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**British-Israel World Federation**  
(VICTORIAN HEADQUARTERS)

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**MONTHLY NOTES**

March, 1993

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**EASTER**

The Easter season perpetuates the death and resurrection of our Lord, and is celebrated by all Christendom, but many of the modern customs associated with this particular time of the year were part of pagan ritual and dogma adopted by Romanism from Babylonian and other pagan practices, e.g., hot cross buns, the Easter bunny. Even the word Easter is an adaptation of the name of the goddess Astarte, Queen of heaven. Thus the incorporation of paganism tends to obscure the real significance of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Satan is very subtle with his counterfeit systems and types.

Great importance is placed by "Christian" religions, upon the death of Jesus by the cruel Roman practice of crucifixion. The necessity for His death became obvious with the fall of man, man's disobedience and sin alienating him from his Creator, condemning him to a shortened life ending in death.

God anticipated this calamity, and in due course took upon Himself the form of man, becoming the propitiation for man's sin by His own sinless life and His sacrificial death by crucifixion.

God had paid the penalty for sin and made it possible for the sinner to once again be eligible to inherit eternal life by accepting Jesus Christ as his own personal Saviour.

Now while the importance of the event celebrated every year

on "Good Friday", as it is known must be given full emphasis, it is by no means the exclusive dominant feature of the Easter season.

Although it had now become possible for man to be reconciled to God, he was (and still is) subject to physical death, and restored immortality was as far away as ever. A much more important event needed to occur, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, so that man, in fulfilment of God's promises and in due time, could also be resurrected in human form, and once again possess eternal life.

And this event Christianity remembers on Easter Sunday.

It, and it alone, is the keystone of the believer's faith, of his future hope, for without the resurrection, the sacrifice the Lord Jesus made would be pointless.

The foregoing states the message of Easter. What follows is the Bible evidence supporting that message.

Matthew 1.20-25 informs us "the angel of the Lord appeared unto him....saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary, thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS, for He shall save His people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us. Then Joseph....knew her not till she had brought forth her first born son, and he called his name JESUS.

These verses (and others) confirm the following facts Mary was a virgin; Jesus came to save HIS PEOPLE (Israel) from their sins: He was to be called "Emmanuel", because He was God in human form; and these things occurred to confirm what the Old Testament prophets had foretold concerning Him.

The resurrection is expressly taught in both the Old and the New Testaments. Job 19.25-27 states, "For I KNOW that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And although after my skin worms destroy this body, YET IN MY FLESH shall I see God, whom I shall see for myself, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me."

This statement was made many centuries before Christ.

John 5.24-29 supports Job's confession of faith. Jesus said "Verily, verily I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in Himself, so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself; And He hath given Him authority to execute judgement also, because He is the Son of man.

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which ALL THAT ARE IN THE GRAVES shall hear His voice, and SHALL COME FORTH, they that have done good, UNTO THE RESURRECTION OF LIFE; (the first resurrection, at His Second Coming) and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (Refer Rev.11-18; Rev.20.5-6)

As Cruden states, "the resurrection is a doctrine unknown to the wiseth heathens, and peculiar to the gospels; some glimmering they had of the soul's immortality, but no knowledge of the reviving of the body. / But reason assists faith in this point, both as to the will of God, and His power for performing it..... And as to the possibility of the resurrection, the continual production of things in the world, is a clear demonstration of the power of God for that effect. There is an instance that our Saviour and the Apostle Paul made use of, as an image of the resurrection. A grain of corn sown in the earth, corrupts and dies and after springs up entire; its death is a disposition to life. (John 12.24; I Cor. 15.36). The essays of God's power in the work of returning nature, flowers and fruits in their season, instruct us how easily He can make those that are in the dust, to awake to life. But more especially the resurrection of Christ is the argument, the claim and assurance of the resurrection of believers to glory. For God chose and appointed Him to be example and principle, from whom all divine blessings should be derived to them, accordingly He tells His disciples "because I live, ye shall live also," (John 14.19). "He is called the firstfruits of them that slept." (I Cor. 15.20), because as the firstfruits were a pledge and assurance of the following harvest; and as from the condition of the firstfruits being offered to God the whole harvest was entitled to a consecration, so our Saviour's resurrection to the life of glory is the earnest and assurance of ours..../. From what He has done, to what He can do, the consequence is clear. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST is the most important cornerstone of the gospel, and the demonstration of the rest; hence St. Paul says (I Cor 15-14) "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain, (and verse 17)" "If Christ be not risen, your faith is vain, ye are yet in your sins."

