

# The Berean Christadelphian

*A monthly magazine devoted wholly to the exposition and defence of the Faith once for all delivered to the Saints, with the object of helping to make ready a People prepared for the coming of the Lord. Opposed to the unscriptural teachings of the papal and protestant churches of the world.*

**Edited and Published by:  
G. A. Gibson, Apt. 607, 1501 Woodbine Ave., Toronto 13, Ont., Can.**

*“They received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many believed.”—Acts 17: 11.*

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**We are anxious to send the Berean FREE to any desiring it that way. Please do not hesitate to request it. If you know of any who might like it, please send us their names.**

**CHRIST IS COMING SOON AND WILL REIGN ON EARTH**

## **Ecclesial News**

*We plan, God willing, to list ecclesias in Jan., Apr., July & Oct. issues  
PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS OR CHANGES*

### **AUSTRALIA**

**ESPERANCE**, W. Australia—2 Emily St.—Mem. 11 am; Class Thur. 7:30 pm. Bro. Ray Hodges (same address).

### **CANADA**

**EDMONTON**, Alta.—Bro. & sis. David Blacker, 12308 39A Avenue.

**HALIFAX**, N.S.—Bro. & sis. J. Jackson, 82 Glenforest Drive; Ph. (902) 4534731.

**HAMILTON**, Ont.—Sherwood Rm., Wentworth Arms Hotel, Main & Hughson Sts.—Mem. 11 am. Bro. John Fotheringham, Apt. S-32, 895 Upper Gage; Phone (416) 389-6595.

**JAFFRAY**, B. C.—Bro. Fred Glazier.

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**LETHBRIDGE**, Alta.—633 Seventh St. S.—Mem. 11am; S. S. 12:30 pm; Lec 7:30 pm; Class Wed. 8 pm; Bro. W. Blacker, 1225 6th Av. S.; (403) 327-5663.

TO the brethren and sisters far and wide throughout the land: Loving greetings in the bonds of faith. Peace and goodwill to the honor and glory of our Father in heaven.

We have had the pleasure once again of assisting two others to put on the Name of Jesus through the waters of baptism, after a very good confession of the things of the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. They both received the right hand of fellowship on Sunday morning, Dec. 29.

They are **NORMAN WALTER BLACKER**, the son of our bro. & sis. James Blacker, members of this ecclesia. Norman has been a Sunday School scholar all his life. The other: **ARTHUR JOSHUA HOLLINGS**, a great student of the Bible and of the Signs of the Times. We wish them Godspeed in the narrow path to the Promised Land.

Our bro. & sis. Edward Truelove (Richard), and bro. & sis. David Blacker (Edmonton), have been welcomed to the table of the Lord. Bro. Truelove lectured for us on: "What Must We Do to Be Saved?"

The Gentile times are fast coming to an end, and Zion's glad morning will soon be here.

With love to all the brethren and sisters, and may we have the pleasure of meeting together with all God's faithful servants in the Kingdom of God. —bro. Wm. Blacker

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**LONDON**, Ont.—Christadelphian Hall, 166 Central Ave. (1 block west of Richmond)—S. S. 10:15 am; Memorial 11:30 am; Lecture 7 pm; Class Wed. 8 p.m. Bro. Dan E. Gwalchmai, 29 Devonshire, Phone (519) 438-7730.

**MONTREAL**, P.Q.—Massey Rm., Central YMCA, 1441 Drummond—Mem. 11 am. Bro. E. Kercher, P.O., New Glasgow, P.Q.; Ph. (514) 438-2635. Phone near hall: sis. Irene Baines (514) 788-5306

**TORONTO** 17, Ont.—Leaside Gdns., 1073 Millwood Rd., Ph. (416) 421-4944—S. S. 10 am; Mem. 11 am; Lect. bi-weekly 7 pm; Class other Sun. eves, in home. Bro. G. A. Gibson, Ap. 607, 1501 Woodbine Av., Toronto 13; (416) 425-1256.

**RICHARD**, Sask.—Mem. 10 am; S.S. 12 noon; Lec. last Sun. 8 pm; Class Fri. 8 p.m. Bro. Fred G. Jones, Rte. 1; Ph. Richard 6, ring 15.

**VANCOUVER**, B. C.—At home of sis. Mary Newton, 4125 Smith St., Burnaby, B. C. Phone (604) 433-9998—Memorial 11 am. Bro. Ralph Hobkirk, 949 Belvedere, North Vancouver, B. C. Phone (604) 988-5941.

**WATERFORD**, Ont.—Bro. & sis. J. Edward Williams, Box 338.

### **GREAT BRITAIN**

**BIRMINGHAM** 34—46 Falmouth Rd.—Mem. 11 am—Bro. Leslie Allcock.

**NEWPORT**. Mon.—3 Constance St.—Mem. 11 am—Bro. Ken Williams.

**PENGAM**, Mon.—"Ashleigh House," Commercial St.—Bro. T. Lambert

### **NEW ZEALAND**

**PAPAKURA**—Bro. A. Starr, Ardmore R.D., via Auckland.

**WHANGAREI**—YWCA Hall, Rust Ave.—Mem. 10:30 am; Lecture 7 pm. Bro. M. J. Griffin, PO Box 55, Whangarei.

### **UNITED STATES**

**BOSTON**, Mass. 02115—Hastings Hall. 320 Huntington; Phone (617) 5367800— S.S. 10:30 am; Mem. 11:45 am; Lect. 2 pm 1st & 3rd Suns.; Bible Cl. Tues. night south of Boston, Wed. night north of Boston. Bro. Kenneth MacKellar, 86 Walnut, Reading» Mass. 01867, Phone (617) 944-9094.

**BALTIMORE**, Md. 21207—3617 Forest Hill Rd.; Ph. (301) 944-3870—Mem. 10:30 am (home to home). Bro. Russell C. Frisbie (same address).

**BUFFALO**, N.Y.—100F Hall, Kenmore at Myron, Kenmore, N.Y. 14217; Ph. (716) 877-9363—Mem. 10:15 am; S. 3. 11:45 am; Class Wed. 8 pm. Bro. W. J. Kling, 372 Ellicott Crk. Rd., Tonawanda, N.Y. 14150; Ph. (716) 693-6796.

**CANTON**, Ohio—YMCA, 405 Second St. NW—S. S. 10 am; Mem. 11 am. Bro. Kenneth Passwaters, 1922 Genoa St., Massilon, Ohio 44646; Ph. (216) 477-1324.

**DENVER**, Colo. 80209-432 S. Emerson; Ph. (303) 777-9575—S.S. 10 am; Mem. 11 am; Class Tues. 7:30 pm. Bro. John Osborne (use above address); Ph. (303) 4244894.

**DETROIT**, Mich. 48227—12954 St. Marys—S.S. 10 am; Mem. 11 am.; Class 7:30 pm. Bro. G. Growcott (same address); 313-272-0349.

**EVANSVILLE**, Indiana 47711—Sister Carolyn (Mrs K.B.) Thompson, 3015 Blossom Lane.

**HOUSTON**, Tex 77012—8008 Junius St.—S.S. 10 am; Mem. 11 am; Public Lecture 3rd Sun 7:30 pm; Notes on the Apocalypse other Suns. 6 pm; Daily Reading Discussions Wed. 7 pm. Bro. C. Banta, 815 Boston, Deer Park, Tex. 76550, phone (713) 479-2568.

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**LAKE ARIEL**, PA. & **WANAQUE**, N. J.—Mem. 10:45 am—Home of bro. H. Sommerville, Lake Ariel 18436, or home of bro. D. Sommerville, 224 Conklintown Rd., Wanaque 07465, Ph. (201) 8354751.

IT is a pleasure to inform the brethren and sisters that two more of our Bible scholars have put on the Saving Name of Christ in the Divinely prescribed way, through the waters of baptism.

On Jan. 19, REBECCA and MARY SOMMERVILLE, daughters of bro. David & sis, Ruth Sommerville, were immersed at the meeting hall of the Worcester ecclesia. Our prayer to our Heavenly Father is that our two new sisters may endure the trial of their faith in patience (1 Pet. 1:7) and be found pleasing when our Master returns to this perplexed and violent world.

We deeply appreciate the cooperation of the Worcester ecclesia in the use of their indoor facilities for the double immersion, and the help in the preliminary preparations and the actual immersions. The Scriptures assure us that such labor in the Lord is not in vain if we hold our faith firm to the end.

Recently bro. David & sis. Cathy Clubb, and bro. Peter Pyne, of the London, Canada, ecclesia, visited us on a long weekend, at which time bro. Clubb exhorted us when we assembled ourselves around the table of our absent Lord.

—bro. Nick Mammone

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**LAMPASAS**, Tex. 76550—Christadelphian Hall, Ave. I East—S. S. 10 am; Mem. 11 am. Bro. Ross Wolfe, 1802 Rumley Rd., Lampasas, Tex. 76550; Ph. (512) CH 2-5249.

**LENEXA**, Kansas 66015—Bro. James Ross, 9122 Noland Road.

**MASON**, Tex. 76856—Christadelphian Hall, Hwy. 386—Mem. 11 am; Class 2 pm. Bro. W. Edwards, Ranch Rte., Harper, Tex. 78631; Ph. (512) 864-3064.

**MIAMI**, Fla. 33155—3428 SW 65th Ave.; Ph. (305) 667-7828—Mem. 10:30 am; S. S. 11:30 am; Class Wed. 7:30 pm. Bro. Thomas S. Lumley (same address).

**MINNEAPOLIS**, Minn. 55409—Bro. Roger Walker, 4210 Nicollet Ave.

**NEW PORT RICHEY**, Fla.—Bro. & sis. Chris Bird, 710 Pennsylvania Ave.

**NO. SPRINGFIELD**, Vt. 05150—Bro. & sis. Edgar Sargent Jr., PO Box 285.

**PORTLAND**, Ore. 97212—3344 NE 24th Ave.—S. S. 9:45 am; Mem. 11 am; Lec. 7 pm; Bible Class Wed. 8 pm. Bro. Arthur R. Tilling, 2212 NE Precott, Portland 97211, Phone (503) 287-3064.

**SAN ANGELO**, Tex.—English Room, Cactus Hotel—(2nd & 4th Sunday): S. S. 10 am; Mem. 11. Other Sundays at homes. Phone near hall: sis. LaRue (Mrs. Donald) Smith, (915) 655-7665. Rec. bro: bro. Bill Muter, 1717 West Ave. I, San Angelo, Texas 76901, phone (915) 653-7434.

**S. CALIF.**—S. S. 10:30 am; Mem. 11:30 in homes. Bro. W. Sharp, 140 Princeton. Claremont, Calif 91711 Phone (714) 626-0490.

**WARREN**, Ohio 44483—Bro. Thomas Tulloch, 1043 N. Park Ave.

**WORCESTER**, Mass. 01607—Vasa Hall, 1 Ekman St.; Ph. (617) 753-4492—S. S. 10 am; Mem. 11; Lec. 2nd-4th Suns. 2:30 pm; Bib. Cl. Tue. twice mo. 8 pm; Bro. W. Davey, Strawberry Hill, Dover, Mass 02030; (617) 785-0881.

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## **EDITORIAL**

### **It Is Written**

*"Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope"—Rom. 15:4*

THE above verse, if it stood alone, should be sufficient to impress upon our minds that the things written in the book of Genesis are just as important as any other part of Scripture.

That is one of the main points brought out in our last message. At that time we concluded with a reference to Gen. 4:4. Our next reference is found in—

**Gen. 4:8**—"And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him."

This is referred to by Jesus in Matt. 23:35 and Luke 11:51, and by John in 1 John 3:12.

\* \* \*

**Gen. 5:18**—"And Jared lived 162 years, and begat Enoch."

**Gen. 5:24**—"And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."

In v. 14, Jude refers to Enoch as being the seventh from Adam. In Heb. 11:5, Paul has considerable to say about him—

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God."

When Jesus and the apostles quoted from the book of Genesis, it is plainly evident that they believed the things written were literal facts.

How is it possible then for anyone to contradict them and say that many of the things recorded in the first 11 chapters of Genesis are not literal, but figurative. Let us be extremely careful we are not led away by "good words and fair speeches."

\* \* \*

**Gen. 6, 7 and 8**—the record of the Flood.

In Heb. 11:7, the apostle speaks with full assurance—

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house;

"By the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

Peter speaks of the Flood in the same confident manner—

"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water"

(1 Pet. 3:20).

But the apostles were not alone, for Jesus refers to the Flood in the same emphatic and characteristic style of speaking:

"As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

"They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage,

"Until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the Flood came, and destroyed them all"

(Luke 17:26-27).

Let the scoffers scoff, and let the doubters doubt if they wish, but one thing is certain, no matter what they say, it does not alter the facts.

When Peter, Paul and Jesus speak as they do about the Flood, the fact of its occurrence is established. Should the sceptic not be satisfied, and demand tangible evidence, it is now available.

In the spring of 1929, Sir Leonard Woolley and his crew were excavating on the site of Ur, an ancient city in southern Babylonia, when they discovered a layer of clean clay a little over 8 feet in depth. Of this he said—

*"The bed of water-laid clay deposited against the sloping face of the mound which extended from the town to the stream or canal at the northeast end, could only have been the result of a flood; no other agency could possibly account for it."*

\* \* \*

Our final reference from the first 11 chapters of Genesis relates to Abraham, the father of the nation of Israel.

**Gen. 11:31**—"And Terah took Abram (whose name was later changed to Abraham) his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, Abram's wife; "And they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; "And they came unto Haran, and dwelt there."

Stephen, an early disciple described as being "a man full of faith **and of the Holy Spirit**," when making his defence before the Council, speaks of this—

"Then came he (Abraham) out of the land of the Chaldeans, and dwelt in Charran: "And from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell" (Acts 7:4).

\* \* \*

With this, we conclude our detailed references to the first eleven chapters of Genesis, and will now direct your attention to the Old Testament, as a whole, and give you what we feel is not only interesting but instructive.

