

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.

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“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

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

LOVING Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ.

By this time I had hoped that I might be able to say I was getting back to near normal as far as health is concerned, but I am still suffering somewhat from the after effects of the operations which I had. Writing and reading are still somewhat difficult, but I do hope and pray for improvement.

With regard to writing, I am very much behind in answering the many letters that I have received expressing concern and sympathy. These are all deeply appreciated.

The brothers and sisters of the Newport ecclesia and brother Eric Moore of Worksop recently visited me, and we broke bread together in a meeting of remembrance. It is very uplifting spiritually to find on these unexpected occasions when brothers and sisters meet that the first thoughts are of what is required of them in the observance of our Master's commandments.

So often, during the course of our lives, our thoughts are drawn away from those things that matter most to us, that when we are drawn back from our forgetfulness there is a feeling of sorrow and shame, but also one of thankfulness that we have the Word to fall back upon, for it is so full of what is right.

The Word is so strengthening in the things of the Truth of God as given through the prophets, our Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles. When we are brought back into realization of these things, all other things that are worldly are so trivial and transient, we are made to realize how greatly favoured we are to have the mind of God revealed to us. Great therefore is our responsibility in respect of our obedience to His Will.

May we be given that divine help to keep in mind that which is required of us, and to think, speak and act in accordance therewith.

With much love in the Truth to our brethren and sisters everywhere.

Sincerely your brother, Ivor Morgan

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, our loving greetings.

As we are nearing the end of another year, let us keep the words of our Master ever before our minds—

"When ye see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh."

Men's hearts are really "failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth"—

"For then shall they see the Son of man coming . . .

"And when these things come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads, for your Redemption draweth nigh!"

The following have met with us: sis. Mabel Bowley (Carberry, Man.); bro. & sis. David Blacker (Edmonton); and bro. & sis. Edward Truelove (Richard). We very much appreciated bro. Truelove's lecture here on Sunday night.

With kind regards from the brethren and sisters in Lethbridge,

—bro. Wm. Blacker

"Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord"—2 Chr. 20:17.

The Peaceable Fruit of Righteousness

THE fruit is known by its taste; and the fruit depends upon the seed and the soil it is grown in.

Let every man enrich his ground with self-crucifixion, and plant carefully the seed of the Word, and water well with prayer and daily reading, watching, and plucking the weeds. The fruit will then be pleasant to the taste of all who eat.

Without this training, nature's rank growth will come up in its wild profusion; and for a paradise of God, there will be a garden of weeds.

—Bro. Roberts

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding"—Prov. 9:10.

EDITORIAL

Our High Calling

"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh . . . at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the Covenants of Promise, having no hope, and without God in the world"—Eph. 2:11-12

WHAT do we do when we read these stirring words? Do we stop and meditate upon them? Does the full import of what Paul is saying dawn upon us so that we can fully comprehend the stupendous change that has taken place in us because of our belief and obedience of the Gospel? Let us consider carefully what the apostle is saying.

To anyone enlightened in the Truth, the words are clearly intelligible and specially interesting. The whole world lieth in wickedness, and all mankind is separated from God because of it. God is the Creator of all things and, as Paul told the Athenians, "In Him we live, and move, and have our being."

But that does not give us any authority to worship Him according to the dictates of our own conscience.

Sin disqualifies us from making any approach to God, except on His Own terms, and surely that is convincingly reasonable.

Those terms are clearly set forth in the Gospel, and are based on the principle graphically illustrated when sudden death came upon Nadab and Abihu for offering strange fire before the Lord. The comment of Moses in Lev. 10:3, was—

"This is that the Lord spake, saying, I WILL be sanctified in them that come nigh Me."

That the Gentiles should share in the salvation offered to Israel was not something new, for it had been testified in the prophets, although in an obscure manner. It was not understood by the apostles until it was revealed to Peter at the time of his interview with Cornelius, and to Paul after his arrival in Damascus.

Paul refers to it several times as "the mystery," but explains it specifically in Eph. 3:5-6—

"Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of man, as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

"That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same Body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the Gospel."

What could be more beautiful and inspiring! Think of it! Fellow heirs with Christ, and partakers of God's promise in Christ by the Gospel. What sublime thoughts these words stir up within us! They should lift us up out of the mundane things by which we are surrounded, and transport us to the limitless heights of the divine purpose. Why? Well, think of Christ's greatness, as stated by Paul—

"In the last of these days (God) spoke to us by a Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, on account of whom also He constituted the ages.

"Who, being an Effulgence of His glory, and an exact impress of His substance, and making manifest all things by the Word of His power, having made a purification for sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in high places" (Heb. 1:2-3, Diag.).

Is it possible for us to comprehend the depth of meaning in these overpowering words of Paul? Here is a person with whom we have become associated by our belief and obedience of the Gospel. Do we realize how great he is, and what it really means to be a fellow heir, and to be a partaker of God's promise in him?

Looking at the matter from this viewpoint, it is now easy to fully understand what Paul has to say in Eph. 2:19-20—

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the Household of God;

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."

The "Household of God" is a community of called-out ones—called out from the darkness and superstition that surrounds the entire earth, and have now become (1 Pet. 2:9)—

"A chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a purchased people;

"That ye should show forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light."

What does all this signify? Does it not show us that if we belong to this exalted Household we should be associated together in the work of the Lord, and not cut ourselves off from the body, thereby hiding our light by living in seclusion?

If we cannot work together now, how do we ever expect to enter the Kingdom of God? We must, as Paul has said, "be knit together in love."

Our knowledge and understanding of the glorious Gospel should influence us in such a manner that we will reflect, by our way of living, a form of conduct so characteristic of our high calling in Christ Jesus, that the people by whom we are surrounded will take knowledge of us that we "have been with Jesus."

This can be accomplished, if we permit the transforming inspiration of the spirit of Christ to develop within us an exalted frame of mind generated by a manner of thinking that is far superior to that of the thinking of the flesh, or the natural mind. One of Paul's admirable applications of this lofty thought appears in Col. 3:16—

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in Psalms, and Hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

The words of Paul do not constitute merely a figure of speech; they are words of spiritual wisdom from one who could say in all sincerity—

"I have fought a good fight: I have finished my course; I have kept the faith."

And therefore could also say—

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

Let us look once more at those salutary words. They are 3-fold, and as we read them, let us ponder them well—

1. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom."
2. "Teaching and admonishing one another in Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs."
3. "Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Can you picture any person, or group of persons, dominated by these thoughts? And is that what we as individuals are striving for, or are we making strenuous efforts to fill our minds with the various parts of the Bible just for the purpose of pedantry?

As we look back again at some of these cardinal statements of Paul, does it not seem clear that God's eternal purpose, through Christ, is to grow a closely-knit Community of spiritual beauty based upon holiness—a Community dedicated wholly to the service of Christ whose word dwells in them richly, thereby causing them to lay aside the way of the world where all is bitterness, wrath, anger and bad feeling of every kind.

Having done this, they become kind one to another, tender-hearted, and **whatever they do is done in the Name of the Lord Jesus**, and by this their love is made perfect.

This brings us to our concluding thought in Paul's words in Eph. 4:15-16—

"But speaking the Truth in love, we may GROW UP into him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ: "From whom the whole Body, fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the Body unto the edifying of itself in love."
—Editor

Sacrifice in the Future Age And Christ's Accomplished Work

By BROTHER JOHN THOMAS

"It shall be the Prince's part to give burnt offerings and meat offerings and drink offerings, in the feasts, and new moons, and sabbaths"—Ezek. 45:17

PART SIX

WE come now to the consideration of the difficulty seemingly involved in Paul's doctrine when regarded in the light of Ezekiel's testimony. Jesus is now the High Priest of God, and the only one that exists, or will ever exist in relation to man. He has had no rival since the Mosaic Covenant "vanished away."

He is God's High Priest for those, both Jews and Gentiles, who have been reconciled to God through his Name—that is, who believe God's promises concerning the Kingdom and the things concerning Jesus, and have been united to his Name by baptism.

This is equivalent to saying, those who have been reconciled through the belief and obedience of the Gospel of the Kingdom— through the "obedience of faith."

Of the things concerning Jesus are: the things pertaining to his divine Sonship, his spotless and unblemished character, his sacrificial death and resurrection, etc., constituting him God's Lamb, holy and without blemish, having neither spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, of his own free will once offered to bear the sins of many.

Thus he was at once the sacrifice and the priest, for "he offered up himself," as he said:

"I lay down my life for the sheep. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it up again.

"No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself.

"I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. This commandment have I received of my Father" (Heb. 7:27; John 10:15-18).

Being thus the Lamb slain, he resumed his life, and entered into the presence of God, before whom he stands as the blood-sprinkled Ark of the Covenant (Rev. 11:19), in whom is deposited the law hereafter to go forth from Zion (Is. 2:3), and the life of his sheep (Col. 3:3), whose sins he bears away (Heb. 9:28). And thus they are sanctified by the dedicated Covenant through the once offering of his body, so that—

"By one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:10).

Now these "sanctified ones" are a purified people, whose "hearts," or minds and dispositions, have been "purified by faith" (Acts 15:9)—faith in the promises of God, and in—

"The blood of sprinkling which speaks better things than the blood of Abel."

The blood of Jesus is the blood of sprinkling which gushed forth from his side as 'an offering' or purification 'for sin.'

The poor in spirit and the meek, the honest and good hearts that by faith appreciate the virtue of this sprinkled blood and have become the subjects of repentance and remission in his Name, are said to be "sprinkled from an evil conscience," and to have "washed the body with pure water" (Heb. 10:22).

They are the "children of the Promise," or Covenant, because in becoming Christ's they have believed the Promises, and have been purified by the "Blood of the Covenant." As yet they walk in faith in the things believed, and not by sight.

Faith, which is—

"The substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things unseen."

