British (Covenant) people shall he deliver with mercy, those that have been preserved throughout my borders, and he shall make them joyful until the coming of the end, even the day of judgement, whereof I have spoken unto thee from the beginning".

The prophet was then told to teach these things to the wise of his people, those able to "comprehend and keep those secrets". He also said (verses 46 to 48) "Be of good comfort, O Israel, and be ye not

sorrowful, thou house of Jacob. For the 'Most High hath you in remembrance, and the Mighty hath not forgotten you for ever'".

The prophet then saw other visions, which were explained to him, and they foresaw perilous times for man in the years to follow, culminating in the return of Jesus Christ to earth. But while those (the present) years were very perilous, verse 20 states "Yet is it better for one to be in peril and to come unto those things" than to die and miss these events in these 'the last days', especially those who are believers and have faith in Almighty God, for verse 24 records "they which be left behind (alive here on earth) are more blessed than they that be dead".

In 2 Esdras 13 verse 25 a man comes up from the midst of the sea (i.e. from amongst the people). He is a very powerful creature, as was Elijah, or more likely, Christ Jesus Himself, for although apparently unarmed as we understand it, was able to withstand all who opposed him. The interpretation is given thus (beginning verse 29) "Behold, the days come, when the Most High will begin to deliver them that are *upon the earth*. And there shall come astonishment of mind upon them that dwell on the earth. For when they are prepared for war, or engaged therein, and prophesied events are happening (verse 32) "then shall my Son (Jesus Christ) be revealed (the Second coming) "whom thou sawest as a man ascending. (verse 33) "And it shall be, when all the nations HEAR HIS VOICE (Refer 1 Thess. 4-16) every man shall leave his own land and the battle they have one against another." (verse 34) "And an innumerable multitude shall be gathered together, as thou sawest, desiring to come, and to fight against him." (verse 35) "But he shall stand upon the top of the mount Sion."

This is not necessarily London as has been suggested in recent times by various writers, but is more likely the mount of Olives as in the Middle East. And from there, by tempest and fire, will effortlessly destroy his opponents. (verse 39) "And whereas thou sawest that he gathered unto him another multitude that was peaceable" (verses 40-46) "These are the ten tribes, which were led away out of their own land in the time of Osea the king, whom Salmanaser the king of the Assyrians led away captive, and he carried them beyond the River, and they were carried into another land. But they took this counsel among themselves, that they would leave the multitude of the heathen, and go forth into a further country, where never mankind dwelt. That they might there keep their statutes, which they had not kept in their own land. And they entered by the narrow passages of the river Euphrates. For the Most High then wrought signs for them, and stayed the springs of the River, till they were passed over. For through that country there was a great way to go, namely, of a year and a half: and the same region is called Arzarethi. Then dwelt they there until the latter time".

These verses verify the truth that most of true Israel are no longer in the Middle East area, that a very small remnant remain in that area (and

NOT the *Israelis* in the Palestine area) and that Christ Himself will protect them the true remnant) from the many violent people about them. Verses 48 and 49 state "But those that be left behind of thy people are they which are found within my holy border. It shall be therefore when he shall destroy the multitude of the nations that are gathered together, he shall defend the people that remain (in that area). Verse 52 adds "And He said unto me, like as one can neither seek out nor know what is in the deep of the sea, even so can no man upon earth see my Son, or those that be with him, but in the time of his day". His day is obviously "the day of the Lord" which from other texts, has to be the Millenium (the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ, ON EARTH, following His Second Coming.)

E.B.C.

COMFORT YE

The days are, at most, only a few short years away, when His Israel-Anglo-Celto-Saxon people shall be in jeopardy, in dire straits, for they must soon be able to see the possible difficulties, both financially and from a military point of view, the possible problems that Britain and her allies are being subjected to. I know this makes me a Jeremiah, but I fail to see how His people can be brought back to God except by adversity.

We are a people that find themselves unable or unwilling to admit their faults, and therefore try to 'tough it out' before calling on God to lift us out of the mess into which His people have gotten themselves.