There are 284 passages in the Old Testament that are quoted in the New Testament, and 23 of these come from Genesis.

Then there are 122 references to the Old Testament in the New Testament, which are not exact quotations. 19 of these come from the book of Genesis.

And finally, there are 134 references in the New Testament to incidents recorded in the Old Testament, of which 51 come from the book of Genesis.

If one should ask why these statistics are given, there are two specific reasons. First, they demonstrate the inseparability of the Old and New Testaments, and prove that the New is based upon the teachings of the Old.

The second reason is to show the invulnerability of the writings of Moses, especially the book of Genesis.

These two reasons, when they are combined, should strengthen our faith, and give us the courage to withstand those who are speaking perverse things with the idea of drawing away disciples after them.

Let it never be said of any of us, "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures." But rather, let us in the words of bro. Roberts steadfastly maintain that—

*"The inspiration of the Bible is the basis of our hope, and the ground of our submission to what the Bible commands. Take this away or make it doubtful and you loosen the bond that connects us, and establish a principle of spiritual decay that will soon bring death."* —Editor

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## **Fraternal Gatherings**

(If the Lord Will)

**PORTLAND, Oregon: Sat., Sun., Mon., July 12-14, 1969**

Bro. A. Tilling, 2212 NE Prescott, Portland, Ore. 97211; (503) 287-3064

**HYE, Texas: Mon., July 28 to Sun., Aug. 3, 1969**

Bro. C. Banta, 815 Boston, Deer Park, Tex. 77536; Ph. (713) 479-2568

**WORCESTER, Massachusetts: Oct. 10-12, 1969**

Bro. W. Davey, Strawberry Hill St., Dover, Ma. 02030; 617-785-0881

## **New Heavens and New Earth**

By BROTHER JOHN THOMAS

*"And I saw a New Heaven and a New Earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea" — Rev. 21:1*

### **THE FORMER HEAVEN AND EARTH**

YAHWEH Tzvaoth having punished the host of the high ones in the heavenlies, and the kings of the earth upon the earth (Isa. 24:21); and having established the Great White Throne in the heaven without pope, emperor, or king to dispute His supremacy and sovereign will; the Moon is effectually confounded, and the Sun put to shame.

Reigning on Mt. Zion, and in Jerusalem, before His Ancients (the 24 Elders and the 4 living Ones) gloriously (Isa. 24:23), there is developed in the world a new constitution and order of things, ecclesiastical, secular, and spiritual.

In the prophetic style, this "economy of the fulness of the times" (Eph. 1:10) in which "all things in the heavens," thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers, and "all things upon the earth," peoples, nations, and languages, are gathered together under one head, is termed "A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH."

Now the Heavens of this new economy are the successor of those that fled from before the Elohist faces of the Eternal Spirit sitting upon the Great White Throne in Zion; and for which no vacant spot is found upon earth for their continued existence (Rev. 20:11).

In the New Heavens nothing can find place but Elohist Spirit; for flesh and blood, which are corruptible, cannot inherit the Kingdom of the Deity, which is indestructible, ever-continuing, and to be left to no other people, as successors of those who establish it in the hour of premillennial judgment (Dan 2:44; 1 Cor. 15:50).

These Heavens, which destroy and rejoice over Babylon the Great, and transform the constitution of "the Air" upon which the terrific judgments of the 7th Vial exhausted themselves, are bright with the glory of the Deity, which—radiating from Zion—enlightens the world.

In them the Sun of Righteousness is the orb of perpetual day; and His Bride, the Moon and Constellations which reflect his splendour. In these heavens there is "glory to the Deity in the highest"; nor is there anything unclean, or that worketh abomination, or loves and invents a lie. On the contrary—

"They declare the glory of Ail; and the expanse showeth the work of His hands.

"They that be wise are the bright expanse; and they that turn many to righteousness, the stars of Olahm and beyond" (Dan. 12:3).

Their happiness and honor will be to—

"Show forth the praises of Him Who hath called them out of darkness into His marvellous light" (1 Pet. 2:9)

So that as children of the light and of day (1 Thess. 5:5)—

"Day unto day will utter speech, and night unto night will show knowledge. There will be no speech, and no words, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out in all the earth; and their words to the ends of the world.

"Among them he hath set a tent for the Sun; and he, as a bridegroom coming out from his chamber, will be joyful as a mighty man to run toe course.

"His going forth is from the end of the heavens, and his circuit unto the ends thereof; and there is nothing hidden from his heat" (Ps. 19:1-7).

Paul quoted from this beautiful passage in his letter to the saints in Rome, 10:18, and applied v. 4 as predictive of the universality of the apostolic proclamation.

But this was not all that the prophecy intended. How much more fully will it be accomplished when Christ and all the prophets, apostles, and saints, accepted and approved of him, shall have brought all nations into the blessedness of Abraham and his Seed!

The New Heavens and New Earth (styled apocalyptically "the Former Heaven and the Former Earth," and termed in Rev. 21:4, "the Former Things passed away") are the **Second** Israelitish Heavens—reckoning the Mosaic as the **First**; the destruction of which is treated of in 2 Pet. 3; Heb. 8:7-13.

But though the Mosaic Heavens were to be fired, and dissolved, and their elements melted with the fervency of the heat, he consoled his brethren of the circumcision who believed with the assurance that they would be succeeded in the appointed time by—

"New Heavens and a New Earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

**These are the Millennial Heavens, to establish which is an important element of the work to be done by Christ at his appearing in power.**

"I have put My words in thy mouth,"  
—saith the Eternal Spirit to him in whom He would afterward manifest Himself—

"And I have covered thee in the shadow of Mine hand, that I may plant THE HEAVENS, and lay the foundations of THE EARTH, and say unto Zion, Thou art My people" (Isa. 51:16).

When this work is accomplished, Zion will have put on her strength, and Jerusalem, the Holy City, her beautiful garments; and thenceforth there will no more come into her the uncircumcised and the unclean (Isa. 52:1).

When the Lord Jesus and his Brethren come to be enthroned, the King and Princes of the State, then Jerusalem's widowhood will be ended; and she will no more be the afflicted and the tossed with tempest, and the uncomforted. They will be the precious stones of her foundations (Isa. 54:4, 11).

And the constitution of the Kingdom restored again to Israel will be the New Heavens and the New Earth, and—

"The former (Mosaic) shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

"And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; and the voice of weeping shall no more be heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days; for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being 100 years old shall be accursed.

"And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the days of a tree are the days of My people, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

"They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of YAHWEH, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

"The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock; and dust shall be the serpent's meat.

"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith YAHWEH; for the earth shall be full of knowledge of YAHWEH, as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 65:17-25; 11:9).

### **THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH**

"And I saw a New Heaven and a New Earth"—Rev. 21:1.

The reason given why a New Heaven and a New Earth are introduced is—

"Because the Former Heaven and the Former Earth had passed away."

The Millennial Constitution of the World, as may be perceived from Isa. 65, is not perfect. It will be a great advance upon both the old Mosaic, and the Times of the Gentiles; but it will fall far short of the constitution and order of things BEYOND the Thousand Years.

We learn this from Paul in his reference to the visions and revelations granted to him (as it would seem) for his own exclusive benefit; for he would not, could not, or might not, communicate what he had seen and heard (2 Cor. 12:1). Speaking of himself, he says—

"I have known a man in Christ 14 years ago (whether in body, I know not; or without the body, I know not; the Deity knew), such an one suddenly transported unto a THIRD HEAVEN.

"I have known such a man, that had been transported into the PARADISE, and had heard secret things, which it is not lawful to utter."

This third heaven, or paradise in full manifestation, is John's "New Heaven and New Earth," in which "there is no more sea."

In the "Former Earth" which passes away, there is sin, and degeneration, and death. And because of the existence of sin, and flesh and blood, and death, there are mediatorship and priesthood, and ruling with iron rod, in the "Former Heaven."

These things are not to continue permanently. Sin, which is the transgression of law, must be wholly and finally suppressed; flesh and blood must be exterminated from the earth; disease and death, which are "the wages of sin," abolished; mediatorship and priesthood—necessary in the offering to the Deity of gifts and sacrifices for the sins of the erring and the ignorant (Heb. 5:1-2)—"delivered up to the Father"; and religion (which is a divinely-appointed remedy for an existing breach between the creature and the Creator) superseded, as having answered its purpose and being therefore no longer necessary.

All these things (pertaining to the Former, or Millennial, Heaven and Earth) John saw had "passed away."

In the final annihilation of the Devil by the judicial fire of the Deity in the destruction of the postmillennial Gog and Magog rebellion against the government of the Saints, the bruising of the Serpent's Head by the Woman's Seed is consummated.

Henceforth, the earth (not burnt up, but perfected and rendered the paradisaic arena of all the unutterable joys and beauties and ecstatic things beheld and heard of Paul) becomes a fitting habitation of Deity in unmediatorial intimacy with the humblest of mankind; for then the Father will be "the all things in all men." How truly great, then, is the voice John heard out of the heavens—

"Behold the tabernacle of the Deity with man, and He will dwell with them;

"And they shall be His peoples, and the Deity Himself will be with them, their Deity"

(Rev. 21:3).

They shall all of them be divine people, like to the Saints then the rulers of the nations for the past 1000 years.

Having come forth from the graves, they become (together with the living who suffered not themselves to be deceived by the Devil and Satan and seduced from their allegiance to the King of kings in the Gog and Magog revolt) the postmillennial HARVEST of the dead and living, of which Jesus and his Brethren are the FIRSTFRUITS.

"The Rest of the Dead" being thus added to these Firstfruits, the whole number given by the Father to the Son is complete.

"And the Deity shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death;

"Nor shall there be sorrow nor crying, nor pain any more: for the former things have passed away.

"And there shall be no more curse" (Rev. 22:3).

Such is the consummation of the Divine purpose in the creation of the heavens and the earth. He "formed it to be inhabited" (Is. 45:18): to be a tabernacle for Himself with men.

He could, had it pleased Him, have created it perfect, and filled with immortal inhabitants, at the beginning. This would have prevented all the crime and misery that blot and crimson the record of the past.

But then the world would have been a characterless automation, and unfit for association with the Governor of the Universe, Whose attributes are moral, as well as intellectual and potential.

He desired a society for our planet consisting of tried and faithful friends, such as Abraham, who loved Him better than his dearest son. He proposed to develop it upon the principle of belief in His promises and obedience under trial; and to crown the whole with incorruptibility and life.

Having prepared such a society as this, and concentrated it from all ages and generations into one glorious community, He would then put His hand to the final completion of its dwelling-place, as He declared to John—

'Behold I make all things new.'

When these true and faithful words are fulfilled—

"IT IS DONE!"

Everything is finished by the Alpha-Spirit, who began the work in the week of days, and—as the Omega-Spirit, the Beginning and the End—completed it in the week of 1000's of years.

The invitation to a participation in the sublime inheritance is liberal, and worthy of the Deity, Who saith—

"I will give to him that is thirsty of the fountain of the water of life freely.

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be Deity to him, and he shall be to Me a son."

### **NO MORE SEA**

*"And there was no more Sea"*

THE sea referred to in this oracle is that apocalyptic confluence of "many waters" or "peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues"—a restless troubled sea whose waters cast up mire and dirt (Isa. 57:20). Out of this sea the dominions arose represented by the Beast with 7 Heads and 10 Horns (Rev. 13.1).

This sea was turned into a "Lake of Fire burning with brimstone" when mingled with fire. And it became "before the throne a sea transparent like to crystal" when the Saints stand upon it as conquerors, celebrating their victory over the Beast and his Image, and over his sign and the number of his name; and singing the Song of Moses and the Lamb (Rev. 4:6; 15:2).

For 1000 years this sea of flesh and blood continues transparent as crystal, and unruffled by the tempests of human passion, ambition, and wickedness. In all this period the sea of nations is calm; and—

"Every creature in the sea, saith, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be to Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for the aions of the aions" (Rev. 5:13).

Being "blessed in Abraham and his Seed," they have access to the healing leaves of the Tree of Life, which breathe forth an odor, or savour, of life unto life (2 Cor. 2:15-16) by which multitudes of them "are being saved" (Rev. 21:24; 22:2).

But flesh and blood, or Sin's flesh, is radically bad. When Paul subjected the nature he possessed in common with all the race of men to an enlightened scrutiny he declared that 'in his flesh dwelt no good thing.'

He felt that he bore a loathsome, leprous nature, which he styled "a vile body"; so that it caused him to exclaim—

"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?"

(Rom. 7:18-24; Phil. 3:21).

Such a nature is incurable. It is essentially turbulent, rebellious, and prone to evil; and can only be controlled by the power of divine principles, or an iron despotism.

**When either of these are relaxed, it becomes presumptuous, and hostile to authority in doctrine and government.**

Nations that in the beginning of the Millennial Aion had been "joined to Yahweh and became His people," will be represented in the end of that Aion by a generation practically unacquainted with the torment of the judgment hour, when their sea was mingled with fire.

Seducers will arise among them, and lead them into revolt. This creates a crisis, in which flesh and blood nations are annihilated; and caused to cease for ever from the earth; whereby is at length fulfilled the saying to Israel in Jer. 30:11—

"Though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee."

When this "full end" is made, the immortal inhabitants of the earth will be able to say, in the words of this prophecy, "The Sea is no more." When the sea-nations, then, are made a full end of, but one nation remains the eternal occupant of the earth.

Flesh and blood having been abolished in the destruction of "the last enemy Death," that one nation must be a nation of immortals. It continues eternally a Body Politic under the sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Saints; for the promise concerning him is—

"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest;

"And YAHWEH Elohim shall give unto him the throne of his father David;

"And he shall reign over the House of Jacob for ever; and of his Kingdom there **shall be no end**" (Luke 1.32).

David understood the promise made to him as well as to Mary in this sense; for YAHWEH said to him (Ps. 89:29-37):

"His throne shall endure as the sun before Me.

"It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in the heaven."