—is the mirror which reflects the things of the approaching future, and presents them to the believer's mind as though he were beholding—and personally in the presence of—the very things themselves. Hence it is said to such—

"Ye are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the City of the living God, to Jerusalem the heavenly, and to myriads of angels, to a general convocation, even to an assembly of firstborns enrolled for the heavens, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the just made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling which speaks better things than that of Abel" (Heb. 12:22).

Ye are come BY FAITH to these things, which at present ye do dimly contemplate, but which ye shall see no longer as through a glass darkly, but face to face in the presence of the Lord.

Now these, whose hearts are sprinkled and their bodies washed, are the only people on the earth since the entrance of Jesus into the presence of God, for whom he officiates as "High Priest over the House of God" (Heb. 10:21, 3:6). They are "God's Temple," the "true Tabernacle which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Heb. 8:2).

For 40 years this Temple coexisted with that in Jerusalem, but since the destruction of the latter it is the only Temple of God upon the earth where gifts and offerings, called "spiritual sacrifices" (1 Pet. 2:5-9), are offered acceptably to His Name. They become acceptable in being presented through Jesus Christ.

They who do the worship (and they are ALL the faithful) enter into this Holy Place, or "heavenly"—which as a whole they constitute—with the sprinkled blood of the Covenant upon their hearts.

Purified once through faith in the blood-sprinkled Covenant of Promise (hereafter to become the law of the Kingdom), there is in their case no more sacrifice for sin—

"For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14).

Yet, though thus sanctified, they continue to offer spiritual sacrifices. All this is "worshipping the Father in spirit and in truth," which is the only service acceptable to Him while His Kingdom is in ruins and prostrate at the feet of the Gentiles.

But this "worship in spirit and in truth"—expressed in confession of the Hope (Heb. 10:23—not "profession of our faith" as in AV), and praise, and prayer, and in baptism, and in eating and drinking of the symbols on the table of the Lord—this worship is the unburdensome privilege of those only who through faith in the Covenant and its blood have become "heirs of the Kingdom."

When this is set up in Palestine, the service is changed **in form but not in principle**; and from social becomes national.

In the national service, the higher priesthood (which consists of Jesus and the "children God has given him"—all immortal by resurrection or transformation), though they offer the fat and the blood, it is for the people and not for themselves. They need no more sacrifice for sin.

But "being priests unto God" (Rev. 5:10), there needs must be something for them to offer on account of the worshippers for whom they officiate.

The New Covenant, which we now accept as a matter of faith and hope, has not yet been made with the house of Judah and of Israel. If it had, they would now be a united nation in Palestine.

It will be made with them when they are grafted into their own olive, and not before.

At the engrafting, there will be a great national celebration, called a "delivering of the Covenant" (Ezek. 20:37)—a delivering of the New Covenant from Zion (Mic. 4:2), with a glorious—but not such a terrible—display of power as when the Covenant was delivered from Sinai.

The nation, or Twelve Tribes, having been brought at length to acknowledge Jesus as High Priest and King, are received into favour. And being under the New Covenant, as in former years they were under the Old, Jehovah becomes merciful to their unrighteousness, and proclaims everlasting oblivion of all their past individual and national offences by virtue of the royal blood of the Covenant, the preciousness of which they then perceive and appreciate.

This amnesty, however, benefits that generation only to which the Covenant is delivered, and by which it is accepted. It affects not the generation of Israel's rebellious dead; they are the "cut off from the people."

Now, the question remains, when thus reconciled to God through the blood of His Son, is the nation to have a religious service or worship? And if they are, what is to be its PRINCIPLE, and what its FORM?

No one who understands the Bible would affirm that the Twelve Tribes of Israel were to live in their own land under the New Covenant for 1000 years without any national religious worship.

To affirm this would be to say in effect that God had prepared a Royal Priesthood for His Kingdom, but had provided no service for them to perform. This is not admissible for a moment.

There WILL be a service under the New Covenant as there was under the Old. Its principle will be memorial, not typical; **even the extension of the principle upon which is now celebrated the death and resurrection of Jesus.**

Hence the "reconciliation" will be a memorial reconciliation, made perfect by the blood of the Covenant which institutes it. The reconciliation of the Old Covenant was typical and imperfect; because the dedication blood, being merely that of bulls and goats, could not perfect the conscience in taking away of sins. When the Prince under the New Covenant (Ezek. 45:22)—

"Prepare for himself and for all the people of the land a bullock for a sin offering"
—it is memorial of his own sacrifice of himself, and memorial of the reconciliation which the people enjoy through the blood of the Covenant with which, through faith in it, their hearts will be sprinkled then, as the true believers are at present.

Such is the **principle** of the amended "service which pertains to the Israelites" (Rom. 9:4). The form thereof is detailed in Ezekiel more at large than we can present it here.

It is a service, not of spiritual sacrifices, but of bloody sacrifices of spiritual significance. The lower order of the priesthood, mortal Levites, slay them for the people, and pass the fat and blood from the tables at the north gate to the altar, where they are burned and sprinkled by the higher or immortal priests, "the seed of Zadok," before the Lord.

The past sins of the nation having been amnestied at the delivering of the Covenant, there is thenceforth no more "remembrance of sins once a year." The old Mosaic annual atonement on the 10th day of the 7th month, at which the tribes were to "afflict their souls," is not revived under the New Covenant.

It will form no part of the service then. It was one of those things "made" or appointed that were removed when the Lord shook the Mosaic heaven by the Roman power.

There will be no laver of water between the Temple and the Altar for the seed of Zadok to wash themselves before they enter the Temple. These washings and carnal ordinances are also abolished; for those who approach the Altar and enter in are, like their Prince, holy and undefiled, being devoid of evil in the flesh.

Much more might be said upon these interesting and important matters, but we must at present refrain. Knowing the ignorance which prevails upon the subject here exhibited, we did not feel at liberty to answer our beloved sister's letter in fewer words.

We have endeavoured to unfold what has been revealed as the best exhibition of the agreement between the prophets and apostles. The reader being, therefore, in possession of the premises, will be able to draw many more conclusions for himself than at present occur, or can be conveniently reported at this time. —**Herald, 1851.**

PROPOSED REPRINT OF OUT-OF-PRINT BOOKS

WE have the opportunity of renting a copier during the month of January, for the purpose of reprinting some books which are no longer available. The books proposed are—"The Last Days of Judah's Commonwealth" (Bro. Thomas) and "Patterns of Things in the Heavens" (Sis. Lasius).

The price of each will probably be between \$1.50 and \$3.00 (involving only the cost of material). Will all who are interested in purchasing either or both please inform us IMMEDIATELY, and give us an idea of the number of copies required? Please write direct to:

Sis. (Miss) Barbara MacIvor, 29 Peacham Crescent, Downsview, Ont., Canada.

Any suggestion regarding other reprints would be appreciated.

Voyage to Australia

By **BROTHER ROBERT ROBERTS**

"To the Law and to the Testimony: if any speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in him"

—Isa. 8:20

PART THIRTY-ONE

WED. to FRI., MAR. 11-13, 1896

A SOMEWHAT stormy passage of 3 days brought the steamboat to Hobart, capital of Tasmania, about 1000 miles from the southern end of New Zealand, in a straight line from east to west.

Tasmania is the smallest colony in the Australian group. It has a population of only about 150,000 people. It is an island about $\frac{3}{4}$ the size of Ireland, on the southern coast of Australia, from which it is separated by a channel 120 miles broad.

There are only 2 cities of any consequence—Hobart, on the south, with a population of about 30,000; and Launceston, on the north, about 25,000. About 100,000 are scattered in farms and villages.

A great part of the land is still under bush. It is a very hilly country throughout, often reaching the height of mountains. It is the oldest of the colonies, first to be discovered and settled. People went from Tasmania to found Melbourne and Sydney.

Its soil, trees and animals are identical with Australia; but in climate it differs considerably. It is not subject to the same heat, and knows nothing of the droughts that are frequent in Australia. It is cool and bright, and temperate most of the year; in this it resembles New Zealand.

Tasmania is Australia improved as a habitable country. Its climate and products are English: oats, wheat, potatoes, apples, vegetables, fruits, and flowers. It is the market garden of Australia.

The approach to Hobart is magnificent. A long, comparatively narrow arm of the sea runs 40 miles into the land, between precipitous hills, with mountains in the background. Hobart is built on the hill-slopes at the inner end of this splendid protected piece of water. The water is a great depth, right to the water's edge. For picturesqueness of situation, Hobart is not excelled by any of the cities of the Colonies.

The aspect of the town, as the steamer drew nigh in the calm evening sunlight, was neat, clean and quiet, no fog or smoke, and none of the bustling characteristics of most seaports. It looked a "quiet habitation," away from the rush and noise of the world.

Life ought not to be the feverish scramble it is nearly everywhere at present. No wonder people ask, "Is life worth living?" Life ought to be a deliberate, dignified, placid, joyful sequence of rational exercise. It is not so anywhere at present. Wait a bit.

I was received at the harbor landing-stage by bro. Barnard and bro. Large (the former from England; the latter the local fruit of bro. Barnard's faithfulness in the Truth).

I found there were in all about 8 or 12 brethren and sisters in the town and neighbourhood. A few years ago there were none.

One who came from Matlock went over to the 7th Day Adventists. Perhaps he may return, as bro. Veysey did after he had been to America and found out the unscriptural character of the principles of that body. But temporal connections are a hindrance.

Hitherto, the brethren have met for the breaking of bread in bro. Barnard's house, at which I stayed; but 2 weeks previous to my arrival they had rented a schoolroom in which they will hereafter hold regular meetings morning and evening. A request has been made by interested friends that a Sunday School should be commenced, which may also be done.

* * *

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 1896

THE brethren met in their new meeting-place for the breaking of bread, but I did not address them, on account of having to reserve my strength for the lecture which was to follow in the afternoon.

It was so done with the excellent intention of getting the public ear at a time of day when they could spare themselves from the churches and chapels; but it has the drawback of being a bad time of day for either speaking or hearing, even if you get the public together, which is not always certain. People like to take their ease on Sunday afternoons.

