

# The British-Israel-World Federation Victorian Branch

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### **MONTHLY NOTES**

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### **REALITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST** (From: Special Office Brief - November 21st, 1996)

"At a secret meeting in Ankara on 18th September, 1996, US diplomat Pelletreau and Saddam Hussein's son Qusay...discussed for some hours the possibilities of improving relations between the US and Iraq. The Turks were involved in the logistical and security aspects of the meeting. Qusay argued that Iraq and the US had common geopolitical interests in the region - especially as regards the threat from Iran.....He said several times "if we work out a settlement", Iraq will be ready to help the US against Iran. Pelletreau told Qusay that Saddam Hussein must stop threatening neighbouring Arab states, but agreed that the US wants to contain and isolate Iran. He made three conditions for US-Iraq co-operation.

1. Iraq must be ready to face a confrontation with Iran and stand up to Teheran's ambitions in the Gulf.
2. Iraq must allow the US to establish at least two military bases on its territory, one of them near Basra.
3. Iraq must start military co-operation with the US, permitting 300 US officers and experts to come to Baghdad as advisers.

Pelletreau stipulated that any agreement must be kept secret and implemented only after the US elections.....The US has already withdrawn the CIA agents plotting Saddam Hussein's overthrow. The US has also drafted a deal under which US companies will benefit from the oil-for-food deal rather than European companies. Several reports discuss the return of US companies to Iraq "in a big way" to conduct secret negotiations.

A European diplomat says the US is planning to redraw the map of the entire Middle East and that the US-Iraq agreement discussed is in fact a US-Turkey-Iraq agreement, supplementing a US-sponsored Turkey-Israel agreement. The presence of US bases in Iraq would indicate a blockade not only of Iran but also of Syria. It would signal many changes in the peace process and have dangerous implications for the future of the region as a whole. It should be clearly understood that the PLO now totally reject the Oslo compromise it signed. It demands the whole of Palestine and the entire City of Jerusalem. This is now stated repeatedly in Arabic language statements and is not disputable."

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION - PART 3 THE FIRST SEAL

According to the most reliable authorities the Book of Revelation was written in A.D. 96. This date, which is discussed at length in the "Horae Apocalypica" by E.B. Elliott, marked the end of the FLAVIAN or second dynasty of Roman emperors with the assassination of Domitian in that year. NERVA began the next or third dynasty which lasted until A.D. 180 when MARCUS AURELIUS died and was succeeded by his 18 years old son COMMODUS.

Chapter 6 of the Book of Revelation deals with the opening of the first six of the Seven Seals. The Lamb has taken the book and begins opening the seals.

*"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer."* (Rev. 6:1-2)

Note the FOUR symbols used: white; horse; bow; crown.

To understand this Scripture we must know the history of the Roman Empire around the time when John wrote the Book of Revelation, because the first seal, when opened, reveals from this time, events which God is bringing to our attention. In assuming this, we have precedents in the Book of Daniel, for Daniel in his second chapter commences his prophecy at the time he is writing, i.e., at the time of Babylon's supremacy. When Daniel writes his eleventh chapter, which was written at the time of the supremacy of the Medes and Persians after the fall of Babylon, he begins his prophecy with the Medo-Persian era. If this principle is followed we may expect that the first seal of Revelation Chapter 6, when opened, will reveal important events commencing from the time it was written, viz, A.D. 96.

In A.D. 96 the Roman Emperor Domitian was assassinated, ending the second (Flavian) dynasty of emperors. So in A.D. 96 we see the commencement of the third dynasty of Roman emperors who were related to one another, not by blood but by adoption. Nerva, the first of this dynasty, was followed in 98 by Trajan, in 117 by Hadrian, in 138 by Antoninus Pius and from 161-180 by Marcus Aurelius. This era of the White Horse - from the death of Domitian to the accession of Commodus - is the subject of the First Seal.

Gibbon in his "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire", writes of this era as follows:

*"If a man were called to fix the period in the history of the world during which the condition of the human race was most happy and prosperous, he would without hesitation name that which elapsed from the death of Domitian, A.D. 96, to the accession of Commodus, A.D. 180. The vast extent of the Roman Empire was governed by absolute power, under the guidance of virtue and wisdom. The armies were restrained by the firm but gentle hand of four successive emperors, whose characters and authority commanded involuntary respect. The forms of the civil administration were carefully preserved by Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian and the Antonines, who delighted in the image of liberty, and were pleased with considering themselves as the accountable ministers of the laws.....*

They must often have recollected the instability of a happiness which depended on the *character of a single man*. The fatal moment was perhaps approaching when some licentious youth, or some jealous tyrant, would *abuse to the destruction* that absolute power which they had exerted for the benefit of their people."

Elliott in his "Horae Apocalypicae" gives supporting evidence regarding the good government of this period of Roman history in footnotes - Vol. 1 p. 131. Bearing this in mind we may now turn to the interpretation of the symbolism of verse 2.

*"And I saw, and behold, a WHITE HORSE: and he that sat on him had a BOW; and a CROWN was given unto him: and he went forth CONQUERING and to CONQUER."*

Here, white represents very well the peace, happiness and prosperity of this period which was unstained by civil wars, though not without occasional wars. Trajan warred with Parthia c. A.D. 114 and there was the Jewish war under Hadrian in A.D. 135, confined to a single province, in which the rebellion of that unhappy people was put down with fearful slaughter. Lesser wars occurred on the frontiers under Antoninus Pius which were always successful. This contrasts with the red of the second horse in verse 4.

However, towards the end of this First Seal period under the second Antonine, wars arose again with the barbarian world, which had been stirred to its foundations, to overwhelm the envied glory and prosperity of the Empire. Victory after victory went to the Roman second Antonine, till the German barbarians, driven to their forests were reduced to submission.

So the destiny assigned to the White Horse's rider "and to conquer" continued to be realized by the Romans even to the end of the period under review.

What is the significance of the White Horse upon which the rider sits? Elliott draws our attention to: "white having been both in earlier times the chosen colour for horses used by Roman generals in their triumphs, and still by Roman emperors." He refers in a footnote, v.1 p.135, to Pliny regarding this ancient custom, in his account of Trajan's return to Rome from his foreign victories. Plutarch also writes of Camillus' triumph after taking Veii and Seutonius relates that Domitian rode on a white horse in his father's (Vespasian's) Jewish Triumph.

The CROWN given to this rider in this First Seal seems to support this impression. From the time of Augustus, the *triumphal crown wearing* was apparently regarded as too great an honour for subordinate generals. And from Domitian's accession this triumphal crown-wearing was restricted to the reigning emperor.

It is significant, however, that the BOW given to the White Horse rider is given before the CROWN. Elliott gives many references to the Emperor Nerva's CRETAN ancestry and to the fact that the BOW was historically symbolic of Crete. He shows that the four emperors following Nerva would also, under Roman Law, be regarded as Cretans by adoption. Nerva who acceded in A.D. 96 adopted Trajan because he did not feel he was strong enough to control the Roman Empire.

He resigned in favour of Trajan in A.D. 98.

Trajan adopted Hadrian who succeeded him in A.D. 117. He was followed in 138 by Antoninus Pius, who adopted Marcus Aurelius who reigned A.D. 161-180, being the last of these adopted Cretans.

This is why in the prophecy the BOW was given to these emperors before the CROWN. They received their Cretan ancestry by adoption, before receiving their CROWN, the BOW being a Cretan symbol because Cretans were renowned archers.

In A.D. 177 Marcus Aurelius began a systematic persecution of the Christians at Rome, who had opposed emperor-worship. Many Christians took refuge in the Catacombs where the FISH became a symbol of Christianity. Three years later Marcus Aurelius died aged 58 years, after an illness of one week. His son Lucius Aelius Aurelius Commodus, aged 18 years, succeeded him and with his accession ended this Seal with its White Horse rider.

Elliott comments that Tacitus, the greatest contemporary historian of the commencement of the First Seal's era, left his strong testimony respecting the astonishing change to national happiness which was introduced with the New Age under Nerva and Trajan. (Ref. Horae v.1 p.131, Note 6) Tacitus who had lived and held office in 'the iron age' preceding, lived also to enjoy and to record the 'golden age' that followed.

## IVAN PANIN 1855-1942

Ivan Panin, a Russian by birth, laboured for over 50 years on the Numeric Phenomena of the Scriptures. Having been at an early age an active nihilist, participating in plots against the Czar and his government, Panin was exiled from Russia. He then studied in Germany and the U.S.A. graduating from Harvard in 1882 at age 27 years. He was a brilliant mathematician and lecturer on literature.

It was at this time that he was converted from agnosticism to Christianity. As he expressed it he "was brought out of darkness into His marvelous light." In 1890, aged 35 years, he discovered the phenomenal mathematical design underlying the Greek Text of the New Testament - God's own inbuilt guard against counterfeit and witness to His own handiwork. Subsequently he was to find that the Hebrew text of the Old Testament had a similar structure.

Panin was able to demonstrate the uniqueness of the Bible which frames its paragraphs, sentences, words and letters in absolutely mathematical form, quite impossible for men to copy or construct. Indeed the WRITTEN WORD OF GOD is demonstrated to be a miracle in itself.

From the time of his discovery Ivan Panin devoted himself almost entirely to the study of the Science of Bible Numerics and to teaching and lecturing on the Holy Scripture. In 1934 he was able to publish a Greek Text of the N.T. which he claimed to be the same as the original writings, having been established by his numeric method of analysis. Thus the purity of the Greek Text was re-established. The Numeric English N.T. is an English translation of his corrected Greek text.

"Because of the design which permeates the text, he was able to ascertain which of the thousands of unsettled readings were correct ones and which passages, suspected or rejected by other textual critics, were part of the original writings." God revealed this incredible proof of the Divine inspiration of Scripture at a time when the veracity of the Word of God was being viciously attacked and when the Theory of Evolution was being used to undermine and redirect academic thinking. After reading the discoveries of Ivan Panin no Christian could ever doubt that "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*"

### PRECIS OF LECTURE BY IVAN PANIN (Given at Caxton Hall, Westminster, England, 19.2.34)

The genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ is contained in the first 17 verses of Matthew chapter 1. The first major division in the genealogy, i.e. to the time of the final Captivity, takes up 11 verses which in the Greek have a vocabulary of 49 words. 49 happens to be  $7 \times 7$ . It has two separate numeric features. First, it is a multiple of 7; second, the sum of its factors is 14 - twice 7. Of these 49 words 28, or  $7 \times 4$ , begin with a vowel, and 21, or  $7 \times 3$ , with a consonant. That is to say, the words of the vocabulary are divided into words beginning with a vowel and words beginning with a consonant, not at random, but by sevens. So we have four features of sevens. The 49 words of the vocabulary have 266 letters. That is a multiple of 7, i.e.,  $38 \times 7$ , but that is not all. The sum of the figures of 266 is 14, or twice seven., and the sum of the factors  $7 \times 2 \times 19$  is also a multiple of seven; and we have three additional features of seven.

I have said that the 49 words in the vocabulary are divided between vowel words and consonant words by sevens. The 266 letters of the vocabulary follow exactly the same plan, namely, 140 of them, or  $7 \times 20$ , are vowels, and 126, or  $18 \times 7$ , are consonants.

There is only one chance in a million that these things could have happened accidentally, but if that were all we might say - "Well, a strange thing may happen once in a while, even though the chance is only one in a million"; but it so happens that of those 49 words, 42 are nouns and 7 are not nouns. Of the 42 nouns, 35 are proper names, the other 7 are common names. Of the 35 proper names, 28 are male ancestors of the Lord Jesus Christ. This presents not only a set of divisions of seven, but it diminishes the chances 343 times. In other words, this scheme alone shows that a mathematical artist constructed that small portion of the genealogy in such a way that all these remarkable features of 7 appear.

We come to the second chapter of Matthew. It is a longer chapter. The number of vocabulary words is a multiple of seven. The number of forms is a multiple of seven. There are several paragraphs in the second chapter of Matthew, and every paragraph has its own numerics, and yet the entire chapter is all one mathematical unit on the same plan. There is not a single paragraph in the Gospel of Matthew that is not constructed in the same way as the passages already examined. Well, we can say that it is a marvel, and Matthew is a great mathematician and a wonderful artist; how he accomplished it we do not know, but he did it. But Mark shows exactly the same phenomenal. In analysing the last verses of the Gospel of Mark you will find a most wonderful numeric structure. The number of words in the last 12 verses of Mark is 175,  $7 \times 25$ . Of these, verses 9-11, a separate division by

themselves, have 35 words, or  $5 \times 7$ . Verses 7-18 have 105 words,  $15 \times 7$ ; verses 19-20 have 35 words,  $5 \times 7$ . The number of forms is 133,  $19 \times 7$ . The sum of the figures of 133 is 7. Of these forms 112 occur once, that is a multiple of 7. The vocabulary has 98,  $7 \times 7 \times 2$ , and so on; I could write a long account of the different numerics that are contained in that one little passage.

So we have not only one great mathematical artist like Matthew, but an additional one like Mark. But Luke is constructed in exactly the same way. Every paragraph, every sentence, can be shown definitely to be constructed in the same way; and when you come to John, James, Peter, Jude, Paul, you find the same. So here we have eight marvellous mathematicians, each of them doing his work in that wonderful way, which would require at least 1,000 years to do. Humanly speaking, this is simply impossible.

But this alone would not, in itself, be exhaustive, although the argument is conclusive. When, however, you take the whole Bible you find the same. I made an analysis of the occurrences of the word "Moses" in the whole Bible. It occurs in 31 books 847 times,  $7 \times 11 \times 11$ . It begins in Exodus, and occurs in Revelation once. Two distinct schemes run through the different books, of sevens and of elevens. Did Moses, when he wrote Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, leave a memorandum to Joshua saying that he had decided that in a book that would be completed 1,600 years after his death his name should occur 847 times? And Joshua, when he wrote about Moses, was to be sure to use his name in such a manner that it should occur a certain number of times, and leave a note about it to Samuel, etc., and Samuel would have to hand it down to Ezra; finally to Isaiah and to John who uses it only once. The scheme is not complete until John, 1,600 years afterwards, completes it. Can any sane man believe that man could have done this?

If human logic is worth anything at all, we are simply driven to the conclusion that if the facts I have presented to you are true, man could never have done this. But assume that a Power higher than man had guided the writers in such a way that whether they knew it or not they did it, in other words, that the great God inspired them to do it, and the matter becomes perfectly simple.

Every note or spoken sound vibrates in the air at a particular multiple of 11 vibrations. Substances in chemistry unite observing definite mathematical proportions. Human physiology is constructed on a law of sevens; as is human and animal birth. Chickens hatch after 21 days -  $3 \times 7$ . He who has not left a single department of nature without His mathematical signature has also shown His hand in the Bible. Man could not and cannot write to such an intricate numerical pattern so the Bible must be verbally inspired of God.

A philosopher friend asked, "But what is the meaning of all these figures?" I took a dollar bill from my pocket. American bills have running through them on the back red silk threads, which are hard to put in their proper places for forging. I said, "Will you kindly tell me what Uncle Sam does that for?" He said "This is his way of guarding against counterfeiting." "Well", I said, "Don't you think it would be equally wise of God to make His Book so that it shall show His handiwork in such a way that it, too, cannot be counterfeited?" The battle between the intellect of man and the Faith of the Lord Jesus Christ rests on this Book which is a masterpiece of mathematical art bearing the seal of the Great God Who has done such wonderful things.

*"To this man will I look: to the one poor, and contrite in spirit, and TREMBLING AT MY WORD."* (Isaiah 66:2) (Asst. Ed.)



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**THE BOOK OF REVELATION - PART 4**  
**THE SECOND SEAL**

When Commodus began his reign in A.D. 180 the checks and balances in the Empire nurtured by the previous emperors, e.g., the Senate being upheld by the controlled military, kept the Empire in peace and prosperity for 3-5 years. Then the misrule of Commodus began to be felt.

*"And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword."* (Rev. 6:3-4)

In a few words Gibbon describes now a period of weaker emperors with consequent civil wars and bloodshed and emperors ruling mainly for much shorter periods. Gibbon states that Marcus Aurelius, the last good emperor: "Sacrificed the happiness of millions to a fond partiality for a worthless boy, and that he chose a successor in his own family (i.e. his son) rather than in the Republic. Nothing, however, was neglected by the anxious father, and by the men of virtue and learning whom he summoned to his assistance, to expand the narrow mind of young Commodus, to correct his growing vices and to render him worthy of the throne for which he was designed.

But the power of instruction is seldom of much efficacy, except in those happy dispositions where it is almost superfluous.... Yet Commodus was not as he has been represented, a tiger born with an insatiate thirst for human blood, and capable, from his infancy, of the most inhuman actions. Nature had formed him of a weak, rather than a wicked disposition. His simplicity and timidity rendered him the slave of his attendants, who gradually corrupted his mind.

During the first three years of his reign the forms and even the spirit of the old administration were maintained by those faithful counsellors to whom Marcus had recommended his son, and for whose wisdom and integrity Commodus still entertained a reluctant esteem. The young prince and his profligate favourites revelled in all the license of sovereign power". (Gibbon v. 1 p.84-86)

So we can see a vacillation on the part of Commodus between these two opposing influences. However, as Gibbon states:

"A fatal incident decided his fluctuating character. One evening, as the Emperor was returning to the palace through a dark and narrow portica in the amphitheatre an assassin, who waited his passage, rushed upon him with a drawn sword loudly exclaiming, "The Senate sends you this!" The menace prevented the deed. The would be assassin was seized by the guards and immediately revealed the authors of the conspiracy... Lucilla, the Emperor's sister, and widow of Lucius Verus, impatient of the second rank, and jealous of the reigning empress had armed the murderer against her brother's life. She had not communicated her black design to her second husband Claudius Pompeianus, a senator of distinguished merit and unshakable loyalty. The conspirators experienced the rigour of justice, and the abandoned princess was punished, first with exile and afterwards with death.

But the words of the assassin sunk deep into the mind of Commodus, and left an indelible impression of fear and hatred against the whole body of the Senate... that assembly whom Marcus Aurelius - Commodus' father - had ever considered as the great council of the nation, and was composed of the most distinguished of the Romans .... distinction of every kind soon became criminal. The possession of wealth stimulated the diligence of the informers. Rigid virtue implied a tacit censure of the irregularities of Commodus .... Suspicion was equivalent to proof; trial to condemnation. The execution of a considerable senator was attended with the death of all who might lament or revenge his fate; and when Commodus had once tasted human blood, he became incapable of pity or remorse." (Gibbon v. 1 p. 87)

Matt. 26:52 states that "*All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword*" and in A.D. 192 Commodus was murdered ending the Antonine line. The Emperor's mistress Marcia, his chamberlain Eclectus and the Prefect of the Praetorians, Laertus, had found their names on the imperial execution list and hired the wrestler Narcissus to strangle Commodus.

In A.D. 193 Publius Helius Pertinax aged 67, was chosen by the Roman Senate against his will to succeed the late Commodus as Emperor. His strict and economical rule aroused quick opposition and he was murdered on March 28th by members of the Praetorian Guard who had invaded the imperial palace.

Gibbon informs us that the Praetorian Guard set up by Augustus originally numbered 9,000 - 10,000 men. Vitellius increased them to 16,000 and as far as we can learn from inscriptions they never afterward sank much below this number. Later Diocletian greatly reduced their number and Constantine suppressed the whole body destroying their camp, depriving their Prefects of military authority and confining them to civil functions. By the atrocious murder of Pertinax the Praetorians had violated the sanctity of the Throne. The Empire was auctioned off by the Praetorians in a blatant demonstration of military licence (Gibbon v. 1 p.106) to the highest bidder - Rome's wealthiest senator Didius Julianus aged 61 years, who had made a fortune in shipping. He had outbid the father-in-law of the late Pertinax by offering 300 million sesterces.

The generals commanding the Roman armies in Britain, Syria and Pannonia challenged Didius Julianus, and the Pannonian general,

Lucius Septimus Severus, offered his troops on the Danube huge bonuses if they would leave immediately for Rome. He marched them 800 miles in 40 days, entered the capital on 1st June, 193 in full battle dress. They had Didius Julianus put to death in the palace baths after reigning only 66 days. Septimus Severus then began his reign that was to continue until A.D. 211.