Cruden should have added verses 18-23. "Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made live. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward they that are Christ's AT HIS COMING"

As Romans 4.25 states, "He was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."

As our surety He paid our debt, giving full satisfaction to divine justice. He was discharged from the grave. On this doctrine of His resurrection is also built our faith in His promises, to give life and glory to His servants. By raising His body from the grave, He raised also His "church" (the body of believers of which He is the Head) with him.

Jesus is "the resurrection and the life," as He claimed.

After the impotent man had walked, on Peter's command "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk", Peter said (Acts 4.12-21) "Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this.... The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified His Son Jesus.... REPENT ye therefore, and BE CONVERTED, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you. Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began...."

Chapter 4 begins "And as they spake (Peter and John) unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees (who didn't believe in resurrection) came upon them, being grieved that they taught the people and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead."

Peter and John were taken into custody, and next day were brought before the priesthood. When challenged, verses 8-12 record "Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel. If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, WHOM GOD RAISED FROM THE DEAD, even by Him doth this man stand before you whole.... Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Acts 4.33 sums up "And with great power gave the apostles WITNESS OF THE RESURRECTION of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all."

The believer's faith can be summed up in the words of Romans 10.9-10. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus (i.e. Jesus was God in the flesh) and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

In His call to Israel for repentance and conversion (Acts 3.19). Peter calls attention to the Ascension of Jesus and His

eventual RETURN TO THIS EARTH in Person (the SECOND COMING). With that event is associated the resurrection of the dead in Christ.

To that event we look forward with hope and anticipation.

For the foregoing reasons, the significant event celebrated at Easter is the resurrection of the Lord Jesus the Christ. With it goes the promise that the believer will also rise from the dead to share in His glory. And the fulfilment of prophecy as history confirms that the resurrection of the dead in Christ could be very soon. Certainly much sooner than the majority of our people expect.

That was recorded in these Monthly Notes, 19 years ago, and we are now 19 years nearer His Second Coming and the resurrection of 'the dead in Christ'. What does it mean to most of the world? But more particularly, **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?**, my reader.

I believe that that return will be sometime in 1994, and I have considerable evidence to support such a belief. Jesus will return even as He Himself states. I accept that, do you? For his sake, and for your own future, I hope you have been convinced by the preceding discourse!

Have you, my reader, taken advantage of what the understanding and belief in the foregoing scriptures have taught you, and the evidence collated in this article.

I have read it over and over, marvel at its implications, and believe it whole-heartedly. I can only hope my conviction has influenced many, to believe, also.

E.B.C.

## THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU DECEIVE

Why be truthful?

Apart from the well-known fact that the first lie needs it to be followed up by others, today's world, without truth, has become chaotic.

Truth is the standard our Creator has set up as the standard for wise living. He Himself provided the standard and example, the Bible stating in Hebrews 6.18, that "it is impossible for God to lie".

A similar standard was that upheld by God's son Jesus, God's personal representative on earth.

To Jewish religious leaders seeking to kill Him, Jesus said (John 8.42,55) "God sent Me," "I know Him (God)". i.e. "you (the Jewish leaders) are the liars".

As Proverbs 6.17 states, God hates the proud, liars, murderers, mischief-makers, cheats. God is truth, Jesus spake the truth, any worthy believer or follower **SHOULD DO LIKEWISE!**

However, most of us seldom achieve such standards. And Prov. 8.32-36 sums up "Listen, take notice, follow my advice, then what follows will be my favour, and LIFE.

