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British-Israel World Federation
(VICTORIAN HEADQUARTERS)

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MONTHLY NOTES Dec. January 1992

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A TIME OF DANGER.

Men of understanding have always envisioned DANGER, particularly as the fulfilment of prophecy outlined in Scripture is unveiled to the believer who believes his Bible and knows that the Creator God says what he means and means what He says. As the Bible states in Rom. 4:3, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness." Do you, my reader, believe God? I do! Do you not only believe in God, but do you believe God? He has detailed in His Word, the Bible, facts and truths. Not many people nowadays, even in our churches, believe God. Some of them believe in God, but only a few, believe Him. Rudyard Kipling was one of them, to his credit (AND SALVATION). I'm another. I know some of my readers are, also. Are you one of them? I pray you are, also. For it is so important to your present (and future) welfare.

Winter has just concluded in Australia, and spring is showing its garment. The night of prophecy is far spent, and dawn will soon break. The "day of the LORD" will soon dawn with the return of Jesus Christ as foretold in Matt. 24. Are you "trimming your lamp" for the return of the Bridegroom, as foretold in Matt. 25:1. If not, you should be, for as surely as day follows night, Jesus Christ is returning to earth soon. We are aware from our knowledge of the Divine Timetable, that we haven't just concluded another winter's season in Australia, with the usual run of events. The conflicting

issues of peace and war will highlight the news in the days before us, for we have entered into a new cycle of activity, and the "bear that walks like a man" is holding out his paws in gestures of peace. The cruel and treacherous tyrants of the Kremlin are now cast in their most dangerous role, which Rudyard Kipling so clearly envisioned in his poem, "The Truce of the Bear." Here it is—

"The Truce of the Bear."

"Yearly, with tent and rifle, our careless white men go
By the pass called Muttianee, to shoot in the vale below.

Yearly by Muttianee he follows our white man in -
Matun, the old blind beggar, bandaged from brow to chin.
Eyeless, noseless, and lipless-toothless, broken of speech,
Seeking a dole at the doorway, he mumbles his tale to each;

Over and over the story, ending as he began:

" Make ye no truce with Adam-Zad — the bear that walks like a Man.
There was a flint in my musket — pricked and primed was the pan,
When I went hunting Adam-Zad — the bear that walks like a Man.

I looked my last on the timber, I looked my last on the snow,
When I went hunting Adam-Zad fifty summers ago!

I knew his times and his seasons, as he knew mine, that fed
By night in the maize-field and robbed my house of bread.
I knew his strength and cunning, as he knew mine, that crept
At dawn to the crowded goat pens and plundered while I slept.

Up from his stony playground — down from his well-dugged lair —

Out on the naked ridges ran Adam-Zad the Bear;

Groaning, grunting and roaring, heavy with stolen meals,
Two long marches to northward, and I was at his heels!

Two long marches to northward, at the fall of the second night,
I came on mine enemy Adam-Zad all panting from his flight.

There was a charge in the musket, pricked and primed was the pan —
My finger crooked on the trigger -- when he reared up like a man.

Horrible, hairy, human, with paws like hands in prayer,
Making his supplication rose Adam-Zad the Bear.

I looked at the swaying shoulders, at the paunch's swag and swing
And my heart was touched with pity for the monstrous, pleading thing.
Touched with pity and wonder, I did not fire then ...

I have looked no more on women — I have walked no more with men.

Nearer he tottered and nearer with paws like hands that pray —
From brow to jaw that steel-shod paw, it ripped my face away!

Sudden, silent and savage, searing as flame the blow -

Faceless I fell before his feet, fifty summers ago.

I heard him grunt and chuckle - I heard him pass to his den.

He left me blind in the darkened years and the little mercy of men ,

Now ye go down in the morning with guns of the newer style,
That load (I have felt) in the middle and rang (I have heard) a mile,

Luck to the white man's rifle, that shoots so fast and true,

But - pay, and I lift my bandage and show what the bear can do!

(Flesh like slag in a furnace, knobbed and withered and grey -

Matun, the old blind beggar, he gives good worth for his pay.)

Rouse him at noon in the bushes, follow and press him hard -

Not for his ragings and roaring flinch ye from Adam-Zad.

But (pay and I put back the bandage - this is the time to fear,

When he stands like a tired man, tottering near and near;

When he stands up as pleading, in wavering man-brute guise;

When he veils the hate and cunning of his little swinish eyes;

THAT is the time of peril - the time of the Truce of the Bear!"

Eyeless, noseless, and lipless, asking a dole at the door.

Matun, the old blind beggar, he tells it o'er and o'er;

Fumbling and feeling the rifles, warming his hands at the flame,

Hearing our careless white men talk of the morrow's game;

Over and over the story, ending as he began —

There is no truce with Adam-Zad, the bear that looks like a Man ! "

Watch events, and make certain of your calling and election! (For
sudden destruction cometh upon them!

NOTE:- Soviet GNP this year, 1991, will total 1-2 trillion roubles, or
\$720 billion. Of that some 25% goes to defence. The Soviets now spend
\$180 billion a year on defence. Russia has the world's largest standing
armed forces -- more than 4 million men. China has 3 million, and the USA
2 million. E.B.C.

TRANSITION, AND THINGS TO COME

Often in retrospect the realisation dawns upon people of vision that in the pattern of God's unfolding purpose, one generation may fill the intervening gap between the passing of an old and the beginning of a new order. This was true in the days of Noah; it was also true of the generation living when Jesus Christ walked the earth.

In Noah's day corruption was rampant and depravity had reached such a state that the whole world was filled with violence and bloodshed, necessitating the Deluge to cleanse the earth of unrighteousness. Noah's generation bridged the transition period between the old order about to pass away and a new order of the ages that would see the establishment of government to deal with the unrighteous.

As the result of the mission accomplished by Jesus Christ, His

generation bridged the transition between the keeping of the letter of the law in outward observance and the keeping of the spirit of the law through an inward relationship with the risen and triumphant Lord. Outward ritualism and ceremonialism passed away, replaced by the worship of the LORD in Spirit and in truth. (John 4:23). Jesus set forth the terms of the new covenant which made provision for the taking of the law that was written upon the tables of stone and writing it into the tables of the heart. In addition, that generation of nearly two thousand years ago marked such a turning point in history that it was forever after embodied in civilisation's calendar through B.C. and A.D. datings, honouring the birth of the Saviour of the world. However, because the people of our Lord's day were not able to perceive the significance of the transition taking place, that generation passed away in turmoil and war, climaxing in the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. Christianity, born as the outcome of the events of that time, lifted high the torch of righteousness that had fallen from the hands of Jewry as the result of their rejection of their Messiah.

Over nineteen hundred years have passed since the evangel heralding a new and better way of life was presented to the generation that refused to recognise in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ the fulfilment of the sign of Jonah. Now the generation to whom the prophets and our Lord addressed their messages - warning that it would not pass away until the Second Advent of our Lord became a certainty - is to once more bridge a transition era.

To this generation, the days of Noah are given as a warning. Just as violence and crime brought world-wide corruption in the antediluvian age, equally so gross evil is rife throughout the world today. It is unfortunate, but true that this generation, living in a time of extraordinary change, although it has the example of past history to benefit by, as well as the MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY to be its guide, is nevertheless blind to the reality of the fact that it is indeed bridging the most momentous transition period in all human history.

The reason this is the greatest of all transition periods is due to that which is to follow, for the promise will be fulfilled: "Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former shall not be remembered, nor come to mind." (Isa. 65:17). The memories of trials and suffering will completely fade away with the abundant increase in the joys of living which at the moment are beyond human comprehension, " For since the beginning of the world, men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what He hath prepared for him that waiteth for Him." (Isa. 64:4)

It is of paramount importance to grasp the fact that the transition from one age to another involves a process of change and therefore consumes time.

The greater these changes, the longer the bridge spanning the

transition will be. However, compensating for the length of this arch of time is the ability of those designated as watchmen to mark the passing hours, signifying their meaning and thus encouraging and strengthening the faith of those who watch in the face of strife, violence and destruction which characterises the ending of the old order.