King David, in the 55th Psalm, had the correct approach. Verses 16 and 17 record "As for me, I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me. Evening and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud, and *He shall hear my voice*. He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me . . . God shall hear, and afflict them, even He that abideth of old". David ends the Psalm, "but I will trust in Thee".

David continues these same thoughts throughout the next psalms 56 to 63, that he is being reprov'd and oppressed, not satisfied with his lot or the oppression by his enemies, but throughout all of this he is adamant that God is his God and will listen, reprove and judge his enemies and that in the end (Psalm 64-9) "All men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God" and "the righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in Him, and all the upright in heart shall glory".

Throughout all this adversity, David was adamant that God knew all about our coming problems, but that he would be assailed and sorely tried from within and without, but David continued to show his faith in God, God justified that faith, calmed his fears, honoured his faith in God, repulsed his enemies, and gained reward in that faith in God by his deliverance from those enemies.

Here is a *mighty lesson* for us, and we shall all learn from it. We are in a time of trouble that has not been seen before and it may become a lot worse. But God knows all about it, is ready and willing to carry the burden Himself, and will surely do so, if we only ask. He is the God of salvation, and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death. The sinner and oppressor shall be punished, and believers in God's salvation and mercy shall be saved. "Psalm 68 ends with the words (verse 35) "the God of *Israel* is He that giveth strength and power unto His people. Blessed be God!

Herein lies the strength of His people in adversity. Only believe, give Him the honour due to Him, as Abraham did, *Believe* God, and you will most surely be comforted and blessed!.

E.B.C.

UNDERSTANDING

One of the best gifts I was ever given was a Scofield Reference Bible, and unfortunately I am unable to remember the name of the person who gave it to me at least some thirty or forty years ago. It is only of recent years I realize the grand manner in which my understanding of God's Word has been brought about. First, the introduction to the glories of God's Word by my mother who took me to Sunday School up at the corner of our street at a Methodist Church, where I met believers (and unbelievers) who contributed a great deal to my understanding of Bible truths. I will never forget her, for she died in her early forties of blood pressure and considerable pain, on my 23rd birthday, on a Sunday School Anniversary to which I was committed, as I was the organist at a local Congregational Church at that particular time. (Yes, I turned up, my mother would have been pleased at that. Being the eldest of three children, my father and I were quite close in most things, except after he joined the Exclusive Brethren and I became a believer in the British-Israel truth in my late teens. From then on, we seldom saw eye to eye in religious matters. Both my mother and father, all my uncles and aunts and some cousins, two of my three young sons (aged one and three respectively) have all departed this life, and if I last another three years, I will be an octogenarian, so I have met death many times and never saw anything about that imposter I have ever liked. But because of differences in doctrine of Protestants and Roman Catholics, of Brethren and orthodox Protestants, of Seventh Day Adventists and Unitarians, I have learnt much concerning the differences between all their beliefs, and I can certainly agree with Dr. Scofield's remark "It is therefore, indispensable to any interesting and fruitful study of the Bible that a general knowledge of it be gained. It was only by crossing swords so to speak with extremists of all of these groups, that the Protestant and British-Israel beliefs are the **ONLY** ones that can be reliably believed and substantiated.

Firstly, the Bible is ONE BOOK. Seven great marks attest to this unity.

- (1) From Genesis 1 the Bible bears witness to one God. Wherever He speaks or acts He is consistent with Himself and with the total revelation concerning Him.
- (2) The Bible hazards the most unlikely *predictions* concerning the future, and when the centuries have brought about the *appointed time*, records the fulfillment (and continued to do so).
- (3) The Bible forms one *continuous* story – the story of humanity in relation to God.
- (4) The Bible is a *progressing unfolding* of truth. Nothing is told all at once, and once for all. The law is – first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn.

Without the possibility of collusion, often with centuries between, one writer of scripture takes up on earlier revelation, adds to it, lays down the pen, and in due time, another person moved by the Holy Spirit, and another, and another, adds new details till the whole is complete.