So speaking truly may occasion embarrassment, or bad feelings? **SO WHAT?** Nowhere near as much as a lie may occasion more lies to justify the first!

I remember the old axiom my parents taught me, 'what a nasty web we weave, when we first practise to deceive'.

From fear, and human weakness, one may be tempted to seek refuge in a lie. That is the course of least resistance, or mistaken weakness. The Apostle Peter fell to such a temptation when he three times denied that he knew Jesus Christ. Later, his genuine remorse and repentance moved God to forgive him his denial. That is evident in his later being blessed with many privileges of service to God.

A determined decision not to continue to lie is a course that will bring divine forgiveness for an unsavoury practice that God hates!

Remember Psalm 15.12 Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart."

Lying began when a rebellious angel Satan; lied to the first woman Eve, telling her she would NOT die if she disobeyed her Creator. It resulted in incalculable harm to her offspring, and continues to do so, with imperfection, sickness, and death to everyone. (See Gen. 3.1-4; Romans 5.12).

From that event, the insidious influence the father of lies, Satan began, has continued and has created a climate in man's world that stimulates lying (John 8.44). In this decadent world, truth is only relative.

The Saturday Evening Post (Sept.1936) observed that the problem of lying "teaches business, government, education, entertainments, and simple day-to-day relationships between fellow citizens and neighbours.....we've bought the theory of relativism, the single **BIG LIE** that says there are no absolute truths."

Such is the viewpoint of habitual liars, who are devoid of any empathy for those they deceive. Others, not habitual liars may unhesitatingly, out of fear - fear of exposure, punishment, etc., yet to be replaced by a determination to speak the truth.

The TRUTH is the standard Jesus Christ has set for His followers, and the Bible the standard for our belief, for "**THY WORD IS TRUTH.**"

E.B.C.



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**Another sign?**

This week the following was recorded in a Melbourne newspaper: Scientists have discovered the entrance to a secret chamber deep inside Egypt's Great Pyramid of Cheops. And it could contain untold treasures, "The Independent Newspaper, reported yesterday. It said some experts believed the chamber might contain the treasures and mummy of the Pharaoh Cheops.

The scientists led by robotics expert Rudolf Gantenbrink, used a tiny robot equipped with a video-camera to explore an upward-sloping passageway and found it ended with a miniature stone door with copper handles, the report said. The report said it was impossible for grave-robbers to have reached the chamber. This may mean that the mystery chamber contains a treasure every bit as stunning as that of Tutankhamen's," it said.

The passageway is 65 metres long but only 20 cm. square. Egyptologists had previously thought the passage was only eight metres long.

Pictures sent back by the robot camera showed the last

few metres of the passage were very finely constructed, with a scattering of fine black dust in front of a tiny gap between the newly-discovered stone door and the wall.

The newspaper said the presence of the dust, which could not be from the white stonework, implied it had been blown out of the chamber by air currents, suggesting the room was large. "What is more, its geometric location within the pyramid hints at a large size", it added. It said the German team was now planning to adapt the robot to carry a fibre-optic camera to be inserted through the gap at the bottom of the door. Any attempt to break into the chamber from the outside would involve digging through 25 metres of stone from the south side of the pyramid's exterior."

According to the information I have, the newspaper said, the passage points towards the dog-star Sirius, in the constellation of Orion, well known to mariners. This could be another warning concerning the time in which we now are living, which many consider could well be the time of the return of Jesus Christ. Sirius, translated means "Behold, I come quickly." Significant, eh?

Ed.

## WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT

The Bible says "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all".

Jesus said of Himself "I AM the light of the world". Eph.4-24 advises mankind to "put on the new man". His followers that truly follow that light are as He was as lights to the world". (Phil. 2.15)

Isa. 60. 2 records "For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people, but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee". Ephesians 6. 12 states "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places".

After his description of the unrewarding pursuits and wickedness of the world, the apostle Paul considered his fellow believers in Eph. 4. 20, 21. "But ye have NOT SO learned Christ. If so be ye have heard Him, and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus."