It is interesting that under Severus the silver content of the Roman denarius fell to 50%, from 93% under Trajan. In this respect the period of the White Horse was financially the most favourable. Later, under the era of the 4th Seal - that of the Pale Horse and Rider - the Roman Denarius had a silver content of only 0.02%.

In A.D. 196 Byzantium was sacked by the Emperor Septimus Severus and reduced to the status of an open village. Both Niger and Albinus, who were contesting for power with Severus were discovered and put to death in their flight from the field of battle. It would be possible to go on at great length with the stories of the infighting that went on for this period of civil war depicted by the Red Horse with its Rider: "*Taking peace from the earth, that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword*".

Even the word great applied to the sword is important because it suggests aggression rather than simply maintaining law and order. According to Bryce's book "The Holy Roman Empire" there were, during the 100 years from A.D. 185-284, 32 different emperors ruling the Roman Empire. This period spanned the time from Commodus until Diocletian whereas during the previous 100 years there had been only four emperors plus Nerva's two years of rule.

Finally, Diocletian split the office of the rulership of Rome by quadripartition, i.e., into two emperors and two caesars.

There are some important principles to be learned about this civil war period of the Red Horse and its Rider with the Great Sword. Commodus began the fatal change. Previous to this time the Law was supreme, the sword of the army was its enforcer. (Horae v1 p152) Gibbon states that the emperor was elected by the authority of the Senate and the consent of the soldiers.

The Second Seal may be first dated from Commodus' exalting of Perennis, Commander of the Praetorian Guard, and then Cleander his successor, to despotic authority at Rome and in the State. This seems to answer well to the figure of a great sword being put into the hand of the rider of the second Apocalyptic horse.

After the murder of Commodus by the Praefect Laertus, and the Praetorians' consequent sale of the empire after their murder of Pertinax, sovereignty passed into the hands of the Legions. Instead of THE LAW being supreme, and supported by the sword, the SWORD came to rule. Instead of the EMPEROR ruling through the army, the ARMY now ruled through the Emperor.

Although Septimus Severus ruled from A.D. 193-211, he did not rule as in the age of the Antonines of the White Horse era "to the curbing of the license of the military, and restoring of the Senate and the civil magistracy to their proper station, authority and independence, but to

....pure military despotism. The licentious Praetorians that overawed Rome were quadrupled in number." Gibbon gives the figure of the Praetorians under Severus at 50,000. He says: "The command of these favoured and formidable troops soon became the first office of the Empire..... as the government degenerated into military despotism, the Praetorian praefect, who originally had been a simple captain of the guards, was placed not only at the head of the ARMY, but of the FINANCES and even the LAW." (Gibbon v.1 p.123) In every department of administration he represented the PERSON, and exercised the AUTHORITY of the Emperor.

The first praefect who enjoyed and abused this immense power was Plautianus, the favourite minister of Severus. His reign lasted about 10 years, till the marriage of his daughter with the eldest son of the emperor. This seemed to assure his fortune, but proved to be his ruin (See Gibbon v.1 p.123). The animosities of the palace, by irritating the ambition and alarming the fears of Plautianus, threatened to produce a revolution. The Emperor Severus who still loved him was obliged to consent to his death.

Septimus Severus reigned from A.D. 193-211 - 17 years - a long time for this era. His two sons Caracalla and Geta became emperors together. There was then a fruitless attempt to divide the Empire. It was agreed that Caracalla, as the elder brother, should remain in possession of Europe and Western Africa; and that he should relinquish the sovereignty of Asia and Egypt to Geta who might fix his residence in Alexandria or Antioch, cities little inferior to Rome itself in wealth and greatness. This impossible situation was put to an end by Caracalla who arranged to have the unfortunate Geta murdered together with 20,000 of his 'friends'. The crime went unpunished and Caracalla reigned from A.D. 211-217.

Elliott in his Horae v.1 p.153 mentions that Plautian the Praetorian Praefect who had previously "made Rome tremble", despised and degraded the Senate not allowing any "intermediate power between himself and his army", had bequeathed to the system the maxim of RULING BY THE SWORD. "Enrich the soldiery; despise the people" was a maxim well remembered and acted on by Caracalla.

Thus commanders of armies contended for imperial office representing and impersonating the military dominancy of the empire. Such in fact was the case very generally in the Roman civil wars of the century between Commodus and Diocletian, the period of the RED, BLACK and PALE HORSES.

Instead of the civil wars arising out of strife between members of previously reigning royal families on questions of disputed succession as is the case in civil wars in modern Europe, e.g., the Wars of the Roses in England, it is the GENERALS OF ROMAN ARMIES in the arena of strife whether as the nominees of the Praetorians, or of some other army.

Caracalla is remembered for his CONSTITUTIO ANTONINIANA, which dates from the first year of his reign, by which Roman citizenship was conferred on all freeborn members of the Empire. The 5% succession duties, had now to be paid throughout the Empire. The effect of taxation in addition to the oppressive government will be discussed as causes of the decline of Rome under the 3rd Seal era.

This era is said to co-exist with the 2nd Seal era from 200 A.D., only to degenerate further in the 4th Seal era commencing, as many agree, in A.D. 250.

Gibbon states that **Augustus, Trajan, Hadrian and Marcus** had visited their extensive dominions in person and their progress was marked by acts of wisdom and beneficence. The tyranny of **Tiberius, Nero and Domitian** who resided almost constantly at Rome, or in the adjacent villas, was confined to the senatorial and equestrian orders.

But **Caracalla** was the common enemy of mankind. He left the capital, Rome, about a year after the murder of **Geta** and never returned to it. The rest of his reign was spent in several provinces of the Empire, particularly those of the East and every province was, by turns, the scene of his rapine and cruelty.

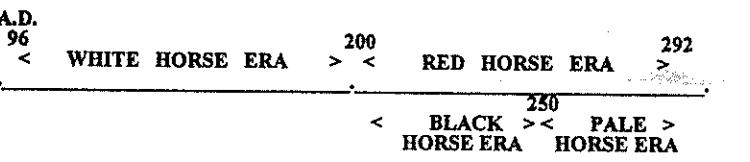
The senators, compelled by fear to attend his capricious motions, were obliged to provide daily entertainments at an immense expense, which he abandoned with contempt to his guards; and to erect in every city, magnificent palaces and theatres, which he either distained to visit, or ordered to be immediately thrown down. The most wealthy families were ruined by partial fines and confiscations, and the great body of his subjects oppressed by ingenious and aggravated taxes.

**Caracalla** was murdered on March 8, A.D. 217 and was succeeded by the accessory to his death **OPILIUS MACRINUS**. **MACRINUS** tried to reduce the exorbitant pay received by the Roman troops and was murdered on June 8, A.D. 218. **HELIOGABALUS** (or Elagabalus) acceded and the silver content of the denarii fell to 43%. He emptied the treasury with his excesses while his mother **Julia Maesa** ran the Empire.

In A.D. 222 **Heliogabalus** was murdered by the Praetorians and was succeeded by his cousin and adopted son who takes the name **ALEXANDER SEVERUS**. In A.D. 235 **ALEXANDER SEVERUS** bought peace from the Alamanni who had invaded Gaul. The Emperor was then killed by his own troops on the Rhine.

The troops made **MAXIMINUS** Emperor who ruled for three years, after which time he was murdered by the Praetorian Guard (A.D. 238), who named **GORDIANUS** Emperor. He ruled for six years until in A.D. 244 when mutinous soldiers murdered the emperor at the urging of **PHILIPPUS** who, in turn, was proclaimed Emperor.

With few exceptions this sort of instability persisted as Rome continued to decline under the **Black and Pale Horses of the Third and Fourth Seals**, which appears to have ended with the quadripartition of the empire by **Diocletian** in A.D. 292.



## THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHRIST

(Extr. from: "The Coming of Christ..." by Rev. R.C. Thomas  
pp 76-8)

"Of the Person of Jesus in His suffering, humanity and death, a great deal has been thought, spoken and written. Of Jesus in His office as the Christ, the Messiah, much less, very much less has been produced."

"Of the love of God and love between neighbours, there is no end to the theme in sermons, books and theories. Of the quality of true love, walking in His commandments, very little is heard."

".....until the doctrine concerning the Messiahship of our Lord is understood, the purpose and Person of Jesus can never be rightly comprehended.

..... all talk of the love of God and love of neighbour is useless, unless the love to the one and the other evolves in a devoted obedience to His commandments."

"The Antichrist, whether considered a system or a person, is the embodiment of that which has set up to usurp the position of the Christ in the establishment of that order of Government and society ordained by God for the earth, called the Kingdom of God.

All teaching of the Law and the Prophets concerning the Christ indicates His return to the earth to reign on the throne of His father David, in the midst of His People Israel.

To suggest that He is not coming again, or to teach that if and when He does come, it will be a spiritual coming for a spiritual kingdom, distinct from an earthly kingdom, is to deny the Messiahship of Jesus and therefore is anti-Christian."

"The world itself and its history is only confusion; one thing alone brings order therein - the thought of God. All else only adds to the confusion and makes it at last chaos."

"Nothing is great without God, nothing is small with God."

"In prosperity men ask too little of God. In adversity, too much."

"Temporal riches are obtained by acquiring, eternal by renouncing."

"To have much, yet prize it little; to have little, yet prize it much - this is true riches."

"Few perish from the lack of money; many from the love of money."

"All else owes its beauty to its colouring."

Truth alone loses its beauty when coloured."

"Men have to find truth not because it is lost, but because they are lost."

"Two things are required of a well: It must not freeze in winter, it must not run dry in summer. Two things are required of piety: it must not be chilled by adversity, it must not wither with prosperity."

"Christianity is indeed an account of Christ, a theory about Christ; it is indeed a faith in Christ, a witness unto Christ, and a love for Christ; but that which makes the history of Christ probable, and the theory about Christ plausible, that which makes a faith in Christ reasonable and a witness unto Him possible, that which makes the love for Christ intelligible, is that the blood of Christ has been poured out for men, that the risen life of Christ be put into men."

"In the early centuries Christianity suffered most from its avowed enemies; in the last, from its professed friends." (Quotes from Ivan Pannin)



3rd + 4th Seal.

# British-Israel World Federation

(Victorian Headquarters)

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## THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION

The Apostle Paul writes of desiring to know Christ Jesus and the power of His resurrection. (Grk. *Dunamis* = inherent power, the power of reproducing itself). The same word is used in Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

The followers of our Lord watched as His crucifixion proceeded unable to accept that His life should end in that way: unable to understand why He seemed powerless to save Himself.

*"And it was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole earth until the ninth hour, the sun failing: and the veil of the sanctuary was rent amidst. And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and said, Father, unto thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said this, he breathed his last." (Luke 23:44-46 Numeric N.T.)*

*"And the veil of the temple was rent in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were rent;..... Now the centurion and they that were with him watching Jesus, when they saw the earthquake, and the things done feared exceedingly, saying, Truly this was a Son of God." (Matt. 27:51,54 N. T.)*

But this was not the end. It was the beginning: the beginning of the great consummation of God's purposes ordained from the foundation of the earth and promised throughout the Old Testament Scriptures (1 Cor. 10:11). For we read: *"And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel .... said .... Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said."* (Matt. 28:2-6)

In corroboration of the Bible statements records found later in Rome stated that the darkness was worldwide and could not be explained. Phlegon, the Greek historian also wrote that in the 4th year of the 202

Olympiad, there was darkness over Europe, surpassing anything that had been seen and, at the same time, an earthquake had caused significant damage in Cyprus.

In fulfilment of Matthew 26:31-32, "Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad", the Lord's disciples and other followers were disconsolate, mourning and weeping, refusing to accept the testimony of witnesses who had seen and spoken with Him after His resurrection.

"And afterward he was manifested to the eleven themselves as they sat at meat, and he rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them that had seen him risen from the dead. And he said to them, Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 16:14-15 N. T.)

"Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost ...." (John 20\_20-22)

"Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:45-49)

"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:30-31)

Apart from the immediate witness of the disciples and others, as early as A.D. 36-40 the Apostle Paul declared to Gallio the Proconsul of Achaia (Acts 18:12) his belief in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ stating that at that time there were 500 or more witnesses still alive who had seen the Lord alive again after His resurrection.

Those who were weak and unbelieving became, after the resurrection, strong, courageous and loyal unto death. Numbers from all strata of life who have professed Jesus Christ as the Messiah (or Christ) prophesied in the Scriptures, and declared the reality of His resurrection, have done so without any expectation of material reward but, rather, have suffered stoning, crucifixion, death in the arena, torture, persecution, imprisonment and rejection by their fellows. Convinced of the truth of their belief they saw their final reward as far outweighing their sufferings. The power of His resurrection and of the new life gained thereby has transformed and sustained believers through nearly 20 centuries.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy begat us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and unfading, reserved in the heavens for you, who by God's power are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last season."

(1 Pet. 1:3-5 N. T.)

(Asst. Ed.)

## PRAYERS FOR EASTER

We worship Thee, Oh Christ, Who art our Saviour.

Thou art He that liveth and was dead;  
and behold Thou art alive for evermore.

Thou art the brightness of the glory of the Father and the express Image of His Person, upholding all things by the Word of His power; Who having Thyself purged our sins, sitteth now upon the right hand of the Majesty on high.

To Thee be all praise and honour for ever and ever. Amen.

We worship Thee, Oh God, for Thou hast not suffered Thine Holy One to see corruption;

Thou hast, by the might of Thy Spirit, raised Him from the dead.  
Though He was crucified through weakness,

yet He liveth by the Power of God.

Now is come salvation and strength and the Kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ; for the accuser is cast down; death is swallowed up in victory.

Oh death, where is thy sting; Oh grave, where is thy victory?

We thank Thee, Oh God, Who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, knowing that He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Him.

We ask Thee to make us steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord;

for if Christ be not raised, then our faith is in vain.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Amen.

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION - PART 5 THE THIRD SEAL

"And when He had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, come and see. And I beheld, and lo, a Black Horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny, and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." (Rev. 6:5-6)

The black colour of the horse here would seem to denote the change to a state of aggravated distress and mourning. Black we know as the colour of mourning and we have Scriptural precedents associating blackness with mourning in Malachi 3:1: "Ye have said 'It is vain to serve God and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of Hosts.'

Strong's Concordance shows that the word 'mournfully' in reference 6941 comes from *qdoranniyth* (*ked-o-ran-neeth*) from 6937 *qedar* - dark coloured or black. Also Ezekiel 31:15 "I caused Lebanon to mourn for him" comes from the same word i.e. literally to become black for him.

We have in this period of the Black Horse with its rider the opposite of the peace and prosperity depicted by the White Horse and its rider.

It is important also to notice that the condition obtaining for the Red Horse Era runs concurrently with the Black and the Pale Horse periods.

Roman coins and medals still extant of almost every Emperor and every province depict a pair of balances. Apparently the officials and governors of this time adopted the pair of balances as their symbol.

In discussing this Third Seal, both E. B. Elliott and Augusta Cook show illustrations of coins of the time depicting the pair of balances and also ears of corn, or a Roman measure. These items signify the task of tax gathering, often in the form of corn.

SEPTIMUS SEVERUS ruled from A.D. 193-211, followed by his son CARACELLA who reigned until he was assassinated in A.D. 217.

In A.D. 212 Caracella gave Roman citizenship to all freeborn subjects in the Empire. This sounded a benevolent move, but the sinister outcome was to enable all these additional people to be taxed. Caracella's reign was one of **tyranny and oppression**. Gibbon goes into lengthy discussion regarding this oppression (v.1 p.135). "Families were ruined by partial fines and confiscations and the great body of his subjects oppressed by ingenious and aggravated taxes."

In A.D. 217 Emperor Caracalla was murdered by his soldiers whilst preparing to invade Parthia. He was succeeded by MACRINUS, who made himself unpopular with his army by trying to make some necessary reformation. The battle caused by the revolt of the army brought Elagabalus to the throne.

Gibbon paints a graphic picture of this man as a sun-worshipping pontiff of effeminate disposition, bathed in profligate luxury. He was described as lavishing away the treasure of his people in the wildest extravagance.

Septimus Severus widow's sister Maesa, a crafty woman, who was really the Emperor's grandmother, realised that her grandson's vices must inevitably destroy him. She managed on a favourable occasion to persuade the young Emperor to adopt Alexander Severus (A.D. 221) and to invest him with the title of Caesar so that his own divine occupations might be no longer interrupted by the cares of the earth.

The popularity of his cousin Alexander inspired jealousy in the Emperor. But the Praetorian guard stood by Alexander. Ultimately, when some of the supporters of Alexander were to be punished, the army murdered the Emperor.

In A.D. 222 ALEXANDER SEVERUS was raised to the throne by the Praetorian Guards. Gibbon v.1 p.152 says: "since the accession of Commodus the Roman world had experienced, during a term of 40 years, the successive and various vices of four tyrants."

Now under Alexander Severus it enjoyed 13 years of calm. He was able to do much to restore Rome and as Gibbon states: "The dignity, the freedom, the authority of the Senate was restored; and every virtuous senator might approach the person of the Emperor without fear and without a blush."

Some things he could not change. The financial state of affairs - with

the heavy taxes - and the ARMY who were soon more dissatisfied with the *virtues* of Alexander, than they had ever been with the *vices* of Elagabalus.

Their prefect was the wise Ulpian. A friend of the laws and of the people, he was considered the enemy of the soldiers who murdered him over a trifling incident. Such was the weakness of government that Alexander was unable to revenge his murdered friend and his insulted dignity without stooping to the arts of patience and dissimulation. This wise emperor was murdered in A.D. 235 (Peoples Chron.) by his troops after buying peace from the Alamanni, who had invaded Gaul.

Gibbon closes his discussion on the finances of the Empire at this time by saying: "The noxious weed (heavy taxation) which had not been totally eradicated (by Alexander Severus) again sprang up with the most luxuriant growth, and in the succeeding age DARKENED the Roman World with its DEADLY SHADE. In the course of this history, we shall be too often summoned to explain the land tax, the capitulation, and the heavy contributions of corn, wine, oil and meat, which were exacted from the provinces for the use of the court, the army, and the capital."

## THE FOURTH SEAL

*"And when He had opened the fourth seal I heard a voice of the fourth beast say, come and see. And I looked and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was death, and hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."* (Revelation 6:7-8)

Now we must ask the question - was there a dreadful era following the era of the Black Horse and its Rider? Indeed there was such an era in Roman history commencing about 15 years after the death of Alexander Severus in A.D. 235, i.e., in A.D. 250.

Eusebius and Gibbon both write about this period of famine and disease following the high taxation and oppression which had ruined much of the agriculture in the Empire. Gibbon - an historian with little or no interest in Christianity, the Bible or the Book of Revelation - has this to say about this era, which he also dates as commencing in A.D. 250 (Gibbon Vol.1 p.281).

"It was the inevitable consequence of rapine and oppression, which extirpated the produce of present and the hope of future harvests. Famine is almost always followed by epidemic diseases, the effect of scanty and unwholesome food. Other causes must, however, have contributed to the furious plague which from the year A.D. 250 to the year A.D. 265 raged without interruption in every province, every city and almost every family of the Roman Empire. During some time 5,000 persons died daily in Rome; and many towns that had escaped the hands of the barbarians were entirely depopulated."

In Gibbon v.1 p.281 the statement is made that an exact register was kept of all those citizens entitled to receive the distribution of corn. From these figures it can be shown that half the population of Alexandria perished." Gibbon goes on to say: "Could we venture to extend the analogy to other provinces, we might suspect that war

(fighting the Goths), pestilence and famine, had consumed in a few years, the moiety (half) of the human species!"

In reference to the wild beasts of verse 8, a similar reference is found in Exodus 23:29 where God speaking to Israel says: "*I will not drive out the inhabitants from before thee in one year lest the land become desolate, and the beasts of the field multiply against thee*". (Exodus 23:29) It is on record that at an epoch 20-30 years after the death of GALLIENUS in A.D. 268, wild animal multiplication had risen to an extent in parts of the Empire, that made it a crying evil. *Quando cum feris bella, said Arnobius about the year A.D. 296, et proelia cum lionibus gesta sunt non ante nos.*

A.D. 296 is well after the period in which Gibbon describes the plague (A.D. 250-265) so do we have a right to include it in the era of the Pale Horse and its Rider of DEATH? The answer to this question as Elliott comments, v.1 p.195, involves an historic review of the intervening period - especially up to the notable quadripartition of the Empire by Diocletian in A.D. 292.