- (5) From beginning to end, the Bible testifies to ONE REDEMPTION.
- (6) From beginning to end, the Bible has *one great theme* – the person and work of the Christ.
- (7) And finally, these writers, some 44 in number, writing through over twenty centuries, have produced a *perfect harmony* of doctrine in progressive unfolding. This is, to every candid mind, the unanswerable proof of the inspiration of the Bible.

The Bible (66 books that make up one book) also presents the inauguration of a people or a special “people of God”, wayward yet preserved as witnesses that He is God, a backsliding but redeemed people for His special purposes to live and reign with Him *on earth*, over which His church of believers is to rule with Him as a witness to all people. These people were named as the children of Jacob-Israel, the whole twelve tribed Israel nation and commonwealth of nations, ruled over by the line of King David Himself, until Jesus returns to earth to fulfil Isaiah 9, verses 7 to 9, and to claim His rightful heritage as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

E.B.C.

NOTE: The Council Meeting in November decided to commence Tuesday lunchtime meetings (12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. from Tuesday 5th February next. Mr. J. Walke, our Bookroom manager, will be the inaugural speaker at the B.I. Bookroom in the Basement, Majorca building, 258 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. All welcome to come to these Monthly meetings.

REVIVAL ATTEMPT

As at the year 1941 A.D., B.I.W.F. Vic. H.Q. had branches at Parkdale, Oakleigh, Ballarat (Bookroom also), Bendigo, Geelong, Launceston (Tas.), Hobart (Tas.).

There is no doubt that Victorian and Tasmanian interest in the British-Israel message has deteriorated in the past 50 years, as, although there is a thriving B.I. centre of interest in the suburb of Camberwell, all other branches no longer exist, which is a great pity. Although B.I.W.F. Vic. H.Q. continue to exist in Melbourne, financial membership is now less than 100 members, and although its witness as to our identity and responsibility is still substantial, it nevertheless is a cause for concern that we are an aging membership, and not much can be done about it. Because of these facts and our concern for apparent indifference or witness, at the Council meeting in November it was decided to commence Tuesday lunchtime meetings once a month, to stimulate interest.

Ed.

While from time to time I commend those who financially support our B.I. organisation, I feel that at times I do not sufficiently praise those who financially keep our organisation afloat. The main items of expenditure (in Vic. H.Q.) are as follows (per annum) – Typing and printing (including ‘Monthly Notes’) \$1200, postage \$1300, light \$600, Insurance \$50, registration fees \$50, telephone \$650, Insurance \$50, repairs \$200, Wages \$9,000, Bookroom rent \$10,000, total approximately \$24,000 per annum.

Our target for the coming year is \$30,000 to cover rising inflation and contingencies. The proceeds from the sale of literature and magazines just cover the cost of purchases, any profit, which is minimal, being ploughed back into additional purchases. The whole of the over \$20,000 annual cost is provided by the generosity of the now less than 100 members. More of us need to contribute to this cost to ease the burden on the few, so please give some thought to this matter. Are you doing as much in this problem of finance as you could?

Thank you to those who continue to support us financially. Remember the Lord loveth a cheerful giver!

The President



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THE PLAN

Isaiah 9.6-7. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. And the government shall be upon His shoulders, 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 on 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." These words are probably a complete summary of the whole Bible. A particular portion and treasured section of the whole of mankind (Israel, especially chosen and trained for a purpose, "Ye are My witnesses, that I am God").