Hence, the Body Politic will be an everlasting Israelitish Kingdom, all the subjects of which will be incorruptible and deathless; and its Kings and Princes, the glorious immortals who had already twice conquered the world, and between conquests, ruled it 1,000 years.

But in view of this, what becomes of Paul's saying—

"Then cometh the end, when Christ shall have delivered up the Kingdom to the Deity, even the Father" (1 Cor. 15:24).

There is no contradiction between Paul, Gabriel, and David. The delivering up is in the sense of that "subjection," or subordination, to the Father, implied in the abolition of Mediatorship.

Hitherto, no one could have access to the Father, but through the Son, for (John 5:22)—

"The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment to the Son; because he is a son of man."

But, when "the sea is no more"; when there cease to be men of flesh and blood upon the earth, then this reason ceases to have any force. The Father resumes His position of direct relation to all, seeing that He is then "the all things in all" the dwellers upon earth, who are spirit, or consubstantial with Himself.

The delivering up is the change of the constitution of things, made necessary by the destruction of the Devil and his works—the destruction of Sin's flesh and all pertaining to it.

If there had been no sin, there would have been no Mediatorship. Man could always have stood naked in the presence of his Maker without being ashamed.

But when "the sea is no more," the breach between the Deity and man is thoroughly and completely repaired; and the Kingdom is placed under a new constitution, or heaven and earth, suited to the altered condition of the world.

There being no more judgments to execute nor gifts and sacrifices to offer for ignorant and erring mortals, the High Priesthood of the Melchisedec Order is vacated, and the priestly office of the Saints abolished; while pre-eminence of rank is continued to them and the Captain of their salvation, as long as sun and moon endure.

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## **God Loveth a Cheerful Giver**

IT was one of the grounds of God's rejection of Israel after the flesh, that they were lacking in the spirit of ready benevolence, finding expression in abundant deeds of kindness.

It will be a ground found not lacking in the case of those sent away from the judgment seat, with weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. The apostles speak pointedly on the subject. John asks—

"Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, HOW DWELLETH THE LOVE OF GOD IN HIM?" (1 John 3:17)

—Bro. Roberts.

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## **Voyage to Australia**

**By BROTHER ROBERT ROBERTS**

*"They that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord and thought upon His Name."*

**PART TWENTY-ONE**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1896**

FEELING very unwell, but, with rest, managed to get through the lecture at night on the first and second comings of Christ.

\* \* \*

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1896**

GOT through a quiet day: reading, writing, resting. In the evening, met a number of the brethren and sisters, socially, at bro. Walker's.

After tea, to prevent the talk becoming discursive and unprofitable, bro. Conolly took the chair, read a chapter, made a few remarks, and called on every person present, one by one, to do the same.

Among others, he called on sis. Walker, who, it seems, before her submission to the Truth, took a prominent part in female politics, and was considered a good lecturer. She now declined, remarking that it would be out of place on various grounds recognized. A very profitable evening was spent.

\* \* \*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 1896**

MET with the brethren in their meeting-place—a commodious room in a leading street, capable of seating 200 people. Bro. Conolly presided, and informed us that the meeting was much larger than usual that morning. Bro. Clark was present from Whangarei; 2 brothers Starr (father and son), and sis. Starr, 2 sisters of Sis. Barclay, of Dunedin: and one or two others that I do not remember.

In the evening, I lectured to a full house, on "The Jews," with some difficulty.

\* \* \*

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1896**

GOT the turn, and now feeling better. Writing and a solitary walk filled up the morning.

At 2 o'clock, Bro. Jones came for my "things," and took them to the station for conveyance to Onehunga, the west port of Auckland, 7 miles off.

Sis. Leitch and I followed shortly; and at 4:25 we got into the train, which contained bro. Clarke, sis. Walker, and some others. In about half-an-hour, we were at Onehunga, alongside the steamer Takapuna.

I was obliged to go forward by steamer because, although there are many 100's of miles of railway in New Zealand, there is a break of about 100 miles in the middle part of the North Island.

Bidding affectionate farewell to the brethren and sisters with the certainty that in all human probability we should never meet again till the coming of the Lord, I got on board the vessel, which shortly afterwards "loosed from her moorings" and set forward.

It was a good while before we were out to sea, because of the extensive land-locked harbour (measuring not less than 20 miles in all directions) that had to be cleared. For a long time we seemed to be sailing in an immense lake, with distant view of mountains all round. By-and-by the mountains opened and let us out by a narrow channel into the wild ocean.

It was very wild. It was rough enough inside the bay or sound—wind high and the water perky, turbid, and angry-looking. But when we got outside, it was a regular gale, in darkness, with torrents of rain, and mountain waves, in which the vessel rolled and tossed and plunged and wrenched in a manner threatening her stability.

I afterwards saw that another steamer broke her propeller in the tumult, and drifted helplessly for many days in imminent danger of running on the rocks, till rescued by another vessel (in which I am due to make the Pacific voyage).

But nothing happened to our propeller or to anything else. The vessel was powerfully engined, and sped her way with great rapidity through the storm for 12 hours or so, when we came to a halt in quiet water at New Plymouth.

\* \* \*

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1896**

MOORED alongside the new wharf. New Plymouth is not exactly a harbour, but an indentation on the coast sufficient to form a small bay of fairly smooth water.

A train was standing on the wharf, waiting to receive us. But the morning was so wet and windy that it was a misery to land. I let everybody get ashore before I followed.

Standing on the gangway, in the dripping and gusty discomforts, was a tall old man, in rigid felt hat, with white beard and bushy white eyebrows, who begged to be excused, but was my name Roberts?

It was bro. Gold, of Hastings, near Napier, more than 200 miles away. He had come to convey me, by rail, to my next appointment.

I felt sorry that any human being, especially a venerable man visibly getting towards the inevitable, should turn out at such an unreasonable hour on such a morning on the mere courtesy of seeing me land.

However, I must not let my sorrow prevent my thankfulness. No fear! Bro. Gold was quite serviceable in the process of transferring the impedimenta of travel—a process which, however, ought not to have difficulties that now belong to it.

It ought to be so done that passengers should not only have no trouble, but no anxiety as to the fate of their poor belongings while other people are handling them, and perhaps recklessly piling heavy weights on them.

Instead of that, they and their things are hustled into the most absurd and distracting situations, and all brought to the level of barbarism from which they are at other times painfully trying to elevate themselves.

As in this case, a company of excited people were jammed into a space on a platform in which they could not move without rudeness, and standing before a mass of luggage piled roof high as it were before them, and were peremptorily summoned in a guard's stentorian voice: "Claim your luggage!"

Easily said, but as one said, "That is what we want to do, but HOW are we to do it?"

It was done at last after an amount of scowling and scuffling that gave every man cause to be ashamed. What a picture an instantaneous photograph of this scramble would make! I will not stay to describe how it COULD be done without rousing every selfish instinct and turning decent people into demons for the time being.

For one thing, it would mean spending more money than present management would tolerate. It therefore could not be done now. It would require the setting aside of the present management to begin with, and the substitution of a new management (which is coming) to which "salary would be no object," but the comfort and well-being of all—the object.

Why not? Money is poured out like water in building iron clads and maintaining vast armies and nursing a sumptuous aristocracy. We want a management with power to turn the money streams into other channels, and wisdom to apply it in kindness and wellbeing.

Oh, my railway directors and snug railway shareholders, and hustling, shouting porters, such a management will shortly be installed without your consent!

Meanwhile, you are doing your level best in an evil world, and are entitled to the cheap votes of thanks you sometimes get for working things in a better way than the Maoris knew before you came.

The case is bad, but might be worse. But nothing is prejudiced by a glance at a better Day "near at hand to come."

Two-and-a-half miles from the pier we had to get out and change into another train. There was a stay of 20 minutes, during which the passengers, having had no breakfast, were expected to get something at the refreshment-room—if they could manage it, after a renewed struggle over the luggage.

I settled this latter question first, and then, at the instigation of bro. Gold, repaired to the so-called refreshment-room, which was an office-table, temporarily changed into a buffet—at which the lowest charge for anything was 1 shilling—when there was anything there.

But the passengers had all been before me, and everything was cleared out except a solitary cup of lukewarm liquid called tea, and a sausage roll, or the elements of food twisted and tormented into as unwholesome a shape as possible.

I was more fortunate than two others, however. While I was hurriedly swallowing my "refreshments," in the momentary fear of hearing the train whistle, an inflamed and angry Englishman, who had evidently just finished his luggage agony, burst into the place and demanded something or other, in a very lordly style.

The single booking-clerk (temporarily turned into a waiter) told him there was nothing left—whereupon the infuriated John Bull swore in the most lordly style, threatening to report the scared booking-clerk.

Most absurd! Most unreasonable! Most unbeautiful.

How different the demeanour of the next applicant, who had the same reason for bluster, but had been taught in a different school—the Lord's school of meekness and self-restraint and endurance.

I had just finished and gone when he came in. He was told a gentleman had just been and had the last drop of tea. This was cruel.

It was bro. Gold, who I supposed had been served, when he came and sent me to the refreshment-room. My supposition was wrong. He had nothing, and now had to go without altogether.

Well, well. Everything mortal has an end.

We got into the train and in two hours found ourselves at Stratford—a small township of 900 souls, lying in a fertile plain, in the shadow of the sea.

What brought us to this small and out-of-the-way place was the presence in it of 3 sisters—Blair, Anderson, and Barben, who had enterprisingly invited a visit, and had arranged for a course of 3 lectures in the chief hall of the place.

Two of them met us at the railway station and conveyed us to the house of sis. Blair, which is called "the Castle," and at which a knitting factory is carried on.

The Castle was converted into a hotel on this occasion; for besides bro. Gold and myself, bro. & sis. Jenkins, from Hawera, 20 miles off, were entertained for several days under its hospitable roof, and also an interesting young lady with an interesting history, Miss Sherwood (who became sis. Sherwood before she left). Miss Sherwood came from Patea, 40 miles to the south, to be at the lectures.

The 3 sisters had 3 husbands, who all observe an attitude of friendly neutrality. Let us hope this may be converted, in one case at least, into alliance and co-operation for Christ's sake.

It is a peculiar position for 3 women to be placed in, to be the single-handed witnesses for the Truth in the place of their sojourn—without any brother to lead them.

This position is now at an end, through the submission of a neighbor, Mr. Nash, who was baptized before we left. But for some time, matters had been in the form described.

They had a meeting place, with table and benches, in which they assembled weekly for the breaking of bread—reading the Sunday morning addresses in the absence of a brother to speak to them.

Presuming faithfulness to the end, we must suppose the Lord will say, "Well done," to such a unique ecclesia, composed as may be imagined, of women of Israelitish stamp—with that strength of conviction and capacity for management and knowledge of the Truth which have enabled them to sustain so unusual a position. Sis. Blair, in particular has earned for herself a high degree in the matter.

Day mainly devoted to conversation and writing.

\* \* \*

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1896

A WALK out into the country after writing. The air delightfully bracing, and the aspect of the great mountain in the background grand. The land in all directions for miles is cleared.

Roads, with one or two exceptions, a little primitive, but what can be expected in a district that 16 years ago was all virgin forest (or "bush" as it is locally called)? The state of cultivation is wonderful in view of this.

The soil is soft, rich, and dark: the vegetation bright and kindly: crops of all kinds luxuriant, and yielded 2 or 3 times in the year.

A feature everywhere visible at present is the gigantic tree stumps by the road side, and large fallen tree trunks in the fields, and extensive groves of bleached, leafless tree skeletons.

The latter feature is due to the method most commonly adopted of clearing the forest off the land. The axe is laid at the root of the biggest trees (and many of them are very big, 12, 15 and 20 feet in circumference at the base).

These fall and wither. Fire is then applied to the dried branches, and there is a conflagration which kills and consumes the undergrowth, many of the smaller trees as well, but leaves the skeleton remaining. This, in due time, rots, and is easily cleared off the ground.

While it is rotting, the land is sown with grass, and used for grazing cattle. Afterwards, it is put under the plow—all very pleasant to read about, but dreadfully hard work in the doing. But what is it a man will not do for his life?

In the evening the first lecture, "What Are Things Coming To?" An audience of perhaps 100—large for such a small place.

There was never so quiet a meeting, said Mr. Blair, in the place before. The speakers usually indulge in buffoonery, and the audience quick to respond.

Bro. Gold presided, and bro. Jenkins read the chapter.

At the close, the aforesaid Mr. Nash came forward in a state of the deepest interest, not entirely due to the lecture. He said that some time ago he picked up a waste copy of the City Hall Lectures, which had been thrown aside by some one (to whom, presumably, it had been sent by post in the distributions that some of the sisters had made—this he did not say.)

The reading of it had impressed him exceedingly. He had been for years a religious man, but was getting to feel dissatisfied with the system around him. He felt there was more in the Bible than the preachers knew: and when he read the pamphlet, a new world opened before him. He had never hoped to have his desires so entirely gratified.

He saw Christendom Astray advertised on it, and had managed to get at it. When he heard the author was coming to Stratford, he was elated beyond measure: and with the lecture now heard, he was delighted. He was now desirous of conference with a view to obedience.

\* \* \*

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1896**

Sis. Blair had arranged that a party should ascend Mt. Egmont on horseback today, to "view the landscape o'er." I was to have been taken in a conveyance curiously called the "sulky," and put on horseback for the last 2 miles of the journey—(a distance of 17 miles in all, to "the moss line," though the mountain seemed so near).

But the day proved unfavourable so we had to be content with a sight of the mountain from a distance. But even this was difficult, for, as on several other days, the mountain was so often wrapped in cloud from peak to base as to be entirely hidden from sight—so entirely that the beholder could not at such moments tell that there was a mountain there at all

The mountain is just double the height of the highest in Britain, and is an object of great beauty seen from great distances all round. It helps to impart an invigorating character to the air over a large district.

Instead of going up the mountain, we visited a highly finished bit of clearing some miles out, the work of a single man, who has found his happiness in subduing and tilling a small portion of "the face of the ground" with his own hands.

Years ago, it was virgin forest: now it is a flower-garden, with an artificial lake, as fair and well-kept as any gentleman's grounds in the neighbourhood of London.