All the forces of hell - although they will attempt to do so - will not be able to destroy the supports which uphold this bridge of hope, (Heb. 6:17-18), for the Divine purpose will be attained and the transition accomplished with the establishment of the government of the Kingdom of God in righteousness throughout the whole earth. Then Jesus Christ will take the throne of His father David and reign over His people and the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isa. 11:4).

When the transition is completed, and we have passed over the bridge into the foretold New Order of the Ages, violence will no longer affect our land, for the deliverance of the human race from strife and war will have become a reality. Here is the hope of believers in Christ; and make no mistake, it will be achieved, and soon we shall see the commencement of our hopes.

E.B.C.

A LAW THAT CAN BE RELIED UPON

Without a lighthouse for guidance, sailors couldn't avoid the shoals and hidden rocks along a coastline. After a course is set, and directed by light-house beams, the ship's captain is safely guided into harbour.

A lighthouse is to a sailor what the Law of the Lord should be to all men (and women) who desire to be led into the way of truth. In Proverbs 6:20-23, Solomon recorded: "My son, keep thy father's commandment and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; when thou wakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light, and reproofs of instruction are the way of life."

In recognising the law's importance to man's welfare, and the light it sheds, King David stated in Psalm 119:87: "O how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day." In continuing, David warned that a knowledge of God's commands made him wiser than all his enemies and the testimony of the law gave him understanding above that of all his teachers, for the law provides knowledge that excels the wisdom of the ancients. Thus David declared: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Because of this light shed by the law of the LORD, King David testified; "I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy Word. I have not departed from Thy judgments for Thou hast taught me."

When men ignore the righteousness of the Law of the LORD, and refuse to heed the light that His Word sheds upon the truth, every wind of doctrine tosses them about, and they are unable to avoid rocks and shoals upon which the lives of millions of people have been wrecked. When a nation's leaders fail politically, economically, or religiously, the ship of state is no longer on course and is headed for rock-bound coasts of trouble and disaster. Many of the countries of the world in this last decade of the 20th Century are in hazardous waters, and the 'sailors' piloting their particular ship of state are out of course and headed for the rocky shores and dangerous reefs of such trouble and disaster. The shores of the centuries are strewn with the wreckage of civilisations because of man's refusal in the past to accept the light of the Law of the LORD, and His Word, the Bible, as their guide. This modern civilisation is no exception. Men, particularly politicians and clergymen, are today following the same course that led to disaster in the past, and will again bring destruction as the raging tempest of conflicting ideologies of government whips the sea of life into turbulent waves, lashed by the whirling cross-currents of misinformed or uninformed public opinion.

Only one specific course can bring our ship of state into a haven of rest, and that course must be set according to the direction furnished by the light of truth set forth in His Word and His Law. However, in order to steer such a course, we MUST have men of vision, faith, and correct understanding at the helm who conform with the requirements given in instruction outlined to Moses: "Moreover, thou shalt provide out of all the people **able** men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness, and place such over them. (Exod. 18:21). Men of that calibre are not in office today (or few are), nor in directing the affairs of state. So God's light and His truth are ignored as our nation's leaders continue to steer a course that departs from the paths of righteousness. History of our Israel people needs an Elijah, or Jesus Christ Himself to intervene on our people's behalf. The Bible prophesies that He will do so, under certain circumstances and conditions, which it clearly states. That His people will do their part in bringing about such a situation depends largely upon the believers and upholders of His truth. In other words, to a large extent, it depends on US.

Where do you wish to stand, on God's side, or the Devil's? The choice could not be more important than many accept. Where do you, my reader, stand? You haven't much time left to make a choice!

E.B.C.



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THE TWO GOSPELS.

In any English town or hamlet are found churches with spires majestically pointing heavenward, many surrounded by clusters of houses marking the sites of communities in the land. In Australia, Canada and other colonies of the former British Empire, similar situations arise, because the righteous beginnings of the Anglo-Celtic-Saxon people sprang from the Word that the Christian Church was commissioned to preach. A flight in an aircraft demonstrates the extent to which the gospel (good news) has penetrated, even in many outlying and seemingly remote places.

Insofar as the gospel of personal salvation is concerned, its glad tidings have been preached in most cities and towns and the Bible itself has accompanied that message. The same is true wherever the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people are found, for in all their settlements, into whatever lands they have gone, churches have been established to minister to their spiritual needs. Although quite a few of those places of worship are no longer active witnesses as they once were, and ignorance of God's word and message, and His Book is too often scorned or ignored, what was the meaning Jesus implied when in Matt. 10:23 He stated "*Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel till the Son of Man be come.*"? Jesus made this statement after He commissioned His disciples to go forth and to announce that "*the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.*"

It was NOT the gospel of salvation of which Jesus then spoke, for the church witness has preached that message in all the cities of any note

wherein Anglo-Saxon-Scottish peoples reside. It was the phase of the Gospel designated as the Kingdom evangel that would not be proclaimed in all the cities of Israel before arrival of the Son of Man, that is, before the Second Advent takes place. The Gospel of the Kingdom is the call for God's people to return to national righteousness: that is, to the observance of all the commandments, statutes and judgments of the LORD.

It is in the recognition of the ultimate triumph of this call to the nations of Israel to return to Him that the LORD speaks through Ezekiel. *"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: (a national event; and does not this sinful generation need it?) from all your filthiness, and from all your idols (drugs and sexual deviations, etc.) will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give, and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes (the kickback from our walking in the wrong direction) and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."* (Ezekiel 36:25-27). Note that GOD says this: I WILL. Israel never wants nor is able to do it herself. God Himself steps in and says : "I will." And the events of the next few years tribulation will indicate to what extent He is angered and we are admonished.

It is important to take into consideration the extent of our failure and of His anger at us for not cleaning up our own house. It is also important to consider the fact that there are also two phases to the Gospel. First, and most vital to the individual, is that of personal salvation, for all who believe on Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour receive eternal life, and will be assured of citizenship in the Kingdom. The second phase is the gospel of the Kingdom, the acceptance of which by God's people (Israel) will guarantee the restoration of the righteous administration of the law of the LORD in the land, which will bring to pass Isaiah's declaration: *"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever."* (Isaiah 32:17). The prophet goes on to point out that, under the government of the LORD, God's people shall dwell in a peaceful habitation, in sure dwellings and in quiet resting places. To the selfish believer, it is not good enough to say "I'm all right, Jack", as some Christians may think they can afford to do. But can they? Does this exhibit one's love to one's neighbour, an essential requirement for 'so-called' Christians? I think not! Don't they want friends or relatives to enjoy the status they think they will acquire? The prophet emphasises that under the government of the Lord, the people shall dwell in peaceful habitations, in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

In instruction to His disciples, as stated in the 10th Chapter of Matthew, Jesus commanded them to specifically carry the gospel of the Kingdom (the gospel of salvation is NOT referred to here) to the people of the Kingdom. i.e. to the House of Israel, who, in later generations would become known as the nations of the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples. That phase of the Gospel was, however, to be published abroad throughout

Israel's lands as a witness to all the nations before the age would end: *"The good news of the Kingdom, however, shall be proclaimed throughout the whole Empire, as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come."* (Matt. 24:14; Ferrar Fenton translation).

No curse is pronounced upon those who do not accept the Gospel of Salvation. The failure to do so means immeasurable personal loss, of course, yet if at any time, the individual repents and accepts the Gospel, he will be forgiven and will receive salvation through Jesus Christ.

This is NOT SO, regarding the Kingdom. Jesus said that the city or household that refused to receive those commissioned to proclaim the Gospel of the KINGDOM would risk severe condemnation.

"And if it will not receive you, nor listen to your discourse, departing from that family or that town, shake the dust from your feet. I tell you indeed, that it will be more endurable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment than for that town." (Matt. 10:15. Fenton translation).