"Unto us", (a particular portion of mankind) "*a child*" (especially selected, chosen, skilled, well trained) *is born* (of selected human parentage), "unto us" (a specific portion of created mankind) "a son is given" (free, no strings attached) "*and the government*" (the right, the overall supervision and rulership) "Shall be upon His shoulders," (his is the responsibility and overall direction) "and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor (a being organising, advising, authoritative but with reasoning) "the Mighty God", (a worshipful one, respected, looked up to and bowed down to) "the Everlasting Father" (including headship of the whole family – a father figure – Father Time as it were) "the Prince of Peace" (a likeable, responsible authoritarian, achieving under complete control and adoration His aims (the benefit of the whole family

Continued overleaf

of mankind). "Of the increase of His government and peace" (all mankind and ultimately the whole of creation, both human and angelic) "there shall be no end" (all embracing, universal) "upon the throne of David and upon His kingdom" (of special origin and selection, of continuing line, of content, and everlasting) "to order it and to establish it, with judgement and with justice" (with specific laws, regulations and penalties for disobedience) "from henceforth" (from the time of His Second Coming to earth *to reign* thereon) "even for ever" (continually without cessation) "The zeal of the Lord of Hosts" (loving intention and devotion of Almighty God) "will perform this." (It will be done, with proper consummation to His ultimate satisfaction).

Here in a nutshell, is the plan and purpose of the 66 books that constitute His Word, the Holy Bible!

E.B.C

HOW OLD IS THE EARTH

Geology suggests that the universe is millions of years old. This may be so, but how old is the earth in the scheme of things? We are not necessarily told this in exact terms, but there are some clues given in the Bible. As it claims it is God's Word, and also that "Thy word is truth" we may find some clues in its writings.

In Genesis chapter 1, verses 1 and 2, we read "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, and the earth was (became) without form and void (empty), and darkness covered the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

In these verses are the five basic primary fundamentals of science – Time, Space, Matter, Force, Motion. The first creative act was "the heaven" and the "earth", more correctly the 'stellar area' and 'matter'.

As the earth became 'without form' and 'empty', this allows for a lengthy period of time. Jeremiah 4.23, Isaiah 24.1 and 45.18 indicate the earth had undergone a cataclysmic change as the result of Divine judgement. The face of the earth clearly indicates this intimation connecting this with a previous testing and fall of angels. Ezek.28.12-15 and Isa.14.9-14 certainly go beyond the kings of Tyre and Babylon. In Gen.1.14-18, nowhere is an *original* creative act implied.

In verse 4 of Gen.1, and in verses 14-18 a different word is used. The sense is, *made to appear*, made *visible*. The sun and moon were created "in the beginning". The 'light' of course came from the sun, but 'vapour' diffused the light. Later the sun appeared in an unclouded sky. According to Archbishop Usher, the events recorded in Genesis cover a period of 2315 years.

While the use of 'evening and morning' constitute a limiting of 'a day' to 24 hours, a day set apart for some specific purpose, such as 'day of atonement' (Lev.23-27), 'day of judgement' (Matt.10-15) is a long or short period of time during which certain revealed purposes of

God are to be accomplished, as 'day of the Lord', which is at the end of the age, is the Millenium, or 1000 years of Jesus' reign, *on earth*, on the throne of David over the House of Israel.

In the period of time before the created earth became 'formless and void', it was *animal* life that perished, the traces remaining as fossils. Therefore there is no conflict between the primitive creation and the Genesis cosmology, so the theory of evolution is not a science but a deception and a theory to support and explain supposed scientific deficiencies, and is 'the lie' by which mankind is deceived in 2 Thess.2-11.

From all the evidence, we are able to conclude that each creative act was a period of time during which certain revealed purposes of God were accomplished.

As God 'rested' on the seventh 'day', the period of time allotted to the manifestation of the Christ, which as Usher indicated would be from around 4000 B.C. to A.D. 2000 (6000 years) plus 1000 years for the Millennial reign of Jesus (the 'day' of the Lord) = a total of 7000 years.

This suggests that the time at which the earth became 'without form and void' was approximately $7 \times 7000 = 49,000$ from commencement of the week to the end of the week.

According to Esdras 14.10-12 "For the world hath lost its youth, and the times begin to wax old. For the world is divided into 12 parts, and ten parts of it are gone already, even the half of the tenth part".