The meeting in the afternoon was not large, but attention was keen, and some interest was manifested.

* * *

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1896

A BLANK day spent, after writing, in visiting Domain Park and Botanical Gardens, at the water's edge, in the company of Mr. King, a brother of bro. King, on a visit from Queensland on the occasion of my visit.

He is "not far from the Kingdom of God." He has been with the Campbellites, but now sees that the ceremony performed at their hands was not the obedience which God requires: namely, the immersion of an **enlightened** believer.

God has not commanded the baptism of anyone ignorant of the Gospel of the Kingdom. Consequently, the baptism of such a one is of no account. There cannot be the One Baptism without the One Faith.

* * *

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1896

BEING out of fit for writing, I went out early in the day and had a long solitary ramble amid the sublimest scenery. I took the fine carriage road, which was constructed by the convicts in the early days of the colony when both Botany Bay and Hobart Town were used as penal settlements by the British Govt. The road goes through the silent woods on both sides, and there is scarce a soul to be met.

I had much profitable meditation: a process of putting this and that together, which may be compared to cleaning the lenses and adjusting the focus of a binocular glass. Mortal faculty so easily gets out of fit with facts that this process requires to be frequently performed.

In the evening there was a lecture on: "The Coming of Christ and the Signs of the Times." The audience was not much larger than on Sunday afternoon.

* * *

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1896

LEFT Hobart by the 8 a.m. train for Launceston on the north of the island. From Hobart to Launceston is not much over 100 miles as the crow flies, but the windings of the railway among the hills, to avoid tunnelling makes the distance considerably greater. It took the train 6 hours—all hills and valleys, with very little flat country.

At the last stop before Launceston—St. Leonard's—a voice outside the carriage said, "Here he is," and in came a brother and sister of old English acquaintance—bro. Stapleton of Norwich, and sis. Nellie Wood, now his wife.

It is 20 years since they left England: or at least since we had met. We were all much changed, as is inevitable with perishing mortals, who are truly but as the flower that cometh forth in the morning and flourisheth; in the evening it is cut down, and sometimes sooner.

They had "knocked about" a good deal in Queensland in railwork work; came at last for health to Tasmania; and were now settled down at St. Leonard's—a quiet respectable township of a few 100 souls, among whom they are one of the principal storekeepers.

Amid all their wanderings, the Truth has been the lodestar of their life.

At Launceston I was taken charge of by bro. & sis Barnard, originally from Lincolnshire, England, and 3 years in London, which they left 3 years ago, not from necessity but from an idea that it would be nice to follow a quiet farming life.

When they came out, they found farming was not so nice in Tasmania as in England, and wished themselves back. However, they remained in the country, not to farm, but to open a shop which, after much struggle and toil, is fairly successful.

Their advent has been the means of establishing a nucleus of the Truth in Launceston, and the Truth is really very generally known about through their means. They meet regularly with bro. & sis. Stapleton for the breaking of bread, and Launceston alternately.

Besides these, there is a sis. Colson in Launceston who has come to a knowledge of the Truth by their means; and a bro. Kite at Devonport; and a sis. Hopton (originally from Leeds. England) at Beaconsfield, not many miles off. There was a gathering of all those on the occasion of my visit.

There was a lecture on the night of my arrival; "Does Death End All?" There was a large and attentive audience, and a very favourable notice in the daily paper next day.

Launceston is up a river about 40 miles from the sea. By this river, it has sea connection with Melbourne. It is a quiet little seaport town. It is lit by electric light, generated by water-power.

* * *

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1896

AFTER writing, I wandered by the river in the sunshine, discovering, however, that it was frequented by mosquitoes. Everything is mixed at present. The sunshine and the solitude were delightful, but the mosquitoes otherwise.

God could give us a combination of climatic conditions that would have no drawback. He has promised to do so, and He will fulfil His promise.

In the evening I had a conversation with an interesting unmarried lady who had been at the lecture, and who wished an interview. She is a Baptist, and an earnest religious worker according to the recognized methods.

She is not convinced of the Truth, but she is uneasy about it, and feels that on 1 or 2 points the orthodox position is untenable.

Her leading difficulties turned on "the multitude of good people" whom the Truth cut off from hope, and the manifest work of the Holy Spirit in their midst. I asked her if it were not true what Paul said, that—

"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

She could not but admit it.

I asked her whether sinners could be saved in their sins?

No.

I asked her whether God had not appointed the belief and obedience of the Gospel as the means of our justification? I had to quote various scriptures to get her assent to this, and assent was not very complete.

I asked, if that were so, how could there be any doubt as to the position of those who neither knew nor obeyed the Gospel?

Oh, but she was sure the people she spoke of believed the Gospel.

This introduced the question: What is the Gospel? I called her attention to the fact that the Gospel preached by Christ was the "Gospel of the KINGDOM," and quoted statements to show that the Gospel preached by the apostles after him was the same, with the addition of the things concerning the death and resurrection of Jesus.

She could not deny the testimony, but she "could not possibly believe such a thing." And she would really think hard things of God if He were to allow good people to perish because they did not happen to know the Gospel.

I said that a complete knowledge of the Truth dissipated all feeling of that kind, and brought us to the attitude that Jesus requires, which was the attitude of true reason: a recognition that we were mere creatures of God, and sinners besides; and that it was for us, with the docility of little children, to submit implicitly to the appointments of God, whatever they might be.

We could not lay down the law TO Him: it was for us to take the law FROM Him.

We well knew we were mortal: this was because of sin. How could we become immortal, except by His act? And could we expect Him to act in opposition to His Own appointment? The Law of Moses was a powerful teacher on this head: a schoolmaster leading to Christ.

Granted that if it were a question of eternal torments to follow, there might be difficulty.

But with all idea of that sort out of the way with the immortality of the soul, there was no difficulty in recognizing and conforming to His prerogative as the Potter manipulating the human clay in His Own way, and for His Own ends. Until people recognized that they were but clay in His hands, they were not fit for His use.

All this was "too narrow and too hard," and it went against what she considered the manifest working of the Spirit of God among Christians. She could not shut her eyes to that. Christ had said—

"By their fruits ye shall know them."

I said she was judging the true by the doubtful. We could be sure of the teaching of the Spirit of God in the Scriptures; but we could not be sure about our interpretations of human states and feelings.

She smiled a wintry smile, with a sense of the truth of the remark.

I asked her how the operations of the Christian world could be the work of the Spirit of God, with so much both of diversity among themselves and of direct opposition to the teachings of the Spirit of God in the Scriptures?

The Spirit of God was a UNITY, and would not teach different things to different people. The One Faith and the One Body always went with the One Spirit in apostolic times, and the Spirit of God had not changed since then. The Bible was the product of the Spirit of God, and was a unity thru-out.

If the work of the denominations were the work of the Spirit, we should not have Catholics anathematizing the Anglican Church as a schismatic body, and the dissenters standing apart from each other, and all their members thinking and saying different things.

The Bible was the work of the Spirit of God, and our only safe plan was to judge the professing bodies by the Bible, and not judge the Bible by the professing bodies. The simple rule that God Himself had prescribed was the only workable rule in our present circumstances—

"To the Law and to the Testimony: if any speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in him" (Isa. 8:20).

She could not possibly take such a view.

I replied that it was not to be expected she could bring her mind all at once to such revolutionary conclusions: but I felt sure with her intelligence and godly fervour that the reading of the Bible would bring her to them.

Much more passed, apparently without result, but perhaps with more result than was apparent. I have met many people who, on surrendering finally to the Truth, have confessed that they felt the weakness of their position long before they got to the point of admitting it. I can only hope this may be a similar case. Whether or no, the words of Christ are true—

"All that the Father hath given me shall come to me."

* * *

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1896

MORNING devoted to writing. In the evening a lecture on the "Coming of Christ and the Signs of the Times." Again a large audience, and questions after.

* * *

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1896

UNFIT to write: visited the town park, sitting in a corner and thinking. At mid-day bro. Stapleton called with his conveyance and drove me to St. Leonard's, through 4½ miles of pleasant country, with pleasant conversation.

He told me he had arranged for me to meet a gentleman who had read the Apocalyptic Lectures who lived in St. Leonard's, and who had occupied a high official position in the Wesleyan body.

On arriving at bro. Stapleton's house, word was sent to say I would only be there for an hour, and if he came at once I could see him. But the answer came back that he could not come just then; at which I was relieved, for I was in no state for an interview with a stranger, especially one prompted by curiosity merely—so far as I could make out.

At bro. Stapleton's I met sis. Strand, whom I had known many years ago in England. She had seen much trouble since then but looked, I thought, improved by it.

She said she had had a good deal of complacency taken out of her, and had been made to feel toward God the sense of nothingness which He required, and which was according to truth. If Abraham said—

"I am but dust and ashes."

—what ought his children to feel but just the same?

Returning home by afternoon train, I was too wearied to encounter anybody, and stole away by the river, at the risk of the mosquitoes, who gave me a parting token.

* * *

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1896

BREAKING of bread in bro. Barnard's house. The mistake had been made of fixing the lecture for the afternoon. Therefore I did not speak at the breaking of bread. My place was taken by bro. Barnard, bro. Stapleton presiding.

The lecture in the afternoon: "What Must We Do to Be Saved?" was well attended, but not so largely as the 2 previous lectures. It was rather a tiring performance at that time of day for an invalid, but like all mortal things, it was got through and finished.

The evening was spent in further conversation with the lady referred to a page back.

* * *

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1896

EMBARKED at 9 a.m. on the s.s. Pateena for Melbourne. The sail down the quiet and comparatively narrow river was pleasant. The country on each side was hilly, wooded, and solitary, with here and there farm settlements.

Half way down we came to anchor for some hours, waiting mail & passengers from Hobart.

We cleared the wide mouth of the river about 6 p.m., and sailed out into a comparatively calm and sunlit sea.