One corner of the land he has left in its original wild state, as a curiosity for visitors. There you see the giant trees of the New Zealand bush (it is much taller and more luxuriant than Australian bush), rearing their massive trunks away up into a distance lost from sight in the branches of other trees.

The whole place was very interesting; but how will it valuate as a life's work? There were well-kept villas and plantations in Pompeii: but, "Lo, they are not," and their proprietors are unknown. So it is in 1,000 cities that were not overwhelmed in volcanic ash. So it is in every generation.

Human industry is good, but not sufficient by itself. A man must know, love, and serve God to fulfil a part in this universe equal to his original design.

\* \* \*

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1896**

AFTER writing, indulged in a long contemplative ramble.

**A certain amount of solitude is a necessity in the present state of human society. You cannot otherwise open out the mind to the realization of the actual, the invisible, the eternal.**

You cannot pray in association with the frankness, the thoroughness, the refreshing earnestness that is possible when in the solitudes of nature. Without effectual prayer, the mind grows arid and pinched.

In the evening, lectured on "The Future State Revealed." A larger audience than before, but the comfort of the meeting was somewhat interfered with by a number of idle fellows assembled outside the door, who found pleasure in mocking my rhetorical shouts.

\* \* \*

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1896**

HAVING occupied the first part of the day in writing, and part of the afternoon in reading, paid a promised visit to the house of Sis. Anderson, who is a Swede, and spelt her way into the Truth with great difficulty many years ago.

Her interest in it is great proportionately. It has been her consolation in the midst of much trouble. She has done what her limited opportunities have allowed, to call other people's attention to it—with no result as she imagined, but she is now being permitted to see that her labor was not in vain.

In addition to fruit in other directions, her own daughter—an unusually intelligent girl of 16, expressed her desire to be assisted in putting on the Name of Christ, and proved, under examination the same evening, her fitness for the step.

Miss Sherwood expressed the same wish, and had a prolonged interview with bre. Gold and Jenkins—which was succeeded by arrangements for immersion on the following morning.

\* \* \*

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1896**

GOT up betimes, so that the immersions might take place in time to allow the new-borns to unite in the breaking of bread.

We repaired to a suitable spot under the high bank of an adjoining river, where the ceremony was becomingly performed by bro. Gold, who first read part of Rom. 6, and then called on another brother to pray. The assistance of sis. Jenkins and Anderson was of great value.

Assembled for the breaking of bread at the meeting-room in sis. Blair's premises. Mr. and Mrs. Nash were present, and regretted for the moment that they had not been included in the morning's baptisms.

An enjoyable remembrance of the Lord took place under the presidency of bro. Gold.

In the evening, there was a still larger audience at the third and concluding lecture, "Prophecy Fulfilled and Fulfilling."

It had been intended to hold the meeting at 6:30, but it was suggested that if the lecture was postponed till 8, many of the people attending church and chapel would come. This required the issue

of an extra bill, which the editor of the local paper not only printed, but pasted on the walls with his own hands, as an evidence of friendliness.

The result justified the change. The hall was quite full, and there was a very attentive hearing. A little attention to door-keeping protected us from the nuisance experienced on Friday night. More than one expressed an earnest interest.

Mr. Nash desired that he should be immersed before our departure, as there would be no brother to help him afterwards. He came home with us, and in conference with bro. Gold and bro. Jenkins, gave evidence of the faith based upon knowledge, which is the Divinely-appointed qualification for a valid baptism. It was arranged his baptism should take place on the following morning.

\* \* \*

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1896**

BEFORE breakfast, at the same spot that witnessed the immersions of the previous day, bro. Gold and Mr. Nash "went down both of them into the water," like Philip and the eunuch, and Mr. Nash was baptized upon his intelligent confession of—

"The things concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ."

**(Continued next month, God Willing)**

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### **"I Stir Up Your Pure Minds"**

*"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness."*

#### **SECOND PETER CHAPTER THREE**

THE history of both Israel and Christianity plainly reveals to us the wilful forgetfulness of the natural man, teaching us in no uncertain terms that man is quick to forget what God has done for him in the past and what God has promised to do for him in the future on the earth.

It is no wonder that the recurring **exhortation** theme of the Scriptures is, "Remember." And God, Who is graciously plentiful in all His ways, has given us the benefits of yet another instructive theme, so that we can also say that the recurring **admonition** theme of the Scriptures is, "Forget Not."

#### **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL FORGOT**

AS AN almost unbelievable example, we have on record the attitude of the children of Israel after they were delivered from their bondage in Egypt. Though they believed and sang praises to God (Psalm 106:12), this was only short-lived, for the next 2 verses of this Psalm remind us that —

"They soon forgot His works; they waited not for His counsel, but lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert."

No, they did not long remember, but soon forgot, which was their national characteristic repeatedly manifested throughout their history. Another example of this is the command given by God to Israel (Ex. 20:8) —

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

The vast majority of them failed to remember. They forgot, and in the forgetting they profaned God's sabbaths.

#### **CHRISTIAN ECCLESIAS FORGOT**

AS with the congregations of Israel, so also with the Christian ecclesias: the exhortation to "Remember" and the admonition to "Forget Not" were not heeded for very long.

This is the continuing double-theme of exhortation and admonition from the Old to the New Testament dispensation. Over and over and in various ways we are instructed to remember and forget not, lest we also go astray from God's revealed Truth as others did.

We have the history of the Apostasy before us, proving that Christendom is astray from the teachings of the Bible both in doctrine and conduct. No examples are needed to indicate the contrast

between what we believe and what Christendom believes on such vital Bible subjects as the soul, hell, the devil, the Kingdom of God, and even the Bible itself.

The Christian ecclesias did not remember, but forgot, resulting in their belief in lies and vanities and things wherein there is no profit, while still professing to be "Christians!"

#### **PETER'S REMINDERS**

PETER'S letters, which are reminders, are a striking illustration of exhortation to remembrance and a warning against forgetting. Especially in 2 Pet. 3 do we find him dwelling on this double theme. He says in the opening verse—

**"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you: in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance."**

Let us consider some of the things Peter presents to us in this chapter, in particular what he has to say about "pure minds," and its connection with "Remembering" and "Forgetting Not."

#### **PURE MINDS**

WHAT does Peter mean when he says the believers have "pure minds"? We can recall reading this verse over the years and, subconsciously as it were, reflecting to our self that Peter does not include US when he writes of stirring up "pure" minds, because we would indeed hesitate to claim that our minds were "perfect."

You see, we were equating "pure" with "perfect," so that we thought a "pure mind" would be a "perfect mind" spiritually.

But does Peter mean by "pure" that the believers' minds were perfect in the sense of being spiritually mature (with perhaps no more room for improvement)? If so, it would seem that such a mind would always remember the things of God, and therefore there would be no need for "stirring it up to remembrance."

Some further thinking on this verse caused us to believe that the above reasoning was erroneous. It seemed evident that by "pure minds" Peter does not mean "spiritually perfect."

#### **PURE: MEANING SINCERE**

ON looking into the meaning of the word translated "pure," we are told that —

*"The word rendered 'pure' occurs only here and Phil. 1:10 where it is rendered 'sincere'."*

So we may substitute "sincere" for "pure," and get "sincere minds." This is instantly satisfactory to us, for while we hesitate to say we have "pure minds," we do not hesitate in the least to claim we have "sincere minds."

So when we read 2 Pet. 3:1 with this wording, we are truly ready and willing to include ourselves in the number of believers addressed by Peter as having "sincere minds," and we recognize and admit the need for such a mind to be stirred up by way of remembrance.

But let us realize that to be sincere, even according to the English dictionary definition of the word, means "freedom from pretence or deceit." The question is then raised —

*"Do we have sincere minds free from pretence or deceit?"*

Certainly if we say we are sincere, we therefore are sincere, so there is no necessity to look into the matter!

**But is that so?** Anyone versed in the Truth should learn to understand that the chief teaching of God's Truth concerning the flesh is: ITS NATURAL TENDENCY IS TO DECEIT.

So while we would not, and should not, judge anyone else's sincerity, the grave instructive warning of Scripture is that we should, and can, and MUST examine and judge our own sincerity (1 Cor. 11:28; 2 Cor. 13:5).

If our mind's sincerity has been deceived, then our tendency is to "forget" God's commandments and His Word in the sense of not remembering them in the right way and the proper spirit.

### **PURE: MEANING UNOBSCURED**

As we look a little deeper into the meaning of the word translated "pure" or "sincere," we are further told—

*"The word properly refers to 'that which may be judged of in the sunshine' then it means 'clear, manifest' then 'sincere, pure'—as that in which there is no obscurity."*

Giving some thought to the last part of this meaning—about obscurity—we can see why the translators could reasonably translate the Greek word into the English word "pure": not meaning pure in the sense of being perfect, but pure in the sense of sincerity that has no obscurity.

This is an intelligible rendering, which also serves to tell us that sincerity is pure or perfect as long as it remains unobscured.

As we have seen from the English definition of the word "sincere," an obscurity arising in one's sincerity would be "pretence" or "deceit." The grave warning to each of us is: that our sincerity may be contaminated through the lusts of our flesh, resulting in pretence or deceit developing in us without our being aware of it, because that which is deceitful is supposed to go undetected in having its own way and accomplishing its work and purpose.

This can affect our mind and memory as to what we want to remember and what we want to forget. (We will have an illustration of this when we consider the "scoffers" in vs. 4-5).

#### **WE MUST BE SINCERE BELIEVERS OF GOD'S WORD**

NOW what is it to which the believers' sincere minds were being stirred up by way of remembrance? Peter himself supplies the obvious answer—

**"That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandments of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour" (v. 2).**

In a truly "pure" or "sincere" mind there is nothing that will obscure or hinder or reject what is written in the Scriptures—Old or New Testament— yet that is what the fleshly-carnal-natural mind is every moment trying to do!

Still, if the believer's mind is kept truly sincere, it will be ever ready to receive and shine forth with what the Scriptures declare to be Truth. Though a sincere-pure mind needs stirring up by way of remembrance, it is inclined to accept and desire to remember instruction from God's Word and forget it not, holding true to God's Word in a manner pleasing in God's sight.

#### **PURE: MEANING TESTED BY LIGHT**

STILL further concerning this word translated "pure" and "sincere," we are told that the Greek word means—

*"Tested by the sun: flawless: something through which the sun's rays pass."*

And this is in keeping with what Peter had already written to the pure-minded believers—

**"We have also a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn and the Day Star arise in your hearts" (2 Pet. 1:19).**

This Day Star is Christ, who is the Sun of Righteousness and the Word made flesh—even that Word the entrance of which into our being gives light (Ps. 119:130).

Peter is speaking to us of sincere-pure minds receiving the Word of God and the things of Christ UNOBSERVED—as the light of the sun's rays would pass unobstructed through something that is pure and clear. This is only possible if we remain truly sincere-minded, not deceived by the natural mind and the lusts of the flesh, WHOSE VERY STRONGHOLD IS DECEPTION.

Now, while many people in the world are sincere in what they believe, Peter is not talking about sincerity in general (though the deception-test is always valid concerning anyone's sincerity about anything).

He is talking about sincerity in reference to those who know and believe and profess to obey God's Word of Truth. It is the Truth-believer's sincere mind that Peter is stirring up, and not just **any** sincere mind.

Such a sincere-pure mind was without obscurity or flawless when it came to understand, believe, and accept by loving obedience God's Truth in Christ, permitting the enlightening influences of Christ and God's Word to pass through freely.

Working out one's salvation requires that the unobscured and flawless sincerity of the believer's mind be found to be just that when Christ reappears on earth in the judgment day.

#### **DANGER OF SINCERE MIND BECOMING OBSCURED**

IF the mind remains truly sincere in accepting the enlightening Word, which is progressively enlightening and revealing, then we will have no trouble to remember the things of God and His Word, and we will have no fears of forgetting.

But this is not accomplished automatically or naturally or easily. The Truth teaches us that there will be the trial and testing of our faith and sincerity, consisting of suffering and taking up our cross daily to walk in Jesus' steps.

It is then that the mind can play "tricks" with us. That is, we must then beware that no flaw or impurity or obstruction unknowingly invades the sincerity of our minds and convictions. There is always this danger, that such an impurity will contaminate our sincerity **unawares**.

It will not be done in any other way. It is devious, deceptive thinking that the flesh uses to get its own way, as it is written in Eph. 4:22—

"Put off concerning the former conversation (habits and conduct) the Old Man (of the flesh), which is corrupt according to the **deceitful lusts**."

We repeat that this is the chief lesson we must learn about sinful flesh—that it works through **deception**, setting forth a lie in the attractive guise of truth, causing us to believe that a lie IS truth. To do this, the thinking of the flesh must cause us to assume our minds are sincere when actually not.

The test is the Word of God. The test is Jesus Christ and him crucified. This should teach us we cannot be lenient to the flesh in the slightest degree.

So we must be extremely careful in testing our own sincerity of mind by the Light of God's Word which has been caused to be written for our instruction and learning; for if we are not extremely careful we may gradually be "hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Heb. 3:13) and finally delivered into "believing a lie" (2 Thess. 2:1142).

#### **LUST CREATES FLAWS IN SINCERITY**

PETER, in v. 2, continues his theme of remembrance—

**"That ye be mindful of the words spoken before . . ."**

And then he says (v. 3)—

**"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers walking after their own lusts."**

"Knowing this first" is in effect to say, "Learn this basic thing, and do not forget it." That which is to be learned first, or which is foremost of things to be learned, is a basic or foundation truth that will not change.

Peter is saying to the sincere-minded first century believers (and to us) that it is a basic prophecy which declares in the last days scoffers—or mockers—will appear and say—

**"Where is the promise of his coming?—for since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."**

The believer is being told that when this comes to pass he should not be shaken in his sincere-minded faith in God's Word, because he has been forewarned by the prophets and apostles. As Jude puts it—

"But, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts."