There is no question that the message of personal salvation has reached into every city throughout Celto-Anglo-Saxondom. The Gospel of the Kingdom, on the other hand, now being preached as a witness only, has not yet accomplished this, nor will it be able to do so before the Lord returns, according to His own words. The Christian Church must nevertheless AWAKEN to the necessity to accept both phases of the Gospel, and ADD the good news of the coming restoration of the Kingdom to the glad tidings of personal Salvation. Then her converts will experience not only forgiveness of sins, but will have the assurance as well of prosperity and well-being in a secure dwelling place, free from violence and oppression, for these two will have passed away when the Kingdom of God is established upon the earth in its full perfection.

E. B. C.

THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD. (The Stone)

The term 'mountain' in Scripture symbolically expresses the stability, endurance and power of the Kingdom of God. The prophets Isaiah and Micah speak of *"the mountain of the House of the Lord"* being established in the top of the mountains, i.e. in the highest eminence. Both prophets declared it will be exalted above the hills, i.e. above all governments. When the consummation occurs (in the Millennium) all nations *"shall flow unto it"*. (Isa. 2:1-4 and Micah 4:1-4).

Daniel the prophet in his book beheld this Kingdom from the time of inception until the day of its universal exaltation after the Babylonian succession of empires will have crumbled into dust. He first described it as a little stone, which he, saw grow into a great mountain (kingdom) filling the whole earth. (Daniel 2:34-35). That there might be no question concerning this stone that this kingdom (and mountain) represented, Daniel stated that as the "stone cut out without hands", it was the kingdom the God

of heaven had set up, which would never be destroyed, but would break in pieces and consume all other kingdoms, and would stand for ever. (Dan. 2:44).

Make no mistake, this stone kingdom in no way can apply to Jesus Christ or the church. The true Church is the body of Jesus Christ (together constituting the Bridegroom). His "bride" is the House of Israel, and Scripture clearly demonstrates this, despite the claims of any 'church' to the contrary.

With scarcely a dissenting voice, Scripture students agree this stone represents the kingdom of our Lord over which He is to reign forever. However, the angel informed Mary that her Son, Jesus would receive the throne of his father David and reign over the House of Jacob forever. (Lk. 1:32-33). If, therefore, Jesus Christ is to reign over both these kingdoms, there can be only one possible solution: they are one and the same. The Stone Kingdom and the House of Israel are identical.

That intelligent men cannot accept this simple fact is, in this informed century, incredible! The "stone" that is to grow into a great mountain is none other than this same "House of Jacob" which was organised under Jehovah, the over-ruling Lord of Hosts, at Mount Sinai. It was there that the House of Jacob became the Kingdom of God, over which Jesus Christ is to reign forever.

Closely associated with His Kingdom is the City of Jerusalem in the midst of which the Temple was built. At the time of its dedication, the LORD declared: *"I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there forever, and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually."* (1 Kings 9:3). Although Israel forsook the LORD, and the City was taken by the enemy, and the Temple was destroyed, the day will come (and soon) when its days of tribulation will be reversed in the great restoration, as the LORD has declared through the prophet Isaiah. And this has little or nothing to do with present occupants of Jerusalem of whom the Bible states *"But those mine enemies, who would not that I should reign over them, bring here, and slay them before me."* (Luke 19:27). They are Jews who rejected Him (and still do).

The LORD has declared (through Isaiah) *"I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; (not the Jews) and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying"* (Isa. 65:19). A special message is addressed to those designated as watchmen, calling on them not to remain silent, either day or night. *"Ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, and give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth"* (Isaiah, 62:6-7). Does anyone believe Israeli Jews will ever do that? I don't!

The prophets are very clear in their pronouncements about Jerusalem and the importance of the City in relation to His Kingdom and Government, a fact clearly indicated by Zechariah's statement: *"Thus saith the LORD, I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth: and the mountain to the Lord of*

Hosts the holy mountain." (Zech. 8:5). In this verse we have the reference to the mountain, or kingdom, from which the truth shall go forth, for the word of the LORD is to issue from Jerusalem. From Zion, as the seat of government, the administration of the law will be carried out. (Isa. 2:3).

By the apostle John we are introduced to those who stand with John in Zion - that is, associated with him in His Government - these being the chief ones in glory who will rule with Him in His Kingdom. Their number is given as 144,000 in Revelation 14.

It is entirely fitting that the magnificence of the Kingdom and the perfection of its administration are likened to a great mountain. Just as the mountain, towards which all eyes are turned upward, towers majestically over all the surrounding hills, equally so will be exalted His Kingdom over all governments. Moreover, in the day that the glory of the LORD shall be seen in the midst of the people, the Gentiles shall behold its righteousness and all kings its glory, with the result; *"The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."* (Isa. 60:3).

His vision of the perfect administration of the law led Isaiah to prophecy (65:25) *"The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and the dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD."*

E. B. C.

EVERLASTING FOUNDATIONS.

All Mankind strives to build a name that will last. Intuitively, he detests the thought that remembrance of him and his achievements will be forgotten and pass into oblivion when his life here on earth ends. With few exceptions, the activities, ambitions or accomplishments of past deceased mankind are soon forgotten, and few are even remembered for having once existed. In Psalm 108:15-16, the writer expressed it adequately; *"As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more."*

In man's striving for a place in history in order that coming generations may laud him and his accomplishments, they completely overlook the fact that only lasting foundation on which to build for both present and future, is conformity with the necessary requirements of righteousness. Wicked men, by violent and tyrannical actions, have perpetuated their names in history by accounts of evil deeds. But most of their evil deeds are far from enviable, for humanity as a whole abhors their acts and the bloody trail most of them pursued.

In many instances, the remembered name is anathema to righteous people, and is a symbol of infamy to following generations. On the other hand, long after human feats of endeavour crumble into dust, the world will be hearing about the patience of Job, the faith of Abraham, the steadfastness of Joseph resisting alluring temptation, the exploits of David, the wisdom of

Solomon, the perceptions and insights of the prophets of the LORD, and the dedication and devotion of the Lord's apostles.

The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews named some of these stalwarts of righteousness and declared of them : *"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 armies. Women received their dead raised to life again, others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others had trial of mockings and scourgings, of bonds or imprisonment, were stoned, were sawn asunder, tempted, slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented (Of whom the world was not worthy); they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth."* (Hebrews 11:33-38).

Scripture states all made good report through faith and it is certain that the names giving such a vibrant account of themselves will never be forgotten, standing head and shoulders above the best of those whom secular history claims as the great men of this present world order. The three majestic cliffs called 'the three patriarchs', in Zion National Park, Utah, standing like immovable citadels, have less assurance of continuity than the names of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the three great patriarchal entities of Scripture. In their warfare of faith, these righteous men had a foundation that can never be undermined. Wherever the Bible has been taken, into whatever language it has been translated, their righteousness has been proclaimed, maintaining perpetuity of their names and guaranteeing the ultimate triumph and victory which will be theirs when they come into the full realisation of the blessings reserved for all those who will reap the rewards of faith in the age to come.

There is nothing wrong with the desire to perpetuate one's name. It is, however, absolutely essential that the way of righteousness be selected as the essential course to follow. Taking a stand upon this ground, i.e. righteousness by faith, provides adequate assurances that one's name will be recorded in perpetuity in the Book of Life mentioned in the Bible's Book of Revelation, a record that will live after human history's mundane affairs have been lost to memory. In that day, as cited by Malachi 3:18, when the record becomes known, men will then discuss *"between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not."*

Jesus our Lord questioned *"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"*

Of what advantage can it possibly be to succeed in making a place in human historical records, if one's name is not already recorded in the Book of Life?

I can answer this question right now NONE!

E. B. C.



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THE ANSWER TO PRAYER

Many people use prayer as a means of hoping for a way to achieve what could be called 'wishful thinking', like entering a lottery hoping to win a prize, as though winning a prize could solve immediate problems such as debt, sickness, etc.