In A.D. 260 the Roman Emperor Valerian was defeated by Persia's Shapur 1 at Edessa and killed (flayed alive). His son Gallienus who was Co-Emperor, now reigned alone and was attacked by Berbers, Franks, Goths, Palmyrans, Vandals and plague. Hyperinflation made the denarius all but worthless, and paralyzed trade. So bartering was established. In A.D. 268 Emperor GALLIENUS was killed by his officers besieging a pretender named AREOLUS, who was in turn killed by the pretender CLAUDIUS who ruled until A.D. 270 when he, in turn, died of the plague. He was succeeded by his brother QUINTILLUS who committed suicide when deserted by his troops in the same year. He was succeeded by an associate of his brother and reigned until A.D. 275 as AURELIANUS. He was killed in A.D. 275 by his officers and succeeded by TACITUS.

The plague was so severe this year that many thought that the whole human race would die of the disease.

In A.D. 276 Emperor Tacitus was killed by his troops after fighting the Goths and Alans in Asia Minor. He was succeeded by FLORIANUS, who was soon killed and succeeded by PROBUS, who reigned until A.D. 282 when he was murdered by his troops and succeeded by Praetorian Praefect CARUS an Illyrian.

In A.D. 283 CARUS died having been struck by lightning. The legions despite their strength and numbers were struck with abject superstition and, supposing death by lightning to be a message of disapproval from the gods, and remembering an oracle message which marked the River Tigris as the fatal boundary of Roman arms, the terrified troops retreated from their victory in Persia to the wonderment of the Persians.

Carus was succeeded by his son NUMERIANUS, who was assassinated in A.D. 284 by his general, an Illyrian also, by the name of DIOCLETIAN.

Under Diocletian's quadripartition in A.D. 292 the usurping of the throne became virtually impossible. Taxation was systematised, and the administration reformed.

(Dr. N.F. McLeod)



**British-Israel World Federation**  
(Victorian Headquarters)

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**THE BOOK OF REVELATION - PART 6**  
**THE FIFTH AND SIXTH SEALS**

*"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: and they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*

*And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."* (Revelation 6:9-11)

We have seen in Chapter 6 that the opening of the Six Seals brought before us Rome at its height in the first unsealing, followed by internal strife and decay in the second, third and fourth unsealings. Then follows the Fifth Seal which shows souls under the altar praying to God to judge the authorities responsible for the bloodshed of the Christians martyred in the Roman Empire to that time. This included the terrible period of the "Diocletian Persecution" of the Christian Church from A.D. 303 - 313.

Those under the altar were given white robes typical of the righteousness accredited to them through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and told to "rest yet for a little season." This rest was in fact for a little season as the prayer was answered quickly in the very next seal to be opened (verse 12).

*"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.*

*And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*  
*And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free*

*man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Revelation 6:12-17).*

This typifies the complete collapse of the politico-religious system of Pagan Rome and the fearful anticipation of that society regarding the likely result of the rise of Christian power in government. This collapse commenced with CONSTANTINE'S decrees in A.D. 313 and was completed under the rule of THEODOSIUS (A.D. 379-395) when Christianity was made the official religion of the Roman State.

#### THE CONSTANTINE\THEODOSIAN REVOLUTION:

Throughout the 4th Century, from the era of Constantine to the death of Theodosius, Rome was ruled by emperors with more or less Christian faith, the one exception being the short rule of JULIAN the Apostate (361-363).

Julian had renounced Christianity for the ancient Pagan religion at the age of twenty. Then as supreme Pontiff as well as emperor Julian himself officiated in the public worship which involved bloody sacrifices and divination. He developed an appetite for such sacrifices sometimes offering up to 100 cattle on one day. Many of the people encouraged by his example resumed the practice of paganism. Gibbon says: "Every part of the (Roman) world displayed .... flaming altars, bleeding victims, the smoke of incense, and a solemn train of priests and prophets...." He says also that this was a religion "destitute of theological principles, of moral precepts, and of ecclesiastical discipline." Julian began the replacement of Christian churches by Pagan temples and the dismissal of Christians in official positions.

The Emperor JOVIAN who followed Julian (363-364) ordered Christians to be restored to their churches, recalled from their exiles, and reinstated in all their privileges (Ref. Milner's History of the Church v.2 p.150). Gibbon (v.3 p.4) paints a graphic picture of the decline of paganism under Jovian - "Under his reign, Christianity obtained an easy and lasting victory; and as soon as the smile of royal patronage was withdrawn, the genius of paganism, which had been fondly raised and cherished by the arts of Julian sank irrecoverably in the dust.

In many cities, the temples were shut or deserted; the philosophers, who had abused their transient favour (under Julian the Apostate), thought it prudent to shave their beards and disguise their profession; and the Christians rejoiced that they were now in a condition to forgive, or to revenge the injuries which they had suffered under the preceding reign. The consternation of the Pagan World was dispelled by a wise and gracious Edict of Toleration in which Jovian explicitly declared that, although he should severely punish the sacrilegious rites of magic, his subjects might exercise with freedom and safety, the ceremonies of the ancient worship (paganism)."

Jovian was succeeded by VALENS and VALENTINIAN I in 364 and then by GRATIAN in 367. Gratian was the elder son of Valentinian who later chose THEODOSIUS as his colleague to reign in the East. It was he who finally put an end to Paganism.

Gibbon relates that when Gratian ascended the throne, he rejected the trappings of paganism which had been accepted by previous Christian emperors, e.g., the robe and ensigns which were appropriated to the Office of SUPREME PONTIFF. He abolished the honours and immunities and revenues paid to the priests and vestals, and dissolved the fabric of ancient superstition which dated back over 1000 years to the founding of Rome in 753 B.C.

Till that time paganism was still the constitutional religion of the Senate. "The hall, or temple in which the Senate assembled, was adorned by the statue and altar of Victory - a majestic female standing on a globe, with flowing garments, expanded wings, and a crown of laurel in her outstretched hand. The senators were sworn on the altar of the goddess, to observe the laws of the emperor and of the empire; and a solemn offering of wine and incense was the ordinary prelude to their public deliberations." (Gibbon v. 3 p.190)

This was the state of affairs 30 years after Constantine's death.

The altar and the goddess in the Senate hall had been banished previously by Constantius, but was again restored by Julian the Apostate. This Gratian removed, but he spared 424 temples and many statues of gods.

When Theodosius ascended the throne in 379 he was already a conquering hero having saved Britain from the Picts in 368/9 and suppressed a revolt in Mauretania. In 379 he carried out a successful campaign against the Goths on the Danube and convinced them to join in an alliance with him. This was to help him later for the 40,000 Goths he enlisted helped him against the usurper Eugenius. On the first day of battle Theodosius was almost defeated but he spent the night in prayer and was victorious on the next day.

Theodosius, then "The Great", was in a better position to put down arguments with the Senate regarding paganism. He attacked it in its most vital part by prohibiting sacrifices, which he declared to be criminal as well as infamous. As the temples had been erected for the purpose of sacrifice, it was the duty of a benevolent prince to remove the temptation to offend against the laws which he enacted. So he destroyed the temples.

One temple, however, escaped - that of Serapis in Alexandria where pagan sacrifice continued. However, the colossal statue of Serapis itself was involved in the ruin of its own temple and religion.

The statue was in a sitting posture similar to representations of Jupiter. It had been confidently affirmed that if any impious hand should dare violate the majesty of this god, the heavens and the earth would instantly return to their original chaos. An intrepid soldier animated by zeal and armed with a weighty battleaxe ascended the ladder and aimed a vigorous stroke against the cheek of Serapis which fell to the ground. The thunder was still silent and both the heavens and the earth continued to persevere in their accustomed order and tranquility. The victorious soldier repeated his blows, the huge idol was overthrown, and broken in pieces; and the limbs of Serapis were ignominiously dragged through the streets of Alexandria. His mangled carcase was burnt in the Amphitheatre, amidst the shouts of the populace and many persons

attributed their conversion to the discovery of the impotence of their tutelar deity.

The cause of Christianity was triumphant and the senate issued a decree for the abolition of paganism, whose downfall in the capital was soon followed by the provinces. Theodosius' able policy of no persecution of the ancient religion caused it to perish with more rapidity in that its fall was gentle and unresisted. However, the acts of sacrifice and divining by the entrails of the victims were declared high treason to be expiated only by death, and the public practice of the pagan religion was forbidden. Gibbon Ch. 28 says "The ruin of PAGANISM in the age of Theodosius, is perhaps the only example of the total extirpation of any ancient and popular superstition."

Thus despite what many believe paganism was not destroyed by Constantine, it was Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, and his brethren who influenced youthful Gratian and pious Theodosius in this respect. Gibbon states:

"Two principles of religious jurisprudence were established at this stage:

1. The magistrate is, in some measure, guilty of the crimes which he neglects to prohibit or to punish.
2. Idolatrous worship of fabulous deities and real daemons is the most abominable crime against the supreme majesty of the Creator. The Laws of Moses and the examples of Jewish (Israelitish) history were applied by the clergy to the universal reign of Christianity."

At the same time as this was happening the Barbarians were pressing at the borders of the Roman Empire, ready to burst in in four great waves. This is the subject of the first Four Trumpets of Revelation Chapter 8.

In summary Elliott comments as follows: "After Constantine's final defeat of Licinius and his establishment as sole emperor over the Roman world, in spite of the indignation and resentment of the pagans, he issued edicts for suppression of their sacrifices, destruction of their temples and the toleration of no other form of public worship but the Christian. His successors on the throne followed up .... by attaching severe penalties to the public profession of the heathen religion; which from its rejection into outlying PAGI, or villages, began to be now called PAGANISM. And the result of that, under Theodosius' reign, before the century had ended its stars had all fallen to the ground. Its very heaven or political and religious system vanished: and on the earth the old heathen institutions, laws, rites and worship were all but annihilated; and its votaries constrained to seek to caves and rocks (erst the Christian refuges) wherein to hide their devotions now, (under Theodosius) prohibited (publicly) on penalty of death."

Similar symbolism for ruling powers is found elsewhere in Scripture, e.g., Ezekiel 32:7 portrays the demise of the power and Pharaoh of Egypt.

The new Rome was to take on the form of Christianity, but Christian Rome continued as a gentle power, an extension of the Gentile Succession of Empires which began with Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon. However, without the everlasting, unconditional covenant made by God with Abraham and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob, Pagan Rome continued "CHRISTIAN" for a time only, but soon apostasized into Papal Rome.

PAPAL ROME was to become the greatest enemy of true Christianity at a time foretold in Revelation 13:5 which states:

“..... Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months..... And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.”

(Dr. N. F. McLeod)

## JULIAN THE APOSTATE

Gibbon the historian devotes several pages to the life and times of Roman Emperor Julian the Apostate (331-363). Although he reigned only one year and eight months he proved to be diligent as “an author, a pontiff, a magistrate, a general and a prince”. Julian is described as a genius, liberal in judgment, a student of philosophy, frugal and chaste, of intrepid courage, a lively wit and of intense application. He was a ruler of great ability and love for his country, labouring to “relieve the distress and revive the spirit of his subjects” and endeavouring always “to connect authority with merit, and happiness with virtue.”

Brought up under a deteriorating Christianity Julian witnessed the fierce conflicts and enmity which raged between the Christian sects of his time. It was a period of strong divisions within the Christian Church which “distracted the peace, and dishonoured the triumph of the Church.” At the age of twenty he embraced the mythology of Paganism, renouncing Christianity. He developed “a devout and sincere attachment for the gods of Athens and Rome and became irreconcilably hostile to Christianity”. His voluminous writings included an “elaborate work against the Christian religion.”

He was initiated into the service of the “immortal gods” and indulged fanatically in constant intercourse with gods and goddesses by fasting, dreams and visions. At solemn public festivals in the temple Julian himself, in the role of Supreme Pontiff held the knife to slaughter the victims of sacrifice, “thrusting his bloody hands into the bowels of the expiring animal, to draw forth the heart or liver, and to read .... the imaginary signs of future events.” Privately he sacrificed daily at sunrise and sunset.

“The expense of such religious worship consumed a very large portion of the revenue, a constant supply of the rarest and most beautiful birds was transported from distant climates to bleed on the altars of the gods; a hundred oxen were frequently sacrificed by Julian on one and the same day.”

Julian proclaimed an edict extending to all the Roman world the benefits of a free and equal toleration for all religions but, in reality, he disgraced and oppressed the Christians whenever it was legal to do so.

“His throne of state was encircled with the military ensigns of Rome and the Republic; the name of Christ was erased from the *Labarum* (banner with the Christ monogram); and the symbols of war, of majesty and of pagan superstition were so dexterously blended that the faithful (Christian) subject incurred the guilt of idolatry when he respectfully saluted the person or image of the reigning sovereign.”

As well as labouring to restore and propagate the old Pagan religion Julian also planned to rebuild the Temple at Jerusalem, presenting himself as the protector and champion of the Jews. This was attempted in the last six months of Julian’s life, the secret object being the ruin of the Christian Church. Jews from all Roman provinces assembled at Jerusalem access to which, since the edict of Hadrian, had been denied them. “....spades and pickaxes of silver were provided by the vanity of the rich, and the rubbish was transported in mantles of silk and purple.”

Julian and the Jews were united in an implacable hatred of the Christian name, lucrative modes of Jewish oppression having been invented by the bishops and eunuchs of the court of Constantius the previous Christian emperor. Julian’s policy was to deprive the Christians “of all the temporal honours and advantages which rendered them respectable in the eyes of the world.”

He stopped Christians from teaching the arts of grammar and rhetoric in schools forcing Christian children to attend the public schools where “their tender minds would receive the impressions of literature and idolatry”, or relinquish the benefits of a liberal education. His general policy was to “deprive Christians of the advantages of wealth, of knowledge and of power.” “.... Christian officers were gradually removed from their employments in the state, army, and the provinces.”

Julian died during a war of conquest in Persia when only 32 years of age and the emperors that followed were more or less of Christian persuasion.

(Asst. Ed.)

## ST. GEORGE’S DAY - APRIL 23

### OUR DAY

*Spring brings the day when England’s flag is hoisted high and bright: the Easter sign - a blood red cross upon a field of white . . . England, mother of the Celto-Saxon breeds - Islanded, made separate from Continental creeds - celebrates upon her day the good and glorious name: George of Lydda, who in our crusading days became - England’s patron, soldier-saint though centuries had passed - since St. George’s martyrdom, unyielding, holding fast - to the faith in that far province of the Holy Land - a valiant soul, he suffered death at pagan Rome’s command. On this day when George of Lydda’s banner is unfurled - We, the English, unashamed are proud to tell the world - that Shakespeare on this day was born, the greatest bard on earth. This day we commemorate a dying and a birth.*

*Patience Strong*

This poem is quoted in “George of Lydda, Soldier, Saint and Martyr” by I. Hill Elder, 2nd ed. 1980 pp.108 (available in Bookroom). After painstaking research the author has separated fact from fiction, history from myth, showing forth the character of the true St. George as a man worthy of being England’s Patron Saint. George of Lydda was a Christian soldier of outstanding character. He was martyred after witnessing to his faith before the pagan emperors Diocletian and Galerius during the terrible Christian persecution from A.D. 303-313. Galerius finally recanted, repenting of his terrible cruelties and adding his signature to an edict of toleration which protected Christians from further atrocities. Thus the “dragon” the evil of paganism was overcome. This interesting book traces the widespread influence of the witness of St. George of Lydda down to the present day. (Asst. Ed.)



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**THE BOOK OF REVELATION - PART 7**  
**CHAPTER 7**

We have seen that the opening of the Sixth Seal indicated the period of the Constantine-Theodosian Revolution which took place in the 4th Century A.D. Embracing Christianity at the beginning of this century, Constantine confirmed Galerius' Edict of 311 by his own Edict of Milan in 313, thus ending Christian persecution and returning to the Christians their confiscated property.

Legislation enacted in 321 forbade work on the Sabbath, which Constantine endorsed as Sunday. His Council of Nicea, 325, supported the doctrine that God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ are of the same substance, thus opposing the contrary doctrine of the priest Arius. This transition from Paganism to Christianity in Rome fulfilled the symbolism of the Sixth Seal, resulting in the total collapse of the politico-religious government of Pagan Rome and providing the answer to the prayers offered in the Fifth Seal.

Chapter 7 contains a description of two visions: the Sealing Vision (verses 1-8) and the Palmbearing Vision (verses 9-17). Together these make up a second and separate part of the Sixth Seal.

These visions are set between the period of internal decay of the Roman Empire (Seals 1 - 6) and the first of Trumpets 1 - 4 of the Seventh Seal to be opened in Chapter 8, which portray external judgments culminating in the fall of the Western Sector to the Barbarians in A.D. 476.

Verse. 1: "*And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.*"

"After these things" apparently applies to the last events in Chapter 6 when practising Pagans hid from the Christian authorities of Rome, especially after Theodosius came to power when the penalty for offering

Pagan sacrifice in public was death. The implication here is that the events recorded in Chapter 7 happen chronologically after the events of Chapter 6.

Vine's Expository Dictionary of O & N Testament Words states that the 'four winds' in Scripture are connected with the execution of divine judgments, e.g. in Dan. 7:2 and Jer. 49:36&37 which says,

"*And upon Elam will I bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven, and will scatter them toward all those winds,..... For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies, .... and I will bring evil upon them, even my fierce anger, saith the Lord; and I will send the sword after them, till I have consumed them.*" and verse 2 shows that the four angels of verse 1 are angels of destruction.

#### FIRST VISION

Verses 2 - 3 "And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads."

Verse 4 "And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of ('ek' = out from) all the tribes of the children of Israel."

Verses 5-8 declare that 12,000 from each of the 12 Tribes were to be sealed. Dr. Bullinger indicates that the number 12 denotes governmental perfection and is involved in all numbers related to government in the heavens and the earth. This is in line with God's involvement of Israel in the future "new heaven and new earth" as described in Revelation Chapter 21 verses 9-14.

The implication is that those to be sealed are an elect group taken out from each of the tribes. These are sealed prior to the barbarian attacks on the Roman Empire (verses 5 - 8). They are called "the servants of our God" reminding us of Israel's role as God's Servant Nation - "But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend." (Isa. 41:8).

Thus the 144,000 are to be protected against the destruction to be brought about by the four angels of verse 1. This is to be achieved by a process of sealing. The word "to seal" in the Greek is SPHRAGIZO and is used here to denote ownership and security, together with destination (Vines p.553).

This sense is also indicated in Ephesians 1:12-14:

"*That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*"

The sealing of these groups ensures not only the physical continuation of the Israel people as promised in the Abrahamic Covenant but perhaps tipifies those who would become disciples of Christ through the Holy Spirit, and proclaimers of the Gospel.

#### SECOND VISION

Proceeding to the Palmbearing vision the scene is now set in heaven. "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

*And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*" (Rev. 7:9-12)

Here in place of the specific number of 144,000 of Israel we find a contrasting innumerable multitude of all nations, kindreds, people and tongues standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes and with palms in their hands. This reminds us of the palm branches taken by those who went out to meet the Lord Jesus on that first "Palm Sunday" when the crowd cried "Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord" (John 12:13) This is one of only two references in the New Testament which proclaim Jesus Christ as 'King of Israel' other than in mockery.

In Revelation Chapter 7, however, Jesus Christ is depicted not as King of Kings as will be His position during His millennial reign, as referred to in Revelation Chapter 20, but as the Lamb in the midst of the Throne of God. This appears to project the vision to the time of the "new heaven and new earth" which is the subject of Revelation Chapters 21:1 - 22:7.

"*And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*" (Rev. 7:13-14)

Does this refer to all those who, during that great period of tribulation stretching from the Fall of Adam to the return of the Messiah, have sincerely trusted in the sacrifice of the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world", the promised Saviour, the incarnate Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, as the only atonement for their sin? Are these those spoken of in Rev. 21:27 as being written in the "Lamb's book of Life", who only are able to enter into the New Jerusalem?

"*Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*" (Rev. 7:15-17)

This appears to correlate with verses 3 & 4 of Chapter 22 which describes life in the new heaven and new earth when God will dwell with men and there will be no more death, sorrow, pain or crying.

There is good reason for placing these two visions together. Was the sealing of Israelites in the first vision the preparation for Israel's grand mission as God's servants to become the fruition of God's promises to Abraham: "I will make of thee a great nation and I will bless thee, and make thy name great. And thou shalt be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." (Gen 12:2 & 3)

The greatest blessing carried out by Israel was the spread of the Gospel to the four corners of the earth. This was undertaken mainly by Christian Israel nations of the Ten Tribes during this fast closing Church Age.