Having been so forewarned, the believer should remember this prophecy, and forget it not. Rather than his faith being obscured by the appearance of these scoffers, he should be strengthened in his conviction of the prophetic truth of God's Word which foretold them.

Let us not fail to recognize the characteristic of the scoffers. Peter states simply that it is "lusts"; and Jude says "ungodly lusts." And what caused the belief and faith of Israel to be short-lived after escaping Egypt (Ps. 106:14)?—

"They LUSTED exceedingly in the wilderness, and **tempted God** in the desert."

These are the "deceitful lusts" that can be flaws or impurities in our sincere minds, resulting in sin; and which, if not searched out and overcome, can cause us to be hardened through its deceitfulness until we accept a lie as truth!

#### **BIBLE IS FROM GOD, NOT MAN**

Going back to the phrase Peter used—"Knowing this first"—we find he prefaced another important announcement with the same phrase in 2 Peter 1:20-21—

**"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."**

Again we see that by using this phrase, Peter is saying—

*"Here is something basic. Learn this first and foremost, so you will always remember it and never forget it."*

And that Word itself will endure always, which is another fundamental truth Peter was reminding the believers of, as he wrote in his first letter—

**"The Word of God abideth forever" (1 Peter 1:23).**

So believers of any age are not to be shaken in their faith in it, not even by mockers of God's Word and Promises which WILL come to pass, accomplishing its purpose.

#### **WILFUL FORGETTING**

In answer to the scoffer's question posed in 2 Pet.3:4, the apostle explains to us in vs. 5-6—

**"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished."**

The scoffers had said—

"All things continue as they were from the beginning of Creation."

—thereby denying that God did or could interfere in the history of man on earth. But Peter charges them with being "willingly ignorant," which is to say, according to another rendering: "This they willingly forget."

Here is a "forgetting" we do not usually associate with the word "forget," for by it we usually understand a natural forgetting or a temporary failure of memory.

What Peter is saying is that these mockers were **deliberately** "forgetting" the judgment of God on the antediluvian world. This was a conscious effort by the mockers to put something out of their

mind—and in doing so they gave expression to a lie, because all things have NOT continued as they were from the beginning of Creation.

And yet it seems these mockers would consider themselves sincere in what they were stating. But we should be able to see how lusts entering into their minds had affected their thinking, causing them to see things only the way they wanted to see them. Absorbed in their lusts, they remembered only what they wanted to remember, and forgot wilfully what they did not want to remember.

We so often see this displayed in the fleshly mind in little things day by day—the mind shutting out things it does not want brought to its attention.

#### **GOD CANNOT FORGET**

IT was by the Word of God (which mockers deliberately forget) that all things—heaven and earth—were created and are sustained. And the sustaining period is in accordance with the predetermined purpose of God, the set timetable of His plan of salvation.

God has not forgotten His promises. He remembers them and will fulfil them, in due order and in due time. To comprehend this we must think as God thinks, judging the time-scale of His plan according to the way He has arranged it. Therefore we find Peter pointing out in v. 8—

**"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as 1000 years, and 1000 years as one day."**

When Peter says, "Be not ignorant," he is really saying, as the RV puts it, "Forget not." Peter is not teaching something new, but reminding the believers not to forget something pertinent to the subject under consideration which is taught in the Old Testament Scriptures.

Peter is reminding them of what is written, and telling them they should not forget it—

"For a 1000 years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is passed, and as a watch in the night" (Ps. 90:4).

We should not forget this when we may be inclined to think about the Lord's "long absence" from the earth. Then we understand and realize that it really is not a long time in the Divine Scheme of things.

#### **GOD'S LONGSUFFERING**

Not only so, but we will come to know that what some men call "slackness" is in reality the longsuffering of God planned into His redemption time-scale:

**"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us" (2 Peter 3:9).**

So let us count the years as God counts them: a 1000 years as one day, and one day as 1000 years—remembering that these periods are given to sinful, perishing men by the longsuffering of God as an opportunity for repentance (v. 9) and salvation (v. 15).

And so once again the carnal mind, which mockingly said God is slack in fulfilling His promises, is found expressing a lie, a lie which gives the wrong evaluation to the gracious intentions of God manifesting His longsuffering to sinful men.

Rather than look at the good side of things, recognizing that apparent delay in the fulfilment of God's promises is precious opportunity for repentance and salvation, the thinking of the flesh brands it as slackness.

#### **CHRIST WILL COME**

YES, the Lord will come, but his coming will be as a thief in the night (v. 10). At the set, predetermined time, the day of the Lord will come and Christ will appear on the earth. It is all according to a carefully-made and well-kept plan.

The Mosaic heaven and earth passed away about 70 AD, soon after Peter wrote this epistle. And still, after 1900 years, the "New Heaven and New Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" (v. 13) has not appeared.

But that length of time is not even two days! Before this second day is gone Christ will surely have stolen upon the earth, and have arisen as the leading Orb of the New Heavens, the Sun of Righteousness. And all the sincere-minded believers of all ages, when summoned to Christ at that time (when the Gentile order of things will pass away), will shine as Stars in New Heavens (Dan. 12; Matt. 13).

#### **WHAT MANNER OF PEOPLE WE OUGHT TO BE**

IF we want to be found of Christ in this position of favor, we must constantly remember "what manner of people we ought to be in all holy conduct and godliness," and we must look forward with eager expectation to the Day of the Lord, and His Coming, and the New Heavens and Earth (vs. 11-13).

All of these words by Peter have, as it were, the blending tones of "Remember" and "Forget Not," as also in v. 14—

**"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless."**

This description of the beloved—diligent and hard at work conforming themselves to God's characteristics—is in contrast to what is said of the mockers in v. 3 who are "walking after their own lusts."

These are the lusts of the flesh manifest in and constituting the present world order of things on the earth, and it is this present natural world-order of things that is to completely pass away at Christ's coming.

We must be unspotted by the world (Jam. 1:27) at that dreadful and glorious time of world-judgment and world-change, if we are to stand approved before the Son of Man and be granted a place of refuge from the destructive form of judgment.

Not so with those who are mockers—who mock at God's promises which embrace both salvation and condemnation: salvation to the beloved who believe, and condemnation to the disobedient who disbelieve.

#### **HASTING THE DAY OF CHRIST**

ANOTHER contrast between believer and mocker is contained in v. 12, where we are exhorted (reminded) to be—

**"Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God."**

Whereas the mocker does not believe Christ will return, the believer should be "hasting the day" or "hasting the coming." The RV renders "hasting unto" as "earnestly desiring."

Viewed in another aspect, we may say that to "haste" in this verse truly means to "urge," and the urging is applied to ourselves, so the sense would be that we are to urge ourselves onward to the Day of God.

Meanwhile, as the Day of God draws closer (today are we nearer to it than when we first believed), we must steadfastly believe in God's Word, not allowing any lust to thrive and take root, growing flaws of obscurity in our sincere-minded acceptance of His Word.

There is always this danger coming from within and without, as long as we are in this present fleshly state, and Peter is giving us gentle but firm and necessary warning against this peril to our eternal salvation.

#### **WRESTING THE SCRIPTURES**

AT the close of his 2nd letter Peter warns us against those who "wrest" the Scriptures (v. 16). We understand that this word "wrest" may also be translated "pervert." To wrest the Scriptures is to pervert them, meaning—

*"To lead or turn from the right way, or from the truth; to give the wrong meaning to; to use in a wrong way."*

As this definition shows, such a perversion of Scripture is tantamount to **not remembering** what is written therein, to **forgetting** what God has said. It is quite revealing to look into this word's derivation. We are told—

*"Wrest means pervert. The word here used occurs nowhere else in the New Testament. It is derived from a word meaning a windlass, winch, instrument of torture; and means to roll or wind on a windlass; then to wrench or turn away, as by the force of a windlass; then to wrest or pervert. It implies a, turning out of the way by the application of force."*

How horrifyingly true this is of a perversion of the Scriptures! And what can we say of wresters of the Scriptures who put forth ugly attempts to force into the Word of God something that is not there?

We see that this derivation implies something far stronger than even the dictionary definition of "pervert," for to "wrest the Scriptures" really means to TORTURE GOD'S WORD.

Let us learn to appreciate fully with heart, soul, mind and strength that "Every word of God is pure," and that "God's Word is Truth," and that God's Truth is in Christ, and that "No lie is of the Truth."

Only when we embrace this with all our heart can we say that we faithfully remember God and His Word with no desire or fear or forgetting it by omission or commission.

#### **FINAL ADMONITION AND EXHORTATION BY PETER**

THE warning is to all of us, given by Peter in v. 17—

**"Ye, therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness."**

Having been forewarned of the danger, we should take this warning to heart, and beware of being led away with the majority, earnestly praying to be kept by God's mercy in the way of Truth.

And how is this done? How do we get to that state of mind where we reverence the Word of God with enduring Faith, lively Hope, and true Love?

The answer is: by doing the opposite of what caused the others to wrest the Scriptures.

And what was it they did (or, more correctly, failed to do)? Peter tells us in v. 16—

**"In which (Paul's epistles) are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction."**

These wresters of the Scriptures are UNSTABLE (not grounded or rooted in Christ and the Truth) because they are UNLEARNED in their understanding of the Word of God.

The lesson is: **We must apply ourselves to the Word**—seek Divine knowledge as hid treasure—compare Scripture with Scripture—prove all things out of the Word AND hold fast that which is good. Only in this way can we be LEARNED (remember), and be STABLE (forget not).

Therefore we find Peter closing his second epistle with his last exhortation to the beloved of the first century, and to all the beloved of God up to Christ's thief-like Advent—

*"But GROW in grace, and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen."* —N.M.

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### **Teach Us to Number Our Days**

*"I am the Resurrection and the Life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live"*

—John 11:25

THE Scriptures plainly teach that man is mortal, subject to death, for we read—

"What is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Isaiah also testifies to the same truth by saying—

"All flesh is grass, and the goodliness thereof as the flower of the field:

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it. Surely the people is grass."

Is it morbid for us to bring such things to mind? It might be, if we dwelt upon this thought to the exclusion of others; but we must not avoid the subject of death. Rather, David prays—

"Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

And Solomon declares—

"It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men, and the living will lay it to heart.

"The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth."

It is true wisdom for us to remember that our days in this present dispensation of things are few in number. We do well to learn and accept that death will come. But it will not be a dreadful or fearful experience, if we—

'Apply our hearts unto wisdom.'

Of what, then, does this "wisdom" consist, to which we must apply ourselves? It is not the "wisdom of this world" against which Paul warns us, but that spoken of by James—

"The wisdom from above."

This is found only in the pages of the Bible, God's wholly-inspired Word of Truth, and it is there that we must diligently and daily search if we are to find the true wisdom that leads to Life. We are commanded to "Search the Scriptures." And we are told—

"The Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."

The voice of God speaking to us from the glorious and comforting pages of the Bible reminds us that we are frail mortal creatures who soon die and return to dust, but it gives us hope in the promise that we shall be raised from the dead and given eternal life, if we are faithful and obedient to the commandments of God.

This teaching is beautifully set forth by Christ to Martha—

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

How comforting these words are! And they give added emphasis to those of David—

'Teach us to number our days.'

Teach us that life is short—uncertain—and filled with sorrow: therefore our wisdom is to meditate and pray, giving diligent and constant application to the Word of God which is the Word of Hope and Life, that we may be wise unto salvation.

The reminder of our death-stricken nature helps us to put things into their proper perspective, for we then realize that we have no time for the frivolities and pleasures that absorb the attention of those in the world around us.

We must "be about our Father's business." We must ever strive to keep our lives in harmony with the revealed will of God.

Life is fleeting. It will soon be gone—all behind us. Will we be ready and prepared for life everlasting, or will we have frittered it away on foolish, passing things, doing our own will, saying as do the wicked—

"Our lips are our own: who is Lord over us?"

If we choose now to do these things, we cannot expect to find favor and blessing with God in the day when we are called to give an account of ourselves. Death, which inevitably comes to all, will be a most unwelcome and fearsome caller for those who have lived the time of their probation as though it were their own, and ignored God's precepts.

If we have no zeal or enthusiasm for attending meetings, or for meditation on the Word of God, then we must admit we are sadly lacking in that wholehearted love for God which is so necessary for true fellowship and oneness with God & His son.

If we find that this is the case with ourselves, let us do something to remedy the situation without delay. It is urgent—it is a matter of life or death, joy or sorrow, rejoicing or rejection—that we turn to God now with our whole heart. How needful— yea, how vital!—that we "apply our hearts unto wisdom."

We may invent many excuses that sound plausible to ourselves when we fail to do what is right, or when we are careless about our duties in the Truth—but how weak and foolish they will appear when we face Jesus! How small and pitiful and unworthy they will seem when we realize, at last, how great his love and sacrifice was for us—

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

This is what Christ has done for us, in order to open a way of life. What have we, who call ourselves brethren of Christ, done to show our love for him?

"The night is far spent; the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

The dark Gentile night is almost past, and the day of salvation is near. So Paul exhorts that we are to repel temptation, and keep at a distance all that might hinder us. We must "put on the armour of Light"—the beautiful and ornamental attire that becomes those called to be saints of the Most High God.

Yes, our salvation IS now "nearer than when we believed"—we are much closer to our eternal goal, whatever it may be. And "the night cometh when no man can work": this is true whether we fall asleep in Christ or remain alive until he comes. The time for working out our salvation with fear and trembling will soon be past. So—

"Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." —J.F.P.

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## **Current World Events**

### **EUROPE: WEAK AND DIVIDED**

Europe: mounting problems—in politics, trade, defence, money. Drastic austerity in France & Britain. DeGaulle's dreams of France as superpower were dashed when he had to cancel atom tests to save.

Britain, with world sceptical of its financial future, faces hard period.

Europe's Com. Mkt. is being undermined by protectionist moves of key members. Europeans, despite Russia's Czech invasion & Mediterranean build up, show little interest in defending themselves.

**Grand design of united Europe has failed. Europe more & more is a collection of individual nations squabbling over national interests.**

Europe lacks inspired leadership. Younger generation indifferent. Political co-operation more distant than ever as French, Italians & Belgians battle internal disorder.