After three years of preaching and teaching in Ephesus, He must have been personally disappointed with quite a few of his congregation. (Acts. 20.31-35). When he stated "Ye have NOT so learned Christ (Eph. 4.20), he was indicating he knew the Ephesian Christians were taught permissive attitudes condoning the gross misconduct described in verses 17 to 19 of Ephesians chapter 4. He also knew they had been correctly taught the Christian way of life taught and exemplified by Jesus Christ. Therefore they no longer walked in darkness as most nations did, but were the light-bearers.

Previously in Ephesians 4.14., he had warned them that some of those who had learnt about Jesus, still followed worldly ways, and even tried to persuade others to do so.

"To learn, to hear, and to be taught" all imply a process of study and instruction, as in a school or college. This cannot be done by Jesus Himself whilst He is still in heaven, but those noting the instructions He left behind Him on earth, should be listening, studying, meditating, and putting into practice what they had learnt.

Paul rarely used the personal name 'Jesus' by itself in his writing; and this is the only instance in the book of Ephesians. Jesus in John 14.6 and Col. 2.3, said "I AM ....the truth", because not only speaking it, but He taught, lived, and personified it. To "learn the Christ" includes learning to imitate Him in living the truth.

Do you, my reader, pattern your own life after that of Jesus, or daily follow in His steps? Only by so doing can one follow in His footsteps.

Paul went on to say therefore are three steps his followers must take (Eph.4-22- 4) the reference to ('corrupted, deceptive desires') suggests the taking off, or putting off of a garment. When clothing is 'spotted' or soiled, we change it at the first opportunity. Shouldn't we also be just as concerned about our spiritual needs? The verb 'put away' in the original (aorist tense) indicates a 'once only and for all time' action. The 'old man' and former course of conduct must be definite or decisive action, thoroughly and completely, be excised.. We must not deliberate or hesitate) about this. Bad can become worse in a downward spiral. Deceptive fleshly desires ultimately are ruinous, resulting in defilement and death.

The second step to spiritual enlightenment suggests

thorough washing before donning clean apparel (Eph.4.23).

The force activating the mind, the center of perception and understanding, is where the mental tendencies and inclinations, by which physical, fleshly and materialistic things operate, must be 'made new', so that the mind may be directed aright. This implies continuous action, which only study and meditation upon truth, can invigorate. It is not necessarily the latest version, but a completely new, fresh personality is created according to God's will.

Colossians 3.10-12 "Ye are complete in Him, putting off the body of the sins of the flesh."

Adam and Eve, God's first human pair, were made in God's image and likeness, endowed with moral and spiritual-like qualities setting them apart from and far above the rest of the animal creation. Gen. 1. 26, 27). Their rebellion, under Satan's co-ersion, plunged mankind into sin and imperfection; but we, as their descendant's still have the capacity, the necessary moral and spiritual qualities, to exercise faith in the ransom sacrifice provided for us by Jesus Christ. (Romans. 6. 5; 8. 19-21; Gal. 5. 1, 24).

True righteousness and loyalty, are essential qualities if we are to live up to being created in God's image, reflecting His glory. Shouldn't we be like Zechariah, John the Baptist's father, who was moved by the Holy Spirit to praise God for granting his privilege of fearlessly rendering sacred service to Him with loyalty and righteousness".

E.B.C.

## LITTLE TIME LEFT

An A.A.P. article titled "King Solomon loses the plot" appeared in a Melbourne newspaper, Monday 29-1-93. It commenced "The first ten books of the Old Testament are almost certainly based on fiction, written between 500 - 1500 years after the events they purport to describe, according to a fifteen year study of archaeological evidence. The study, whose conclusions would mean Abraham, Jacob, Moses, King David and King Solomon never existed, was carried out by Professor Thomas Thompson, one of the foremost authorities? on Biblical archeological evidence, yesterday's "Independent on Sunday", newspaper, reported

The Devil in his antagonism to the Almighty, never gives