Since the time of Esdras' writing (about 500 B.C.) it would be $3\frac{1}{2} \times 1000$ years (or 3,500 years) or $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1000$ (2,500) making each part 5000 or 7000 years. If there are 12 parts of 7000 years (i.e. 84,000 or 60,000 years) that could appear to be the possible age of the earth, this seems much more reasonable than the guesswork of the evolutionist in millions.

I imagine quite a lot can happen in sixty or eighty thousand years, which is much more plausible than guesswork of millions!

E.B.C.

COUNCIL MEETING

Our quarterly Council Meeting was held at midday on 21-2-91. Our Treasurer, Mr. Tingate, advised that we could be in financial difficulties very soon, as although the rent of the Bookroom was paid up to 31st March, we had several considerable accounts coming up, and the Bookroom Manager's salary to continue paying. It must be remembered that the Bookroom rent is now about \$760 *per month*, and unless our income increases substantially very soon, we will have to close up shop! I know times are very difficult financially, but as our operations are financed only by donations, we are appealing to anyone with money to spare, for this the work of the Almighty, to come to our assistance, and soon, or we will find it almost impossible to keep the Bookroom open.

I'm sure the Lord will provide, but at present we need to have our subscribers and supporters' assistance to aid us. Can you assist financially? If you can, please do, and as soon as possible.

E. B. Clements,
President,
B.I.W.F. Vic. H.Q.

Don't forget the monthly meetings at lunchtime 12.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday in each month, which are Bible study meetings. Anyone is welcome.

NOTHING LIKE THE TRUTH

Every now and then we have another newspaper report or article on the origin of man, or a spate of more intense geological upheaval of earth's surface that becomes headlines in our daily papers. All these statements are designed to occupy our thoughts and provide contentious activity for our minds that will prevent our concentration on more fulfilling activities such as the study of God's Word and His comments on such matters, or contemplation of where we are in His time chart as to where the present generation of mankind has its being in the scheme of things. Quite frankly, I personally find it far more rewarding and intriguing to try and find out where our generation is in the scheme of things than to speculate on the guesswork of a so-called scientific elite who really know very little about the difference between truth and error. However, everyone to his own taste!

A classic example of this is the article in the Melbourne "Age" Extra, Saturday July 13th, 1991 titled "The eve of modern man" by Alan Thorne, Australian National University Canberra prehistorian. Scientists are at present debating human origins and beliefs that humans are not descended from Adam and Eve as the Book of Genesis in the Bible so clearly defines, but that 'homo sapiens' shares an ape-like ancestor with chimpanzees and gorillas.

This is 'the lie' spoken of in the New Testament (2 Thess. 2. 11-12) by which many are deceived by Satan (verse 9) to their destruction. "For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe *a lie*" (*more correctly elsewhere translated as 'the lie'*). "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

This insidious doctrine the evolutionist accepts as fact has *no scientific* confirmation but is completely speculative, and the believers therein cannot agree amongst themselves. It is unfortunate that so many so-called believers in God also cannot agree amongst themselves concerning matters the Bible accepts as truth. Satan has been a 'busy lad', to our detriment and destruction if possible. It is quite possible to arrive at the truth of quite a few contentious matters if we STUDY what the Bible states, e.g. the origin of man, the future of mankind, the existence and location of Almighty God, the truth concerning the origin, existence

and nature of Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son, which, although not necessarily easy so to do, certain facts are made known to those of us who are "willing to do His will, for they shall know of the doctrine" (or 'the truth'). For this reason we are exhorted to "*Study* to show thyself *approved of God*, a person that needeth not be ashamed, *rightly dividing* the 'Word of Truth'."

If one is ready and *willing* to study and abide by Holy Spirit leading, although as someone has said 'life was not meant to be easy', it is possible *to know* the truth in this life, to discriminate by the evidence available as to what the truth really is! That is why I believe the Holy Bible, in all such matters as the creation of the universe and of mankind, the plan for man's fall and redemption after a time, for his rebirth, resurrection and redemption, the Millennial rule of Jesus Christ of David's line over the redeemed House of Israel on this earth, and that all the prophecies relating to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ have been and are being fulfilled as the Bible inspired prophets foretold. Also, those of this generation still alive on earth shall see the coming and the restoration of British-Israel to the predominance ON EARTH under Christ's rule that God intended them to have in the fulfilment of His promises to Abraham and his family.