France is weak spot in heart of Europe: economic troubles, threat of new social upheavals, no sign of orderly succession to DeGaulle.

Political war seems shaping up— France vs. Germany. Germany's emerging as predominant power in West Europe. (USN 12:9)

*Russia is so obviously & increasingly powerful that Europe has lost the will to try to resist. As soon as Russia is made respectable and "civilized" by an alliance with the Papacy, she will have little trouble in bringing Europe into line.*

### **USSR: DIPLOMATIC RECOVERY**

Soviets have made a remarkable diplomatic recovery in past few mos. Czech episode threatened to permanently impede East-West relations. But Russia has managed to muffle that unfortunate country with a minimum of force.

Furthermore, acquiescence of Prague leaders to Moscow's demands has diluted world's moral outrage.

Thanks largely to their efficient repression of Czechs, Soviet leaders have been able to patch up the quarrels within the international Communist movement that invasion caused. As result, they've won go-ahead to convene the oft-delayed world Communist summit meeting next May in Moscow.

Russia hopes then to strengthen control over international movement & perhaps even to set up a world headquarters to coordinate policy, like Stalin's Cominform.

They've managed to reassert Soviet dominance in Warsaw Pact countries & force troublesome Rumanians back into fold. (Tm 12:29)

*There was much talk of how Russia had hurt itself by the Czech invasion, but she seems to have emerged stronger, more feared, & more respected. World power is not built on love & gentleness but on force & self-interest. Europe MUST submit to Russia, & the past few months have taught Europe a healthy lesson regarding their own impotence & Russia's determined efficiency.*

### **ARAB TERRORISTS PLEDGE WAR**

Last week it seemed Mideast's 4th war in 20 yrs. had already begun. Israel & Jordan artillery opened up on 2 successive days. For first time, Israel also hit at 15,000 Iraqi troops in Jordan who recently started firing Russian heavy guns into Israel.

Last wk. the Great Powers gave fresh evidence of heightened concern fighting getting out of hand.

**Russia declared for first time it would not "permit" resumption of war—whatever that meant.**

The Arab terrorists owe no fealty to any govt. & view any settlement as a betrayal & disaster. They have power to sting Israel into repeated reprisals, and perhaps to whip Arab opinion to such a pitch that not even Nasser might dare a settlement.

In Jordan they are virtually a state-within-a-state & could probably topple Hussein & take over Jordan if they chose. And their power & influence increases all the time.

Primary source of terrorist strength are the 1½ million Palestinian refugees who for 20 yrs. have been a scattered & forlorn people. Dispossessed of homes, lands & sense of nationhood when Israel was founded, they spread thru Mideast.

Those that did not assimilate settled in crowded camps, mostly in Jordan & Gaza, where they live miserable, subsistence lives, fed by UN.

For 20 yrs. they've been pawns in Arab politics, nourished on promises of a return to Palestine & a passionate hatred of Israel. Today the camps house 540,000 including 350,000 new refugees from '67 war.

The camps seethe with frustration & anger, & provide a rich source of recruits for terrorists. With the fanaticism & desperation of men with nothing to lose, the terrorists have taken the Palestinians' destiny into their own hands.

The '67 Israel victory, as 1 terrorist puts it, "handed us the Arab people on a golden platter."

They say: "Our road is the road of death & sacrifice to win back our homeland. If we cannot do it, our children will, & if they cannot do it, their children will."

If the terrorists continue to grow they could so embitter an already desperate situation that peace might be impossible & new war likely.

**US may be forced to join Russia to impose a settlement. (Tm 12:13)**

*The interplay of all the blind human factors that are gradually leading up to the final climax of Armageddon is interesting to watch, & we have the assurance that out of all this welter of human evil, in God's wisdom & mercy good will be at last established to the glory of God & the happiness of mankind.*

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Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, is going deep in debt to Russia for arms. (USN 12:9)

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### **JAPS' RESURGENT NATIONALISM**

Okinawa's election was fraught with significance; for by demanding closing of last, most visible vestige of US occupation, voters gave clear expression to a resurgent mood of nationalism sweeping Japan.

Japan's moving ever closer to the day when it will again assert a leading political, diplomatic—and perhaps even military—role in world

**No longer are Japs struggling frantically to catch West; they've already done that. Next only to US and Russia, Japan is now world's largest industrial unit.**

Today, a surprisingly aggressive national pride can be found in almost every facet of Jap life. They've even developed a nostalgia for the war in the Pacific. Japs of all ages thronged Tokyo dept. stores recently to view drawings & paintings by war artists. A biography of Adm. Yamamoto—architect of Pearl Harbor attack—was a runaway seller. Maps showing extent of Japan's WW II empire are back in textbooks.

Japan's ambitious space & atomic-energy programs can also be expected to play a determining role. Jap spacemen, who recently launched a 2-ton experimental rocket, are far along in a program to make Japan the 4th nation (after Russia, US & France) to orbit a satellite. There's little doubt Japs see these programs as adding to their potential thrust in world.

Along with its space effort, Japan's making enormous strides in atomic energy. By mid '70s, 20,000 engineers and scientists will be in nuclear research.

**By mid-'80s. Japan will probably lead world in production of commercial nuclear vessels. Most experts agree that Jap scientists in '70s will be able to make a nuclear bomb at 6 mos. notice.**

Nowhere save perhaps in Singapore and Malaysia has British pullout east of Suez caused so much dismay as in Japan. Reason: 92% of Japan's oil comes thru Indian Ocean & narrow Malacca Straits, till now patrolled by British fleet.

When British withdraw, Japan's lifeline (which, severed, would force its major industries to close in a mo.) will be completely at mercy of unfriendly powers in Indian Ocean—an ocean that will be sailed more & more by Russians who've already shown they mean to increase their presence in the area (Nwk 11:25).

*The history of nations is, naturally speaking, an endless, meaningless, monotonous cycle of weakness & power, as they fight each other, and win or lose, & come back to fight again, & nothing is accomplished but misery and sorrow. Japan & Germany rise again, & the hopeless cycle is blindly renewed.*

### **RUSSIA IS US's # 1 CONCERN**

No. 1 concern of US abroad is Russia. Crises in Europe, Mideast, Mediterranean, Berlin—even search for Viet peace—involve actions & attitudes of Soviet leaders. Soviet unrest could goad Russia into reckless venture abroad. (USN 12:9)

### **US SCHOOL VIOLENCE GROWS**

Nov. 4—Knife-carrying students seized administration bldg. of San Fernando College, held 34 hostages.

Nov. 14—San Francisco College shut down after fights & fires broke out as black radicals protested suspension of Negro instructor who urged students to carry guns.

Nov. 21—Student mob, mostly Negroes, rampaged at Wis. State U.; 1000's of \$s damage.

Nov. 21—Dynamite bomb ripped out bldg. at Bluefield State College, forcing suspension of classes & causing decision to close dormitories indefinitely. Blast climaxed wks. of student vandalism. President given police guard after life threatened.

Nov. 26—Window-smashing demonstration at Conn. U.; several injured.

On Sept. 10, Negro students rampaged thru Ill. U. Student Union, wrecking interior. (USN 12:9)

### **BRITAIN, US TRADE SLIPPING**

Altogether, the industrial nations increased exports 116% in past decade, while Britain's rose only 45%.

US is on verge of crisis in exports. Unless US achieves faster export growth it won't be able to bring its balance of payments into line, & \$ may be threatened.

In Oct., US trade balance stumbled into a \$63 million deficit. US "commercial" trade in red in '68 for first time ever. Expected deficit: \$2 to \$3 billion. (Tm 12:13)

*50 yrs. ago Britain was supreme; 20 yrs. ago US was supreme. But Russia & Europe & Japan have taken over an ever-increasing share of the world trade & production picture. And Russia & Europe, & now Japan too, are drawing closer together industrially, to US's detriment.*

### **MANY US SCHOOLS ARE IN RED**

Broke, without credit, almost without hope, Youngstown, Ohio's 45 city schools will close. Other states have same difficulties. The near-bankrupt systems in Philadelphia & Pittsburgh are over yr. behind in pension fund payments—over \$11 million. Chicago schools in financial crisis. (USN 12:9)

*US's folly must be of God, to weaken it so Russia may triumph! It would seem impossible to be so confused without Divine judicial delusion.*

### **VIOLENCE Condoned, Unpunished**

Tom Dewey, former NY Gov., says "We've become a permissive society. Whether it's a mob or a beating up for sheer joy of it—larceny, arson are condoned & go without punishment.

"We'd better start restructuring society or somebody will do it over our heads. Liberty can't survive if gvt. doesn't keep order." (USN 12:9)

*The condoning of violence & rejecting of decency & morality is a logical & inevitable end-product of the rejection of God's Word and the adoption of the new debased paganism of Evolution with its vicious "Survival of the Fittest" philosophy.*

### **RUSSIA CRUSHING CZECHS**

There's widespread fear Dubcek has lost battle to save some freedoms introduced before Soviet invasion. A critically important meeting of Czech Central Committee pledged strong support for Russia & hinted at crackdown on freedoms.

The meeting sharply reduced Dubcek's authority by placing power in hands of a new 8-man Executive Committee, where Dubcek may find himself isolated. Most powerful man in Prague today is Russia's First Deputy Foreign Minister. (Nwk 12:2)

\* \* \*

Russian invaders have almost succeeded in 'normalizing' Czechs to their satisfaction. Last wk. 1 of few remaining & most popular of Dubcek's reforms vanished with ban on travel to West. (Tm 12:6)

*Gradually, ruthlessly, efficiently, Russia is crushing Czech freedom & bringing them back into line.*

### **NY's TROUBLES GROW WORSE**

As NY's calamitous afflictions grow worse & worse, people ask: Just how low can a city sink into a sea of troubles, & survive?

Big-scale violence erupted again in school dispute which had cost over a million pupils 7 wks. education. In new outbreaks, hordes of rebellious teenagers ran wild. Rampaging youths—with Negroes predominating—attacked schools, assaulted teachers, roamed streets, terrorized bystanders, looted stores, invaded subway trains, smashing windows & ripping seats.

An official said, "This is not just spontaneous action. They're being organized as guerrillas by black fanatics who appear determined to tear this city apart. If this thing spreads, it could become frightful racial warfare."

A wave of vandalism & fires has hit 11 Jewish synagogues in last 3 mos.

Nearly a million in NY on relief —1 New Yorker in 8. Welfare cases rising 20,000 a mo. If this rate continues, ½ population of city will draw welfare by '80.

A rash of criminal assaults on postmen has caused P.O. to put 2-man teams in ghettos—1 delivers mail while other is lookout. Housing for poor in NY is seemingly insoluble tangle. 800,000 dwellings are "substandard." (USN 12:16)

*US, the world's richest, strongest, most inventive nation, is a fitting stage for man to demonstrate his utter incompetence to bring peace & well being under the most favourable of circumstances. "There is no peace to the wicked." Man cannot circumvent this Divine decree.*

### **INVESTMENT IN GREECE SPURTS**

All at once, companies are investing millions in Greece. Search is on there for undersea oil. Texaco has drilling concession in Aegean Sea. Ionian Sea concession expected soon.

Costs—labor, electric power, transport to markets in Mideast & Europe—are relatively low. Prices, currency, govt. are stable. (USN 11:25)

### **COMMUNISTS Thwart DeGAULLE**

DeGaulle had hardly announced his franc-defending wage & price curbs before he heard from Communists. Shouting defiance, Communist-led CGT refused to apply any restraint in wage demands.

**CGT is France's biggest union—& richest. But it doesn't get rich from dues. It's financed by Moscow. It's always ready to put 40,000 chanting, yelling, marching, rioting demonstrators into the streets, or strike key industries on hr.'s notice.**

DeGaulle always has dealt with French Communists, in mistaken belief he could avoid the ultimate settlement with them. But Reds are chess players; they'll use French weaknesses to their own benefit.

Till DeGaulle can make Reds reliable (which he can't), there'll be no solution to problem of franc, no matter what program DeGaulle comes up with. (D'tNws 12:5)

\* \* \*

DeGaulle's dream of France as first-class nuclear power is deferred; maybe ended. He has cancelled '69 test program. This leaves France behind even China as nuclear power.

France has poured \$8 billion into nuclear effort. DeGaulle's dream of matching US & Russia could take dz. yrs. & \$50 billion. (USN 12:9)

\* \* \*

One French banker said: "If De Gaulle fails, the economic, social & political crisis might be absolutely terrifying. (USN 12:9)

*DeGaulle has wonderfully fulfilled God's will to divide & weaken Europe in preparation for Russia's takeover, & now he is reaping the fruits of his arrogant folly.*

### **US WELFARE: Huge & Ineffective**

In past hugely prosperous 10 yrs., 3 million have been added to dole. Today, 9 million in US get welfare. Cost rose even faster. Excluding social security & other Gvt. insurance, welfare costs \$5½ billion yrly.

Many cities find welfare threatens them with bankruptcy. In 2 yrs. NY City has added enough people on welfare to constitute another Miami.

System's methods are aimless and have been important factor in breakup of slum families. Rules bar aid to families with a father at home, so unemployed or low-paid fathers can either see family starve, or desert. Many desert. System's almost totally pernicious.

Yet most damning indictment of welfare is not inefficiency or cost: enormous as expenditures are, they help only ⅓ of the 27 million in US in poverty. Almost any change would be improvement. (Tm 12:13)

*"Almost any change would be an improvement." What a sad commentary on man's helplessness to bring well-being to his fellowman under the most blessed & favourable conditions, because he dissipates his wealth on war and pride and corruption and selfishness.*

### **US's HEAVY WORLD BURDEN**

A hard look at US's massive military commitments abroad will be 1 of Nixon's first concerns. Formal treaties pledge US to defend 43 countries around the world, plus countries such as Israel, covered by informal but nevertheless deep commitments & obligations to UN.