(Dr. N. F. McLeod)

#### SPECIAL OFFICE BRIEF

(Pub. By Kilbrattain Newspapers Ltd, Ireland)  
(Excerpts)

#### THE MIDDLE EAST (25.2.97)

"An extremely important analysis of the true position in the Middle East was produced by Yossef Bodansky and Vaughn S. Forrest dated 10 December, 1996 (US House of Representatives). It has not been given effective attention..... It concludes with a statement of ultra importance namely that the Islamic leaders will not activate their plans until they receive what they believe to be a sign. The authors of this important analysis do not know what the sign may be. This Office does know. The sign which the Islamic leaders await (as they see it a Divine signal to strike) will be Jerusalem.

It is accepted Islamic belief and one which they believe it would be mortal sin to disbelieve. It is the moment when it is finally clear that Israel will not concede Jerusalem. Watch that because at that, (and only at that point), Islam will strike. Nothing will avert that."

#### JERUSALEM (25.2.97)

"Now we have once again to tell you that the entire structural design of all World policy as presently presented not only by Western statesmen, but by those of Islam, Russia, China and African States, is going to be derailed totally by the issue of Jerusalem. You will find that the above is not an exaggerated statement. It is a matter of fact. Jerusalem will cause an upheaval involving extremely powerful forces, and as a result many Nations of presently differing aims will attempt to take advantage of the resulting preoccupation of the Western Powers, of Russia, Islam, Jewish Zionism, Christian Zionism and (not least) the differences and confusions within secular Jewry. This process has now commenced and, notwithstanding attempts to compromise the issue, it will not be compromised. It will gradually lead on to a World crisis of great magnitude - to the end of an entire epoch and the birth of one not yet even dreamt of by politicians, never mind where. It is our unconditional forecast, and you will see for yourself it is a correct one.

It will divide and splinter Religions and sects, many of which will not be able to survive it for loss of credibility as a result of their false predictions and teachings. Islam's entire credibility depends upon the fate of Jerusalem. The morality inter Faith movement also so depends. The entire Christian Evangelical movement credibility is involved. The

entire strategic concept of the new Russia and China is also at stake..... It is necessary to see that Jerusalem is essentially a Religious issue for Islam, Jewry and the Christians. But for China and Russia it presents a secular strategic interest. Russia thinks it will confuse and weaken the Atlantic Powers to the advantage of Russia. China thinks it will entangle Russia and so present China with an opportunity to weaken Russia fatally.

Israel cannot compromise Jerusalem without undermining the entire Zionist concept. Islam cannot compromise without undermining an Islamic fundamental.

A major and very great clash of interests cannot be averted and it will profoundly affect Liberalist seculars, most of whom have counted on a new world secular order evolving."

#### CHINA (11.3.97)

It is curious that so many people speculate about China. There is no room for true speculation. China has adopted a clear and firm policy:

1. The vast wealth of Hong Kong will greatly strengthen China.
2. As soon as possible take Taiwan with its wealth.
3. Encourage Russia to intervene in the Middle East.
4. When Russia is well bogged down, strike at Russia.
5. Count on Indian corruption to weaken her.

Result: China the World Super-super Power in the next century.

Such plans as that don't usually come off. But as to what is planned - that is it. Anyone who fancies that there is no such precise plan is wrong. The Japanese know it well and will, of course, react. President Clinton probably prefers not to think about it, and in any case does not possess the capability to do so. Elected by no more than 25% of Americans entitled to vote, he is a mere campaigner without long term perceptions. Maybe it will cost the U.S. a good deal of future anguish that it is so.

Clinton's limitations may be leading the U.S. into two deep morasses: (1) the Middle East, (2) the Pacific - and into both in the circumstances of an Africa riddled by Civil Wars and a Europe riddled with Terrorism. It may well be that the Atlantic system will face an ordeal of magnitude simply because its two current leaders either cannot or will not listen to the persistent warnings of their best informed Informatory sources. Their files are full of first class advice. Their adopted slogans bear no relationship to the actual facts whatsoever."

#### CRITICISM OF SWEDEN (25.2.97)

"Lately an erroneous criticism of Swedish conduct during the Second World War has again surfaced. In particular the Wallenberg family, and the late Axel Wenner-Gren (linked with the Duke of Windsor) have been attacked. The truth should now be exposed, albeit very deep former secrets are involved.

The allies did not wish Sweden to be invaded and taken over by Germany. If that had happened (it could not have been stopped 1940-

44), Germany would have gained total access to all Sweden's considerable resources. Furthermore Sweden's very effective Secret Service inside Germany would have been tracked down and destroyed. The War would probably have been prolonged by one year and Germany would probably have made an A-Bomb which would certainly have been used. The consequences for the whole of Europe would have been catastrophic.

It was therefore considered worthwhile to pay a limited price for Swedish neutrality and Germany fell for it. It was a major miscalculation on the part of Germany - not of the allies or Sweden.

The Wallenbergs, Wenner-Gren and the Duke of Windsor had no sympathies for the German cause whatsoever and a member of the Wallenberg family was, (in fact), one of the top heroes of the War on behalf of Jews and others.

The Secret Service aspect was crucial. It was possible to penetrate the German Embassy in Stockholm and vital secrets were discovered. Much more important was the fact that the Swedes had successful agents in the very heart of the Households of both Goering and Himmler. All top secrets learnt were transmitted to the Swedish Minister in London (Bjorn Pritz) who read them to an English friend in the Legation. He rewrote the lot in a different style and gave them to the authorities. The source was never disclosed, even to Churchill (who was astounded by the accuracy of the information). It included a mass of detail about Germany's industrial problems, etc.

The Wallenbergs behaved extremely well. Pritz was of amazing value and neither Wenner-Gren nor the Duke of Windsor (Wenner-Gren's close friend) did anything at all which did not greatly assist the allies. The Wallenbergs are owed a deep debt of gratitude for their attitude which played a significant part in causing Germany to make fatal mistakes. You can't play such a role if you do not conceal it deeply. Let no one say all the above is hearsay propaganda because the present Editor of this publication happens to have been the young man to whom Minister Pritz read the Swedish Secret Service reports and who rewrote them in a new style for the allies so that the source could not be traced to Sweden. He also knew Wenner-Gren and the Duke of Windsor. The falsities should now cease." (Emphasis added)

#### THE RUSSIAN DRAMA (25.297)

Ever since 1945 the Atlantic Powers were repeatedly advised that the following would occur:

1. Russia would create an aggressive East European military system.
2. If contained by the Atlantic Powers Russia would withdraw.
3. Thereafter a new Russian regime would attempt a Middle East adventure.

One and two exactly took place. The containment was not conventional. It was nuclear. The former would have failed totally. The latter was successful totally. To the latter wholly successful containment strategy, Mr. Tony Blair put up opposition throughout his career. Is he therefore capable of statesmanship?

Now Russia is on the eve of a further upheaval as her attempt in respect of 3 above. That is the top crucial news. The Russian masses are now sick of the Black Market crooks presently in power. They will turn to a new outfit and it will busy itself on 3. It will eventually fail when China will attack Russia - and fail."



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**THE U.K. AND A SINGLE CURRENCY**  
(From Special Office Brief 1.5.97)

"Many very influential persons all over Europe insist that a single currency without a single European State is impossible. But many European tribal elements insist that they will never accept a single European State.... The fact is there was once a single West European Currency of which system England was a member. We dig up the coinage frequently. It was the Roman coinage. Under it, the ancient English became extremely weak. When Rome itself degenerated and withdrew, the Britons did not possess the strength to defend themselves against Celtic Tribes and invited Saxons to provide protection. The Saxons soon took over complete control by conquest.

They then themselves weakened and found it difficult to resist the Danes, and impossible to resist the Normans. In fact, probably Britons, Celts, Saxons, Danes and Normans all came from a single genetic stock. But it was essentially the Normans who realised that, should they remain only in Normandy, they would eventually be lost by absorption in a greater France, whereas by making England and Ireland a strategic location based on Sea Power, they would one day be the founders of an immense world system - the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic-Norman Commonwealth. They were right.

Now it is proposed by some to abandon the elements of power by handing to Brussels the sole effective source of power. In a single currency area, one part thereof cannot tax or manage its currency on its own. It cannot adopt and pursue a parochial Foreign Policy, and it cannot maintain a parochial peace or war.

California cannot go to war on its own, nor maintain peace on its own. It must do as Washington declares. The same applies to all single currency areas, e.g., Canada and Australia.

One question is whether English Public opinion is ready to accept that? This Office does not know the effective answer. If the question were now suddenly put without propaganda, the answer would be no. But the question (if ever put) will not be so staged. It will be preceded by months of all sorts of propaganda.

The second question is this: will it be possible to delay the ultimate crises in the Middle East, South Africa, Russia, and the Balkans

beyond 1999. If not, the issue of a single currency will not even arise in the environment as we know it today. It will be very difficult to delay the pay offs in any of the above beyond 1999.... It will be the **chronology of affairs in the Middle East**, in particular, which will decide the course of events in Europe. It appears that the British, German and French politicians (though on many issues differing) are at least equally blind as to that. They cannot and will not see it.

The issues involved in the Middle East are now not as simplistic as they were 10 years ago because the U.S. is no longer an unconditional and convinced supporter of Israel, and Russia now has one, and only one, card left to play, viz., the Russo-Iranian Axis. She has totally failed save for that one remaining card.

The U.K. (The originator of the Balfour Declaration) is no longer much (if at all) interested in Israel. Many influential Jews have lost interest in Zionism.

For all the above reasons, Egypt, Syria, Libya, Sudan and Iran have now convinced themselves that Israel is doomed and the danger of war is therefore much greater than it was. Moreover, the Arabs think the whole trend of Western policy in Bosnia is pro-Islamic and they take that as another sign that it may soon be safe to strike."

## OUR ISRAEL-BRITISH HERITAGE

*The following article was written for publication in the March issue of the United Kingdom Settlers Association monthly Newsletter. It appeared in a slightly abridged form under the title "A Biblical View of Our History"*

It may surprise some to see the name 'British' linked with the name 'Israel'. These names, however, form the basis of our British heritage and identity. A number of both Old English and Saxon words in our language are of Hebrew origin, e.g., direct (Heb. *derek*); room (*rum*); ravage or raven (*ravah*); berry (*peri*); earth (*eretz*); nag (*naga*); British (*Brit* - covenant, *ish* - man) meaning 'man of the covenant'.

God made an **UNCONDITIONAL, EVERLASTING** covenant with the Hebrew, Abraham, promising him multitudinous seed; that he would become nationally great and an avenue of blessing to all other peoples; that he would be the father of many nations and the progenitor of kings; and that the Land of Canaan would become the everlasting possession of his seed through his son Isaac and grandson Jacob. This is known as the *Abrahamic Covenant*. Jacob (later named Israel) was also blessed by God "... be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee and kings shall come out of thy loins." (Gen. 35:11)

Four hundred years later when the families of the twelve sons of Israel had become numerous God welded the major body of them together as a nation whose constitution was the Law of God based on the Ten Commandments. God made a **CONDITIONAL** covenant with that Nation known as the *Mosaic Covenant*. This covenant promised protection from enemy invasion, wealth, health and prosperity, in the land promised to Abraham, provided the nation remained faithful to Him in worship and obeyed His righteous Law. If, however, they nationally broke the Covenant by rejecting God and His Law, that Nation would be cast out of the Land.

The reigns of Kings David and Solomon produced an era of expansion, peace and great prosperity because national reverence for God and His Law was largely maintained. The Empire of the Twelve Tribes of Israel and its dominions, in alliance with the Phoenician City States of Palestine, produced a world dominant military, naval and commercial power whose trading colonies were established in far-flung places such as Spain, Ireland, Britain. As the peoples constituting this combined alliance were loosely termed 'Phoenicians' by the Greeks and Romans the Israelite inhabitants of such colonies have been labelled 'Phoenicians' by historians.

Considering themselves 'men of the Covenant' early emigrants from the Twelve Tribes incorporated this idea in the names they used for themselves, e.g., Briths, Briton, Britannia, Brutus, Brythonic, Barat. The coins of the Phoenician/Israelite founding colony at Carthage bore the consonants BRT (Heb. covenant).

Injustice in the reign of King Solomon's son caused the Nation of the Twelve Tribes to split into two totally independent kingdoms - the Kingdom of Judah in the south of Palestine, incorporating two Tribes, Judah and Benjamin, and the more numerous and wealthy Kingdom of Israel in the north, incorporating Ten Tribes led by Ephraim.

Without access to the Worship of God at Jerusalem the Ten Tribes soon became apostate leaving the worship of the Living God for idols and the Law of God for the Statutes of their King Omri. Their alliance with the Phoenician City States continued with intermarriage between the royal families. However, God's protection was lost with the breaking of the Mosaic Covenant and invasions by an increasingly powerful Assyria between 740 and 721 B.C. finally saw the end of the Kingdom of Israel, its cities destroyed, its inhabitants scattered abroad and captive in Assyrian territories. Because of growing apostasy in the Kingdom of Judah Assyria was able to invade their territory in 710 B.C. destroying all the fenced cities and fortresses of Judah except Jerusalem. Judahites captured then were also deported to Assyrian territories.

The Kingdom of Judah was to continue for a further hundred years when, after the break-up of the Assyrian Empire, the emerging Neo-Babylonian Empire under its King Nebuchadnezzar finally ended the Kingdom of Judah. Jerusalem was destroyed and captives were taken to Babylonian territories far from the areas of the Ten Tribes' captivity.

The dispersion of the Judah Kingdom and the return of a remnant of faithful Jews (the name they were called by after the Babylonian Captivity) to build the Nation of the Jews in preparation for the birth of the Messiah is well known. Not so well known is the fate of the Israelites of the Ten Tribes.

The Jewish Encyclopaedia has in the past listed many Jews who have searched for the 'Lost Ten Tribes' indicating that the bulk of these tribes is not to be found among Jewry. The deciphering of original, contemporary Assyrian records during the past 150 years has led to the identification of the descendants of the Ten Tribes under other names.

The Assyrians usually referred to the Israelites as "Bit Khumri" or "Ghomri" meaning 'sons of Omri' - the Israelite King who founded Samaria and substituted the Statutes of Omri for the Law of God.

Within 50 years of Israel's deportation a people whom the Assyrians called 'Gimira' appear in history for the first time in the areas of the Ten Tribes' exile. The Greeks called these Gimira "Kimmerioi" (English Cimmerians), while the Romans later called them "Cimbri". The 'Gimira' in Media were also referred to as "Iskuza" while the Persians called them "Sakka or Sacae" from "Isaaca or House of Isaac". The Greeks called them "Scythians". The bulk of the Scythians driven out of Media by the Medes at the collapse of the Assyrian Empire c. 600 B.C., moved north through the Dariel Pass in the Caucasus Mountains into South Russia where they remained from the 6th -3rd Centuries B.C. Scattered bands of "Cimmerians" arrived in South Germany during the 6th Century B.C. becoming known as "Celts" or "Gauls". Others moved north-west to the Baltic area becoming known as "Cimbri".

By 550 B.C. the bulk of the Israelites of the Ten Tribes was spread over a wide area from the Rhine and Baltic in the west to Central Asia in the east. Josephus writing in the 1st Century A.D. remarks:

*"Wherefore there are but two tribes in Asia and Europe subject to the Romans (Judah and Benjamin), while the Ten Tribes are beyond the Euphrates till now, and are an immense multitude, and not to be estimated by numbers."*

In exile from Palestine the Ten Tribes became separated into groups in quite separate places. These groups migrated by different routes to the British Isles and adjacent lands where they arrived as Celts or ancient Britons, Anglo-Saxons, Jutes, Normans. Here they were to develop, as promised, into a company of nations (the British Commonwealth) and a great people (the U.S.A.) References to our identity with Israel have appeared over the centuries. The earliest known is the 33rd Law of the 9th Century King Alfred the Great: "Vex thou not comers from afar and strangers, for remember, ye were once strangers in Egypt."

Israel was chosen by God to be His witnesses and servant nation. They were to provide the line for the promised Saviour and the circumstances for His Sacrifice. To Judah was given the task of preserving the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament. People of Judah were the first missionaries and founders of the Christian Church. Thousands of Jews became Christians in the early days. Their descendants would not be with Jewry today.

Because of the Jewish Nation's continued rejection of their Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ, they were told by Him *"The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."* (Matt. 21:43) The work of this 'nation' was to evangelize the world teaching the peoples of the earth God's principles of faith, law and living and of salvation in His Son. This has been the mission of the Ten Tribes.

In the period of Britain's greatness when they became known as "the people of the Book (the Bible)", when God was nationally revered and His Word believed, the British Empire expanded keeping peace in the world and enabling the last great expansion of missionary work worldwide. The Bible was made available in numbers of different languages, hospitals, roads, railways, bridges, and laws based on the Bible were provided for many peoples to their great benefit.

Sadly, with the inroads of atheism, humanism, higher criticism and the resultant decline in moral values the witness of Britain and kindred 'Christian nations' has become debased. The consequences of apostasy

- war, decreasing prosperity and power, illness, economic depression, the disrespect of other nations are only too evident today.

However, because of the *Abrahamic Covenant* the eternal future of Israel as a national entity is assured for God has promised to bring His People back to Himself in faith and obedience under the kingship of the returned Christ in the approaching Kingdom Age. On the other hand, the eternal future of each individual depends upon his/her response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this age.

As Israelites may we seek to know our God and to serve Him faithfully. Let us "Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man". (Ecc.12:13)

(Asst. Ed.)

## SPECIAL OFFICE BRIEF 1.5.97

(Further extracts)

### IRAN

"Summarized extracts from meeting between President Rafsanjani and Vice-President Abdul Halim Haddam of Syria.

Rafsanjani said: "By using its veto at the Security Council to prevent condemnations of Zionist incursions, the U.S. revealed its alliance with the Zionists." He added that co-operation between Iran and Syria in the defence of Palestinian rights is essential, expressing the hope that Moslem governments will pay attention to recent events and thus be better able to distinguish between their enemies and their friends. They should improve their bi-lateral relations to defend their interests and the honour of the Islamic world.

Abdul Halim Haddam reported on the situation in the Middle East and occupied Palestine, saying the acts of Israel left the inhabitants of Palestine no option except intifada. Arab and Moslem governments were surprised by the U.S. support of Israel. He added that the conditions had been created for the widest possible co-operation between Islamic states against the Zionist regime.

The President of Pakistan also met Abdul Halim Haddam during this conference to discuss Syria-Pakistan relations and told him that Assad was a wise ruler and that Pakistan would support Syria in its struggle to free the occupied territories. Yasser Arafat also attended the conference. There will be war between 1998 and 2002.

The Iranian armed forces are now able to manufacture (military) aircraft, helicopters, tanks and artillery. The Deputy-Commander of the Army for Logistics, Brigadier Erasto Tuhidi said that a large proportion of the two million parts required for Iran's weapons systems is also manufactured by Iranian experts. In most cases, Iran is now using more advanced methods of production than the original manufacturers of the parts required. He added that the armed forces have completed research on some 300 projects, including an air refuelling system for Russian aircraft, the manufacture of armoured vehicles and "Zulfaqar" tanks with their equipment, as well as the manufacture of naval vessels for logistic purposes.

### BOSNIA-HERZEGOVNIA

About 500 Islamic Jmuaheddin now live in the town of Zavidovici, near Sarajevo. They have Bosnian citizenship and many marry Bosnian Moslem girls in their late teens....They have been harassing and trying to expel the 1,000 Serbs and Croats remaining in Zavidovici ..... demanding that Moslems do not shake hands with non-Moslems.

According to a report received by the U.S. administration, the Moslem

Government of Bosnia-Herzogovnia, at the personal request of President Izatbegovic, is creating a secret underground network under the supervision of a Defence Ministry official dismissed under American pressure (a threat to withhold aid totalling \$100 million) in November 1996 due to his close contacts with Iran. The report - possibly from Croat officials unhappy about the Croat-Moslem federation in Bosnia - states that Izatbegovic' action may make it impossible to reduce Iranian influence in Bosnia.