God does NOT subscribe to such wishful thinking. God is not mocked by Satan, or any one else. If you want prayers answered in the manner you would like them to turn out. You have to play a part in ensuring the answer to prayer will be positive. You have to ensure, firstly, that your prayer will be in accordance with HIS will, and, although He is in a position to grant your request, you must ask just that, that it will be in accordance with His will. If you don't receive a positive reply, or receive His reply graciously, don't curse Him. He is the only creature able to say 'yes' to your prayers. If He does say yes, it may only be co-incidence, anyway. To ensure a favourable answer to prayer, the petitioner MUST comply with certain conditions, and like most things, God has laid down those conditions in the ONLY place where you will find them. The Apostles understood this, and their prayers were answered, in most cases, if not all, in a positive manner, and to the effect that miracles occurred, or seemed to occur. I KNOW this, for I have personally proved it. And the Bible goes to some length to explain it.

It can happen to anyone fulfilling the required conditions.

It commences with the words of 2 Tim. Chapter 3, Verses 16-17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto All good work."

I look further and find James 5-16 states "The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much". So my prayer must be effective and fervent, achieving what I wish to occur or be done; but here is the catch, the text said "of a righteous man". With all the flaws in my nature, how can I consider myself to be a "righteous" man? For as it is written (Romans 3.10) "There is none righteous, no, not one."

So that fixes that, and cuts such as me out. But does it? And here we must accept that New and Old Testaments depend upon each other, and cannot be replaced by any other doctrine but that co-ordinated by the whole Bible. Read Gen.15-6. "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto Him for righteousness.

I believe God, so I must be considered as righteous in His sight. I just don't just believe IN Him, that He exists, etc., as many church people do. I BELIEVE HIM, therefore I must be considered as "righteous" in His sight. This is certainly reassuring, to say the least!

So this is a start, and a good start. I know now, that my prayers, for the right reasons, have an excellent chance of being positively answered.

When Jesus was in the small boat with His disciples on the Sea of Galilee, He went to sleep. He slept on, (Matt. 8-24). His disciples were very concerned as the storm broke and worsened. Not He!!! When they awoke Him, all He said was "peace be still."

It was sufficient, and they marvelled!

How should I pray? And expect positive results? "In accordance with His will". How will I know if it is accordance with His Will, and the answer is positive, and comes to pass, if it is a request for something I feel is necessary and beneficial to those concerned? If it doesn't, it is clear to me that He has said NO. For whatever reason, He knows better than I do. And I am absolutely convinced this is the manner in which I should pray. Try it, and your hesitant faith will be transformed. But take care you conform to the requirements He has laid down, and, to be honest, miracles do happen, and not only when Jesus was on earth, but now, in the days when His Second Coming is very soon to occur.

E.B.C

NOW HEAR THIS

Sunday afternoon, 15th. December, my wife and I arranged for our 50th. wedding anniversary celebration (the actual date was the following

"Boxing Day", Dec. 26th). We found that after initial examination of bridal party and guests, not many would have been available to attend the function on the true date. (Our wedding day 50 years ago had its problems. The temperature was 107 degrees Fahrenheit (the hottest Boxing Day on record in Victoria). At the reception, it was so hot for the ceremony, the limousine transporting the bride had to travel around the block three times while awaiting the clergyman whose car had punctured a tyre in the heat. At the reception, the sweets (jelly and ice-cream) all melted, the photographs were spoiled by heat penetrating the emulsion involved in the developing of the film. IT WAS HOT, but we eventually married successfully.

The day chosen for the celebration of our 50th (golden) wedding day was preceded by some rainy periods, but I prayed to God that if it was His will, He would see that the "weather" for the afternoon's celebration due between the hours 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. would be such that some of the fifty guests invited could sit on chairs in the backyard of our residence. Although some years ago I had built a rear room (22 feet by 18 feet) on our residence for possible assembling of people such as envisaged, if all the 50 guests invited needed to stay inside because of inclement weather, there could be problems. On the day chosen, it was cloudy and showery, as predicted by the weather forecast. By 11 a.m. the clouds and showers dispersed. By 2 p.m., the clouds had lifted and the sun was shining brightly, and quite a number of the assembled guests were able to sit on seating under the shade of our several fruit trees and flowering shrubs. After consuming the refreshments provided, several speeches, cutting the cake, reminiscing, etc., all of the guests had started for their respective homes by about 5 p.m. By 6 p.m. the clouds had reappeared in depth, and rain re-commenced. FOUR DAYS later, and after four inches of rain had fallen, it was still raining. Lucky coincidence? I think not! Answer to prayer complying with the Bible instructions? It would be difficult to convince me otherwise! Try it. But don't forget the required instructions, as is suggested by the Bible.

It could not only convince, but amaze you.

Read "Who said "God is dead"" in Helen Steiner Rice's book "Loving Promises" published by Hutchinson, London, Sydney, Auckland, Johannesburg. HER SENTIMENTS, also.

E.B.C

CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY

Countless humans today endure perplexity concerning their expectations for years yet to come. Decisions to be made depend upon future contingencies not able to be correctly appraised because of present preconceived conditions and economic trends tending towards insecurity, resulting

in a sense of bewilderment and continuing uncertainty. The light of understanding was never more needed than it is today. The world is very much in darkness, the future seeming to present a blank wall, and men face it with some misgiving.

Isaiah the prophet foresaw the fundamental cause of present darkness preventing mankind from exercising discernment that would provide understanding in the proper course for them to pursue.

He emphasizes that the darkness through which men grope is the result of iniquity separating them from the Lord, while the lack of truth and justice in the land, enlarges the gulf separating the people and their God.

The prophet continues to point out that man's deeds are iniquitous, and violent acts are in their hands. "Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us; we wait for light, but behold obscurity; light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not." (John 1.4-5)

Later on, the Apostle declared that those who refuse to believe that He is the Son of God are already condemned, stating that "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." (John 3.19-20)

As a nation, God's people must return to the righteousness of the law which Jesus declared would not pass away, and their reward will be "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily, and thy righteousness shall go before thee; and the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward." (Isa. 58-8)

When the brightness of God's glory shall be seen in Israel, the prophet declares "And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." (Isa. 60.3)

In that day the light of the glory of the Lord will dispel all darkness and upon those who now dwell in the shadows of death that light will shine.

E.B.C.

BE A WISE GUY

(Prov. 15-2. "A wise person numbers his days aright."

We have become a disbelieving and disobedient people, and casual or indifferent concerning many really important situations. Whether knowledge and so-called sophistication has made people blasè, I cannot ascertain, but I find it difficult to follow just what most people do believe, or believe in, in important situations. But the attitude of most people seems to be "So what"? This attitude appears to be "the specific incident doesn't

concern me, really, so why worry about it? I've got enough problems of my own, why should I worry about the problems of others?

I guess in this day and age this can be understandable, for this generation is more than ever becoming the "haves" and "havenots", the "good" and the "bad", the "interested" and the "disinterested," the "believer" and the "unbeliever;" and the majority of people find it difficult to decide what they believe or disbelieve, what is true and what is false, what is knowledge, truth and fact; or lies and fabrication or false information.

What is truth? In John 18-38, Pilate asked Jesus that question. It is a time honoured question that is not easy to answer.

Of Jesus, St. John's gospel states (John 1-14) that Jesus Christ was "the Word, that that Word was God, and in verse 14 "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.....full of grace and truth."

The Greek word used for 'WORD' is LOGOS (Aramaic MEMRA, used in the Targums, or Hebrew paraphrases, for GOD.) It means, according to the Scofield Reference Bible 1. a thought or concept. 2. the expression or utterance of that thought. As a designation of Christ, therefore, LOGOS is peculiarly felicitous because (1) in Him are embodied all the treasures of the Divine wisdom, the collective "thought" of God (Refer 1 Cor. 1-24, Eph. 3-11, Col. 2.2-3 & Col. 3.1-4, and (2) He is, from eternity, but especially in His incarnation, the utterance or expression of the Person, and "thought" of Deity (John 1.3-5, 9,14-18, John 14.9-11; Col. 2-9. In the Being, Person and work of Christ, Deity is expanded and explained. C/f Gen. 32.30; Rev. 22.4. The Divine Essence, God, in His own Triune Person, no human being in the flesh has seen. But God, veiled in angelic form, and especially as incarnate in Jesus Christ, has been seen of men. (Gen. 18.2,22; John 14.8-9.) By accepting, believing and understanding all this, it is possible for you, too my reader, to be 'a wise guy'.