Looking back, Tasmania lay in the placid bosom of the ocean—a compact pleasing principality of picturesque aspect: temperate climate, bountiful resources of fruit, grain and minerals: destined, in a day not far distant, to come with all the earth into the hands of a government that will know how to deal with its unemployed without pinching the deserving, or encouraging the lawless; and to settle its beautiful valleys with a population intelligent without being pedantic; good without being "soft"; devout without being superstitious—under the charge, perhaps, of some of the brethren and sisters now being developed in dishonour among its heedless population.

Toward night, the weather roughened.

I Will Make a Covenant with Israel

"Now of the things which we have spoken, this is the sum . . . We have such an High Priest"—Heb. 8:1.

HEBREWS CHAPTER EIGHT

OF this Paul has already spoken in chs. 6 & 7, and of this theme he continues to speak in the later chapters. These several chapters are a divinely-sanctioned exposition of that wonderful Psa. 110—

"The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at My right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

Paul's primary reason in writing this letter was to convince Jewish Christians not to return to Judaism—toward which some were wavering. He is showing that in every respect the believers in Christ had a high-priest and a law far superior to the old. We HAVE a high priest.

Christ was a "minister of the true Tabernacle, which the Lord pitched and not man." The word "true" signifies **real**, in contrast to the **typical** or the shadow of v. 5. There, "example" may be more faithfully translated as "representation, outline, copy."

And the "shadow" of v. 5 implies something of no substance which depends on something else for its very being. The Law of Moses depended for even its existence upon the great Law in Christ.

The Law of Moses was merely the pattern, or the type, of the true system. God instructed Moses concerning His first Tabernacle (Heb. 8:5)—

"See that thou make all things according to the pattern (Greek 'type') showed thee in the mount."

In God's mind there was already the plan for the building of a greater Tabernacle— of which Moses' Tabernacle was just a feeble representation.

In contrast to the old, Christ was the true Tabernacle where God might commune with men.

The old Tabernacle was a place where God might meet with man, and where man might worship God. But both of these things could be done only very imperfectly in Moses' Tabernacle.

God's glory was in the Most Holy Place, hidden except for once a year, and then only seen by the high priest. Common Jews could not approach there. And all of man's offerings and sacrifices only emphasized his own sin, and their inability to take it away.

Everything under the Law of Moses pointed forward to something better to come. To the eye of faith, every item of the Law truly cried out for a more perfect way—the way of Christ Of him John said (1:14):

"The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace & truth."

Christ spoke of his own body as "this Temple"—and in Matt. 12:6 he called himself "One which is greater than the Temple." Man must serve God in and through Christ, the true Tabernacle. Here in Christ, we find true worship and the means of fellowship with God.

* * *

"For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer" (v. 3).

On our behalf, Christ offers sacrifices to God, of which we shall consider these aspects:—

(1) The High-Priest of the Old Covenant brought blood into the inner sanctuary once a year. But Christ entered there by his own blood once for all time, for himself and for our benefit (7:27)—

"By his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption" (9:12).

(2) Even now, Christ acts as our High-Priest—by which we approach the Father. Christ offers our prayers to Him—so that we might come, with confidence, to the throne of grace, and obtain mercy (4:16).

(3) And finally, a third aspect of the offerings of our High-Priest is this: Our good deeds, our righteous actions, are a sacrifice (13:16); all of our activities are "living sacrifices" to God (Rom. 12:1-2).

Through Christ, these offerings have meaning and serve to present us to God as acceptable sacrifices. Only in Christ can our works be worthwhile. Only in him can they have any value.

Christ was the true Tabernacle or dwelling-place of God, by himself. But believers, upon being baptized, come INTO Christ—thus becoming a part of the true Tabernacle, pitched by the Lord (1 Tim. 3:15)—

"The House of God, the Ecclesia of the Living God."

"Living stones, built up a spiritual House" (1 Pet. 2:5).

What a glorious promise is presented here, as we read in Eph. 2:19-22—

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the Household of God.

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief Corner Stone;

"In whom ye also are builded together **for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**"

Let us just note in v. 6— the occurrence, over and over of the word "better" in relation to Christ. Better—the key word of Hebrews: a more excellent ministry, a better covenant, a better promise.

* * *

We pass on now to the second section of ch. 8. Vs. 7-13 present the crisis of Paul's whole argument. He proves that the Old Covenant, the national covenant with Israel, was not final; and he proves this from the Jews' own Scriptures—

"For if that first covenant had been faultless . . ." (v. 7).

It was faultless in morality, in its own commandments—for it came from God. Paul himself calls it in another place "holy, just and good" (Rom. 7:12).

But the Law could not save men, it could only condemn them, because all have sinned. There must be a more perfect way, a more **powerful** way, to which it pointed, in Christ—

"For what the Law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh" (Rom 8:3).

* * *

"For finding fault with them, He saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah" (v. 8).

"Finding fault with them." God found fault, not with the Law, but with Israel and Judah who could not keep it.

"I will make a New Covenant": Paul is quoting from Jer. 31. "I will complete a New Covenant" (Diag.).

He had promised the New Covenant even before the old one began—with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But its effects are eternal; it will not be concluded until Christ returns to reign from David's throne and to give the inheritance to all the true seed of Abraham.

* * *

"For this h the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after these days, saith the Lord; I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people" (v. 10).

In v. 8, both Israel and Judah are mentioned. But here, Israel alone is mentioned. The 2 houses are now one house—as Ezekiel saw in his vision. They will be united (Ezek. 37:22) —

"I will make them 1 nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and 1 king shall be king to them all.

"They shall be no more 2 nations, neither shall they be divided into 2 kingdoms any more at all."

The future Kingdom, with Israel as one nation, will be the culmination of that New Covenant which had its beginning in Christ, the beginnings of which the Hebrews had been invited to share.

(Never from the time of Solomon until Paul's day, had the two houses been one. So therefore, never had this New Covenant been realized for them. It must come in the future, with Jesus Christ as its mediator).

"I will put my laws into their minds": that is, into their inward parts (Jer. 31-33).

"And write them in their hearts." The Jews' former heart of stone will then become "fleshly tablets of the heart" (2 Cor. 3:3), ready and able to receive the engraving of God's Word, in the spirit. (This is also what happens for us when we enter the New Covenant).

"They shall be to Me a people": God told Hosea of the nation, "They are **not** my people"; but Paul promises them here, "They shall be My people."

The New Covenant did not come simply to destroy the old, but to improve it. It offers what the Old Covenant could not: recognition as God's people.

* * *

"And they (the Levitical priests) shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for they shall all know Me from the least to the greatest" (v. 11).

At the culmination of the New Covenant, Christ will reveal himself to his brethren, the Jews, who mourn that their forefathers have crucified the true Messiah, and that they themselves have long ignored his teachings.

And God will give teachers to Israel, to bring them into obedience to the New Covenant:

"And I will give you pastors according to Mine heart which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jer. 3:15).

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand and when ye turn to the left" (Isa. 30:21).

* * *

"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" (v. 12).

Every aspect of sin is covered by these various words: (1) Unrighteousness: a general term of wrong doing; (2) Sins: literally, "missing the mark," active sins; (3) Iniquities: lawlessness, ignorance.

All of these will be forgiven, as they are all forgiven already for us in the New Covenant.

"I will remember no more": These words would strike deeply to the conscience of any Jew considering a return to the Old Law. This is an obvious contrast to what Paul said in Heb. 10:3 and to what the Jews knew, that the Old Law had a **remembrance** of sins every year. But the new and better Law of Christ promised "I will remember no more."

* * *

"In that He saith, a NEW Covenant, He hath made the first old" (v. 13).

He hath pronounced it old, even as early as the time of Jeremiah.

* * *

"Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away" (v. 13).

What God had promised 600 years before Paul's writing was then (63 AD) about to occur. At that time, the Mosaic system had indeed grown old, and it was ready to vanish away— as it did in the fall of Jerusalem, 70 AD.

Paul's warning undoubtedly saved many Jews from returning to the old Law. Those who listened to him fled from the onslaught of the Romans and were saved from death in the horrible siege of Jerusalem.

All of this is strikingly typical of us today, and Paul's words are therefore important to us: We have all left the old system of so-called Christianity, which can offer us nothing.

We have come "outside the camp" to Christ. Let us not return in any sense, to the ways of the old man—nor to the systems of the world, which will soon be completely destroyed—

"NOW THAT WHICH DECAYETH AND WAXETH OLD IS READY TO VANISH AWAY." —G.B.

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Thoughts for Today

TRAFFIC SIGNS: "STOP"

"The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul"—Prov. 16:17

CONTINUING on with the thoughts put forth last month, we turn our attention more directly to the side streets we mentioned which cross at several places the Right Road.

With the exception of possibly communist China, the world population recognize and obey the red STOP sign.

The idea occurred to us that here we have men obeying a piece of wood which they have erected warning them of danger. They submit to it, yet the Divine stop sign, the sign made by God Himself warning of impending doom, is completely ignored by the world's masses.

Hold a Bible up and relay its message that they stop and listen to words of life, and we are laughed at. On the other hand, if we hold up a homemade stop sign in the middle of the road these same people will come to a halt.

How similar to us—when we view it through enlightened eyes! We have several stop signs along the Right Road of Probation—but do we obey them?

As we cross over intersections named Adultery, Murder and Fornication we perhaps automatically stop, and after making sure that the way is clear we proceed across the junction and travel on our way.

The question for each of us to consider however is what happens when we arrive at the stop signs of such streets as Idolatry, Witchcraft, Hatred, Variance, Emulations, Wrath, Strife, Seditions, Heresies, Envyings and Revellings?

Do we just slow down, thinking that the way is clear for us to plow right through? This would be a very dangerous practice indeed, one which could result in our involvement in a serious accident.

IDOLATRY—a thing which can hinder our progress. But how can we become involved in idolatry?