### PALESTINIAN ARABS

Achmed Jibril, who is suffering from a grave illness, has transferred the command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (General Command) to his 30-year old son..... The PFLP(GC) is still very popular, especially in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. It has a big base, half of which is underground, in the Na'ama region, south of Beirut. Its camp at Rashia, on the Syrian-Lebanese border, can train several hundred soldiers and is offering asylum to Kurdish PKK fighters. The PLFP (GC) also maintains a security service, based in the main Palestinian camps in Lebanon and Syria, which supplies information to Syrian military intelligence. Partly financed by Iran, some of the movement's units are fighting alongside the Hezbollah in the western part of the Beka'a valley.

The PFLP (GC) is a strictly pro-Syrian organization, as proved by its history, its close co-operation with Syrian intelligence and its assistance to the anti-Turkish PKK. It is vehemently anti-Western, and was Syria's agent for bringing down PAN-AM Flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1989. To the extent that it co-operates with Iran, this is due to Syria's wish that it do so. In recent years, Syria has promoted co-operation between radical and Islamic fundamentalist terrorist movements, such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad and has encouraged Iran to participate in their financing. The transfer of the PLFP (GC) command to Jihad Jibril is likely to intensify its activities.

### P.L.O.

Mohammed Dahlen, Commander of the [Palestinian] security forces in the Gaza strip, said that the PLO rejects the six preconditions of Israel for renewing negotiations. Co-operation on security matters with Israel will depend on progress in the peace process. Sa'eb 'Erekat said that if Netanyahu looks in the mirror he will see blood.

### S.O.B. FORECAST

Notwithstanding the very considerable forces now gathering together for an eventual attack upon Israel to capture Jerusalem, and notwithstanding the probability that in the first stage thereof it will look black for the Zionists, this office firmly predicts that the Islamic attack will fail - whether the Atlantic Powers intervene or not. We make this explicit and categoric prediction because we have precise knowledge of a fact not known to the Russo-Iranian Axis Powers. That failure will tempt China into very dangerous doings which, we also predict will totally fail... We know something which the Russo-Iranian Axis and China do not correctly calculate. That is not surprising as such spectacular historic persons as Napoleon and Hitler and indeed Lenin and Stalin all miscalculated with disastrous consequences for their convinced beliefs and schemes."

"Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about." (Joel 3:12)



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(Victorian Headquarters)

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**THE BOOK OF REVELATION - PART 8**  
**CHAPTER 8 - The 7th Seal: Trumpets 1-4**

Turning now to Chapters 8 and 9 the Trumpets 1-6 deal with external attacks on the Roman Empire first from the Barbarians in Chapter 8, then from the Moslems in Chapter 9. Revelation Chapter 8 portrays the continuing fall of the Roman Empire as the Barbarians make attacks upon her. Here the 7th Seal is opened as 7 Angels with the 7 Trumpets.

v.1 *And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.*

This silence in heaven is explained by Elliott (v.1 p.324) on the basis that Theodosius' death on January 17, 395, marked the opening of the 7th Seal. Theodosius, Emperor in the East, had gone to war against the murderers of Valentinian, his Co-emperor in the West, and by their defeat had the whole of the Roman world in his possession. Unfortunately, the greatly admired Theodosius had become degenerate, giving himself over to gluttony and voluptuous living which resulted in his early death from a physical disorder at the age of only 49. He had been a faithful guardian of the happiness and dignity of the Roman people but allowed the army personnel to become undisciplined and physically weak, no longer able to wear the traditional heavy armour of a Roman soldier and thus becoming vulnerable in battle.

Theodosius was, according to Gibbon, "the last of the successors of Augustus and Constantine who appeared in the field at the head of their armies, and whose authority was universally acknowledged throughout the whole extent of the empire." Though feeble and inexperienced the two youthful sons of Theodosius were saluted as the lawful emperors in the east and west by the unanimous consent of all. His son Arcadius, at 17 years, was made ruler in Constantinople over the Eastern Roman Empire and his son Honorius, at 10 years, ruled the Western Empire from Milan under the dominance of his Vandal Master of Troops, Stilicho, whose daughter Honorius was to marry three years later.

In the last moments of his life Theodosius had placed in Stilicho's hands the guardianship of his sons and of the two empires. In contrast with his predecessors whose perpetual activity throughout the provinces of the Roman world is attested by the dates of their laws, Honorius, says Gibbon, "passed the slumber of his life, a captive in his palace, a stranger in his country, and the patient, almost the indifferent, spectator of the ruin of the western empire, which was repeatedly attacked, and finally subverted by the arms of the Barbarians." His wife died still a virgin ten years after the wedding.

As the weaknesses of the two young rulers became apparent, rebels opposed and ministers abused, the authority of the throne. The total lack of rulership of any kind exhibited by these emperors during their short period of rule, could be described as "silence in (the political) heaven".

v.2 *And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.*

Trumpets were mainly used in ancient times for sounding alarms and in times of war.

v.3 *And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.*

v.4 *And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.*

It was upon the golden altar in the Tabernacle that the sweet incense was kept slowly burning. Being upon an altar it is looked upon as an offering. The smoke which ascended is spoken of as a symbol of prayer offered to God giving, as indicated by Dr. Bullinger, prominence to personal devotion. But the sweet fragrance which was continually dispersed from the burning incense typified the continual offering of the devout and faithful lives of the saints which were accepted by God.

v.5 *And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.*

The fire speaks of the judgment and holiness of God that consumes all that is inconsistent with it. This fire of God was cast into the earth in judgment upon a fast deteriorating 'Christianity'.

The period of the Early Church is depicted by the Church of Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7). Because they had "lost their first love" they were warned that if they did not repent their candlestick would be removed out of its place. They did not repent and so the period of Smyrna, the Persecuted Church, had to be endured. This was the Church which suffered under the 5th Seal (Rev. 6:9-11) ending in the atrocities of the Diocletian persecution of A.D. 303-313. Against this Church the Lord had no complaint. (Ref. Rev.2:8-11)

The Christian Church of the Constantine-Theodosian era (313-395) began the Pergamos (married to power) period when Christianity had become the official religion of the Roman Empire and was protected by law. (Ref. Rev. 2:12-17) Although pagan sacrifice and many heretical sects were outlawed and the doctrine of the divinity of Jesus Christ was

made the basic tenet of true Christianity, the Church hierarchy grew in wealth and power and pagan practices came to be tolerated. Gibbon comments that at this time, "ecclesiastics had scandalously degenerated from the model of apostolic purity". Many were "worthless and corrupt", the ruling passions of many bishops being the "love of gold and of dispute".

The worship of Christian martyrs; visions and miracles connected with their tombs and remains proliferated, together with the veneration of relics of spurious saints which became more valuable than gold. This, Gibbon says, "tended to increase the temptations of fraud and credulity, insensibly extinguishing the light of history and of reason in the Christian world." "The sublime and simple theology of the primitive Christians was gradually corrupted; and the *monarchy of heaven*, already clouded by metaphysical subtleties was degraded by the introduction of a popular mythology which tended to restore the reign of polytheism." By the beginning of the 5th Century pagan ceremonies and profane spectacles were usurping the pure and spiritual worship of a Christian congregation. Licentious feasts and festivals for saints and martyrs involving relics, prayers offered to the bones, blood or ashes of martyrs were introduced. The saints were believed to be reigning with Christ with delegated powers, and so able to help human beings, hence the beginning of praying to saints. The adoration of the Symbols was begun and Church fasts, e.g. Lent, were introduced in order to repel evil spirits. Worship ceremonies were better calculated to please the eye than to excite true devotion.

The ecclesiastical structure and government of the Church became a source of very great evil and was to produce boundless dissensions and animosities. The office of Patriarch was introduced and the ambition of bishops and monks for power and wealth intensified. After the Council of Ephesus in 431 recognized Mary as the "Mother of God" the Cult of the Virgin spread westwards.

Hence the fire of God brings "voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake."

The division of the Republic between Arcadius and Honorius in 395 was the last and final division of the Roman earth into the Eastern and Western Empires, which were to become separate and rival empires - an earthquake indeed. And Gibbon states "Before the winter ended the Gothic nation was in arms" "that tempest of Barbarians", as he calls it elsewhere, "that was to subvert the foundations of the Roman empire."

v.6 *And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.*

v.7 *The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.*

Between A.D. 400 and 410 the Gothic hordes under ALARIC invaded Gaul, Spain and Italy. The Visigoths penetrated the northern defences of Italy and in 408 the Visigoth Alaric besieged Rome and put it under tribute which included 3000 pounds of pepper!

As a result of this the Romans evacuated all their soldiers from Britain.

The last Roman troops left Britain in A.D. 436. This enabled the Angles and Saxons to conquer Britain 13 years later. J.S. Fox comments: "So much did the Romans fear these Goths that they evacuated all Roman soldiers from Britain to help save and defend their empire, leaving Britain built and prepared, yet emptied, ready for Anglo-Saxon Israel to enter....."

The third part mentioned in verse 7 refers to the Western third of the Roman Empire conquered by the Gothic hordes who plundered and devastated the countryside.

v.8-9 *And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; and the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.*

The great mountain burning with fire cast into the sea symbolized the invading Vandals under their leader GENSERIC. These two verses foretell the Vandals waging war around the coasts of the Mediterranean, when they proceeded from Gaul and Spain to Carthage which was conquered in A.D. 439. From Carthage the Vandals built fleets and waged war on Rome's navy.

Elliott (v.1 p.417) makes the point: "Under the first and third trumpets though the European provinces of the Greek Empire had suffered, yet neither by ALARIC nor Attila had Constantinople been violated or the war carried across the Hellespont."

Again, though all open and exposed by sea to GENSERIC, when master of the Mediterranean under the Second Trumpet, yet the eastern coasts had scarcely been visited by him. "The fury of the Vandals was confined to the limits of the Western Empire" (i.e. one third of the Roman earth). The same exemption continued afterwards. It seems God tells us of the limitation of enemy activity - here the limits are geographic - sometimes they are temporal, e.g., the "time, times and a half" prophesied for the Papal ascendancy.

In A.D. 455 Rome itself was sacked by the Vandals, the word "vandal" remaining as a word for a wanton destroyer.

v.10 *And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;*

v.11 *And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.*

After the attacks of ALARIC the Goth and GENSERIC the Vandal came ATTILA the Hun. He attacked the regions of the Rhine, Upper Danube and Po Rivers.

v.12 *And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.*

Supplement to Monthly Notes for July, 1997.

From: Special Office Brief 22nd April, 1997.

### THE RUSSO-IRANIAN AXIS AND JERUSALEM

"We have repeatedly warned you. Now look at the latest facts: Syria, by closing a far-reaching arms deal with Russia and Iran, has solved its strategic-military problem with Turkey. A new Arab-Israeli war before the end of 1998 must now be considered likely.

Ever since Turkey and Israel signed a military pact in February 1996, Syria's strategic position has been weak.

When the pact became public in April 1996, it was announced that Israeli warplanes would be able to use Turkish airspace and bases for training (thus enabling them to operate along Syria's northern border). Then, a month later, that the military pact involved joint naval manoeuvres between Israel and Turkey. Later still, that Israel was helping Turkey establish electronic intelligence-gathering facilities along its border with Syria and Iran.

For Syria, this all spells serious strategic problems as it cannot go to war with Israel, even with the full support of Egypt, if its northern border with Turkey is not secure.

Now Russia is to be given a share in infrastructure and economic-development projects in Syria. In return, Moscow agreed to help modernize Syria's ground and air forces as well as its air defence.

Iran has agreed to pay Russia \$500 m to redeem part of Syria's arms debt to the USSR. In return, Syria is to buy \$650m worth of arms from Russia for hard currency. Next year, Iran will redeem another \$1 bn whilst Russia will sign an agreement with Syria to sell it \$2.5 bn worth of arms. Iran is also to provide Syria with arms from its own developing defence industry.

This news is about as dramatic as could be as it shows, once again, how closely Moscow and Tehran are collaborating; and it shows how effectively Syria has managed to rally Russian/Iranian support to nullify the effect of the Israel-Turkey military pact.

But building up its armed forces and neutralizing Turkey are only two of three key moves Syria has to take before initiating a war against Israel. The third is to be sure of Egypt because Syria cannot wage war successfully on Israel without Egypt opening up the western front. However, despite its status as the first Arab country to make peace with Israel, intelligence suggests that Egypt's long-term intentions towards the Jewish state are hostile.

29th April, 1997.

The very well informed *Intelligence Digest* organization (The Stoneyhill Centre, Brimspfield, Gloucester, GL4 8LF, UK) reports as follows:

In Chapter 8 we see a sequence of *Earth; Sea; Rivers and Sun*. This sequence in the judgment on Pseudo Christian Rome is also repeated in God's judgment on Papal Rome in Chapter 16. In both cases the sun represents the brightest centre in the prophetic Roman "earth".

Following the above three Barbarian attacks came the complete fall of the Empire of the West and the subjugation of Italy by the Saxon Heruli led by ODOVACER in A.D. 476. This extinguished the ruling powers in Rome and is depicted as one third part of the sun, moon and stars being darkened both day and night. Emperor Romulus Augustus was banished in that year, 76 years after the sounding of the First Trumpet in A.D. 400.

Thus the first four of the Seven Trumpets signify judgments on the Western third of the Roman Empire as follows:

	Attack	Leader	Verse	Destruction of:
1st	Gothic	Alaric)	7	countryside
2nd	Vandals	Genseric)	8&9	navy and coastlands
3rd	Huns	Attila)	10&11	riverlands
4th	Saxon Heruli	Odoacer	12	rulers in Rome

The following 5th, 6th and 7th Trumpets are also referred to as the "Three Woes".

v.13 *And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, WOE, WOE, WOE, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!*

These signify three more catastrophies to fall on the Roman earth and are dealt with in Chapters 9-11. They may be summarised as follows:

1st Woe      The Saracen (Arab) conquest of the Southern/South Eastern third of the Roman earth.  
2nd Woe      The Turkish conquest of the Eastern third of the Roman earth.  
3rd Woe      The French atheistic revolution in the west leading to the breakdown of Papal Rome and sowing the seeds of Atheistic Communism.

Chapter 9 deals with the 5th and 6th TRUMPETS (the 1st and 2nd WOES).

The 7th TRUMPET, (the 3rd WOE), is divided into 7 Angels with the 7 VIALS in Chapter 16. This signifies further decline in the Gentile Succession of Empires (termed the Beast), which at that time is in the guise of PAPAL ROME.

(Dr. N. F. McLeod)

"Let all thy days  
Till life shall end  
Whate'er He send  
Be filled with praise"  
(Richard Baxter 1670)



"Iran has agreed to redeem Syrian debt to the former Soviet Union so that Russia can resume arms supplies to Syria. In the first part of the deal, Iran is said to have paid Moscow \$500m so that Syria can immediately buy \$650m worth of arms from Russia for hard currency. Next year, the same sources say, Iran will redeem another \$1 bn worth of Syrian debt, whilst Russia will sign an agreement with Syria to sell it \$2.5bn worth of arms.

However, in addition to getting arms from Russia as a result of Iran's help with outstanding debt, Syria has also asked for major arms transfers and other services from Iran itself.

Syria's request (it is not known to what extent it will be met) is said to include:

500 Scud-C missiles; 50 Iranian aircraft (including 25 MiG-25s and MiG-29s); 15 SAM missile batteries; use of a modern ground observation network that Iran got from Russia and North Korea in 1994; the transfer of arms from Iran to Lebanon in the event that Syria is forced to withdraw by an Israeli attack; some Iranian naval vessels; Iranian help in the purchase of arms from North Korea, Kazakhstan, China, and South Africa, as well as from Russia; and Iranian mediation between Syria and Turkey.

#### **Russia's commitment to Iran**

In an interview given to Moscow TV on 30 March, a senior Russian official explained why Moscow's commitment to Iran is so strong and why Moscow would continue to resist American pressure to sever links with Tehran. He said: 'The US and Britain object to our trade with Iran. We object to US trade with Taiwan, which they are supplying with missiles, Iran is a full member of the international community and one of our markets. We sell it defensive weapons.'

He added: 'Iran stretches along our southern border and has behaved with great restraint in certain disputes in [Muslim] ex-Soviet republics and within Russian territory. It is therefore in our interest to build up our relations with it.'

The latter point is very important and explains why the US will not be able to drive a wedge between Tehran and Moscow. Moscow knows that good relations with Tehran are essential if it is to prevent the spread of radical Islam throughout the Muslim regions of the former Soviet Union - including within Russia itself.

To make matters worse, Iraq is also included in Russia's developing strategy for the Middle East. In the same interview quoted above, the Russian official said: 'We shall be the first to sell arms to Iraq when the embargo is lifted.'

On the basis of this and other information, it seems likely that Russia is working with Syria and Iran to bring Iraq into their alliance against Israel despite the fact that both Damascus and Tehran have serious problems with Baghdad.

The only thing that could make the news from the Middle East worse would be a sign (considered unlikely, but not impossible) that Turkey's military is losing the battle to keep Turkey secular.

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**GOD CREATING EVIL ?**

*"I form the light, and create darkness;  
I make peace, and create evil;  
I the Lord do all these things."  
(Isaiah 45:7)*

It should be noticed that the term 'evil' here is contrasted with 'peace' not with 'good'; and that the other contrast put with it is between 'light' and 'darkness'. It appears, therefore, that **distressing circumstances**, rather than **moral evil**, are referred to. God may use, as agencies for effecting His moral purposes, things which man may call calamitous and distressing. It is a common-place of Christian sentiment that our afflictions and chastisements - the dark side as well as the light side of life - are from the Lord.

*Hewlett* says: 'Among the pernicious doctrines which the advocates of idolatry taught, and which greatly prevailed in the days of *Isaiah*, was the dualistic doctrine "that light and darkness were the tangible forms of moral good and evil; that these were now in a state of perpetual antagonism; and that these were the causes of all human enjoyments and human woes."

To show the absurdity of this doctrine, *Jehovah* exerts His creative and controlling power over the elements of light and darkness, and over all the joyous and all the woeful events that happen to men. The words "peace" and "evil" are to be understood as synonyms for "prosperity" and "calamity". But as the apparent contradiction arises from the latter phrase, "I create evil", it is explained by its use in other portions of God's Word, where His control of all events is asserted; and the word here translated "evil" is evidently used to express **calamity**, and not **moral evil**'.

(Gen. 47:9: "And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil (bad - calamitous) have the days of the years of my life been....")

Moral evil is not, in a philosophical sense, a positive thing, and so not a thing that can be said to be 'created'. Evil is failure from duty, or disobedience to command. It is a state of mind and feeling, a condition of the will, and so not at all the subject of creative power. It might be said that God created beings with the possibility of doing good or evil. But there seems little sense in saying that God creates either good or evil, which are states of mind and will, and not tangible and visible things belonging to the sphere of material creation.

*Canon Rawlinson* says: 'Moral evil is certainly not "created" by God in the same direct way as physical evil. He has not necessitated it by the arrangements of His universe. He has but allowed it to come into existence.'

Either He must have limited His creation to objects that moved mechanically and were incapable of moral action, or, by creating moral agents, have allowed the possibility of moral evil coming into being. A free agent must be free to do right or to do wrong; if he is not free to do wrong, he is really not free when he does right. And when millions of free agents were created, each with a power of doing wrong, that some of them would choose to do wrong was to be expected, and was of course foreseen by the Creator.

From the fact that, though thus foreseeing the introduction of sin into His universe, God nevertheless determined to create moral beings, we may gather that it is better in God's sight, and therefore better absolutely, that the two classes of good and bad moral beings should co-exist, than that there should be no moral beings at all.

Further, moral evil is certainly, like physical evil, a great means of developing higher forms of moral goodness. The virtue that resists contact with vice, the influence of bad example, the seductions of those who make all possible efforts to corrupt, is of a higher form than that untried virtue which has passed through no such ordeal.'

(Extracted from: A Handbook of Biblical Difficulties 1896 pp.443-445)

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION - PART 9 CH. 9 - FIRST WOE (TRUMPET 5)

Verses 1-3 "And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power."

It is important to remember that the Roman earth was divided into three parts in relation to these attacks. In Chapter 8 we saw the Barbarians attacking the western sector under the first four Trumpets. Chapter 9 relates in symbolic language the two attacks of Islam. Here under the Fifth Trumpet (or First Woe) the Arab Saracens invade the southern sector, and is followed by the Turkish invasion of the eastern sector under the 6th Trumpet or Second Woe.

Verses 4, 5 & 6 "And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them."