This is "rightly dividing the word of truth". One doesn't necessarily, have to be a scholar, to accept these facts. But he does have to be a believer!

E.B.C.

WAIT FOR GREEN

At an important intersection near my home is an unusual road sign, three short words, WAIT FOR GREEN. As most people know, road signs on our highways, are "green lights" for "GO", yellow or amber" for "caution", and "red" for "Stop." If vehicle drivers attempt to anticipate "waiting time" at such signs at an intersection, it may not be long before chaotic traffic conditions prevail, and the movement of traffic becomes dangerous to life and limb.

This particular intersection has five lanes of traffic entering and exit-ing from it, and to properly co-ordinate the flow of traffic without endangering any of it, it is necessary not to "beat the gun," as they say, but to make sure the lights have turned "green" at that specific spot, before proceeding further. That is why it seemed necessary to include the sign "Wait for green."

We are living in the time when quite a few expectant believers are awaiting the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to this earth. As Scripture points out, "no man knoweth the day or the hour of His return, but "Of the times and seasons, brethren, I would not have you to be ignorant." In other words, as this decade unfolds through fulfilled prophecy, His watchmen will not be left in the dark as to God's intentions. I feel sure we must continue to "look up, for your redemption draweth nigh". I also feel these same watchmen will not be left in ignorance concerning the signs associated with the imminence of that return. May we continue to be ready, to be prayerful, watchful and expectant in the very little measure of time we have available before Jesus returns to reign!

Be prepared to "wait for green" when expedient to do so.

E.B.C.

Thank you, Mrs. Hilda M. Kincaid, 63 Oak St., Cambridge, Ontario, NIR 4LT, Canada, for your letter of Jan. 16th. 1992 and enclosed Canadian twenty dollar banknote. Happy 87th birthday December last. You have another staunch B.I. believer not far from you, namely Mrs Eleanor Russell, with whom I and my family correspond, having similar B.I. belief. My own daughter has just returned in January this year 1992, from teaching in two Toronto schools. Believing how much you two elderly ladies love the Lord, I pray He will keep you both alive and well to the day of His soon return to the earth for His saints. God bless you and keep you and make His face shine upon you" until He comes.

Ed.

PLEASE NOTE

About the middle of the year the B.I.W.F. Vic. H.Q. will be obliged to move to another premises. The building we now occupy is for sale, our tenancy will be up later this year, and it is expected we will relocate at the premises occupied by the Walke family in Camberwell. When the time arrives, all those concerned by the removal and the new location will be informed accordingly.



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MONTHLY NOTES

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DO WE KNOW OUR BIBLE?

The book of Genesis has a wealth of information in its pages. It contains fifty chapters (5) the number of Grace multiplied by 10, the number of "ordinal perfection". In those chapters are many important facts, such as the three primary names of Deity - Elohim, Jehovah, Adonai; the five (most important) of compound names of God, and also four of the eight Covenants of the Bible, Edenic, the Abrahamic, the Noahic, the Abrahamic Covenants. The other four (not in Genesis) are the Mosaic, the Palestinian, the Davidic and the New Covenants. The book of Genesis has 5 chief divisions - the Creation of mankind, the fall and Redemption of man, the Diverse Seeds (Cain and Seth) up to the time of the flood, the flood to the Tower of Babel, the call of Abraham to the death of Joseph. According to Archbishop Ussher, this all covered a period of 2315 years.

Bible study is absolutely necessary to understand the Bible's contents. Fragmentary and disconnected study is of little use to an understanding of its contents and message; this can only be done by connected topical references, by tracing through the entire Bible all the greater truths of the Divine revelation, from the place of first mention to the last. This is the only way, to my mind, that its understanding is possible through a gradual unfolding of these, by many inspired writers through many ages of time, to their culmination in Jesus Christ and the New Testament scriptures. Only by such a method can Bible Study acquire such an interest and vital reality which can otherwise be lacking in fragmentary and disconnected study. Personal views and interpretations must be rejected, as must expository novelties, alleged discrepancies or supposed contradictions and hasty generalisations from a few passages or proof texts, before complete understanding is possible, and this must be achieved by

prayerful contemplation and a willingness to do His will. "He that is willing to do His will shall know the doctrine (truth)." (John 7.17) Fanciful and allegorical schemes of interpretation must be avoided, for the Holy Spirit is His own interpreter. As Augustine advised, "Distinguish the ages, and the Scriptures harmonize." I would go so far as to state that the present majority of the world's over 5000 million people do not know their Bibles (if they have any at all) that the vast majority of those that do have access to the Word of God have little understanding of the Bible's contents, and of those who do have Biblical knowledge, most of them have little understanding of what they believe or what they should believe to gain access to "eternal life". The number of true believers at the present time, even in the so-called "Christian" Church, are few, and so many of even those appear to be "wistful thinkers." However, the believer must remember that however much we all deplore the state of affairs in nations and in the churches, as in Elijah's day, we can be consoled by the fact that there were "7000 in Israel that had not bowed the knee to Baal", and probably it is little different in this present generation of Anglo-Celtic-Saxondom.

It is therefore not surprising that when Jesus returns to earth in the now very near future, the question is being asked "shall He find (the) faith on the earth."

I am indebted to the Rev. C.I. Scofield's Authorised Version translation of the Holy Bible, in the pages 'v' and 'v¹' of which appears, under the heading "A panoramic view of the Bible" the following, which I find it impossible to match let alone precis or explain. It bears re-publication in full, without any comment of mine.

E.B.C.

About what should we be thinking?

At this time in our history what should occupy our thoughts? Upon what should the focus be?

I believe mankind's most important concentration of thought would be the present situation of any individual, church or nation, the day to day aspect. No one should be living in the past; no one can yet live in the future, and most people have so much on their plate they find it is not possible to be anywhere than in the present. What does the Bible advise?

Matt.6.31-33. "Take no thought for the morrow, what ye shall eat, what ye shall drink, what ye shall put on, for your heavenly Father knoweth ye have need of all these things, but seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.". (Food, drink and clothing).

Obviously not many people will believe that!

But it is true!

God supplied the children of Israel in the wilderness with food and clothing, so He can supply us! All that is necessary was someone able and willing to believe Him. And it then occurred. Many instances are given in His Word, the Holy Bible, both to individuals and to peoples, particularly to the Israelites. So what is the real problem? The problem was and always will be the same. Man himself, and unbelief. Because "mankind" is unwilling or unable, because of Satanic influence, to accept what God has implicitly stated,

we are plagued by shortage of material needs in the right place at the right time. But it need not be so, and God is not for much longer going to permit such a situation to continue, and who can blame Him?

As the Bible comments "The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" (Rom.8.22), because of man's disobedience and disbelief of the Almighty.

The believer in God is not so! He KNOWS that God is willing and able to keep His promises, and does so, and we have only ourselves to blame if we continue to suffer from the lack of any of these essentials.

The best advice anyone can give any troubled individual is to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." This the British Israel believer does (or should do). Any time we have from the daily grind should be directed upward towards the heavens for the possibility of His coming back to earth, as He promised His disciples.

A few of us are hopeful that His return could well be within the first half of this present decade. Whether this will be so, only time will tell, but the signs appear to indicate THIS BELIEF has merit. It certainly shows the relevance of positive thinking, for who, except for the sinner or unbeliever, wants the present conditions, injustices, atrocious behaviour, or situations in homes, nations, or governments, to continue in the downward path they are on?

E.B.C.

LIVING DANGEROUSLY

It seems amazing that any thinking person can take the risks that so many of this world's humanity seem more than willing to take. When I was young, I was never in any doubt that my human father was a man of his word. If he said, when I was a disobedient, that I would be punished for my disobedience, I knew that the punishment would inevitably be carried out, and rightly so, for he was a most just and humane person. So to my knowledge, I only once received (and deserved) the punishment he predicted and which he delivered. And yet in our people's book, the Bible, in Revelation God our Father says (Rev. 22.18-19) "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. And if any man (or woman) shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Now how many of the over 5000 million of the world's population believe, let alone take much notice of these words, in this generation of people? It would be a very small proportion, even of the so-called believers(?) in our churches that could say they believe the scriptures, so much disputation concerning the truth or relevance of scripture occurs. But here it is in print, and in the majority of our homes, or with easy access to its reading.