By many ways. The dictionary defines it as a "worshipping of an idol," and an idol can be made out of "wood or stone" or any like thing. "Not us," is the immediate reply. But can we really claim exemption?

Are we too involved in our record collection, when we should actually be singing "hymns and psalms and spiritual songs?"

What of our houses, when in reality we should be concentrating on the building of that spiritual house within?

Or consider the car; when we should be walking in the path of the Master?

These and many other things can become an idol to us if we allow them. Let us then help each other to heed the Stop Sign at the street of idolatry.

WITCHCRAFT—can the Household of Faith become involved in witchcraft? Possibly. With the ever-growing interest in astrology shown by the world, it could creep in unawares unless we heed the Stop Sign.

After witchcraft we come to the street of MURDER. Again the question is presented—how can we, as the brethren of the Lord, commit or even think of committing murder?

We would not give any thought to literally killing anyone, but listen to John's words—

"Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer, and hath no eternal life abiding in him" (1 John 3:15).

These words, or this Stop Sign, could not be more apparent. Therefore let us stop completely at this street of sin, allowing the wicked to rampage through on their reckless journey to death.

The next street that has a stop sign is called EMULATION, and perhaps we have wondered just what this means. It is a word that we do not hear very often in our every day conversation and therefore we turn to the dictionary for help.

Synonyms for Emulation are as follows: competition, rivalry, strife, jealousy, envy. This makes it more forceful to us, for we all know the meanings of these words.

To be jealous of a brother, to be envious of a brother, or to wish him ill-will, is not living the Truth, for we have only one Example to follow who left a very high standard for us and one above competition.

To compete with our fellow brethren can be, and is, a dangerous practice. We are all given talents and it depends on how each of us use our talents. Some are given to teaching, while others to writing; we are not all talented in the same thing but rather "each to his several ability."

This Stop Sign tells us to be competent but don't compete.

LASCIVIOUSNESS is the name of the next street, and again it is a word that we seldom hear today. It means to be lustful, lewd, loose and wanton—ugly words for an even uglier character who practices it.

We are unable to deal with all the streets, but before we leave the Stop Signs we would like to briefly consider one known as SEDITION.

To you who are young, those still attending schools and colleges, we direct these few words. We have mentioned this in our articles before but as school begins we wish to speak to you again.

The education system of the world leaves much to be desired, this we realize, but involvement in and with "student power" cannot be tolerated by friends of Christ.

During the last semester lawlessness rose to an all-time high, and officials expect even more demonstrations by these seditionarians. Followers of Jesus will remain clear from these acts of treason, mutiny, riot, insubordination and revolting mass-hypnotic gangs.

Let us unite then, young and old, to help each other see the Stop signs in brotherly love, assisting each other by looking to the left and to the right, assuring each other that the way is clear that we may proceed onward toward our goal.

—J.J.

Next month, God Willing: TRAFFIC SIGNS: "YIELD"

Purified Seven Times

"He telleth the number of the stars, He calleth them all by their names"—Psa. 147:4

A SUNDAY SCHOOL ADDRESS

ALL Scripture contains lessons for us, including its use of seemingly simple, common words & numbers. Paul says:

"ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16).

Of Timothy, Paul says—

"From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee **wise unto salvation**" (v. 15).

You also, as children, can study the Scriptures to learn about God, His works and His purpose. By doing this, you will direct your minds and hearts toward God. As a result you will, like Timothy, have the wisdom to eagerly obey and do God's commandments.

When we look at the marvellous works of Creation, we see that God has created all things **with order and design**. The Psalmist says (147:4)—

"He telleth (counteth) the number of the stars."

And Job adds (28:25)—

"He weigheth the waters by measure."

And Isaiah records (40:12, 28)—

"Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

"Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of His understanding."

So we see that God uses numbers and measures in Creation far beyond our comprehension. But in His Word we find lessons concerning numbers that we can understand. We find God uses these numbers to symbolize His purpose with the earth & man.

Various numbers have a symbolic meaning—

3—Resurrection, Renewal, Rebirth—

The earth rose from the waters on the 3rd day (Gen. 1:13).

Christ rose the 3rd day.

3 births for God's children: natural, water, spirit (John 3:5).

4—Government and Universal Dominion—

4 regions of the earth—north, south, east, west.

4 human world empires (Dan. 2).

4-square camp of Israel, natural and spiritual.

5—Law and Worship—

5 books of Moses.

10 commandments (2 x 5—2 tablets).

5 the basic number of Tabernacle & Temple measurements.

6—Man—

Man created the 6th day (Gen. 1:27).

6000 years of man's rule on earth

The number of the Apostasy, the Man of Sin: 666 (Rev. 13).

Nebuchadnezzar's Image: 60 cubits high, 6 cubits wide.

Goliath (Kingdom of men): 6 cubits, 6 pcs. of armour, spear's head, 600 shekels of iron.

8—A New Era, a New Beginning—

Christ rose the 8th day (1st day of a new week).

8 saved in the ark: a new beginning after the flood.

12—Israel: Salvation is of the Jews—

144,000: the square of 12 x 1000; the saved of spiritual Israel.

12 Princes of Israel, 12 Tribes, 12 Apostles; 12 Thrones.

THE NUMBER SEVEN

NOW the number 7 specifically, and its various manifestations in Scripture. Ps. 12:6—

"The words of the Lord are pure words, as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified 7 times."

Here 7 is used to show the complete purity and perfection of God's words. 2 Sam. 22:31 puts it similarly—

"His way is perfect: the Word of the Lord is tried (refined)."

And in Ps. 19:7—

"The Law of the Lord is perfect . . . The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."

Seven throughout Scripture represents perfection, fruition, completion. The Hebrew is **shevah**, from **suauah**— "to be full, satisfied, have enough." The first place it is used is Gen. 2:2:

"On the 7th day Elohim ended His work which He had made:

"And He rested (or ceased^ on the 7th day from all His work which He had made."

Here the ideas connected with 7 are completion and cessation. Anything denominated by 7 is complete, it lacks nothing to make it perfect, and beyond it nothing remains to be accomplished.

Now, God did not "rest" in the sense of being tired, for—

"The everlasting God, Yahweh, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary."

He simply ceased from His creative work: it was complete.

THE WEEK

Our time is divided into 7-day weeks. This is a special, unnatural division, based on God's 7 days of Creation.

The day, month and year are based on the natural—the movements of the earth, moon and sun—but the only explanation for the week is divine appointment.

THE SABBATH

Then as we come to the time of Moses, God gives the Sabbath Law to the children of Israel. They must rest, cease from doing their own work, and speak and think only of God.

It was to be a sign **between them and God**, as Moses explains in Deut. 5:15 (the purpose of the Sabbath Law to Israel):

"Remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm;

"**Therefore** the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the Sabbath Day."

When they were slaves in Egypt, they had no rest. But after passing through the Red Sea with the Cloud above them—a symbol of baptism into Moses (who was a type of Christ)—the nation rested from its work in anticipation of its rest under Joshua in the Promised Land. They therefore kept the sign-Sabbath in the wilderness.

The Sabbath, a sign or pattern of things to come, contains many lessons. Jesus fulfilled the Sabbath. He laboured for God, and offered his life as a complete and perfect sacrifice. Resting in the grave on the Sabbath day, he arose to immortality on the First Day of the week as the First fruits of a New Creation.

The Sabbath is a type of what we must do. God requires us to cease from the works of sin as completely as He "rested" from the work of Creation. The first step is baptism—burial into Christ's death, that like him we might rise in newness of life. After baptism, we must strive to keep off the old way of sin and walk in righteousness by the use of the Spirit's 7-fold armour.

The Sabbath was the only command of the 10 not carried forward by Christ, because it was just a shadow. He expanded it from 1 day a week to all 7. ALL days must now be devoted to God's work (Col. 3:17, 23)—

"Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord.

"Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, **as to the Lord.**"

Finally, the Sabbath points forward to the Kingdom, the 7th 1000 years, of rest and peace, after 6000 years of sin, trouble and toil under the curse upon man (Heb. 4:3-9). It is interesting to notice that in giving the Law (Ex. 24:16)—

"The glory of the Lord abode on Mt. Sinai, and the Cloud covered it 6 days:

"And the 7th day God called Moses out of the midst of the Cloud."

Six days there was cloud and silence: on the 7th, God spoke. How beautifully it fits the symbol of 6 days of 1000 years each in which God hides His face: then on the 7th day of 1000 years there is divine speech (Rev. 21:3) —

"Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them."

The 6000 years of cloud is also 6000 years of labour toward the Kingdom, while the 7th is the day of open vision, the day of rest or refreshing.

THE RAINBOW

OFTEN (as with the 7 parts of the spiritual armour) we do not find the number 7 plainly stated: it is only found by searching. This is so with the Rainbow. It is mentioned only 4 times in the Bible. First is Gen. 9:16, where God says—

"And the bow shall be in the cloud, and I will look upon it, that I may remember the Everlasting Covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth."

It is noteworthy that the Rainbow, representing God's Everlasting Covenant, is composed of 7 colours. God's Covenant with mankind was made through 7 men—

ADAM, concerning the Seed of the woman;

NOAH, concerning the flooding of the earth;

ABRAHAM, concerning the Land of Promise and the nation of Israel;

Repeated to ISAAC;

Repeated to JACOB;
MOSES, concerning the priesthood of Aaron and the nation of Israel;
DAVID, concerning his Seed sitting upon the throne.

These 7 promises of the Covenant are God's plan and purpose with the earth, from Adam to the fulfilment of all things in Christ Jesus when he sits upon David's throne forever.

The 7 colours therefore symbolize the whole plan of God from the Adam-Edom Red (Sin and the Flesh) through the Yellow-Gold (Faith) to the verdant central Green (Life) and beyond to the heavenly Blue (Healing Divinity) and the Purple (Eternal Kingship).