The Koran states that trees and all green things being part of God's creation, should not be wilfully destroyed. Under the Gothic attack (Rev. 8:7) "The third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up". But Chapter 9:4 reads "It was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass.....neither any tree."

God's Law states that only the trees that do not produce food may be cut down in times of war. (Deut. 20:19-20) So although locusts normally attack the green plant life these "locusts" arising out of the bottomless pit do not, but attack only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads."

In addition, these destroyers are given power "as scorpions of the earth have power". Scorpions differ from locusts in that they are carnivorous and able to live for long periods in dry desert conditions. Again, in contrast with the locust, the scorpion has a painful and often lethal sting. The SARACENS are thus depicted as locust-scorpions, i.e. they were as numerous and fast moving as swarms of locusts and as painful as scorpions to men. Rather than kill their victims they forced them either to accept their teachings or pay a heavy tribute thus inflicting spiritual as well as physical torment. It demonstrated the tyranny experienced under a false religion as opposed to the freedom enjoyed under Biblical law. Thus "shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them". This appears to typify the Moslem Arabs who from A.D. 612 spread their dominion at the expense of the Southern/ South-eastern third of the Roman earth, those not sealed in Chapter 7.

This attack is to last five months (5x30 or 150 prophetic days or 'years'). The aggressive expansion of the Arab empire started with their invasion of Syria in 636 and the defeat of the Syrians under Omar. In 637 Jerusalem capitulated to Omar who gave directions for the erection of a place of worship. He built a wooden mosque which Caliph Abdul Malik rebuilt in 688. Abdul Malik also built the Dome of the Rock or Mosque of Omar, on the site of the Temple on Mt. Moriah in Jerusalem.

The first real reverse suffered by the Arabs was in 732 when they were defeated by the Franks under Charles Martel at Tours in France. Then in 746 the Byzantine Emperor of the East, Constantine V, took Cyprus from the Arabs by a great naval defeat. In 749 the Franks retook Narbonne the strategic base of Arab operation.

In 750 the Abbasid family attacked their cousins the Umayyads and massacred them thus obtaining the Caliphate. In 755 a new Caliphate was set up in Cordova, Spain, by Abd-al-Rahman, the only member of the Umayyad dynasty to survive the massacre of 750 when he fled to Spain. Hence Islam became fragmented into two parts.

In 782 Arab forces advancing to the Bosphorus were bought off by the Byzantine Emperor (cf. Dan. 11:40) and in 786 Harun al Rashid succeeding to the Caliphate, entered into diplomatic relations with Charlemagne. This was 150 years from the conquest of Syria in 636 and marked the end of the aggressive expansion of the Arab scourge.

It is interesting to note the mercy of God in limiting the time allowed for enemies to attack and revealing in Scripture how long these judgments will last. For example in Genesis 15:13 Abraham was told of the time Israel was to be in Egypt (400 years); Jeremiah 25:11-14 and 29:10-14 tell the number of years in the Babylonian captivity allotted to Judah (70 years).

Verses 7 - 11 give a graphic description of the appearance and organization of the Arab hordes in battle.

Verses 7 & 8 "And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions."

"The Arabians were renowned horsemen, descending with sweeping cavalry charges upon their enemies. On their heads they wore yellow turbans. They were men, yet had long hair and flowing beards." (John Fox) They were fierce and brave.

Verse 9 "And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle."

The Encyclopaedia Britannica states "In the hot near eastern climate ....mail was preferred for its flexibility (and ventilation), to complete armour of plate. Although plates were used for certain parts of the body, body armour was never developed to the same extent as in Europe."

Verse 10 "And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months."

As already mentioned the likeness to locusts in verse 7 portrays the speed and numbers of these Arab armies. P.K. Hitti in his "The Arabs A Short History" speaks of the "astounding rapidity with which the sons of the Arabian Desert conquered most of the civilized world in the first Islamic century." But as regards the pain and suffering caused to the enemy, locusts do not hurt people directly. In verse 10, however, the likeness to scorpions is introduced, completing the picture of something that has the power to "hurt men five months".

Augusta Cook comments that locusts and scorpions hurt for only about five months in the year. This peculiarity appeared in several of the chief incursions of the Saracens. Thus their sieges against Constantinople were conducted each year, during a period of seven years - always at the same season - from April until September - five months.

As mentioned earlier the aggressive expansion of the Muslim Arabs lasted 5 months (5x30 days) or 150 prophetic years from their first invasion of Syria in 636 at the Battle of Yarmuk, to the accession of

Harun al Rashid in 786 when diplomatic relations were entered into with Charlemagne and gifts were exchanged. At this time Baghdad had become "a city with no peer throughout the whole world. A new era had opened."

The power of the Saracens was to continue but not as a power to hurt. The Saracens no longer searched for new conquests. They settled down peacefully in the countries they had subdued. Elliott says: "Instead of aggressive war on the part of the Saracens, aggression has begun against them, and victoriously too, on the part of the Christians."

P.K. Hitti in his "The Arabs - A Short History" p. 84 says: "The ninth century opened with two imperial names standing supreme in world affairs: Charlemagne in the West and the Caliph Harun al-Rashid in the East. Of the two Harun was undoubtedly the more powerful and represented the higher culture. The two contemporaries entered into friendly relations prompted, of course, by self interest. Charlemagne cultivated Harun as a possible ally against the hostile Byzantium" (the eastern sector of the old Roman world).

It is of interest to note that when Charlemagne was crowned head of the Western Roman Empire on Christmas Day 800, his position was not recognised by the Byzantine Empress Irene. Harun also, desired to use Charlemagne against his rivals and deadly foes, the neighbouring Umayyads of Spain, who had established a mighty and prosperous state.

Verse 11 "And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon."

"Abaddon" is explained in Young's Analytical Concordance as - destruction, destroyer, "the king and angel (or messenger) of the abyss, whose name translated into Greek is "Apollyon". Both names refer to Satan. We can return, therefore, to the beginning of Chapter 9 to remind ourselves that the motivating force behind this army symbolised by locusts and scorpions comes from the "bottomless pit", typical of Satan.

After the Saracenic Woe had "hurt men five months" (or 150 years), its power diminished over a further period of "five months", i.e. until the mid 900's.

The sheer luxury of the Caliphate and the ruling class brought with it the decadence of this power which had indeed come from the bottomless pit. Many of their original conquests were only nominal to begin with, much of the administration being left with the former inhabitants in exchange for taxes. Exploitation and over-taxation were not the exception, but the rule.

As we noted in Revelation Chapter 6 over-taxation and war lead to poverty and epidemics. The depletion of manpower by the recurrent bloody strife left many of the cultivated farms desolate. The frequent spread of epidemics - plague, smallpox, malaria and other fevers decimated the population. No less than 40 major epidemics are recorded in the Arabic Annals of the first four centuries after the Arab Conquest.

Moslem power in Spain degenerated in much the same way. As in eastern Islam, the blood of the conquering element became in the course

of centuries diluted with that of the conquered, with a subsequent loss of their dominating position and qualities.

When did the Saracen Woe come to its final end? Elliott writes that "in 934 the Caliphate of Baghdad was stripped of its temporal power: quickly following on which from 960 - 985 when Crete, Cyprus, Cilicia and Antioch fell to the Greek Byzantines from their once terrible enemies, the Saracens. The triumphant Greeks even pushed across the Euphrates.

In the west the last great attempt of the Moorish Saracens against the rising Christian kingdoms in Spain was after a temporary success totally repulsed, and the Moslems with continually contracting dominions, were reduced finally and almost forever, to the defensive. The wars of Almanzor almost revived the Saracen Woe to the Spanish Christians but in 990 and 998 the Saracens were defeated and their leader committed suicide." The English Universal History adds "With him expired the fortune of the Cordovan Moors."

So we see that Islam was built upon the laws and moral code of man and therefore could not last. This is in accord with Psalm 127:1 "Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it."

From the ruins of the Umayyad Caliphate of Cordova, which fell in 1031 there emerged a conglomeration of petty Moslem states. In 1058 the Saracens were driven out of Sicily by Robert Guiscard the Norman, and in 1065 the Turks took Jerusalem from the Saracens the year before William the Conqueror took England at the Battle of Hastings. At this point there was a transition from Arab Moslem dominance to the rising power of Turkish Moslem dominance. We pass from the diminishing Arab First Woe to the rising Turkish Second Woe. Just as the Arab Woe was limited by God in time and space so also the Turkish Woe is to be limited in time to "an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year" and in space to "a third part of men". (Dr. N. F. McLeod)

## QUOTES

(From: "The Ordinary Man and the Extraordinary Thing" by H. Begbie.)

The founder of the Y.M.C.A. was George Williams. Speaking of the Association and its developments in its early days his son said:

"We believe and hold the faith my father taught us. First, that the most important thing in life is Character. Second, that without Christ the perfection of character is impossible; and third, that the way of approach to Christ is by prayer and the reading of the Bible. That was the fundamental thing in my father's soul. That was the inspiration of his life, and it is the foundational fact of the Association -  
1. Character. 2. Character through Christ.  
3. Christ through prayer and Bible reading." p. 28

(With what sadness the founder would have viewed this Association in its later years!)

"Before England abandons herself to the politician it would be well for her once more to make her appeal, earnestly and universally, to the Christ Who called Himself Son of God and Light of the World." p.256.



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**CABALA**

The term Cabala (orally received tradition) describes Jewish mysticism in all its forms. It represents spiritual traditions transmitted from earliest ages mingled with impure or foreign elements absorbed over the centuries and is the culmination of ancient Jewish esoteric (secret) theosophy. The Cabalistic systems contain mythological and magical elements, reinterpretations of Biblical and Talmudic passages and of prayers and commandments, as well as Messianic speculations.

The modern Cabala consists of two books: the Sepher Yetzirah and the Zohar. The Sepher Yetzirah (or Book of Creation) is of great antiquity and obscurity. In the Talmud Rabbis are described as studying it for magical purposes. However, as well as devising their own magical ideas, despite the injunction against sorcery in the Law of God, Jews have inherited in the Cabala magical ideas from other races. They also borrowed philosophy from the Magi of Persia, the Neoplatonists of the 3rd century B.C. and the Neopythagorians of the 1st century A.D.

The Magi were the priestly caste among the ancient Medians and later Persians who worshipped the elements, particularly fire, and also claimed to possess supernatural powers. Our word "magic" derives therefrom, Black Magic being used with evil purposes and involving witchcraft, sorcery, evil eye, evil spirits, spells and enchantments.

Natural Magic involves the use of superior or secret knowledge of the Laws of Nature, e.g., chemistry and magnetism, to work 'wonders'. Celestial Magic involves the supposed power of spirits over the planets and the planets' influence over human destiny as developed in Astrology. In Ancient Babylon and Egypt magic flourished side by side with religion. The star worshippers of Chaldea were adepts in astrology and necromancy (the supposed contact with the dead for the purpose of revealing future events - Ref. 1Sam. 28:7-15). In Classical times magic became known as sorcery and the magician was believed to be in communication with the unseen world.

The Neoplatonists of the 3rd century B.C. stressed **ascetic discipline**

and sought mystical ecstasy to attain union with God. The Neopythagorians of the 1st century A.D. considered God wholly spiritual and matter the source of evil from which men must try to free themselves by ascetic practices.

The Sepher-Ha-Zohar (or Book of Light) contains Cabalistic philosophy - the Mysteries of Wisdom said to have been given orally to the 70 elders by Moses. This book professes to describe the dynamic nature of the Godhead and offers a powerful symbolic interpretation of the Torah. The Godhead is depicted as a dynamic flow of force composed of numerous aspects. God as He is in Himself, the unknowable, immutable Infinite is above and beyond all human contemplation.

*"The Zohar provides a cosmic-symbolic interpretation of Judaism and of the history of Israel in which the Torah and Commandments, as well as Israel's life in exile, become symbols for events and processes of the inner life of God. Thus interpreted, the proper observance of the commandments assumes a cosmic significance."* \*

Tradition says that until the Christian Era it remained a purely oral tradition but was then written down by the disciples of Rabbi Simon ben Jochai. It appeared at the end of the 13th century written by a Spanish Jew, Moses de Leon, who claimed to have discovered and reproduced Rabbi Simon's original document. However, the Zohar, the main ideas of which find confirmation in the Talmud, is said to be a compilation of various documents dating from early times, and it is not known when this mystical tradition became known as Cabala.

In the 16th century a mythical, Messianic reinterpretation of the Cabala made by Isaac Luria "explained to the exiles the cosmic meaning of their suffering and gave them a crucial role in the cosmic drama of redemption." \*\* The human task, through prayer and proper observance of the commandments, was said to become nothing less than the redemption of the world and the reunification of the Godhead, thus continuing the idea of redemption through the works of the Law. The Cabala gradually became transformed into a popular Messianic movement resulting in the 18th century Polish Hasidism which addressed itself to the unlearned masses, teaching them a simple and joyous faith and encouraging them to express their religious feelings in ecstatic song and dance.

The converted Jew Drach writing in the mid 19th century contended that the ancient Cabala had contained true wisdom including the truth of the Trinity in One God, and that the coming of the Promised Redeemer had formed the foundation of the whole system of ancient tradition. In other words it was in harmony with the later Christian teaching. However, the Messianic idea which forms the dominating theme of the modern Cabala is made to serve purely Jewish interests. *"In the teaching of the later synagogue the philosophy of the earlier sages was narrowed down to suit the exclusive system of the Jewish hierarchy, and the ancient hope of a Redeemer who should restore man to the state of felicity he had lost at the Fall was transformed into the idea of salvation for the Jews alone under the aegis of a triumphant and even an avenging Messiah."* # Rather than the salvation of the world the picture presented was the exaltation of the Jews, national restoration and glory. The Messiah was to be but the instrument in obtaining this. Drach claims that *"the tradition of a Man-God who should present Himself as the teacher and liberator of the fallen human race was*

*constantly taught amongst all the enlightened nations of the globe."* ##

But it was to the humble (the shepherds) and devout (Simon and Anna) in Israel that His birth was announced, not to the mighty. The manner of His coming was abhorrent to the Jewish leaders who looked for a resplendent Messiah whose power and glory they would share. But our Lord taught the sacred doctrines to the common people and denounced their leaders. *"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."* (Matt. 23:13) *"Woe unto you, lawyers! For ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered."* (Luke 11:52)

The Rabbis had indeed ignored the Prophets and perverted the ancient teaching which would have enabled the people to recognize the Messiah in the Person of Jesus Christ. It was the Chief Priests who delivered Him "from envy" and who "moved the people" to choose Barabbas.

Microsoft Encarta Ency. \* \*\*  
"Secret Societies...." by Nesta Webster p.14 # ##

(Asst. Ed.)

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION - PART 10 CH. 9 - SECOND WOE (TRUMPET 6)

Verse 12 *"One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter."*

This statement suggests that this moment in time is after the end of the First Woe, yet before the Second Woe has commenced, i.e., between the mid 900's and 1062 when the Seljuk Turks began to move westwards.

Verse 13-14 *"And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates."*

As previously discussed the symbolism of burning incense on the Golden Altar is connected with the required constant offering to God of prayer, praise and lives lived in righteousness and obedience, the fragrance of the incense being typical of the sweet savour of a sacrifice acceptable to God. Because the voice came from the four horns (symbolic of power and authority) of the golden altar before God, this voice must pronounce God's further judgment on the unacceptable lives of the corrupt Christians of the period.

Rivers in prophecy denote the countries through which they flow. As the Turkish people originated in the Euphrates delta "Euphrates" is used to symbolise the Turkish Empire. Later in Revelation (16:12) reference is made to the decline of the Turkish Empire in terms of "...the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up...." In 1062 the Seljuk Turks followed their leader Alp Arslan 'Valiant Lion' (1029-1072), across the Euphrates westwards, the river typically 'overflowing' as they expanded their territory.

Verse 15 *"And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men."*

The four destroying angels of Chapter 7 verses 1-3 are now loosed,

indicating that the "hurting" of the eastern third of the Roman earth was about to begin. It also indicated that the sealing of Israel was completed. This time period is worked out on the basis of a year for a prophetic "day". (Ref. Num. 14:34 & Ezek. 4:6)

Thus: 1 day	=	1 year
1 month - 30 days	=	30 years
1 year - 360 days	=	360 years
1 hour - 1/24 day =		2 weeks
	TOTAL :	391 years 2 weeks

Adding 391 years 2 weeks to 1062 we arrive at 1453 the year in which the Ottoman Turks sacked Constantinople making it the Ottoman capital. The Byzantine emperor was killed and the previous centre of Eastern Greek Christendom, the Church of St. Sophia, was converted into a Mohammedan Mosque. This was the peak of Moslem power after which time it began to decline.

As the Western third of the Roman earth had been overcome by the first four Trumpets, and the South/South Eastern third by the Moslem Arabs (1st Woe), so the final Eastern third is to be conquered by the Moslem Turks (2nd Woe). Here again God in His mercy gives a warning but also limits His judgments to 391 years 2 weeks, and to one third of the apostate Christian Roman earth.

The discovery of so much fulfilled prophecy which is known to have been written well before all the events foretold, is compelling evidence for the veracity of Scripture. With Biblical knowledge fading among the general population it is important to have these facts before us in any discussion.

To summarize the Turkish 2nd Woe: In 1066 the comet (later called Haley's) appeared, great as never seen before, portending the mighty changes about to take place. The Byzantine Emperor Diogenes Romanus hastened to the defence of his empire. Franks, Normans, Bulgarians mingled with the Greeks to add strength to his army and the invisible tutelage of the Virgin Mary was invoked too, as depicted on the coin of this emperor. But succour came not to the Mariolatrist who was decisively defeated and taken prisoner by Alp Arslan at the Battle of Manzikert in eastern Asia Minor, in 1071. Thus were the Byzantine Asiatic provinces lost to the Turks.

Verse 16 *"And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them."*

Here the enormous number of Moslem cavalry is foretold. Gibbon speaking of the "myriads" of Turkish cavalry remarks that Alp Arslan owed his victory at Manzikert to his 40,000 horsemen. The victorious career of Alp Arslan against Greek Christendom was cut short by assassination but was followed by his great son Malek Shah, whose empire was to extend from the Chinese frontier west almost to Constantinople, and south to include the Holy City of Jerusalem, which was taken from the Fatimid Caliphate centred in North Africa and Egypt. The Holy Land passed from subservience to the Arab Saracens under the First Woe to subservience to the Turks under the Second Woe.

Elliott states that "from the Euphrates to Constantinople mosques were built, the laws of the Koran established, the mission of Mahomet

preached, Turkish manners and language made to prevail in the cities, and Turkman camps scattered over the mountains and plains. On the hard condition of tribute and servitude the Greek Christians might enjoy the exercise of their religion, but their most holy churches were profaned, their priests insulted, thousands of the children circumcised and of their brethren, multitudes induced to apostatize. Alexius trembled on the imperial throne of Constantinople and in plaintive letters implored the help of Western Europe."

'Help' came in the form of the Crusades which continued for about two centuries (1095-1270) with the loss of about 2,000,000 Europeans. However, it was not the Crusaders who broke the power of the Seljuk Turks, but the advancing Mongols who, under Ghengis Khan, swept across Asia Minor breaking up the Seljuk kingdom of Iconium. Ghengis Khan began his westward incursion in 1206 and ravaged the Moslem population and property with great destruction until his death in 1227. This, however, did not extinguish the Turkman power.

It was the Ottoman Turks, originally Moslem subservients of the Seljuk Turks, who had been displaced from their homeland in Central Asia during the Mongol expansion, that finally destroyed the Byzantine Empire. They entered Europe in 1354 in aid of the Byzantine Empire which was threatened by an expanding Serbia. But after conquering Serbia and Bulgaria they held their conquests as an independent Ottoman State.

By the end of the 14th century they had subjugated most of the Balkans and Greece and had resumed the conquest of Asia Minor. At this point with almost all of her provinces lost except for an island or two, Constantinople was granted a stay of sentence from the Ottoman executioner. This was brought about by the sudden Tatar invasion from central Asia under the ruthless Tamerlane (Timur Beg) a descendant of Genghis Khan who carried out widespread conquests from his centre at Samarkand, marking his route by pyramids of skulls.