Over million US troops are at war or on overseas duty from Asia to Europe. 300,000 more on naval ships away from US shores. US maintains over 200 major military bases in 17 countries—& a 1000 lesser installations from Greenland to Antarctica.

Defence costs taxpayers \$77 billion yrly. Never has any nation continued, yr. after yr., to carry the global burden US does, standing guard for ½ the earth.

Nixon will find trouble or potential trouble in almost every direction; war raging in Vietnam, danger from an unpredictable China, an explosive Mideast situation, uneasiness in Europe, a time of testing by Russia, simmering crisis throughout many parts of Africa.

All that on top of unsettled problems at home, demanding urgent attention & resources already stretched thin. Can US continue to meet every crisis, handle every emergency—or has time come to cut back role as free world policeman?

In Europe, Latin America, N. Asia, W. Pacific, & SE Asia, US undertook responsibilities—with understanding allies would help.

Allies show progressively less interest. When Viet war started, SEATO proved a dud. US had to go it virtually alone.

NATO has been on ragged edge of survival for yrs. Britain, once counted on, & tied to US thru 3 treaties, is reducing its military presence in Asia to nearly nothing. France also counted on, but DeGaulle drove US out.

Russian missiles make US bases in Europe less tenable. Soon Chinese missiles will strip away security of Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Taiwan bases

### **Ever since France forced US to leave, no US overseas base is regarded as "permanent."**

In Spain, current negotiations over base rights have been bitter. In Turkey, negotiations grow more difficult, while the Govt. angles for Soviet aid. In Pakistan, US installations have been forced to close in Karachi, Lahore; lease up on important Peshawar station. (USN12:16)

*What a burden US is staggering under in its vain efforts to stem the growing tide of Russian power & ambition—burning itself out in frantic fire-fighting efforts while Russia adroitly starts new fires elsewhere at little cost to herself! US's squandered billions have bought no true friends.*

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Russia has brought ½ again as many troops into E. Europe as it had there before, & placed them farther forward than ever. (Tm 12:6)

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### **CRIME UP; MORALITY DOWN**

Rising tide of shoplifting. Thievery worse than ever, by employees & shoplifters. Changing morality permits shoplifting. We were taught stealing's wrong-period! (USN 12:16)

\* \* \*

Each yr., shoplifters are more numerous & greedy. Annual shoplifting take doubled in 7 yrs. (over \$2 billion in '67, higher in '68).

In past yrs., apprehended shoplifters would often break into tears & beg for leniency. Not today. Their attitude is hostility & belligerence. Their outlook is "I don't care. I've been there before." And there's more violence. (Tm 12:20)

\* \* \*

Harvard Prof. Wilson's gloomy conclusion: "We'll be fortunate if we can even slow crime's increase; we'll be impossibly blessed if we actually reduce crime." (Nwk 12:9)

*Man has cast aside the Word of God & the help of God, & turned to the pride & folly of his own evil heart for guidance, & he is reaping its bitter fruits.*

## **OBSCENITY GOES TO COLLEGE**

Writing that used to be seen only on washroom walls is now commonplace in US college newspapers. Many college papers make free use of nearly every obscenity in the language & most perversions, including bestiality. The trend appears to have infested colleges all over US.

The classifieds of Chicago U's paper include lewd comments, lascivious personal messages. The editor was asked if he could conceive of an ad so foul he wouldn't print it. He couldn't. **Why has obscenity been escalating in this generation?** (DtFr Pr 11:29)

*In our inexperienced ignorance we used to marvel at the corruptions of Greece & Rome and thoughtlessly assume mankind had left that all behind, but the Divine wisdom of Romans I is being fulfilled today more strikingly and more vilely than in all past history.*

## **"THE JEW CAN NEVER BELONG"**

The fear, isolation, belligerence one can still notice in many US Jews are but variations on one basic conviction, writes author Yaffe:

"That the chasm between Jew & Gentile can never be bridged; that the Jew can never really belong to the Gentile world." (Nwk 11:11)

## **FRANCE SUPPORTING BIAFRA**

Perhaps most important single reason for battered Biafra's continuing survival is steady infusion of French military aid. Armaments being flown in from nearby former French colonies.

Why's France so intent on keeping war alive? Reason is Biafran oil: million barrels a day, 1/3 the production of Kuwait.

And DeGaulle relishes any chance to annoy British, who back Nigerian govt. A 3rd reason: a united, progressing Nigeria would threaten French economic dominance of W. Africa. (Tm 12:6)

## **YR. of "BRUTALIZING CHAOS"**

Any who lived thru "this yr. of impersonal, brutalizing chaos" has reasons enough for disillusionment. Beyond assassinations, riots, race strife, there's anxiety that 20th century's out of control.

In city after city in US, strikes have closed schools, stopped garbage collections, endangered public safety. City itself seems more a malignant enemy than hospitable friend.

**What would a man from earlier century think? Surely that the species has given up its glimmer of sanity & is annihilating itself!**

Chronic world money crisis threatens political & fiscal instability for millions. "Natural role of 20th century man is anxiety," & US's bearing its full load (Tm 11:29)

*It would be terribly sad & depressing if it were not such a wonderful fulfilment of prophecy, & sign of the nearness of the end!*

## **STUDENTS RIOT IN EGYPT**

A wave of anti-Nasser protests culminated last wk. in bloody rioting. Egypt's students are chafing under harsh regulations, including ban on all public demonstrations. They've nothing but contempt for what they call Nasser's "society of coined slogans."

For Nasser, most troubling aspect was vehement turn that majority of students have taken against him personally & everything characterizing his regime—its dependence on Soviets, off-&-on anti-Americanism & curtailment of freedom. (Tm 12:6)

*We look for some change in Egypt to line up with the King of the South.*

## **RUSSIA TIGHTENS CZECH GRIP**

Russia's sudden occupation & gradually tightening grip on Czechs make it clear freedom's a losing proposition there. Public protest has put Dubcek under increasing pressures. Brezhnev warns that Russian army can control streets if Dubcek can't. (Tm 11:22)

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In Czechoslovakia, relentless Soviet squeeze is killing independence inch by inch. Czech leaders are confessing their "errors" & making fulsome pledges of devotion to Russia. Stalinists take power. Russian troops settling for long stay. (USN 12:2)

## **RUSSIA: MIDEAST BUILD-UP**

In Arab-Israel feud, Russia's preparing trouble, supplying arms & 1000's of Soviet "advisers" to Egypt. In Mediterranean, Soviet naval build-up continues. Just added: 2 missile-armed destroyers, helicopter carrier.

US expects W. Europe to act first in its own defence. France remains aloof. Britain's economizing. Expect Russia to gain on NATO. (USN 10:7)

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Last wk. Brazil's govt. imposed censorship on radio & press, put armed forces on alert, sent tanks rumbling in Rio de Janeiro, suspended Brazil's constitution & shut down Congress—indefinitely. (Tm 12:29)

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## **TV: EDUCATION or NARCOTIC?**

US spends 115 billion man-hrs. a yr. staring at TV. Incredible! In that time we could have built the Pyramids, flown to moon, achieved marvels of human endeavour.

First basic myth is that TV's a great medium of information. We're told some clergymen reached more people in 1 TV sermon than Paul did all his life.

But has this generation grown in a new-found knowledge? What, in other words, is this "information" that flows over airwaves in such volume? It's anything at all—words, music, fantasies, gossip, ads.

This bedlam of sights & sounds isn't information. Most TV is little more than small-scale movies chopped up by commercials, but even documentary TV gives us not reality but illusion of reality. The famous "reality" of TV is stage-managed.

TV's what it is because we're what we are. There's much hypocritical talk that public interest would best be served by more official regulation & more "culture" programs.

**What public wants as we perfectly know, is not education or enlightenment but narcotic entertainment—anything to kill an idle hr. or two. Broadcasters cater to tastes of majority. (StEvPt 11:68)**

*If the world itself can see the wasteful and destructive folly of this universal narcotic, sure the enlightened child of God should, who realizes the value of time and the joy & responsibility of "ALWAYS abounding in the Lord's work."*

## **ANOTHER AFRICA ARMY COUP**

Last wk. Mali, impoverished, land locked country carved out of Sahara sands of former French Sudan, became latest African nation to fall victim to an endless series of coups.

A clique of young pro-West army officers, increasingly concerned over growing Chinese influence, arrested China-leaning President.

The coup dealt another blow to long-nourished Chinese dreams of a sphere of influence in Africa. In last 3 yrs., Chinese have been forced by pro-West military coups to leave Dahomey, Ghana, Burundi & Central African Republic. Now they'll probably soon have to leave Mali.

As encouraging as all this must be to West, coup was a setback to democratic process in Africa. Of 36 Black African states, 9 have military regimes. All 9 rode a coup to power; all promised free elections; none has been held. (Nwk 2:12)

*Bro. Thomas' deep grasp of the prophetic picture of human affairs is nowhere more clearly manifested than in his perception of the hollowness & mockery of "democracy." Growing up in the deceptive aura of post-WWI days, we used to wonder if he were right. As in so many other things, experience increasingly deepens our respect for his discernment.*

## **NIGERIA IS RUSSIAN TARGET**

Two yrs. ago, before the bloody civil war, Russians had been seldom seen in Nigeria, which was still basically a British sphere of influence. Now, Africa's most populous & dynamic black nation is a prime target for Soviet efforts to get an African foothold.

War gave Russians their chance. When Nigeria looked to its traditional friends in London & Washington for arms, US looked away, Britain dawdled. Russia forthrightly stepped in (so eventually did Britain) selling Nigeria modern military equipment—including MIG jets—& sending technicians to train.

"Behind our new attitude toward Russia," says a high Nigerian official, "is feeling of appreciation."

Naturally Russia has been quick to exploit the opportunity. They're making a big pitch for trade. This Soviet economic offensive is likely to expand. Among projects Russians are seriously considering is huge iron-&-steel industry complex.

Russians have stepped up cultural propaganda. 100's of young Nigerians in Moscow universities.

**Of far more immediate danger are Soviet efforts to penetrate powerful Nigerian Trades Union Congress, with membership of 300,000. NTUC is actually a front for Communist-led "Socialist Workers & Farmers Party" which was banned when military took power. (Nwk 12:9)**

### **POPE FSGHTS PRIEST REVOLT**

The Pope last wk. criticized dissenting priests & bishops who, he said, are duty-bound to defend letter of Church's doctrines. "Who today speaks of hell?" he asked, "This is not liked & discussed. Everyone chooses the truths he likes."

Pope's complaint came only 3 days after a commission of cardinals publicly demanded the liberal Dutch hierarchy revise its controversial catechism. After yr. of squabbling with Vatican, the Dutch still won't alter passages that leave Virgin Birth, etc., open to "further doctrinal development."

Pope sees no room for reinterpretation. He unambiguously affirmed Catholic doctrine must be understood precisely as explained in past.

"The very formulas in which doctrine has been defined cannot be given up," he warned. "In its own teaching, Church is intransigent & dogmatic—at any cost." (Nwk 12:16)

\* \* \*

A deep & growing crisis in papal authority: '68 most tumultuous yr. for Catholic Church since Reformation. Everywhere factional disputes split churchmen over issues from liturgical changes to Virgin Birth to "theology of revolution."

It was in 1870 that the Papacy passed thru its last real crisis, as Italian Army occupied Papal States. In that yr. too, a council of bishops defined Pope's infallibility—bulwark of Pope's claims to obedience from all Catholics.

Now spirit of submission being washed away by rising tide of dissent. When Paul ascended throne in '63, Vatican Council was in midst of updating Church top to bottom.

Pope is innovating boldly on operational side; putting brakes on change in theology, ritual & dogma.

**He's giving much attention to relations with other Christian denominations & non-Christian religions.**

Pope's trying to re-establish full papal authority over pace & direction of changes from below, launched in aftermath of Vatican Council.

In March, he attacked "theology of revolution & violence."

In June, he reaffirmed such Catholic dogmas as Papal Infallibility, Virgin Birth, Real Presence of Christ in Eucharist, & Original Sin.

In July, he uncompromising upheld birth control ban.

Applications from priests seeking dispensation to leave priesthood are about 10,000 a yr.; 1000's of others simply drop out.

But mass of US Catholics and majority of priests remain solidly faithful to Church, tradition & Pope.

Pope warned all Catholics to give "total" fidelity to Church as it is. He insisted Catholicism must be "jealous, stern, demanding, dogmatic" in defending "the truth revealed to it by God."

One of his closest advisers warned: "Catholics must obey Pope, even if he is wrong." (USN 12:30)

*The power struggle in the Catholic Church is intensely interesting & significant to us because of the part the Roman Apostasy has to play in the final coalition with Russia against Israel and Tarshish.*

### **AFRICA RACE STRIFE GROWS**

One of world's least publicized but potentially most dangerous military conflicts: the black-white confrontation in southern Africa.

The struggle has carved a ragged frontier across Africa, dividing the newly-independent nations of Black Africa from the White preserve to the south, where less than 5 million whites suppress 30 million blacks.

The guerrillas aren't without striking power, thanks to support of Russia & China. They're equipped with the Kalashnikov AK-47, considered world's best automatic rifle; & with other Communist weapons, including Chinese rocket launchers.

**Aid to blacks furthers Soviet & Chinese political goals in Africa, & reaps for Reds a crop of converts.**

The West has a vast economic stake in White Africa. US has over \$1 billion invested in S. Africa, & 5 Africa's gold mines are underpinning of West's money system.

One morning, West may wake up & find itself in middle of a major race war. (Nwk 12:23)

Throughout the world the pattern is for more & more violence. A terrible time is in store for the earth as man's hatred and violence reaches a peak at the same time as his newfound powers of mass-murder.

### **US: BLACK-WHITE HATE GROWS**

In minds of many Negroes—young especially—pride in blackness is increasingly equated with hatred of whiteness.

More & more young Negroes are enlisting in guerrilla war against whites. If this continues, massive white retaliation, with hideous consequences for both races, is sooner or later absolutely predictable.

It's only necessary to consider what has been happening lately in NY & Washington to see that this danger is quite real. Teen-agers predominate in the bands of young Negroes who roam the fringes of Washington's ghettos at night, making life miserable for whites.