And the rainbow is also a complete circle. To us upon the earth it appears as a partial circle because of our low and limited view. But the higher we go, the more of it we see. Viewed from an airplane, we see it as it truly is—a complete perfect circle. We must "lift up our eyes" to see the fulness of the divine purpose.

Like 7, a circle represents perfection, endlessness, completeness. The circle of the rainbow manifests the complete perfect circle of God's purpose.

There are many lessons in the rainbow. They are based on the symbol of the natural rainbow that appears in the sky after a storm. Light, which contains all colours, shines from the sun and is refracted by raindrops to create the rainbow.

The Bible tells us God is Light. All is of God. Christ is the Sun of Righteousness that manifests God's Light to mankind, and brings the glorious dawn of a new eternal day.

Raindrops are waters drawn up from the earth and purified—symbolic of the saints, drawn out by the Sun's power from the waters of the nations, purified through baptism, and giving a faithful reflection of the beauties of the Sun's (Christ's) character.

The Rainbow appears only when there's rain & sunshine—

"As the appearance of the Bow that is in the Cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about.

"This was the appearance of the likeness of the Glory of the Lord" (Ezek. 1:28).

Today there is no rain, for Isaiah says (40:6)—

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

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth . . ."

When sin and wickedness rule the earth, the earth is dry and withered. But when the Sun of Righteousness appears, he will gather the faithful saints unto himself, and give them ever-verdant Spirit-nature. Together they and he are the Rainbowed Angel, pouring out the judgments of God on the nations.

After the storm of judgment is over, and the thunder and lightning cease, there will be a day of gentle, healing rain, refreshing showers through which the Sun will shine in resplendent glory, for Yahweh inspires Moses to say (Deut. 32:2-3)—

"My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as showers upon the grass.

"Because I will publish the Name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God."

Then will appear the rainbow of Rev. 4:3—

"There was a Rainbow around the throne, in sight like unto an emerald."

The old, dry, lifeless grass of the sin-nature has perished, and the emerald greenness—life and fruitfulness—flourishes on every side. Then shall the circle of the divine purpose be complete, the 7-fold Covenant fulfilled, and God's glory shall cover the earth as the waters now cover the sea.

MUSIC

LIKE the rainbow, another striking illustration of God's use of 7 is music. Music is beautiful, and has harmony, meaning, unity and order. Noise is jumbled sound, confusion, the purposeless world of the ungodly.

Music is very prominent in divine worship in Scripture. In fact, music IS worship: symbolic of all thanksgiving and spiritual joy—and should never be used for any other purpose.

David's and Solomon's arrangements for musical service are given in great detail. Music is brought to the fore in each reformation and restoration of Israel—Hezekiah, Josiah, Nehemiah. The future Temple in Jerusalem will be filled with much music.

Music must always be in our heart—our basic frame of mind—if we are God's (Eph. 5:18).

Music's true purpose is to give glory and praise to God. It therefore naturally falls into a 7-fold division—the octave. The 8th note is a repetition of the first at a higher pitch: a new beginning **higher up**.

It is further remarkable that to transfer harmonies to different keys, the addition of 5 half-notes is required, giving the full scale 12 steps. Surely this reappearance of the divine 5-7-12 pattern (5 Law of God, 7 Perfection, 12 Israel) is more than mere coincidence!

Seven is often associated with music to symbolize complete praise.

It seems strange at first thought that there was no music mentioned in the Tabernacle service, inasmuch as music is praise, and no service is acceptable to God that is not in thankful joy, but it would seem that we are taught here that this present Wilderness journey is not our resting place, and all joy and praise has its roots and its fulfilment in the Temple Age.

David sets the perfect example in Psa. 119:164—

"7 times a day do I praise Thee because of Thy righteous judgments."

7 times a day is all day, or the complete day. That is, after we become Christ's our lives must be filled with praise and thankfulness to God. We must look beyond the present to the day when the faithful shall sing the song of the Redeemed. This song, recorded in Rev. 5:12, is made up of 7 words of praise—

"Power, Riches, Wisdom, Strength, Honour, Glory, Blessing."

MANY SEVENS

The Lord's Prayer contains 7 petitions. This prayer is the complete, perfect prayer. We are commanded by Christ (Matt. 18:22) to forgive 70 x 7— unending forgiveness.

The walls of Jericho fell (Jos. 6:4) when 7 priests bore 7 trumpets and marched around the city 7 days—once each day for 6 days, 7 times on the 7th. This shows that complete faith and obedience brings about complete victory. Again, no sound of the trumpets till the 7th day.

Ruth was described by the women of Israel as better than 7 sons (4:15), for she completely gave herself to the worship and service of Israel's God.

Enoch, the 7th from Adam, was translated that he might not see death—a type of the 7000th year when sin and death will be destroyed.

God told Elijah (1 Kings 19:18):

"I have left Me 7000 in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed to Baal."

A faithful remnant, 7 x 1000, the complete, perfected remnant taken from the world.

THE LAW OF MOSES

UNDER the Law of Moses, 7 is used in many things. In Lev. 8:33-35, the priests were consecrated (made holy to God and dedicated to His service) by remaining at the door of the Tabernacle 7 days. They had to eat flesh & bread those 7 days.

Consecration is a symbol of immortality. In order to be so consecrated, we must now abide faithfully at the Door—Christ. We must avail ourselves of his flesh—the bread and wine. It is also a type of the calling out of mankind to God during the 7000 years.

In Lev. 14: 7-8, a leper had to be sprinkled 7 times to be made clean. He then had to tarry 7 days outside the camp.

Leprosy is a symbol of sin: 7 represents a complete cleansing. The flesh (sin) was cleansed: a type of the purification of baptism whereby the Old Man of uncleanness dies, and the New Man of holiness is born.

A similar type is found in 2 Kings 5:10—

"Elisha sent a messenger unto him (Naaman) saying:

"Go and wash in Jordan 7 times, and thy flesh shall come again unto thee, and thou shalt be clean."

Naaman was a leper. By humbling himself as a little child and washing in simple obedience 7 times in Jordan, he was made clean. Here again the type: a washing away of sin through baptism and obedience.

* * *

THE Day of Atonement was celebrated in the 7th month. It pointed forward to the completion and finishing of God's work of calling out men to glorify Him. The sacrifices offered were 7 bullocks on the 7th day, representing perfected work coinciding with perfected time—the time when the atoning work of God is completed.

Also in the Mosaic Law we have the 7-branched candlestick, representing the complete Word of God shining through and radiating from the Ecclesia, the perfect Light of Life (Ps. 119:105).

It was to burn continually by the daily replenishing of its oil, teaching us that to keep the light of God's Word in our minds and hearts we must continually, every day, study its pages.

God promised Israel (Deut. 28):

"If thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments.

"The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face. They shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee 7 ways."

But in Lev. 26: 18-28 is the reverse warning—

"If ye will not yet for all this hearken unto Me, then I will punish you 7 times.

"And if ye walk contrary unto Me, and will not hearken unto Me, I will bring 7 times more plagues upon you.

"I will walk contrary unto you; I will chastise you 7 times for your sins."

If faithful, God promised them complete victory over their enemies—they would flee before Israel 7 ways. But if they were to be disobedient, they would suffer fully and completely; their plagues and chastisement 7 times as great.

Here we see how God uses 7 to represent completeness or intensity of judgment or victory.

* * *

ANOTHER use of 7 is found in Deut. 7:1-2 where Israel was to completely destroy the 7 corrupt and wicked heathen nations dwelling in God's Promised Land. They were to **totally** conquer the land, totally stamp out the sinners, so that they might have rest and peace therein.

Although Israel failed badly, this was to have been a type of the 7th 1000 year rest under Christ, when all sinners will be destroyed. To find true rest and peace with God, we must first **utterly destroy** the way of the world, the way of the heathen, the natural lusts of the flesh.

7 THINGS GOD HATES

Prov. 6:16-19 gives us a list of 7 things which make up the ways of the flesh, the 7 things God hates—

Pride

Lying (deception)

Injuring others

Planning to do wrong

Eagerness to seek trouble

Misrepresenting others to their harm

Creating discord among brethren (worst of all)

Jesus gives a similar list of 7 in Matt. 15-19—

Evil thoughts, Murders, Adulteries, Fornication, Thefts, False witness, Blasphemies.

In contrast are the 7 armaments of the Spirit (Eph. 6:13- 18) and the 7 fruits of righteousness (2 Pet. 1:5-7).

SEVEN IS LOVE

The final and ultimate fruit is LOVE: it never fails. IT NEVER FAILS. Let us always be buoyed up by that assurance. Though appearances may long be to the contrary, Love is the perfect and only guarantee of success. It is the bond—the binding together—of perfectness.

Seven IS Love: the completion: the way to perfection. Christ said that love is the fulfilling of the **whole** Law.

In 1 Cor. 13, where true scriptural Love is defined, it is given 14 characteristics (2x7). Could not this be a type of the Perfect One Body—Jew and Gentile made perfect and complete through the basic godly characteristic of Love, which all must be filled with to obtain salvation?

The 14 points are divided into 7 positive and 7 negative aspects: what love does do, and what it does not do—

Negative—

Envy not

Vaunt not itself

Is not puffed up

Behave not unseemly

Seeks not her own

Is not provoked

Thinks no evil

Positive—
Suffers long
Is kind
Rejoices in Truth
Believes all things
Bears all things
Hopes all things
Endures all things

THE BREAD OF LIFE

WE find Jesus miraculously multiplying 7 loaves to feed the whole multitude—

"He took the 7 loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

"And they did all eat, and were filled. And they took up of the broken meat 7 baskets full" (Matt. 15:36).

The loaves are the complete, whole counsel of God, the food of life, the Bread from heaven; while the 7 baskets show the enlargement and completion of the Word. All ate and were filled—all who are faithful.

Those who completely digest and assimilate God's Word into their life and conduct and character will be filled and satisfied when they partake of that true Bread that came down from heaven, and live forever.