In 1401 Tamerlane overran Syria and the next year his army swept through Asia Minor where he met the Ottoman Turks in the great battle of Ankara in 1402. It took the Ottomans a generation to recover the loss of manpower suffered in this crushing defeat, but the Ottoman Empire did not collapse. Tamerlane's interests then turned to China but when he died there three years later his empire disintegrated. However, the Byzantine emperor at Constantinople was too weak to take full advantage of this last opportunity to stop the Ottoman rise. Under Murad II (1421-1451) the Ottoman empire was pulled firmly together for a new phase of expansion. Murad's enemies included Venice, Albania, a much diminished Serbia, Hungary and Poland. These states were reinforced by some western troops under the Papal sponsorship of a crusade against the Turk.

The decisive battle was fought at Varna in 1444 in Bulgaria. Victory allowed the Ottomans to complete their reconquest of most of Greece and the Balkans, and to make, under Mohamet II (1451-1481), a final attack on Constantinople in 1453. During this attack canons were used, including one huge one which was used to breach the walls of the city. Mohamet II was also credited with the enormous feat of taking boats overland to be floated in the Golden Horn, thus enabling an attack to be made at the more vulnerable rear of the city.

A symbolic representation of Turkish warfare is given in verses 17 - 19. The multitudinous Turkish cavalry with both horses and horsemen splendidly adorned and clothed in iron mail were invincible. By these was the Eastern third of the Roman earth swallowed up.

Verses 17-19 "*And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.*"

John Fox comments: "We notice that the conquests under this more-modern Turkish Woe are effected by *"fire, and smoke, and brimstone."* Brimstone or Sulphur is the basis of the invention of gunpowder, which was here effectively used by the Turks in battle. We note that the Scorpion Saracens only had a *"sing"*, but now this Euphrates army is depicted as having *"fire"* and *"power"* which issued from the mouths of their cannon which they trailed behind them and swung round into action, hence the symbol of their power being also *"in their tails"*".

It is worthy of note that even before the final fall of Constantinople many Greeks, fearful of the Turkish threat, fled westward into Europe taking their Greek Bibles with them. Both the scholars and their Bibles were to be the cause of the new debates in Europe, activating Erasmus, Luther and other stalwarts of the Reformation. The cloak covering Scripture was being torn away and for a short period - the Church period prophesied as *"Philadelphia"* (Rev. 3:7-13) - men were able to *"measure"* the Church visible with Scripture, as we shall see later in Revelation chapter 11.

The Turkish threat was later to save the Reformation from destruction at the hands of Charles V, the Holy Roman emperor. Instead of Charles crushing the Protestant princes, he was forced to make peace with them when the Turks threatened the gates of Vienna.

The next chapter (Rev. Ch.10), in perfect sequence, deals with the giving of the *"little book"*, Tyndale's pocket sized printed Bible which, because of its size, was able to be smuggled into England and distributed to the general population.

Verses 20-21 "*And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.*"

With the shocking loss incurred by Christendom from the Moslem Woes, was there any sign of repentance so that our merciful God could put a stop to all these judgments? By this time, although the Eastern and South/South Eastern Roman earth had been conquered and filled with mosques, Koran law, taxes, persecution, etc., the Papacy remained unaffected, continuing in idolatry, murder, sorcery, fornication and theft.

(Dr. N. F. McLeod)



**British-Israel World Federation**  
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**THE DIVINE REVELATION - Part 1**

The light of the knowledge of the Person and Character of the One True Living God was given to Adam and the ancient promise (Gen 3:15) of the coming of the Saviour of men was known to the Adamic race from its beginning.

*"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN;"* (Luke 1:68-70)

But this knowledge had become debased and distorted. The knowledge of One God had degenerated into polytheism, physical light (the sun) was worshipped instead of Spiritual Light, regeneration became confounded with reproduction, resurrection with the annual decay and regrowth of vegetation, and human sacrifices and cannibalism had become substituted for the anticipated Spiritual Sacrifice.

Through Noah's son Shem the truth was preserved until the time of Abraham who God had chosen to be the progenitor of the line through which the Promised Saviour would come. It was to be to Abraham's descendants that the knowledge of the Living God and His Promised Purpose would again be revealed and through whom it would be spread throughout the world.

This Truth, however, was to be revealed in symbol only, until its great Reality should be manifested. The symbolism portrayed in intricate detail and great depth, the Person and Work of the Saviour and its final culmination in the restoration of fellowship between God and man. It was embodied in the Tabernacle Worship instituted under the Old Covenant made with the infant Nation of Israel after the Exodus.

**THE TABERNACLE WORSHIP**

The Tabernacle Worship proclaimed heavenly sovereignty and its requirement in both national and individual life, and anticipated future eras of Divine revelation for this earth. It foretold in symbol the Person

and Work of the Promised Seed Who would displace Satan's sovereignty over man - the One Seed promised to Abraham through Whom "all the families of the earth" would be blessed (Gen. 28:14).

The Tabernacle itself was to be built according to the pattern shown to Moses in the mount and was to be a Sanctuary, or place set apart, in which Jehovah would dwell in the midst of His people.

*"And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it."* (Ex. 25:8&9) Details for the construction and making of the sacred furniture were given with minuteness even to such small particulars as hooks, rings, cords and pins.

Not only was the "pattern" for the Tabernacle and its accoutrements given to Moses but the workmen were inspired by the Holy Spirit to enable them to carry out the work:

*"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: and I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee;"* (Ex. 31:1-6)

So Israel learnt right from the beginning that God's way is the only acceptable way and that the only means of serving God is through the empowering guidance of His Holy Spirit.

## THE MEETING PLACE BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

The Tabernacle, constructed according to the Divine plan and set up in the wilderness, became the centre of the many thousands of Israel, and the meeting place between Jehovah and His People. In it God's visible Presence actually dwelt in the midst of Israel. *"And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory. And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest's office. And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the Lord their God."* (Ex. 29:43-46)

The later Temple was but a reproduction, although enlarged, more splendid and more enduring, of the original Tabernacle which, as the original centre of the Theocracy, was basic to the divine revelation to Israel and thus to the world. Indeed God's very reason for arranging Israel's great escape from Egypt in so spectacular a manner, occasioned by the hostility of Pharaoh, was so that the peoples of the world would receive the witness of the power and glory of the One, True Living God. We read in Exodus 9:16 the Lord's words to Pharaoh: *"And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth."* The Temple provided elaborate arrangements to remind the nation of its obligations towards God when that nation had become a great people, communicating internationally with the nations of the world.

However, it is with reference to the Tabernacle that the Epistle to the Hebrews explains the types given in the O.T. to foreshadow the meaning of the great and far-reaching work of Christ.

Instituted very soon after the Nation of Israel had been constituted, the Tabernacle worship demonstrated the national Covenant relation between the Israel Nation and Jehovah, although right from the beginning of the Nation outsiders who desired to join the Israelite community were permitted to do so provided they kept Israel's Law and worshipped Israel's God. The Tabernacle ordinances also provided a means for individuals to receive pardon for their sins and enjoy peace with God. The Tabernacle provided a constant and impressive token of the presence of Jehovah in Israel's midst and enshrined God's Holy Law, "the words of the Covenant" (Ex. 34:28), which established the standard of behaviour and quality of reverence required by a Holy God.

By dwelling in the Tabernacle Jehovah could demonstrate to the people His Majesty, His Holiness, His Power, His Mercy and His Grace. In His Holy Law He witnessed to His own Character and to what He required of men, the importance of His Law being evidenced by His command that it be placed at the very centre of His abode, in the Ark of the Covenant beneath the Mercy Seat. (Cf. Romans 7:12-13)

The Tabernacle Worship "manifested the Almighty, not as Ruler of the Universe, but in His relation to man, as One who desired to bring His children near to Himself that they might be sanctified for service and made to rejoice in His favour. It related to man, not as a creature to be bowed down by infinite power, but to be elevated to communion and fellowship with that Holy yet Merciful Being Who had formed man to show forth His praise, and to find in doing so, his true dignity and joy".

## THE SIN QUESTION

In order to achieve this communion God ordained an order of worship to be observed which involved offerings and the shedding of blood. It was unparalleled in symbolism and sacredness but was necessary in order that men might understand the barrier which existed between them and God.

Psalm 24:3-4 asks the question: *"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place?"* and the answer is given *"He that hath clean hands and a pure heart...."*

At the time this psalm was penned no man had ever existed who could claim to have clean hands and a pure heart. But how is such purity measured and to what standard must man attain if he is to be able to approach an Holy God in communion and fellowship? What was this great barrier that the Ordinances of Worship were instituted to overcome? The Bible defines it as SIN.

The Bible teaches that sin is any lawlessness, i.e., any failure to live in accordance with the perfect moral law of God which has always existed. It was codified for Israel in a negative form as the Ten Commandments in order to highlight sin so that it could be understood. Later our Lord summarized the Ten as the Two Great positive Commandments governing man's duty to God and to his fellow man, stressing their spiritual application.

*"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."* (Matt. 22:37-39)

In order to obey these it is necessary to do always, in every circumstance, the WILL OF GOD which, it was to be amply demonstrated throughout centuries, is impossible for natural man. For natural man is by nature "lawless" seeking to do his own will - i.e. what is right in his own eyes - rather than what is right in the eyes of God. Man's tendency to sin or lawlessness, if indulged, leads inevitably to the loss of righteousness and to increasing moral corruption and proneness to evil. It results in alienation from the life of God.

Man's sin or failure to keep the righteous standard of God cuts him off from God's Presence and blessing, because a Holy God cannot look on sin or be approached by one tainted with it. Sin brings man under judgment and the power of death. We read in Ezek. 18:4 "... the soul that sinneth, it shall die" and in Romans 3:23 "...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 6:23 warns us that "the wages of sin is death..."

Death, then, is God's judgment upon Sin and therefore upon all men.

## ATONEMENT

The Tabernacle symbolism, however, explained the principle of Atonement. The Hebrew word "to atone" (kaphar) has the literal meaning of "to cover", hence in making atonement for sin the sin is "covered", and if a man's sin is covered, he is reconciled to God and thus able to enter His Presence. This was expressed by the blood sacrifices. (Lev. 17:11) *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."* Hence the animal victim typically bore the judgment of death on the offerer's behalf.

It is often asked "Which is the true atonement, the 'blood' or the 'life'?" LIFE is a spiritual reality. BLOOD is the physical sign of that reality. The shedding of blood is thus the physical sign of the taking of life, i.e. death. The blood poured out in sacrifice was but the symbol of that PERFECT LIFE which would in the future be freely offered up to God in death, to make atonement for Sin. The O.T. sacrifices were but a picture of the reality to come, a shadow cast by a future event, the spiritual ramifications of which would be of cosmic proportion.

By the symbolic atonement made by the shed blood of a perfect animal, men were able to discern the underlying spiritual mystery of God's purpose in Himself providing that PERFECT ONE, Who would bear the judgment for all sin, offering up His Perfect Life to cover the Sin of the World.

But the wonderful blessings deriving from ATONEMENT can only be realized through FAITH. The individual must trust in the efficacy of that atonement for his own personal sin and transgressions. Many individuals brought their sacrifices to the Tabernacle. These were either to atone for their own sin, or to present to Jehovah in loving worship, demonstrating their faith in the symbolic ordinances He had provided.

As individuals we, in this age, look back in faith to that One Great Sacrifice of the Lamb of God that was finally offered in fulfilment of the symbolism, trusting that our sin has been covered and our entry into God's presence assured.

In the Tabernacle Ordinances God required that sacrifices be made on behalf of the Nation, looking forward to the time when Israel's sin as a national entity would also be covered by that one great atoning Sacrifice (Ref. Isaiah 43). However, the nation's service to God and resulting blessings will not be fully realised until that Atonement is acknowledged and humbly accepted on a national scale. (Refer: Ezek. Ch.36; Jer. 31:31-37)

The Tabernacle Worship, therefore, embodied in symbol not only the wonderful fact of God's provision for the atonement for sin, but provided the means by which the sinful nation, as well as the sinful individual, could obtain that covering, enjoy communion with their King, and finally enter into His presence.

The Twelve Tribes of Israel having Jehovah's Presence and His Perfect Law were therefore in a position to witness to all the peoples of the earth the great blessings which result from accepting the Sovereignty of God in both national and individual life, and to teach others also the means of meeting with God.

Sadly, apart from one brief period of national righteousness and blessing, centuries of national disobedience, apostacy, suffering and sadness were to demonstrate the impossibility of natural man to attain to the righteousness required by an Holy God. Without such righteousness man falls inevitably into slavery, degradation and death. But despite their gross sin Israel were to remain the People of God and His Witnesses in the earth. Through the seed of Israel would come that One Whose righteousness would be sufficient to cover all sin and enable the purpose of God to be finally consummated.

(Asst. Ed.)

## DOCTRINES OF MEN

During the later centuries B.C. the wonderful truth of the coming Atonement, by which men would be able to fellowship with God covered by the righteousness of the Perfect Sacrifice, became disbelieved, misunderstood, obscured and perverted. Instead of being made known throughout all the earth the wonderful Name of Israel's God, His Character and great purpose, became profaned not only in Israel's own land but also "*among the heathen, whither they went.*" Instead of the paramount truths enshrined in the Tabernacle Worship the world was to be cluttered with a plethora of manmade religions, and intricate and erroneous philosophies.

The Pagan religions of the Middle East had adapted their creeds to the great myths of ASTROLOGY, which was accorded the status of a science. From the time of Alexander the Great the astrologers of the Chaldean and Alexandro-Egyptian schools, which spread over Asia, Greece and Italy, had taught that a secret influence from the planets was continually exerted upon the earth and man, and that by magical cults and astrological prayers, the forces of the planets could be directed as required. It was believed that man was subject to the planets and constellations from before birth until death, and was therefore shackled

to the wheel of Fate. Such Oriental Mysticism had an irresistible impact upon the Philosophy of the Greek thinkers at the time of the Jewish Philosopher Philo (20 BC - AD 50).

From the VEDISM of the Indian Aryans, being the claimed revelations of a self-existent being to certain holymen, was to develop six centuries BC, monotheistic BRAHMANISM which through metaphysical speculation gave rise to polytheistic HINDUISM. From Hinduism was to derive PANTHEISM which sees the Universe as God and all things as an expression of God. This philosophy led to Greek Stoicism and Neoplatonism and to the more modern philosophies of Spinoza and Hegel. Pantheism underlies much of Greek Philosophy.

In Persia ZOROASTRIANISM had been established c.800 BC as a protest against the polytheism, idolatry and licentiousness of the age. Its basic tenets were the monotheistic worship of Wisdom and an ethical dualism opposing Truth and Lie. Zoroastrian teaching was to perform good actions and refrain from evil ones. Continual conflict was seen to exist between the powers of good (Wisdom and his emanations) and the powers of evil (the Fiendish Spirit and his assistants). Fire symbolized the Chief Power of Light and was the principal object of worship. Natural objects, mythical creatures and ancestor spirits gradually came to be worshipped also. Zoroastrianism displayed a dualistic philosophy, i.e., one which recognized two radically independent elements as underlying all known phenomena - the creative and the destructive. DUALISM portrayed the primal conflict between God, represented by Light and Spirit, and Satan, represented by Darkness and the Material World. Human beings were considered to be divine in spirit but to have seeds of darkness because of their material bodies. Zoroastrian thought was to influence the Jews who returned from the Babylonian Captivity. Its teaching was to be continued by the Parsees of India whose ancestors migrated thither to escape the persecutions of the Muslim powers of the 8th century AD. The worship of MITHRAS, the Persian god of light, vegetation and generation, considered the mediator between humanity and God, spread well beyond the Persian Empire with the conquests of Alexander the Great, gaining ground in Rome towards the end of the 1st century AD. Here it was prohibited by Hadrian because of the human sacrifices sometimes involved in its rites but spread even to Britain when revived under Commodus.

The philosophy of the Pythagoreans had influenced Jewish thought during the 6th century BC, and later Platonism which was publicly taught by Greeks in Alexandria was well received by the Alexandrian Jews. Doctrines of Egyptian magi and priests were also added to the Greek teachings. These philosophies thence spread to Palestine resulting in sects such as Essenes, Sadducees and Cabalistic Gnostics. Gnosis was the term used by the Jewish philosophers of the Alexandrian School for the knowledge of mysteries celestial and cosmic. The Book of Enoch contains Jewish Gnosis influenced by Persian thought.

The wars of Alexander led not only to the intermingling of different nations but of the doctrines, esoteric traditions, rites and worship of Greece, Egypt, Persia and India. These esoteric traditions conveyed the GNOSIS, or science of the MYSTERIES, handed down from generation to generation forming a confusing and worldwide multiculturalism. Such was the "religion" of the known world when Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem.

(Asst. Ed.)



**British-Israel World Federation**  
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**MONTHLY NOTES**

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**THE DIVINE REVELATION - Part 2**

Though simple in its layout the Tabernacle itself was beautifully adorned, everything being executed in a lavish and costly style. There was much solid gold and silver. Approximately 1,050 square feet of shittim wood boards, a non decaying wood typical of the everliving nature of God, were overlaid with gold and based in silver sockets. Bronze was used freely and the fine linen hangings or curtains woven in white, blue, purple and scarlet, were elaborately decorated with cherubim. The whole effect was one of utmost magnificence to signify Divine richness and glory. This glory, however, was covered, hidden from the eyes of the people in general, demonstrating that **sinful man is unable to behold the Glory of God or to enter into His Presence without suffering the penalty of death.**

It was constructed largely out of the freewill offerings of the people. *"And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments."* (Exod. 35:21)

Those who could offered jewellery and precious stones, cloth or skins. Men brought shittim wood and women spun thread. They brought spices and anointing oil, such things as they possessed or could make.

Nothing was too costly to be offered and nothing too trifling to be accepted. All classes, both sexes, the rich and poor, the chiefs and ordinary folk contributed, and the response was so great that more than was required was brought.

*"And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary.*

*So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.* (Exod. 36:6 &7)

*This demonstrated that worship, even national worship, must be given freely and willingly from the hearts of individuals, and that our personal substance and possessions should be offered willingly for His glory, rather than hoarded for our own pleasure and glorification.*

Our willing offerings are to be according to our possessions and should be the best we can offer - the best of our talents, the best of our time, the best of our life, the best of our wealth. God requires the **firstfruits** not just the leavings.

Everything involved in the Tabernacle was **symbolic** - the materials used, the colours, each item of furniture, the measurements, even the numbers involved. The symbolism is so meaningful and unique that each item should be studied in depth in order to learn fully its meaning and understand its implication.

To mention just a few aspects:

First, the number **FOUR** denotes God's material creation. It was the number used in relation to the Kingdom of God established on the earth - the stamp of God taking up His abode with men. Four was therefore the ruling number of the **Sanctuary** - the dwelling place of God on earth.

The boards surrounding and enclosing the **Sanctuary** were 48 (12X4) in number - 20 (5X4) in each side with 8 (2X4) across the back. The first overall covering of fine twined linen was woven in 4 colours - white, blue, purple and scarlet - and was made up of strips fastened together into one covering, each strip measuring 4 cubits wide by 28 (7X4) cubits long. Altogether there were 4 coverings over the **Sanctuary** - the coloured linen covering, the tent of goats' hair, the covering of rams' skins dyed red, and the external covering of badgers' skins. Lastly, 4 pillars supported the **Vail** which divided the **Sanctuary** into the **Holy of Holies** and the **Holy Place**.

We are reminded of the vision given to the Apostle John of the New Jerusalem descending to earth out of heaven, as described in Chapter 21 of the Book of Revelation. *"And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth..."*

**FIVE**, the number symbolizing Divine Grace and Blessing (4+1 - God adding His gifts and blessing to the work of His hands as Dr. Bullinger explains it) is involved in the size and construction of the Court around the Tabernacle. The pillars forming the boundary were 5 cubits high with 5 cubits between each, the total number of pillars being 60 (5x12) testifying to the **Grace of God** which operated in the choice of Abraham's seed through Isaac and Jacob to be the People of His earthly Kingdom.

The Tabernacle was arranged in three departments and their dimensions are significant in portraying God's earthly Kingdom as originating with **Abraham** and extending in stages to embrace the whole earth.

The total area occupied by the Tabernacle and Court was 100 cub. by 50 cub. or 5000 square cubits. Taking the square cubit as representing an earthly year this represents **5000 years**, the period from the Epoch of Abraham to the end of the Millennium or Kingdom Age, (2000 + 2000 + 1000 yrs.) when under Christ's rule national Israel finally yields the fruit of her atonement, becoming a "kingdom of priests and an holy nation". This area represents the whole period of God's successive dealings with the **earthly seed of Abraham**.