The words of the Bible are contested, disputed, disbelieved, ridiculed, mistranslated, misapplied, and deliberately misconstrued to prove a point, and seldom more seriously than in the edifice of the church, its priesthood and its laity of so-called believers, and not to expect to receive punishment for their misdemeanours.

It is no wonder that when Jesus returns to this earth in the near future,

the Bible states "will He find (the) faith on the earth"? Obviously implying it will be most unlikely!

Seeing God (and translators) has gone to so much trouble to provide us with reliable documentation so that man might have and understand His requirements for our own benefit, why is it His best and most reasoning creation desires the things that are in man's worst interests? How stupid can one be?

Both man (and Satan) have so much to answer for! How can God be blamed for any of the consequences of our stupidity? But He is, wrongly, and to our shame! WHEN WILL WE LEARN?

E.B.C.

A Panoramic View of the Bible

The Bible, incomparably the most widely circulated of books, at once provokes and baffles study. Even the non-believer in its authority rightly feels that it is unintelligent to remain in almost total ignorance in the most famous and ancient of books. No barrier of language now exists, for the Bible has been, translated into practically all languages and dialects. And yet most, even of sincere believers, soon retire from any serious effort to master the contents of the sacred writings. The reason is not far to seek. It is found in the fact that no particular portion of Scripture is to be intelligently comprehended apart from some conception of its place in the whole. For the Bible story and message is like a picture wrought out in mosaics: each book, chapter, verse, and even word forms a necessary part, and has its own appointed place. It is therefore, indispensable to any interesting and fruitful study of the Bible that a general knowledge of it be gained.

FIRST. The Bible is one book. Seven great marks attest this unity. (1) From Genesis 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 forms one continuous story - the story of humanity in relation to God. (3) The Bible hazards the most unlikely predictions concerning the future, and when the centuries have brought around the appointed time, records their fulfilment. (4) The Bible is a progressive 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 an earlier revelation, adds to it, lays down the pen, and in due time another man moved by the Holy Spirit, and another, and another, add new details until 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 forty four in number, writing through twenty centuries, have produced a perfect harmony of doctrine in progressive unfolding. This is, to every candid mind, the unanswerable proof of the Divine inspiration of the Bible.

SECOND. The Bible is a book of books. Sixty six books make up the one book. Considered with reference to the unity of the one book the separate books may be regarded as chapters. But that is but one side of the truth, for each of the sixty six books is complete in itself, and has its own theme and analysis. In the present edition of the Bible these are fully shown in the introductions and divisions. It is therefore of the utmost moment that

the books be studied in the light of their distinctive themes. Genesis, for instance, is the book of beginnings - the seed-plot of the whole Bible. Matthew is the book of the King, etc.

THIRD. The books of the Bible fall into groups. Speaking broadly there are five great divisions in the Scriptures, and these may be conveniently fixed in the memory by five key words, Christ being the one theme (Luke. 24.25-27)

PREPARATION	MANIFESTATION	PROPAGATION.
The O.T.	The Gospels	The Acts
EXPLANATION	CONSUMMATION	
The Epistles	The Apocalypse	

In other words; the Old Testament is preparation for Christ: in the Gospels he is manifested to the world; in the Acts He is preached and His gospel is propagated in the world; in the Epistles His Gospel is explained, and in the Revelation all the purposes of God and through Christ are consummated. And these groups of books in turn fall into groups. This is especially true of the Old Testament, which is in four well-defined groups. Over these may be written, as memory aids:

REDEMPTION	ORGANIZATION	POETRY	SERMONS	
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah	Jonah
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah	Micah
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Ezekiel	Nahum
Numbers	1,2 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Daniel	Habakkuk
Deuteronomy	1,2 Kings	Song of Solomon	Hosea	Zephaniah
	1,2 Chronicles	Lamentations	Joel	Haggai
	Ezra		Amos	Zechariah
	Nehemiah		Obadiah	Malachi
	Esther			

again, care should be taken not to overlook, in these general groupings, the distinctive messages of the several books composing them. Thus, while redemption is the general theme of the Pentateuch, telling as it does; the story of the redemption of Israel out of bondage and into "a good land and large", each of the five books has its own distinctive part in the whole. Genesis is the book of beginnings, and explains the origin of Israel. Exodus tells the story of the deliverance of Israel, Leviticus of the worship of Israel as a delivered people. Numbers, the wanderings and failings of the delivered people, and Deuteronomy warns and instructs the people in view of their approaching entrance upon their inheritance. The poetical books record the spiritual experiences of the redeemed people in the varied scenes and events through which the providence of God led them.

The prophets were preachers, and the prophetic books consist of sermons with brief, connecting and explanatory passages. Two prophetic books, Ezekiel and Daniel have a different character and are apocalyptic, largely.

FOURTH. The Bible tells the human story. Beginning logically, with the creation of the earth and of man, the story of the race sprung from the first human pair continues through the first eleven chapters of Genesis. With the twelfth chapter begins the history of Abraham and of the nation of which

Abraham was the ancestor. It is that nation, Israel, with which the Bible narrative is thereafter chiefly concerned from the eleventh chapter of Genesis to the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The Gentiles are mentioned, but only in connection with Israel. But it is made increasingly clear that Israel so fills the scene only because entrusted with the accomplishment of great world-wide purposes.(Deut. 7.7)

The appointed mission of Israel was (1) to be a witness to the unity of God in the midst of universal idolatry (Deut. 6.4; Isa. 44.10); (2) to illustrate to the nations the greater blessedness of serving the one true God (Deut. 33.25-29; 1 Chron. 17.20,21; Psalm 102.15); (3) to receive and preserve the Divine revelation (Rom. 3.1,2) and (4) to produce the Messiah, earth's Saviour and Lord (Rom. 9-4). The prophets foretell a glorious future for Israel under the reign of Christ. The biblical story of Israel, past, present and future, falls into seven distinct periods (1) From the call of Abram (Gen. 12) to the Exodus (Ex. 1-20; (2) the Exodus to the death of Joshua (Ex. 21 to Josh. 24); (3) from the death of Joshua to the establishment of the Hebrew monarchy under Saul; (4) the period of the Kings from Saul to the captivities; (5) the period of the captivities; (6) the restored commonwealth from the end of the Babylonian captivity of Judah, to the destruction of Jerusalem, A.D.70; (7) the present dispersion.

The Gospels record the appearance in human history and within the Hebrew nation of the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, and tell the wonderful story of the manifestation to Israel. His rejection by the Jews. His crucifixion, resurrection and Ascension. The Acts of The Apostles record the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the beginning of a new thing in human history, the Church. The division of the race now becomes threefold - the Jew, the Gentile and the Church of God. Just as Israel is in the foreground from the call of Abram to the resurrection of Christ, so now the Church fills the scene from the second chapter of the Acts to the fourth chapter of the Revelation. The remaining chapters of that book complete the story of humanity and the final triumph of Christ.

FIFTH. The Central Theme of the Bible is Christ. It is this manifestation of Jesus Christ, the Person as "God manifest in the flesh" (1 Tim. 3-16). His sacrificial death, and His resurrection, which constitute the Gospel. Unto this all preceding Scripture leads, and all following Scripture proceeds. The Gospel is preached in the Acts and explained in the Epistles. Christ, Son of God, Son of man, Son of Abraham, Son of David, thus binds the many books into one Book. Seed of the woman (Gen. 3-15), He is the ultimate destroyer of Satan and his works; Seed of Abraham He is the world blesser; the seed of David, He is Israel's King, "Desire of all Nations." Exalted to the right hand of God He is "head over all to the Church, which is His body", while to Israel and the nations the promise of His return forms the one and only rational expectation that humanity will yet fulfil itself....Meanwhile the Church looks momentarily for the fulfilment of His special promise "I will come again and receive you unto myself" (John. 14-1-3) To Him the Holy Spirit throughout this Gospel age bears testimony. The last book of all, the Consummation book, is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 1-1)



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May 1992

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GREED

One of the greatest devastators of modern society is greed.
Greed for money, wealth, land, territory, power.