PERFECTING OF JESUS

IN Phil. 2 there are 7 steps in the humiliation of Jesus, his perfection through trial and suffering; and 7 steps to his exaltation and glorification—

His humiliation—
Made self of no reputation
Took form of a servant
Made in likeness of men
Found in fashion as a man
Humbled himself
Obedient unto death.
Suffered death on the cross

His exaltation—
Exalted by God
Name above every name
Every knee bows to him
Things in heaven
Things in earth
Things under the earth
Every tongue call him Lord

"LET US"

Heb. 10 to 13 gives 7 exhortations beginning with "Let us." The first (10:22)—

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."

First, draw near with our hearts and minds, sincerely wanting to learn and obey God's Word. And, upon learning it in faith, be washed, be baptized for the remission of sins.

The succeeding 6 exhortations lead us on to perfection, giving our lives completely to God.

Let us—
Hold fast the Faith (10:23)
Consider each other in love and good works (10:24)
Lay aside every weight (12:1)
Have grace to serve God (12:28)
Go forth to him without the camp (13:13)
Give praise continually (13:15)

THE REVELATION

THE Revelation is a book of 7's: ecclesias, angels, stars, spirits, seals, etc. It gives the history of the 7 Ecclesias—the family of God—from Christ's first appearance until he returns. It reveals the final picture when all will be completed, and sin and death destroyed.

The faithful from 7000 years of earth's history will be the sole occupants of the earth with Christ. Isaiah describes it beautifully (30:26)—

"The light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be 7-fold, as the light of 7 days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of His people, and healeth the stroke of their wound."

The Light of the world is Christ—the Sun. The light of the Moon is the Bride of Christ —the Saints (Song 6:10). The light of the Moon shall be as the light of the Sun—the Saints shall be like Christ in glorious spirit-nature. And the light of the Sun shall be 7-fold—all will be perfect and complete.

The glory of God manifested through Christ will completely cover the earth. The long breach of 7000 years of sin and death will be healed.

This is the end that the figure 7 points forward to: the fulfilment of the Promises as seen in the Rainbow of the Everlasting Covenant; the perfection of Praise as seen in music's 7-fold division; and the true Sabbath-Rest at the end of 7000 years labour.

This is the time when man will at last do that for which he was created: give glory to God in the highest, and there will at last be peace and goodwill toward men.

This, Sunday School scholars, is what the Truth offers: perfection, beauty, holiness, joy, and life everlasting.

NOW is the time to study God's Word, like Timothy of old. Upon reaching the age of responsibility, obey in the waters of baptism: completely "wash and be clean." Then as brethren and sisters of Christ, continue the good fight of faith until Christ comes to fulfil all things. Then shall Isaiah's words be fulfilled—

"Thy Sun shall no more go down, neither shall thy moon withdraw itself; for the Lord shall be thine everlasting Light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

"Thy people also shall be all righteous. They shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I may be glorified.

"A little one shall become a 1000, and a small one a strong nation. I the Lord will hasten it in his time."

—D.C.

"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him"—2 Chr. 16:9.

"Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you"—Jam. 4:8.

Current World Events

WORLD COURT Out of Business

In theory, the 15 judges of World Court in The Hague form top tribunal for resolving disputes under international law. In fact, they have decided only about 2 doz. largely forgettable cases since '46.

This wk. they'll take up last case before court—a Belgian company's compensation claim for a dam confiscated by Spanish govt. in '48.

After that, judges could pack up. Few nations are willing to submit their quarrels to an international authority, & World Court will soon have no further business on its agenda. (Tm 10:3)

It was a beautiful dream: a World Court to settle all disputes peacefully! But quite an impossible dream, human nature being what it is, as all true Bible students knew from the beginning. There can be no effective World Court till Christ returns to cast human nature out of power everywhere.

LIBYA OIL FINANCES NASSER

Shortly after recent coup that brought "progressive" regime to power in oil-rich Libya, Nasser said:

"We can now wage a 100-yr. war against Israel. We have an inexhaustible supply of manpower. With Libya & Sudan we have privileged sanctuaries for our aircraft. And with Libya alone we have the resources to pay for the effort." (Nwk 10:6)

* * *

In last decade, vast reservoirs of oil have been found in Libya, turning it almost overnight into one of world's wealthiest underdeveloped nations. Six wks. ago, a group of officers staged a coup, deposed king, & thrust Libya into camp of Arab radicals.

They're primarily motivated by Arab nationalism: "We must liberate Arab world, first & foremost Palestine, then Persian Gulf."

During first month in power, junta grave \$1-million to Al Fatah terrorists.

For great majority of Libyans, oil brought only inflation & loan sharks. & tho prosperity enabled many to go to school for first time, education only helped them to understand what was wrong with country. Inevitably, this process of change will move Libya away from West ties, & into Nasser's orbit.

Most of wealth from Libya's gushing oil wells went into few pockets. "Libya was most corrupt country I've ever seen," one oilman said. Govt. ministers seldom held jobs for more than yr. or 2, but in that time they often became millionaires. (Nwk 10:20)

The sudden swing of Libya into the violently anti-Israel camp not only brings Libya herself into line with her prophetically required role for the last days, but throws the great weight of her incredible oil riches into the general struggle. A big forward step in the divine plan.

RUSSIA Expands, US Withdraws

History shows signs of repeating itself. Indications are that isolationism which swept US in '30s & led Nazis & Japs to miscalculate resoluteness of US is emerging again.

Gen. Speidel of Germany, former NATO commander, sees NATO's power gradually diminishing while potentials of Warsaw Pact countries are increasing.

Militarily, he said, Russia has strengthened solidarity of Eastern bloc by its Czech intervention, advanced its naval & merchant-fleet power, kept pace with US in strategic-weapons technology, increased its numerical superiority in medium-range missiles which threaten whole of Europe, & improved effectiveness of its psychological warfare in mass media of West.

Powerful voices in US are advocating a foreign policy of abdication. Aroused by costs & complexities of Vietnam, they urge general retreat, involving withdrawal of forces from Europe & Far East, 're-examination' of military commitments, & avoiding involvement at almost any cost, in almost every part of world.

Begins to look like big crisis in world will come in '70s—just after US has pulled out of Vietnam.

By that time, the Communists—who have been told, in effect, that US public sentiment has changed & US won't again go to defence of any nation in Asia—will complete takeover of S. Vietnam. This will be a forerunner of similar conquests in other parts of SE Asia.

Net result of US retreat may bring a series of events which will most likely lead to a 3rd world war—a nuclear war. (USN 11:3)

We seem to be back in the '30s, with Hitler obviously preparing step by step for world conquest, while the West milled around in confusion. But a far greater, more subtle, more carefully calculating menace than Hitler is rising now.

NEW GERMAN Govt. Looks EAST

W. Germany's "grand coalition" is ended. New partnership has been formed to run govt. Changes can be expected at home & abroad.

Probably will be a thaw in relations with E. Europe—especially Russia. It's generally assumed new Govt. will be left of Kiesinger regime. Brandt made it clear he wants more dealings with Europe's Communists—& idea of change in this area now seems popular in W. Germany.

US concerned over Brandt's plan to woo East: Fear ties to West bound to suffer. (USN 10:13).

We were very disappointed when Brandt and his left-leaning Socialists ran 2nd in the election, for it was clear his east-looking policies were more the way Germany must eventually go. But in a bold power-play he got control by a deal with a smaller party, and now he heads Germany.

REDS' BUSIEST WEEK in SPACE

With launch of big spaceship Soyuz 6, Soviets off to busiest wk. of rocketry since they began space race with Sputnik 1, 12 yrs. ago. Within 3 days Soyuz 7 & 8 were also aloft: a record total of 7 men in orbit around earth.

Shots showed Russia already capable of rapidly lofting huge amounts of equipment required for building in space. Soviets used several firing & mission-control centres, a complex 3-way communications setup, & 3 separate launch pads.

NASA officials confessed that US would be hard-pressed to match Soviet feat, since it lacks such vast ground facilities. (Tm 10:24)

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For sober technocrats who rule Russia, time seemed appropriate for self-congratulation. Russia's biggest space spectacular in yrs. had sent 3 Soyuz capsules & 7 cosmonauts into orbit around earth.

China had finally agreed to negotiate bitter border dispute that has recently driven 2 Communist giants to brink of war.

And in Bonn, which Soviets long regarded as hotbed of "neo-Nazi ravanchism," a more palatable Socialist govt. was taking shape. (Nwk 10:27)

It may well turn out that while U.S. is pursuing the costly will-o-the-wisp of moon trip glamour, Russia is quietly building local space power and technology to dominate the earth.

Lebanon Crisis: Commando Revolt

Affluent & pro-West Lebanon has done its best to stand aside from Arab-Israel conflict that has inflamed Mideast for over 2 decades. Last wk. however, this enviable state of affairs was abruptly shattered.

Lebanon teetered on brink of all-out civil war—& threatened to become vortex of new Mideast conflagration. From Tripoli in north to refugee camps on outskirts of Beirut, Palestinian commandos battled police, tore down Lebanese flags & seized public bldgs.

All over Arab world militants raged & fulminated against Lebanon's Christian Pres. Helou for daring to interfere with commandos' holy war against Israel. Israel made it plain that, should Arab states invade Lebanon, Israel would feel compelled to intervene.

US reflected a post-Viet mood of sober caution & virtually announced to world it had no intention of getting involved in Mideast dispute.

Lebanon's Muslim leaders demanded commandos have free rein to recruit & operate in Lebanon. Al Fatah said it would not even consider negotiating until it had such a "carte blanche." Backing up its demands, last wk. commandos seized old section of Tripoli, country's 2nd largest city. (Nwk 11:3)

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Last wk. an attempt by Lebanon's army to curb terrorists brought country face-to-face with spectre of civil war.

The crisis is rooted in Lebanon's volatile ethnic makeup. Roughly ½ of its 2,700,000 citizens are Christian, ½ Moslem.