The Court of the Tabernacle was separated from the surrounding Camp by a wall made of curtains. The area of curtaining necessary to surround the total area of the Court was 1500 square cubits (50+100+50+100 =300) x 5. Again taking one square cubit to represent an earthly year we have represented a period of **1500 years**, i.e., approximately the time allotted to the Law Age during which Jehovah was worshipped symbolically, the Atonement being made only in symbol. It began with the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai and ended at the Crucifixion, when the **One, Perfect, Final Sacrifice** was offered which would suffice, for all time, to atone for Sin.

In Romans 6:23 we read: *".... the wages of sin is death;* (the death of the body while the soul awaits the judgment) but reading further we find that *"... the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* This means that the wonderful blessings of eternal life lived in communion with God Himself (John 17:3) can be obtained as a gift through the PERSON of Jesus Christ. The symbolism has ended. Faith must now be directed to a PERSON.

**How is this possible ?**

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ, Whose very name means "Jehovah the Saviour", was the Promised One of Whom it was written: *"Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God."* (Heb.10:5-7)

He was God's Only Begotten Son, the Perfect Sacrifice provided by Almighty God Himself to make atonement for the sin of the world, of whom it is written that *"... once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."* (Heb. 9:26)

His claim to be the Son of God was endorsed by His Father. *"For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* (2 Pet.1:17) In Acts 2:22 the Apostle Peter speaks of Him as *".... a Man approved of God..... by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him....."*

He was the only MAN ever, to do always the Will of God. He was, therefore, wholly righteous and totally without sin. His was the only Perfect Life ever to be lived on this earth - the only Person qualified to make atonement for Sin.

The **LAW AGE** stressed the fact of judgment and death as a result of sin. The Court of the Tabernacle, with its **Brazen Altar** and **Laver**, its **Sacrifices** and **Oblations**, spoke symbolically of that judgment.

First inside the Gate of the Court stood the **Brazen Altar** where the offerings, or part thereof, were consumed by the ever burning altar fire, which had originated from the Presence of Jehovah in the **Holy of Holies**. The Bible tells us that *"... our God is a consuming fire"* which portrays His righteous judgment, of which brass is symbolic, being used for the Pillars of the Court, the Altar of Sacrifice and the **Laver**.

**The Altar:**

The Altar was so built that it was able to endure the burning of thousands of burnt offerings. Indeed about 500 years after it was built by Bezaleel, Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it. Thus the Altar typified Christ as the only One Who was able to endure the consuming fire of God's judgment against sin and the sinner. As the smoke of the Burnt Offering ascended continually up to God signifying His acceptance of the offering, so the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ signified God's acceptance of **His all-sufficient Sacrifice**.

Looking to the future Revelation Chapter 1 verses 13-15 picture the glorious Risen Christ girded with a golden girdle, His eyes as a flame of fire, *"and His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace...."* This typifies our Lord as the future Judge of the World *"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: that all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father."* (John 5:22)

Three future judgments are recorded in Scripture. The first refers to believers at our Lord's return. *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."* (2 Cor. 5:10)

The second refers to the Nations at our Lord's return. *"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:...."* (Matt. 25:31-32)

The third refers to the judgment of individuals at the end of the Kingdom Age. *"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."*

*"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."* (Rev. 20:11-12)

A number of Offerings (Sacrifices and Oblations) were required to symbolise the many aspects of that One Perfect Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary, and the student of the symbolism in relation to each offering is rewarded with a glimpse of profound spiritual truths. We cannot even imagine the depth of suffering He endured in order to present Himself as the final **SIN OFFERING**, in order to bear the judgment of a Righteous God on the Sin of which we all are guilty. As the **Sin Offering** of infinite worth, our Lord Jesus Christ satisfied the law and justice of God and so was accepted by Him in place of the penalty man had incurred through sin.

But the **Sin Offering** had been provided by God Himself in order that His great purpose as expressed in Rev. 21:3 might eventually be achieved. *"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."*

## EXTRACTS FROM SPECIAL OFFICE BRIEF

9th July, 1997: CHINA AND RUSSIA

From a top source:

"The chairman of Russia's parliamentary defence committee, the normally pro-government General Lev Rokhlin, launched a serious attack on President Yeltsin's defence policy on 24th June. The most important part of Rokhlin's outburst was his warning on China.

We reported on the growing strategic alliance between China and Russia. This alliance continues to develop, with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin returning from his late June visit to Beijing promising to give added impetus to "military-technological cooperation" with China.

But there is also some strong opposition in Russia to developing the strategic partnership with China too far. Russia's naval commander Feliks Gromov is one such opponent.

We predicted that fears about China's intentions towards Russia's Far East could become a significant rallying point for those who oppose the current regime in the Kremlin. It is not, therefore, surprising that in his attack on Yeltsin's neglect of the armed forces General Rokhlin played on this very point. He warned specifically that China's ascendancy in the Asia-Pacific region posed a long-term threat to Russia's sparsely populated, resource-rich, eastern territories.

In language that could hardly be more explicit, General Rokhlin warned: "With your [Yeltsin's] attitude to national defence, in the first 20 years of the next millennium Russia could lose its Far East region and Siberia right up to the Urals."

When the Russo-Iranian Axis finally bogs down Russia in a hopeless Middle East situation (as it will), China will strike at Russia, and of course also eventually at American, interests in the Far East. In the meantime Dr. Kissinger commands building up China, as do such as Lord Howe and Sir Edward Heath. It will (one day) be looked back upon as having been imprudent.

The Atlantic Powers should assist neither China nor the Russo-Iranian Axis. Both are contrary to Atlantic interests as future events will evidence."

21st July, 1997. THE RUSSIAN POSITION

"There is a very influential body of opinion within Russia which foresees the dangers of the Russo-Iranian Axis and of China. It opposes an adventure in the Middle East. It is, however, strongly Slavist and would require the support of the Bosnian Serbs and would oppose the extension of NATO eastwards.

It is a significant influence. It is on good terms with the Orthodox Church and Greece. It is, however, convinced that US policy under Clinton is anti-Serb and pro the Bosnian Muslims. It doubts if it could avert a quarrel with Clinton over the Balkans and it fears that would cut off American financial assistance to the Russian economy.

It is very closely associated with powerful Russian military opinion. It considers Yeltsin to be on the way out. Whether it can reverse the Russo-Iranian deal we do not know. Certainly it cannot unless the Atlantic Powers drop their anti-Serb activities, which Germany tends to encourage. However, it is certainly anti Chinese aims, which it greatly fears, and (it must be said) it correctly foresees."

In so dying our Lord was indeed doing the **WILL OF GOD** - The Father Who had provided His own Son as the Sacrifice, as proclaimed in John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

### The Laver:

As the Priests washed their hands and feet often each day at the **Brazen Laver** that their **Ministry** at the Altar and in the Holy Place might be acceptable to Jehovah, so also the Christian should go regularly to the Word of God for **cleansing**. Ephesians 5:26 speaks of cleansing - "*with the washing of water by the word.*"

From the Word of God we learn which of our thoughts, words and deeds are displeasing to God and are thus able to **judge ourselves** and to approach Him in repentance through the atoning sacrifice of His Son. 1 Corinthians 11:31 promises that "... *if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*"

The Furniture and Offerings of the **Court** expressed to Israel the means by which the sinner could approach God in either repentance or in worship, because of the judgment borne by the **Righteous One** on their behalf.

The Offerings of the **Church Age**, however, are **moral and spiritual**. Believers are exhorted to present their bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God (Rom. 12:1); are to lay down their lives for the brethren (1 John 3:16) and, as "*an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by (through) Jesus Christ.*" (1 Pet. 2:5)

### THE CRUCIFIXION

It is sometimes asked "If the importance of the Sacrifice of Christ was in its **spiritual** result, why was the Crucifixion necessary?"

The Crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ also provided a corresponding outward symbol of an **underlying spiritual reality**. This has been expressed by the Reverend Tuck in the following words:

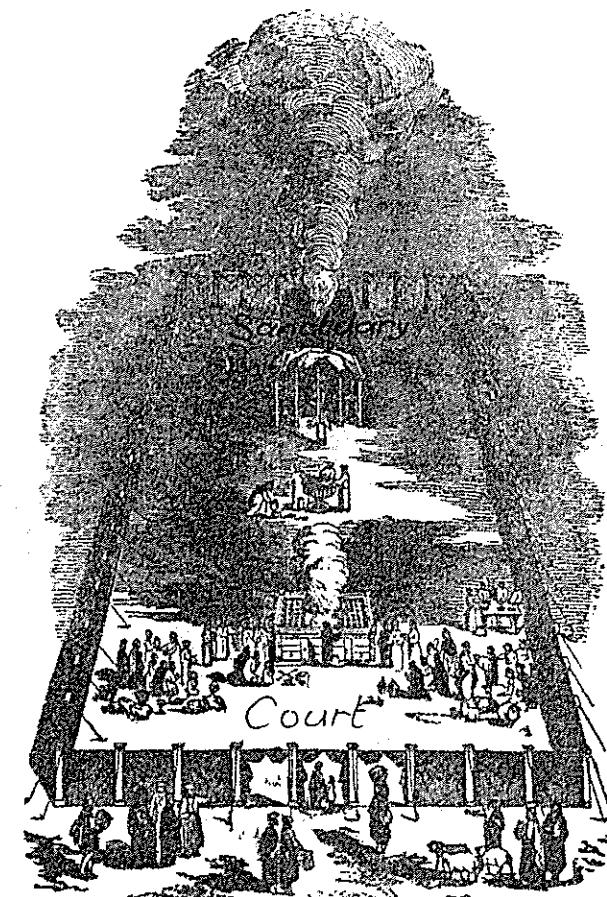
"If the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus had been only a spiritual sacrifice, if it had found no expression in bodily sufferings and a violent death - if no blood had been shed - we men, so enslaved by the senses, could never have grasped it, or apprehended it.

Christ's bodily sufferings and blood-shedding are not, in themselves, His great sacrifice, they are the **form** it took for bodily eyes to see; the body it wore for this mortal sphere; the temple within which the real sacrifice of an obedient will was offered."

And so the **Law Age** closed - the **One Great Sacrifice** was finally made; the **Perfect Life** offered up in **obedience to the Will of God**; and every symbol associated with the **Court** of the Tabernacle, its Altar, its Laver and its Offerings, fulfilled in detail.

(Asst. Ed.)

## THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS





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**THE GLORY OF THE LORD**

*"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."* (Luke 2:8-14)

Glory belongs to God: He is the God of Glory (Psa. 29:3), the King of Glory (Psa. 24:7-9) and the Father of Glory (Eph. 1:17). In Him all the glorious moral attributes shine in infinite perfection, and are demonstrated by His wisdom, love, majesty and power. (Rom.11:33-36)

The visible manifestation of glory is connected with light and 1st Timothy 6:14-16 speaks of God as "*dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto*". Because of the brightness of His glory God has manifested His Presence to men shrouded by clouds.

The glory cloud protected Israel from the pursuing Egyptians: "*...and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: and it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these (Israel): so that the one came not near the other all the night.*" (Exod. 14:19-20)

At the time of the giving of the Law '*the glory of the Lord abode upon Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days... And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the*

*eyes of the children of Israel" (Exod. 24:12-18) The bright cloud of God's glory led Israel through the wilderness "...the cloud of the Lord was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys." (Exod. 40:38) At the dedication of Solomon's Temple "the cloud" filled the house so that the priests could not minister: "for the glory of Jehovah had filled the house of Jehovah." This visible symbol of God's glory is often called the SHECHINAH being from the Aramaic *shakan*, "to rest".*

Just as the cloud veiled the glory of Jehovah so the flesh that our Lord assumed in becoming Man served to veil His glory. But although His power and majesty were veiled His moral glory shone forth in that He was the personification of Truth and the manifester of supreme grace. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

On the high mountain when the Lord Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James and John "His face did shine as the sun and His raiment was white as the light". After the appearance of Moses and Elias "behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, 'This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.' " (Matt. 17:1-5) The brightness of the Lord's glory blinded Saul on the road to Damascus but enlightened his soul. (Acts 22:6-11)

The Apostle John was given a vision of the New Jerusalem which "had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." (Rev. 21:23) The Lamb is now risen and glorified as He had requested of His Father just before His arrest: "And now, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." (John 17:5)

1st Corinthians 2:8 pronounces Him the "Lord of glory" and Hebrews 1:3 speaks of Him as God's Son "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high..."

At the ascension of our Lord a cloud received Him out of their sight (Acts. 1:9) Those who take part in the First Resurrection will be "caught up .... in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thes. 4:13-18), and His return to earth will be accompanied by the glory cloud: "... then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." (Luke 21:27)

The glory cloud was taken from Israel because of their wickedness but when Zion has finally been cleansed it is to be restored: "And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night." (Isa. 4:5) Then shall be fulfilled the words of Isaiah 60:1-3 "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. 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. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." (Isa. 60:1-3) (Asst. Ed.)

## THE MINCHAH

*"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows  
(i.e. the judgment due for our sin):  
yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.  
But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
he was bruised for our iniquities:  
the chastisement of our peace was upon him;  
and with his stripes we are healed." (Isa. 53:4&5)*

Five different types of Offerings were necessary in the Tabernacle Worship to portray the One Perfect and Complete Offering made to the Father on Calvary. These were the Sin and Trespass Offerings; and the Burnt, Meat (Meal), and Peace Offerings (the sweet-savour offerings offered in worship and thanksgiving).

### THE BURNT OFFERING (Lev. 1:1-17; Lev. 6:8-13)

Burnt Offerings which were wholly consumed on the Brazen Altar taught the total consecration of Jesus Christ to the Will and Purpose of God. "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour." (Eph. 5:2 Refer also: John 4:34, 6:38; 14:31 and Heb. 9:14.)

To the believer the Burnt Offering symbolizes the offering up of "self" to God. We should not be self-oriented but seek rather to live lives which please Him. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom. 12:1 Ref. 1 Cor. 6:20)

### THE PEACE OFFERING (Lev. 3:1-17; Lev. 7:11-21)

The Peace Offering ('peace' = prosperity, welfare, joy, happiness). Whereas the Burnt Offering was wholly consumed on the altar - offered in totality to God, only the blood and the fat of the Peace Offering were offered to God on the Altar. The priests received their portion and the offerer his. All were to share in the blessings provided through the Sacrifice. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...." (Rom. 5:1 Ref. Rom. 8:6; Col. 1:20) It spoke of that complete reconciliation accomplished by our Lord. Verse 19 of 2 Corinthians chapter 5 states "...that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."

The Peace Offering ended in a joyous feasting together of the priests with the offerer and members of his family and household, in the presence of God in the Court of the Tabernacle. As believers we can feast together in the spiritual fellowship of what has been accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ. This "peace" which has been made possible by the blood of His Cross has been typically manifested in this age in the Communion of the Bread and Wine.

### THE SIN OFFERING (Lev. 4:2-35; Lev. 6:24-30)

The Sin Offerings taught of the atonement made for Sin by the Perfect Sacrifice of the Son of God. "For he hath made him to be sin for us,

*who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (2 Cor. 5:21) The blood and fat of the Sin Offering were burnt on the Brazen Altar typifying the Perfect Life to be accepted by God, but the remainder was burnt outside the Camp because, typically, it bore the sin of the offerer.*

So Christ died outside the Gate of the City bearing our sin but by His blood shed (life offered) on our behalf He made atonement for our sin. "We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his His reproach." (Heb. 13:10-13)

### THE TRASPASS OFFERING (Lev. 5:6-7; Lev. 7:1-10)

The Trespass Offerings were made to atone for the various sins and transgressions committed in every-day life against God and their neighbour. Trespasses involve any contravention of God's perfect Moral Law in thought or deed. Our Lord died not only to atone for Sin as a principle but for the sins we commit from day to day. "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross...." (Col. 2:13-14)

It is our responsibility to constantly confess our sins in repentance and to make restitution where possible. And we are assured that "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

### THE MEAT OFFERING (Lev. 2:1-16; Lev. 6:14-18)

The Meat (Meal or Cereal) Offering was an oblation not a sacrifice like the other four. There was no shedding of blood - offering up of a life. It involved instead, grain, flour, cakes and the first fruits of harvest, i.e., the fruits of labour, indicating the consecration of our abilities and efforts to the service of God rather than to the fulfilment of our own ambitions.

A small portion of the Meat Offering was burnt upon the Brazen Altar, the remainder was eaten by the priests. "And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." (John 12:23-24)

The Hebrew word for Meat Offering is MINCHAH meaning "the gift of an inferior to a superior". *Minchah* is translated 'offering' in the story of Cain and Abel (Gen. 4:3-5). Such a gift should always be worthy of the person to whom it is given or of the office held. Whereas Abel chose his best to offer (the firstlings and the fat), Cain did not bring God the firstfruits, just something that would "do". Abel's offering was given in love and worship, Cain's as a duty. Knowing their hearts, therefore, God "had respect unto Abel and his offering" but not unto Cain and his offering.

30th July, 1997.

THE IRISH COMPLEXITY

"At the heart of the numerous comings and goings, hypotheses and forecasts, etc., is the now only really effective issue, viz. future nuclear terrorism. It is the issue. It terrifies all three Governments, i.e., British, Irish and American. It also terrifies John Hume, whose entire future will be altered when a nuclear device no larger than a baseball is the conclusive weapon. It involves the Loyalist para-military, which may be forced to follow on and are already preparing to do so in order to establish an Assured Mutual Destruction deterrent which the London Government dares not mention. This extraordinary situation would not have come about had the IRA been taken out 10 years ago, and if a vast Russian Black Market had not come into being (which Yeltsin cannot now control). The internal Russian political scene is chaotic.

The British Public has no idea that this nuclear complication now exists. None of the Irish politicians (North or South) dare to mention it. But it is now the prime issue. It will become the same in respect of all Terrorist groups with sufficient money. While doing all they can to keep the facts from Public knowledge, a fudged Ulster "peace" process is to continue if possible. All concerned already know that Sinn Fein and the sundry Unionist parties cannot possibly agree upon a future constitutional settlement which the paramilitaries will accept or a Referendum majority will endorse.

All concerned therefore well know it will eventually boil down to one of two decisions:

1. Taking out by force of all para-military elements which could acquire nuclear devices - almost now impossible.
2. Allowing the para-military groups to establish a form of Mutual Assured Destruction, as did NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Both the above are fraught with problems and great dangers, and both arise from the existence of external parties with ample money and open Black Markets. The two such parties are the Russo-Iranian Axis and China. Both aim at the destruction of the Atlantic system, of which the British Isles (as a whole) are a vital geographical strategic part. We really, therefore, face a World issue. It will have to be faced one day, whether we like it or not. The quite false theory that Russia and China have a mutual aim of a joint challenge or attack upon the U.S. is ludicrous. China's aim is to take out Taiwan and Korea, and to destroy Russia and India. China believes that as a result the U.S. will eventually evaporate as a Super Power. China sees no necessity to attack the U.S. ....

This Office is convinced that the great new formative occurrence is the approaching gigantic contest between the Atlantic System and the Russo-Iranian Axis arising from the single issue of Jerusalem. Into that China will impose herself with aims of her own. The outcome will decide the nature and character of the next entire Epoch. It is for that dramatic occurrence for which we should prepare and condition our minds. It will culminate within (at the most) a decade.

It is stupid repeatedly to question such successes as have in fact been gained by the Atlantic System, as many ill-advised fringe groups do. The Atlantic System did, in fact, defeat and bring into acute crisis the entire Russian Marxist system. It compelled the fall of the Warsaw Pact system. It so weakened Russia that Moscow could not even stand up to Chechnya and was forced virtually to surrender. It must firmly further guarantee Israel for strategic reasons. Russia's aims in the Middle East are now hopeless without the assistance of Iran, and even with that assistance will not be attained because China will intervene at the final crisis.....

Above all the Atlantic System must face the fact that it will itself perish if it dares to proclaim acceptance of every form of Prostitution, so called Liberalism, etc., which the Creator has warned must be rejected if we wish to survive. Upon that rule and authority the entire Atlantic System was founded. Throw it away and we shall perish, for physical reasons alone. All this must be faced, and in particular at this time of extremely complex perils such as approaching nuclear Terrorism, etc., etc. Now is the critical hour at which to awaken. It is not the time to allow politicians to mislead, or help crazy cults to prevail. It is the time to look to the Rock from which we were hewn."