Is it important what I (or you) believe? To the individual it certainly is, for it affects our whole individual futures as to what we believe that will decide what type of future, if any, we may or may not have, as to whether we live or die, what happens to us as individuals, whether we face judgment or salvation and/or redemption. It couldn't be of more importance or concern to any of us, and sooner or later, we have to reach and make a decision that decides that future!

E.B.C.

NATIONAL MESSAGE. December 14th, 1941. **Article by Thomas N. Foster.**

"I wonder how many are aware that General Ludendorff, the great German leader during the War, believed in this identity, and in those promises in the Bible?

"This is published in a book written by Ludendorff shortly before his death, which was reviewed in the 'Daily Mirror' of December 23rd last (1940).

"Ludendorff wrote:

"The name of the English people is derived from Isaac, and hence the Anglo-Saxons are called Saxons, that is Isaac's Sons. The 'I' has been dropped as in Istanbul-Stambul; or Hispana – Spain. Is it not written in the Old Testament: "Thy seed shall possess the gates of his enemies?"

"Hence, England possesses Gibraltar, the Suez Canal, the Cape, Aden, Hongkong, etc. all gates to lands and seas."

"A German tells us who we are."

"A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MELBOURNE BOOKROOM"

For many years prior to 1910 a Miss E. R. Pick of the Melbourne Association of the British Israel World Federation conducted a British Israel Bookroom in Melbourne at 80 Swanston Street and 18 Collins Street. It is a pity we know so little about this faithful and dedicated servant of GOD.

The current Bookroom came into being as a result of a combined meeting of the committees of the British Israel World Federation – Victoria Branch and the British Israel World Federation – Melbourne Association which agreed to amalgamate and form a new organization to be known as the British Israel World Federation (Victorian Headquarters). This took place in February 1933. Towards the end of 1933, Room 8, on the 3rd Floor, Block Arcade, was rented and stocked with British Israel Literature. After three months in Room 8, a larger room became available (Room 6) which we moved into, and spent the next 18 months there. At the end of that period we moved into Room 3, a larger room again and nearer the lift. We spent the next 26 years in Room 3. In 1961, Room 1, a much larger room nearer the lift became vacant. In December of that year we moved into Room 1 with a larger stock of literature. We occupied Room 1 for the next 26 years, having to vacate the building in September 1988 because of extensive building alterations being carried out by the management. We had rented space in the Block Arcade on the 3rd Floor for 54 years.

We had thought that if we ever had to vacate the Block Arcade after such a long association with it, we would do so with a great deal of regret and sadness, but as a result of the building alterations and refurbishing of the building over the last 18 months with all the noise, dust, dirt and the inconvenience caused by the lifts in the Elizabeth Street section of the Block being taken out of service early in this period, when the time came to move out of the building we did so with a great deal of relief and anticipation especially heightened because the LORD had provided us with such a wonderful replacement in the 'Majorca Building', Flinders Lane.

We pray that the LORD will put his hand over the room and pour his blessing down upon it. May his presence be experienced by all who visit it.

J. L. B. Walke,
(Assistant Secretary/Bookroom Manager)
28/10/1988.

Remember the B.I. Federation, its activities and problems in your prayers. It's in the interests of British Israel's survival and increasing welfare that you do so, for the Almighty knows the nation needs our prayers.
God's blessing be upon all our readers. E.B.C.