Greed has been present among people from early in history. One early example is given in the Bible, that of the servant of Elisha, the successor to Elijah the prophet. Elisha was the son of a man named Shephat, Elisha had a servant named Gehazi. Now this servant had witnessed some of Elisha's miraculous activities, so he was not unaware of the possibility of judgment upon himself for any misdeemeanour he might commit.

Now Namaan was captain of the army of the king of Syria at that time, and was a mighty man of valour; but he was a leper.

Some time earlier the Syrians had captured a young female Israelite who was now a servant to Namaan's wife. This young lady said to Namaan's wife words which stated in effect, "It's a pity Namaan wasn't in Samaria. There's a man there who is a prophet of the Lord. He could heal Namaan's disease." A neighbour overheard this conversation, and told Namaan. So Namaan's king sent (to the king in Israel). Namaan, who went, taking also ten talents of silver, 6,000 pieces of gold, and ten changes of clothes.

The king of Israel protested at the request, saying in effect, "am I God who alone can cure leprosy. Is he trying to start a war?" When Elisha heard of this, he reported to the king of Israel. "Send him to me, I'll show him there's a prophet in Israel."

So Namaan came and stopped in front of Elisha's house, where Elisha sent a message to Namaan, saying, "Go and wash in the river Jordan seven times, and your leprosy will be healed."

Here another sinful attribute of mankind entered into Namaan - **disbelief and pride.**

Namaan became angry, and departed, saying "I thought he'd at least come out and see such an important visitor, and call on his god, and put his hands on me, and heal me." "Aren't there two rivers in Damascus far better than any river in Israel". But Namaan's servant said to his master, "If the prophet had told you to do something great, wouldn't you have tried it?" When Elisha said, "Wash and be clean, why not do it. You've come all this way, what can you lose?"

How many of us are any better than Namaan? God in His book has given us instructions FOR OUR GOOD. Do many question or take any notice? Are we any better than Namaan?

To our disgrace and possibly the Almighty's disgust, time and again, Israel's people have ignored, disbelieved, or repudiated His instructions, and continue to do so. At least Namaan eventually listened to his advisors and did something about it. And what happened? (2 Kings 5-14) "Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God, and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

Would to heaven God's people Israel would listen to those among us advising our return to Him while there is still time to do so, before there is no time left to repent. Namaan eventually listened. How long will it be before God's people Israel- US - will listen to our prophets?

What then happened to Namaan?

He went back to Elisha, and wanted to reward him. He acknowledged the God of Elisha as the only God

He also offered Elisha reward for his services. Elisha continued to refuse, Namaan said that from then on he would serve God. So then Namaan started for his home.

Now Elisha's servant, Gehazi, thinking to capitalize on this refusal, went along after Namaan. When Namaan saw him coming, he waited. First by **untruthfulness**, and then **extortion**, Gehazi extracted two talents of silver, and two changes of clothing. These he hid in the house. (Deceit). When challenged by Elisha as to where Gehazi had been, Gehazi denied it. (Further Deception). Elisha then told Gehazi that, from then on he would be punished, by contracting leprosy. (2 Kings 5.27 (last paragraph)) "And he went out from his (Elisha's) presence a leper as white as snow.

Just retribution, we might conclude! And so it is. But Israel is just as stubborn, and as stupid!

We don't deserve God's beneficence, because of our sin and disbelief. But to Israel, God also has promised deliverance from affliction, which we at present suffer. We would be wise to accept, NOW, before it is too late!

OUR TASK

I was seated in a lounge chair in our sunroom, reading a newspaper, when at about 4 p.m. in the afternoon, I first felt the pain in the centre of my chest.

The pain slowly increased in intensity and became quite severe until it was at about seven out of ten on an intensity scale, and had moved to the centre of my back between the shoulder blades. After a short while, I lay down on an adjacent lounge. About thirty minutes later I arose, went into the bedroom, removed my clothes, and went to bed. I could not fall asleep, even though the pain in the chest had decreased a little in intensity. About 4 a.m. next morning I was still awake, and after 8 a.m. my wife telephoned the doctor. Within a few minute she came to the residence, examined me, and an ambulance had been ordered to take me to hospital.

Various X rays and a cardiograph were taken by the hospital staff, and it was ascertained by the medical staff that I had experienced my first heart attack at the age of 78 years. Within a few hours, the pain, through suitable medication, became tolerable. Within four days, adequate treatment ensured I was on the mend, appropriate medication by skilled hospital personnel saw me at home and on the road to recovery.

This was an experience I am not anxious to repeat, but I am convinced modern medicinal practices have progressed far in a

short period of time, due to the miracles doctors and medical personnel are performing daily in this last decade of the twentieth century.

When the Lord Jesus Christ returns to this earth to reign upon it and over its peoples, in the not far distant future, we can rest assured the predicted millenial age envisioned by the prophets, will ensure all that, He promised will eventuate. Of this I am as certain as any mortal can be. In the meantime, awaiting that most important event, let us NOT become weary in well doing, but "press toward the mark" (as St. Paul advised) "for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3,14)

PARTNERSHIP

In a manually operated telephone exchange staffed by telephonists (In modern times a thing of the past) when the telephonist operated the "key" and "plug" connected to a pair of cords which had been plugged into the calling telephone line, and said "Number please" (a "glowing" globe had indicated the need for this), the caller had replied by stating "What number are you calling, please?" The caller then repeated the number required, e.g. "Windsor 2468. With the other cord of the pair of cords, the telephonist plugged into the "multiple" jacks in front of his (or her) position. The connection was made, and the 'ring' automatically applied to the called party's line (and 'ring tone' to the calling party's line). The call was then able to be completed.

We must ensure that whatever occurs in our petitions is in God's hands, not ours, and we can never, achieve positive answers to our requests, unless they are God's will, not our's only. No matter how much we require something to occur, and for whatever reason, if it does not occur, He knows best, and we must not be discouraged when the answer is a negative one. If we seek to do His will and do it, our prayers will be answered in the affirmative, and NOT before that.

There can never be a successful partnership, if the partners are not in agreement on all matters, however insignificant they appear to be.

Whatever thy hands find to do, do it with all thy might; "but don't waste time and effort, in finding the wrong things to do, for either ourself, our church or our nation. Pray that we will do

the right things, for the right reasons; that our prayers may be in that manner, and we therefore will achieve our objectives, not because we think it is a worthy project, but because He does !

GARDENS

Did you realize that the book of Genesis, the book that commences the 66 of the scriptural books contained in the Bible, begins in a garden. The final book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, closes in a garden.

God must have had a real appreciation of gardens, realizing that the flowers and fruits thereof would have also been appreciated by those who are fortunate enough to dwell in a garden setting!

The words of the Bible are contested, disputed, disbelieved, ridiculed, mistranslated, misapplied and deliberately misconstrued, to prove a point and seldom more seriously than in the edifice of the church, its priesthood and laity of so-called believers, and not to expect punishment for their misdemeanours.

It is no wonder that when Jesus returns to this earth in the near future, the Bible states "Will He find (the) faith on the earth?

Obviously implying it will be most unlikely?

Seeing God (and translators) has gone to so much trouble to provide us with reliable documentation so that we might have and understand His requirements for our own benefit, why is it His best and most-reasoning creation desires the things that are in man's worst interests. How stupid can one be?

But he is, wrongly, and to our shame!

Both man (and Satan) have so much to answer for!

WE HAVE MOVED

Take Note

B.I. Headquarters in Melbourne, Victoria, is no longer in that capital city, but has moved to an inner suburb of that city to the property of the Walke family at 6 Palmerston Avenue, Camberwell. The removal occurred on the weekend of July 30th. The H.Q. records, cabinets, bookshop books, etc. were safely transported to their new surrounds in the garage and workshop of Mr. John Walke, the bookroom manager, to whom grateful thanks are duly recorded herein. John is a skilled carpenter, and was

responsible for the many alterations and fittings necessary to achieve the excellent result obtained. Those who assisted in the removal result necessary have my and the Victorian British-Israel organisation's thanks for a job done relatively inexpensively.