Embassy-lined 16th St. is on the ghetto's edge, & whites on staffs of Italian, Spanish, & Polish embassies have been mugged or harassed so often that all 3 embassies may have to move.

Many young Negroes believe that the white majority is the enemy, & that any act that hurts or harasses whites is righteousness.

Why do they so believe? White injustice is a reality, of course; & so is Negro poverty. But there are other, subtler reasons why so many young Negroes hate whites.

**To an extent which most whites can't even imagine, these children have found themselves in an utterly alien & hostile environment.**

No wonder so many of them hate the schools. Vandalism is universal in ghetto schools. No wonder they grow up to hate this white society that the schools symbolize.

After Pres. Kennedy was killed, DeGaulle said: "The conflict between blacks & whites has created a climate of violence & hatred, a climate such that US society no longer obeys the laws & rules of civilized society. The consequences could be another civil war."

It begins to seem quite possible he was right. (Nwk 12:16)

*It is a sad & ominous picture. The roots of hate are 300 yrs. deep, nourished by terrible oppression & exploitation & degradation. It is God's way of punishing a nation for its brutal past. But all nations, when they have been cleansed & humbled, will be blessed in God's Kingdom soon to fill the earth.*

### **3rd WORLD MONEY CRISIS in Yr.**

3rd crisis in yr. in bewildering, desperately-important world of international finance. Yr. ago pound fell, devalued under massive speculative assault; 3 mos. later \$ reeled under same pressure, & only hurried tinkering with gold price saved it.

Last wk. it was turn of DeGaulle & franc. It's increasingly clear it's not isolated crises, but 1 big crisis on instalment plan—proving something's badly out of kilter in whole system. (Nwk 12:2)

*The international structure is a shaky, patchwork affair. Men do not know what to do, and if they knew, national pride & selfishness would prevent them doing it.*

### **RUSSIA PLAYING DOUBLE GAME**

Russia wants to have its cake & eat it too. They're telling US: "We've every intention of shoring up the E. European bloc & acting repressive at home, but we don't want that to interfere with such US-Soviet concerns as limiting antiballistic-missile & arms races."

World's moving into chillier period where Brezhnev Doctrine—Russia's new rationalization for stamping out heresies in other "Socialist Commonwealth" nations—will play determining role.

As evident last wk. in Budapest (where 66 Communist parties consented—at Russia's insistence—to hold a world Communist summit in Moscow next spring), Russia places a higher priority on rigid bloc unity than on good relations with West.

Yet Russia has major charm campaign on to reassure West. (Nk 12:2)

*The West will be deceived & put to sleep, just as Hitler put them to sleep. "Peace and safety" will be their deluded cry, just as it will be a little later by Gog, just before HIS "sudden destruction."*

### **RUSSIA'S INTERNAL CRISIS**

Russia's beginning an internal political crisis—transformation of present Soviet elite into a nationalistic, anti-semitic & anti-intellectual group with striking resemblance to pre-war fascist movements in Europe.

**In face of Soviet conservatism, W. Europe nations, less certain of US. instead of rallying together, may seek security in independent deals with Russia. (USN 12:9)**

*This is a striking insight, from even a natural viewpoint, of what we KNOW must happen. West Europe must seek security under the Russian umbrella, & anti-semitism (which the above mentions) will be the cement that unites the coalition.*

### **USSR TWISTS RUMANIA'S ARM**

Most ominous thing about Warsaw Pact meeting in Bucharest last wk. was hulking presence of Soviet Marshall Yakubovsky. High on the agenda was Kremlin demand that Russian troops hold manoeuvres in Rumania, & Yakubovsky—who bossed the Czech occupation—had come to twist Rumania's arm.

Similar manoeuvres were used last summer in Czechoslovakia to apply pressure on Prague. There was little doubt Moscow would get its way. (Nwk. 12:9)

*"There is little doubt Moscow will get its way." This is increasingly true, like the unconscious prophecy of Caiaphas, because it is God's will.*

### **BIGGEST SUB FLEET in History**

Head of US naval forces in Europe says Russia has biggest sub fleet in history & is building new subs & surface ships on a wartime basis. Russia's challenging Britain & US on seas they once controlled.

Their navy is rapidly expanding with newly-designed, highly sophisticated ships: 40% of combat ships built in last 8 yrs. (DtNws 12:5)

### **US: 'SITUATION OUT OF HAND'**

Past 8 yrs. have been yrs. of expanding problems for US. War flared in Asia. Spending budgets allowed to skyrocket. Inflation getting out of hand. Allies world over became estranged. Anti-USism grew.

\$ that seemed strong as Rock of Gibraltar lost standing & weakened almost to crisis point. Riots raged in streets & on campuses of major universities. Cities torn apart.

Annual spending of Fed. Govt. rose more than \$80 billion, over 80%. Fed. Govt. ran nearly \$60-billion in red. Federal debt skyrocketed. Splurge in Govt. spending led to huge increase in money supply & fed inflation.

**In '68, whole situation out of hand. In past few yrs., \$ fell from pinnacle of unquestioned superiority among world currencies. Growth of relief out of hand. (USN 12:16)**

*How quickly things can change! and how incompetent is man! For 20 yrs. US, through greed & lust at home, & blindness & folly abroad, has played into Russia's hand. The prophetic Scriptures could have guided them, but then how could God's will be fulfilled and Russia stand triumphant over all human power?*

### **TV "SANCTIFIES" VIOLENCE**

Does TV cause riots? Are children growing insensitive to brutality because of crime programs? These questions asked by "National Commission on Violence."

Witnesses were scornful of TV's effect on children. One witness called TV the fabricator of a "decivilizing" mythological US, where violence is "sanctified" as a respected solution to human problems.

**"The adventure serials, police shows, & westerns all say violence is fun, manly, & gets you girls."**

Another said: "Children are learning that only difference in tactics & ethics between cop & crook is who has the badge. It's as tho we delivered our children to someone for 4 or 5 hrs. every day in their formative yrs. to watch police interrogations, gangsters beating enemies, demonstrations how to kill & maim. Do any seriously contend that after 5 or 10 yrs. the child's view of life isn't influenced?" (Tm 12:27)

*Like smoking, TV is coming more & more under scrutiny for its evil effects. But neither need fear. Whatever caters to man's lusts is bound to prosper in this evil age. All vices have the great build-in advantage of having human nature on their side.*

### **US DEBT up 1800% in 36 Years**

US Govt debt in past 36 yrs. rose from \$20 billion to \$372 billion—& still rising. This has been a period of rising debt of all kinds. In '33 all debts in US—mortgage, instalment, business, govt., debt of all kinds—totalled less than \$175 billion. Today \$1½ trillion & zooming. (USN 12:30)

*Another aspect of man's self-destructive confusion. The inevitable crisis must eventually be faced.*

### **"GERMANS ARE # 1 in EUROPE!"**

Under impact of spring riots, French presage has been weakening along with franc. DeGaulle's foreign policy was discredited by Czech invasion. Power focus in Europe has shifted from Paris to Bonn. Germany's largest newspaper crowed in banner Headlines: 'Now Germans Are No. 1 in Europe!' (Nwk 12:2)

\* \* \*

Germany has defended mark against combined efforts of France, Britain & US to force upward revaluation, which would have relieved pressure on ailing franc & pound.

Germany displayed an independence—& political muscle—unknown since '45 defeat. Germany's economic primacy is a fact, so's political leverage that goes with it. (Tm 12:6)

\* \* \*

Is Balance Changing in Europe? Germany has sown discord in Atlantic alliance, emerged as ominous new strong man of Europe, & supplanted France as a potential international troublemaker.

**Germans have changed since Adenauer's time: it's not a happy change.**

What Britons found most unforgivable was that Germans, beaten in 2 wars, now had it so much better than victorious British.

No one can deny Germany's preponderant strength vis-a-vis her Europe allies: most productive economy, largest gold holdings, strongest currency, highest per capita income.

DeGaulle—fighting to save franc & restore France from ravages of last spring's strikes & riots—was revealed as having almost no power save his own oratory & personality. He'll carry less weight in Europe, Bonn will carry more. (Nwk 12:9)

*The resurgence of Germany is an ominous sign. Germany is an essential factor in the "Gog of the land of Magog" picture.*

### **BAPTIST CONVICTIONS vs \$s**

Southern Baptists believe strongly in separation of church & state. Traditionally, they have refused to accept govt. funds for their schools & hospitals. But costs are up, church revenues can't keep up with them, & easily available federal loans & grants look more attractive.

**At several annual state conventions this mo., the Baptists decided that clear financial need sometimes should allow the bending of religious principles. (Tm 13:12)**

*The Baptists are an especially interesting & instructive study for us, as they have travelled a long way thru the normal degenerative cycle from scriptural, zealous anti-papal sect to a stolid, respectable Harlot Daughter of Mother Rome. Let us have the wisdom to learn the sad lesson, & discern the same trends in the nominal Christadelphian body. Loyalty to the clear Rome vs. Zion picture of history so clearly discerned & so wonderfully expounded by bro. Thomas is the touchstone to test all modern professors by.*

## MIDEAST WAR DANGER RISING

Danger of Arab-Israel war that could involve US mounts daily. Current clashes worst since '67 war.

Russia may not stand by, as in '67, while Arabs go down to defeat. US may not be able to stay out if Israel begins to lose.

Russia's rapidly strengthening its presence in Mideast & Mediterranean. 50 Russian ships cruise Mediterranean. Russians have poured billions of \$s of aid into Arab lands.

**Moscow will not let the troubles abate. Such problems, troubles & frustrations keep Arabs on Russian side against US. Hostility to US in much of Arab world is high.**

Basic Arab position same as after '67 defeat: no talks with Israel till withdrawal from captured lands.

Israel wants direct talks with Arabs, recognition as a state, end to Arab belligerence. Only then will it consider withdrawal.

Israel's taking a tougher stance on Arab demands. Arab refusal to negotiate & rising terrorism makes it harder for Israel moderates to dampen belligerent feelings. (USN 12:16)

\* \* \*

Mideast Danger Spots: U.A.R. — Nasser under fire from dissidents; Soviet influence mounting.

ISRAEL—Arab terrorism triggering Israel retaliation on Jordan, Egypt.

JORDAN—Hussein trying to control a weakening kingdom. Power slipping into hands of commandos.

SYRIA—Anti-Israel Govt. accepting more & more help from Russia.

IRAQ—New military regime heads unstable land, torn by civil strife.

KUWAIT—Richest in oil of all Arabs—tempting target for Russia.

PERSIAN GULF STATES—As British pull out, these small vulnerable states, rich in oil. unify defences.

YEMEN—Long civil war still on between Leftists & Royalists.

S. YEMEN—Fighting among Arab factions plagues this strategic new country. (USN 12:16)

\* \* \*

All-out Arab-Israel war likely. Bigger war than that could develop fast. What keeps Mideast at war's edge are ancient hatreds, desires for revenge, acts of defiance, plenty of modern arms, plus new element—**Russia playing a dangerous game.**

Arabs say sooner or later Israel will vanish as a nation, its people killed or dispersed even tho "a million Arabs die." (USN 12:16).

\* \* \*

In explosive Mideast, prediction's heard more & more: Major Israel-Arab war just a matter of time.

Jet air battles erupted over wide area. Upsurge in border raids & retaliatory attacks of type that led directly to '67 war. Peacemaking efforts growing more feeble.

There'd be grave danger if Russia's allowed to destroy Israel, using Arabs, & thus try to drive US from Mideast or deny US access there.

**It's in Europe where pressures are greatest to maintain friendly ties with Arabs at almost any cost.**

US gets only 5% of its oil from Arab lands; Europe gets 80%. Without it, Europe industry would stop.

In many world capitals, feeling's growing that if peace is ever to be achieved in Mideast, US & Russia jointly must impose it. (USN 12:23)

*The final crisis that the people of God have looked for for centuries—the conflict of the 2 mountains of brass over the land of Israel—surely seems upon us!*

## ITALY REDS DISRUPT GOVT.

In Italy, a general strike kept million workers out for 24 hrs. closed schools, disrupted train & phone service, stopped buses, taxis, shut down newspapers.

Communists want to wreck any Govt. that excludes them. They're No. 2 in Italy. Look for more strikes, more trouble. (USN 12:16).

\* \* \*

Italy had new govt. last wk., 27th since '45 & possibly most unwieldy. Incoming Premier Rumor named 27 Cabinet members, a post-war record.

He wanted to maintain as broad a base of political support as possible, & his crowded Cabinet represented nearly every faction in his govt.

Despite scepticism that greeted the crazy-quilt coalition, formation of a govt. was no small achievement itself, in view of recent strife & rising domestic turbulence.

Last wk. strikes & demonstrations by millions of workers & students broke out all over Italy. (Tm 12:20)

\* \* \*

Italy in political trouble. Communists gained million votes last May. Socialists were the big losers. Now Socialists are divided; some want to join Communists.

Down went Govt., 28th to fall in 23 yrs. Christian Democrats, largest party, have only 39% of Parliament; Communists 27%; Socialists 15%.

Reds want Cabinet seats. Christian Dems. won't have them. What seems certain in Italy; more political crises, little else. (USN 12:9)

*Italy is the seat of the False Prophet. The eternal conflict is Rome vs. Jerusalem. The Pope & Gog must join forces here.*

### **BREZHNEV CHALLENGES US**

"Truman Doctrine" is this: If any country felt threatened by Communism & was willing to exert its resources against threat, we'd help.

Now this is being challenged—by Czech invasion & by "Brezhnev Doctrine." Czech invasion wasn't a 1-shot operation, but a set Soviet policy to prevent any country from throwing off Communist rule. When any country tries, Brezhnev Doctrine says Soviets can move in.

**This is direct challenge to Truman Doctrine. (USN 12:16)**

*With increasing openness & boldness Russia is challenging US on many fronts: the oft-repeated story of fresh single-minded dedication challenging divided and dissipated luxury and power.*

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