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MISERY

One of the words that sum up the difficulties surrounding the entry of the last decade of this century are sure to be the title of this article, the six letter word 'misery'. What follows will feature but two phases of the word – 'famine' and 'pestilence', which can be caused by floods. As Matthew's gospel chapter 24 verse 7 suggests ("famines, pestilences, earthquakes" in "diverse places", when Jesus was asked by His disciples (in verse 3) 'what shall be the sign of His return to this earth', He mentioned "famines and pestilences" which are usually caused by inclement weather or floods or fires. I quote from Sunday World, Sunday Herald-Sun, page 31, July 21, 1991 headed "Floods may spark new unrest" and "Africa faces new refugee crisis. "China's ageing leadership could be in for a rough time when the nation finally cleans up after the worst floods this century. As the official death toll edged towards 2000 this week there were fears that China's 1.13 billion people would vent their frustrations caused by natural disaster on the long-standing failure of the party leadership to make their country prosper.

Public discontent could worsen if the government fails to control the floods and implement successful relief measures. Three years ago, damage by natural disasters such as flooding led to poor harvests. The chain reaction also hit the livelihoods of others. It was this background of hardship and soaring prices that culminated in the pro-democracy

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demonstrations in almost all big cities in mid-1989. The imminent threat of another major disaster will put the party leadership under renewed pressure. The leadership may have tried to play down the seriousness of the floods, if not to impose a news blackout, to avoid souring the mood of the party's 70th anniversary celebrations a fortnight ago. Even now, the question of whether any officials have to be held responsible for the huge losses in flood-stricken provinces such as Anhui is the last thing China wants to address.

On the domestic front, the Central government has rung the alarm bells and called for a nation-wide effort by officials and the masses to battle against the floods and minimise damage. In the international arena, it has appealed for aid for the three hardest-hit provinces of Anhui, Jiangsu and Henan. China's meteorological authorities are under pressure to increase co-operation and information exchanges with their international counterparts to ensure the accurate and early forecast of rainstorms. The central government needs to make long-term plans to improve drainage systems and flood control facilities, such as building new dams. It must also make a quick assessment of the disaster's impact on the country's economic plans. Experts have predicted extensive damage to the summer and autumn harvests, which could result in price hikes and consequently higher inflation. This might also generate greater instability. Officials already put the direct economic losses at about \$5 billion, but this could be a massive underestimate.

The impact on China's ailing economy in the short and long term is unfathomable. Party cadres in Jiangsu said this week it would take at least two or three years to repair the flood damage. (South China Morning Post.)

In the article on Africa (quote) "Decades of war, famine and drought have caused an explosion in the numbers of homeless families and desperate African refugees, but pleas to wealthy nations for aid are drawing little response. According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the continent's refugee population has ballooned by 1.4 million in the past year to 5.8 million. Relief officials now fear that developed nations have become weary of appeals at Africa's time of greatest need. The latest refugees are Ethiopian army soldiers and dependents who fled to this desert town (Kassala, Sudan) 35 km. inside Sudan after rebels overthrew the Government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam in May. Sudan claims about 150,000 Ethiopians have arrived since May 27, adding to the 850,000 it already harbored.

Most take shelter from the desert sun in makeshift hovels of thorn bushes and plastic sheets. Kassala's lone hospital and temporary clinic have too few beds for those who arrive wounded, starving or dehydrated from the five-day walk. Patients in the worst conditions lie in pairs on single beds. Scores of others line the floors of hospital corridors. In Somalia, civil war has sent 600,000 people fleeing to several countries. In Mozambique, war has raged since 1977, displacing 1.2 million people. Civil war in Liberia created 750,000 refugees; hundreds of thousands have fled war or unrest in Angola and South Africa. Africans

have crossed national borders ever since Western colonial powers fixed boundaries in the 19th century without regard to tribal homelands. The continent's wars aggravate that trend, especially in the Horn of Africa, which has two million refugees. Even as 850,000 Ethiopians sought refuge in Sudan, about 400,000 Sudanese crossed into Ethiopia to escape an eight-year-old civil war in southern Sudan. Most returned home after the Ethiopian upheaval in May, only to be bombed by government warplanes raiding rebel positions.