I was unable to assist physically because I was recovering from hospitalisation following a recent heart attack from which as I write I am just now starting to recover, for which I thank the Almighty for his great mercy to me in allowing me to continue on earth in this life in such momentous times.

It would be remiss of me if I didn't thank those through whom the move was possible. They were, in alphabetical order; but not necessarily in importance Don Brandon of Clifton Hill; Miriam Harvey, B.I. member and voluntary Bookroom assistant, Eric Hardy of Hampton, Peter Jenkins of Moonee Ponds, Joan Piercy our Treasurer and her husband Chan and John Piercy, their son, Vic. Proposch. Sen. V.P., John Walke Bookroom Manager; and also our former residence lift operator. To all these People we will be forever grateful. There is still work to be done, but John Walke has this well in hand, and from the effort to-date, I am sure it will be satisfactorily and inexpensively achieved.

To all these people, I am personally grateful, and pray God's blessing on their efforts in further serving our Redeemer and King Jesus Christ, whose return is sure and soon to occur to reign over His Kingdom on earth.

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

Our new address is
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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

30th April, 1992.

Dear Mrs. Piercy,

I am commanded by The Queen to thank you for your letter. I apologise for the delay in replying, which is due to the very large volume of mail received by Her Majesty on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of her Accession.

The Queen was pleased to know that you enjoyed her recent visit, and appreciated your loyal and thoughtful letter, which has given her much encouragement.

Yours sincerely,

(JOHN HASLAM)

Mrs. J.W. Piercy.

My task will be to convince others, why and when.

I don't agree to argue about it. I haven't the time to spend on disputing such an important occurrence as that!
E.B.C.

THE ELEMENTS - THE WIND

The Hebrews acknowledge four principal winds, as we do. (Ezekiel 42.16-18)

He measured the east side; in Hebrew, the east wind, etc. The east wind is called in Hebrew, Kadim, the north wind Tzaphon; the south wind, Darom; and the west wind, or from the Mediterranean Sea, Rouach-Hajam. Solomon states in Proverbs 5.23, that the north wind disperses the clouds and the rain; but other interpreters translate it - "it Produces rain" - The powerful operations and motions of God's Spirit, quickening or reviving the heart toward God are compared to the blowing of the wind. John 3.8. "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth, so is every one that is born of the Spirit. (Jesus's reply to a question from Nicodemus, a pharisaic ruler of the Jews). For as it is with the wind, man perceives, by its effects, there is a thing, and that it does blow, yet his power cannot restrain it, neither his reason reach to know whence it rises, or how far it comes, or how far it reaches; so is the spiritual change wrought in the soul; freely, where, in whom, when, and in what measure the Spirit pleases; and also powerfully, so as to make an evident sensible change though the manner thereof is incomprehensible.

Elsewhere the motions of the Spirit are set forth by wind as in Cant. 4.16.

The judgements of God are compared to wind, as in Isa. 27.8. "He stayeth his rough wind in the day of his east wind. He assuages the fury of the storm, and mitigates the severity of the judgment".

It is said in Isa. 26.18. "We have been with child, we have, as it were, brought forth wind," that is "We have been in expectation of help and deliverance out of our troubles, but our hopes have proved empty and unsuccessful, and we have not been able to do anything towards our own deliverance". So in Hosea 12.1. "Ephraim feedeth on wind." The ten tribes flatter themselves with vain deluding hopes of help from the Egyptians and Assyrians.

In Matt. 7.25 all sorts of temptations are thus described. The rain descended, the floods came, the winds blew. And in Jer. 4.11,12, they coming in swiftly and fiercely, destroying all before them, is expressed by "a dry wind, a full wind."

The apostle Paul compares vain and inconstant opinions and doctrines to wind.

Eph. 4.14 "carried about by every wind of doctrine. As the wind is a subtle body, so these doctrines are subtle, but without substance of truth. The wind is uncertain, now blowing from one quarter, now from another, now loud and presently silent; so false

doctrines are uncertain, now making a great noise, and suddenly vanishing. The wind likewise carries chaff, stubble, and suchlike things (rubbish) along with it, but houses well-founded, stand still, so the doctrines of false teachers carry aside unstable persons; but he that is rooted in faith and humility, knowing his misery by sin, and the grace of God in Christ, will not be moved with them.

As inscribed on one of the English coins (at the time of Elizabeth I of Great Britain), "Thou didst blow with thy wind, and the sea covered them (i.e. the Egyptian army) they sank in the sea as lead in the mighty waters".

In Numbers 11.31 is recorded (instead of the provision of "manna" provided for them by God and about which they complained) "And there went forth from the Lord a wind, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, around about the camp". All that day and night and the next day, the quails were easily within reach of all and sundry because of the force of the wind. By the use of what men would call 'natural' forces, quail were provided by God as an alternative food source from their usual consumption. These two chapters of Numbers (10 and 11) are well worth reading again, especially by some people (and we each know them) who are always complaining about what God has provided for us all, whatever our station in this life. It is a reminder to count our blessings before we complain!

In Numbers Chapter 11 we read "And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord".

He cannot be at all happy at the present time so many people nowadays are complaining about everything and everybody. The number of people completely content with their lot these days can be counted virtually by the fingers on one hand! Have you counted your blessings? And do you thank Him for them?

Try not to let any day go by, without thanking Him for so many blessings that are denied to others - food, shelter, friends, relatives, you name it.

Of Jesus, Luke stated in 8.27 "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and sea obey Him?"

There are well over 70 references in Scripture to "wind" and its activities and likeness. It should pay dividends to study them!

The wind plays an important part in everyday living. We can learn a lot from it.

E.B.C.

(The Elements) THE WIND

Cruden, in his Concordance to the Old and New Testaments, has this to say about the **STRONG WIND** of Psalms 107.25 (named **EUROCLYDON**). "Euroclydon is a wind which blows between the East and the North. It is very dangerous, of the nature of a whirlwind, which falls on a sudden upon ships, makes them tack about and sometimes causes them to founder, as Pliny observes. (Acts 27.14):

"There arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon". This comes from the account in Acts 27 of the ship in which Paul, after appealing to King Agrippa for judgment concerning the accusations against him, appealed to Caesar Augustus to avoid the judgment (death) against him by the Jews false accusations.

Psalm 107.29 "He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still". In this Psalm the writer details the goodness of God and His mercy on the redeemed, and His wonderful works on the children of men!

E.B.C.

WHEN WILL WE CHANGE

Any person who considers himself or herself to be a Christian, likes to believe that whatsoever he or she contributes to the welfare of their fellow human beings is beneficial and worthwhile to their fellow man. In that, it would be considered that it is our job to supply what we can of effort and money, and God's obligation to supply what we can't. Thus if we 'put in' to the best of our ability, we should expect God, if His blessing is on that specific project or charity, to do the same!

God has stated in His written word, The Bible, that His people Israel, i.e. US, if we will obey and keep His laws, He will do certain things for us.

To date, we have so often said we will do this or that, but sooner or later we have departed and discontinued our obligation to Him, and then we tend to blame Him for the catastrophic results of our disobedience.

However, this is all going to change in the near future, for Satan's grip on our people is soon to be removed, and God's blessings upon us will be the instant and automatic result.

E.B.C.

ANNUAL MEETING

As a non-profit making organisation with approximate costs annually (this year \$28,000 p.a.) with inflation contributing continually to increases in that respect, I appreciate how difficult it is to continue operations, but although God has blessed us in so many ways, we only sell our books at minimal profit, they are costly to import, and our stocks are very low. Continuing to operate depends entirely on the donations of individual financial members, who have become few in number. So please, those who read this, the understanding of Scripture we possess can only be passed on to others as we are able to financially supply it. This may be where you can help. If we are to continue to operate, we need to have your assistance, so please think about it! God is a debtor to no one. Our witness to God is God-oriented. Can you assist us any further? Once again our thanks for past support, and remember that any bequests to B.I.W.F. Vic. H.Q., are non-taxable.