One million have fled Mozambique's civil war to Malawi, increasing that country's population of 8.5 million by 12 percent. In Sierra Leone, the presence of 125,000 Liberian refugees has undermined rice production. Villages have inflated refugee counts to get extra bags of donated rice, then sold the rice for less than it costs local farmers to produce. At a summit of the Organisation of African Unity in June, national leaders said they feared the traditional hospitality for refugees was being exhausted.

They also claimed international spending on African refugees had been cut by half in five years. Disastrous policies and drought have compounded the problem. In many cases, the state set quotas and subsidised prices, making individual farming unprofitable. Fields were abandoned and production dropped, sending millions of people across borders in search of food. Marxist or autocratic governments, as in Ethiopia and Zambia, pursued collective agricultural policies that forced peasants off small, productive plots. Drought in western Africa has depleted food supplies further and millions again face famine. "Drought has cast its shadow on the lives of 27 million Africans this year and armed conflicts continue to hamper efforts to relieve the suffering, said James Grant, director of the UN Children's Fund. "More than 20 million Africans were estimated to be victims of war-related famine in 1990 alone. As always, the majority of these were women and children," he said.

These are not isolated cases, by any means. We are definitely living in the times the prophets foretold (under Holy Spirit guidance) preceding the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. This is the "awful intensity of problems at the end of the age" as outlined by Rev. C. I. Scofield in his Authorised Version of the Bible in 1917. There is certainly no doubt as to the fact of his correctness in that regard. And this present decade will confirm it!

As to the apostity prophesied – from the 'Sun' 21/9/71. "Lord's Prayer rewritten for feminists", by Graham Barrett, London, Sunday. "Britain's biggest religious publisher has decided that God is a woman as well as a man. It has rewritten the Lord's Prayer to read "Our father and mother, in whom is heaven, hallowed by your name". "We know this is going to hit very deep", the editorial director of the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge, Ms Judith Longman said yesterday. "Many people are saying, thank goodness. But others, even people who do not go to church, say you can't tamper with the Lord's Prayer".

The Americans altered the famous supplication years ago by devising a number of alternatives, including "Our parent person, who art in heaven".

The new version, which has not yet received official approval from the Church of England despite a call at last week's general synod for an inquiry into feminist needs, is to be available in three months. Dozens of parishes around the country have ordered copies of the new volume, entitled "Including Women – a non-sexist Prayer Book". But many senior clergymen are dismissive of the publication, calling it heretical. "God is without parts and passion", the Archdeacon of York, the Venerable George Austin said yesterday. "I would walk out of a service if that was read."

And so would I. No wonder we deserve the Almighty's displeasure and judgment. And why shouldn't we receive His punishment, because we are *supposed* to be *His people*, and in particular, our leaders, the politicians, and clergy, *of all people!* I'm angry, to say the least. *Why shouldn't He be?*

E.B.C.

THE WAY I SEE IT

(And I believe, *the way it will be.*)

At 'the Second Coming of Jesus' time (*day and hour* thereof known ONLY to the Father *God*) Jesus Christ returns to earth to *resurrect* the dead *believers in Christ* (and change the still alive) and give them their crowns, and obligations for their new responsibilities and positions of authority over His kingdom here ON EARTH, for the 1000 years of His millennial reign. *Together* they (Jesus and His Church) constitute the *Bridegroom*. At the same time as Jesus' return to earth upon the Mount of Olives, Elijah the Prophet returns to earth (London, United Kingdom) to Israel-Britain, *the Bride*, to "turn the hearts of the fathers to the children", and vice versa) and *together* they enter the "wedding feast" of the Lamb for the marriage of the Bridegroom and Bride, in similar manner and order as the eastern wedding occurred, "and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Bridegroom and Bride – *Jesus* (the *Head*) and His *Church* (the *Body*) – (together the *Bridegroom*) with *Israel* (the *Bride*) cleansed and restored). And there shall be great rejoicing for the 1000 years reign (the 7th "day" of rest).

E.B.C.

President B.I.W.P.

Vic. H.Q.