Last spring, army attempts to control the commandos led to street demonstrations in which 17 died. The riots caused downfall of Karami govt.

After the riots, the guerrillas agreed to keep away from civilian settlements. Despite the agreement, they tripled their forces to about 5400 men, and set up new camps deeper inside Lebanon.

2 wks. ago the army moved. 14 guerrillas were slain. Six days later, Al Fatah avenged what its radio station called "a brutal massacre."

The events produced internal & external crises for Lebanon. Arab leaders called a general strike, & some of the 160,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon fought pitched battles with police. In Tripoli, Lebanon's 2nd city, battles killed 7, injured scores.

If Helou's govt. is to stay in power, it will probably have to back down & give even freer rein to guerrillas. Such a move, however, would invite even more severe Israel reprisals.

Whatever outcome, it's plain that hopes for Mideast peace were dimmer than ever. (Tm 10:31).

The ring is closing around Israel. Till now, Lebanon had held aloof from the active warfare against her. But under pressure from the terrorists within, and the other Arab states without, particularly neighbouring Syria, Lebanon seems to have cravenly sold herself into the terrorists' hands.

WHY BLACKS BECOME BITTER

Despite years of pressure, govt. surveys indicate that only 5000 of 130,000 youths now in US construction-industry apprenticeship programs are black.

Black men face almost insurmountable obstacles in cracking local unions, which have tradition of passing jobs from father to son, or to members of their own ethnic group.

Even if Negro overcomes these roadblocks, he faces further trouble on job. As a white contractor in Dallas summed up fate of many a Negro during 4-yr. apprenticeship—

"He's letting himself in for 4 yrs. of abuse from fellow workmen. If someone has to go up to a 15th floor catwalk where it's dangerous, it'll be the coloured kid. And then there's always the white guy working next to him who mutters out of the side of his mouth, 'You'll get a wrench on top of your skull before you're thru.' It's kind of tough to put up with that kind of thing." (Nwk 10:6)

This is why Christ's righteous rule is needed. Under human rule, the strong will always oppress the weak, and the majority abuse the minority.

LEFTIST COUP Takes SOMALIA

Somalia Turns Left: In wake of assassination of Somalia's Pres. Shermarke by one of his own police bodyguards. Somalia's US-trained constabulary was extremely unpopular. After Shermarke's funeral, the police vanished altogether.

Word spread that a coup was in works. Within hrs. Somalia's 10,000-man army, trained & equipped by Russia, had achieved mastery of a nation once held up as a model of democracy in Africa.

And a "revolutionary council" of officers headed by commander-in-chief Gen. Siyad embarked on a leftward course. (Nwk 113)

U.S. trained the police; Russia trained the army. What intrigue! And the army has won out, and another Mideast land is drawn into Russia's orbit.

TV VIOLENCE IS "APPALLING"

TV Violence: "Appalling," National Commission on Violence concludes: TV loaded with violence. It's teaching US children moral & social values "inconsistent with a civilized society."

Lower-income children watch TV 5-7 hrs. daily. Time spent by adults & children watching TV today, greater than 10 yrs. ago.

8 of every 10 dramatic programs contained violence: over ½ of all leading characters inflict violence upon other persons. Nearly ½ of all leading characters who kill—25 of 54—& more than ½. of all leading characters who are violent—126 of 241—achieve a clearly happy ending.

Violence is portrayed as a successful means of attaining a desired end.

TV portrays a world in which "good guys" & "bad guys" alike use violence to solve problems & achieve goals. Violence is rarely presented as illegal or socially unacceptable. As often as not, it is portrayed as a legitimate means for attaining desired ends.

Each yr. advertisers spend \$2½ billion in belief that TV can influence human behaviour. The TV industry enthusiastically agrees, but nonetheless contends that programs of violence do not have any such influence.

Younger children (3 to 8) are particularly susceptible to observational learning. What younger children see on TV is peculiarly "real," for they're still in process of learning to discriminate between fantasy & reality.

The image of the adult world which most children get from TV is by & large an unwholesome one.

A large body of research on observational learning by preschool children—described in testimony before this Commission—confirms that children can & do learn aggressive behaviour from what they see on TV.

The vast majority of experimental studies on this question have found that observed violence stimulates aggressive behaviour. It is reasonable to conclude that a constant diet of violent behaviour on TV has an adverse effect on human character & attitudes.

Violence on TV encourages violent forms of behaviour & fosters moral & social values about violence in daily life which are unacceptable in a civilized society.

It is a matter for grave concern that at a time when values & influence of traditional institutions, as family, church & school are in question, TV is emphasizing violent, antisocial styles of life.

Children begin to absorb the lessons of TV before they can read or write. In a fundamental way, TV helps to create what children expect of themselves & of others, & of what constitutes the standards of civilized society.

Yet, we daily permit our children during their formative yrs. to enter a world of police interrogations, of gangsters beating enemies, of spies performing fatal brain surgery, & of routine demonstrations of all kinds of killing & maiming.

TV entertainment based on violence may be effective merchandising, but it is an appalling way to serve a civilization. (USN 10:6)

Surely no sane person of the world could possibly expose their children to this vicious evil, if they have any true love for them! How much more should the enlightened children of God eschew it!

USSR Completes CZECH PURGE

Dubcek's Fall—For 5 mos. Dubcek in position of man witnessing elaborate preparations for his own execution.

Since dismissal as Party chief last Apr., he has stood by helplessly as flowers of Prague Spring were uprooted one by one. His former colleagues have either lost their posts or turned against him.

A national campaign of personal vilification has charged him with crimes as far-ranging as treason & "weakness of character."

Last wk. he was divested of his seat on Presidium & his post as chairman of Federal Assembly. In wholesale purge of remaining liberals, party dropped 30 Dubcek supporters from Central Committee.

For first time, Prague regime officially condoned Soviet invasion of '68. (Nwk 10:6)

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Anti-Soviet officers in Czech Army are being quietly purged, on direct orders from Moscow. (USN 10:6)

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Ever since Czech invasion, forces of Communist orthodoxy have been chipping away at political freedoms granted during Prague Spring of '68. Last wk., one of last remaining vestiges of liberal program was abruptly erased when govt. announced almost total ban on trips to West by citizens. (Nwk 10:20)

Russia has illustrated both her efficiency and her ruthlessness in the gradual, patient crushing of the Czechs back into the iron Communist mould.

RED SHIPS UP 600% in 20 YRS.

In a recent listing of merchant ships being built in US versus those for Russia, the Russians orders are 7 times as many as US's! A panel of international experts just concluded that greatest challenge to US is momentum & scope of Soviet maritime program. Soviet merchant marine will have increased 600% in 20 yrs. ending in '70. In contrast, US merchant marine is largely comprised of ships older than sailors who man them. (USN 10:6)

Ponder these statistics! Sea-power is world-power. When bro. Thomas, guided by prophecy, put the finger on Russia 120 years ago as the Gogian King of the North, surely he could not have dreamed of 1/10 of the degree to which the prophecy was to be fulfilled as it is before our eyes today!

ARABS MEET: Plan HOLY WAR

A summit meeting of world's Islamic nations—representing ½ billion people—has underlined the element of religion in simmering Arab-Israeli conflict. Arab militants sought to exploit the Al Aksa Mosque fire to rally support from coreligionists. Turks, Persians, Pakistanis, Indonesians & Moslems from India & Africa always tended to stay aloof from what they regarded as purely Arab quarrel with Israel over territory. Now the non-Arab Moslem countries have been drawn into showing greater support for Arab cause against Israel. The summit has hardened Arab determination & made compromise in Mideast more distant than ever. (USN 10:6)

The thought of a "holy war" is thrilling, from the point of view of prophecy. It is "holy wars" that have written the history of the earth in blood in the past. More and more the last great war of Armageddon shapes up as an Islamic-Catholic holy war against the hated Jew.

N. IRELAND CRISIS CONTINUES

For wks., ire of N. Ireland's Protestant majority had been mounting. Under steady pressure from London, govt. had committed itself to reform program that would do much to guarantee Catholics equal rights in jobs, housing, voting.

Last wk., Protestant fears & anger exploded into N. Ireland's worst outbreak of violence in almost ½ century. With only British troops preventing major blood bath, Home Sec. Callaghan took floor in London's Parliament last wk. to call on both sides for reason & calm.

Appeal seemed to go unheeded. Protestant militants now seem determined to bring down govt. & end talk of reform. If that happens, a savage, senseless civil war might well come. (Nwk 10:27)

"A savage, senseless civil war" threatens on the doorstep of the "mother of parliaments"—the "cradle of democracy." How hollow are man's pretensions! How evil are his hatreds! How cruel and heartless his treatment of his fellowman!

STUDENT Revolt: More VIOLENT

Suspicion that student revolt is shifting from massive confrontations to "guerrilla warfare" is beginning to bother many colleges.

Guerrilla tactics have already surfaced at Harvard. Terrorists roughed up staff, smashed windows, tore out phones, painted antiwar slogans & obscenities on walls. (USN 10:13)

* * *

The angry worldwide confrontation between students & society springs from a deep dissatisfaction with a form of impersonal regimentation that, to many of today's youngsters, represents technology gone mad. Increasing number of educated youths view their consumer-oriented societies with ill-concealed abhorrence.

Tho student movements began with specific grievances against outmoded universities, most have expanded into an attack on society.

Tho they agree their ultimate object is to destroy existing society, what should replace it is often of only cursory conjecture. Many students don't even bother to envision future at all. "For us who fight," declares Yoshitaka Yamamoto, leading Jap activist, "there is only the vision of the struggle."

Students consider all of old ideologies incapable of coping with problems of advanced 20th century.

If students can't so far see other side of hill, it may be because world's advanced nations are caught in period of chaotic change—a gear-wrenching moment in history in which no one can possibly know what's ahead.

At Tokyo U., professors nowadays sneak into their offices before dawn; it's no longer safe to walk on campus in daylight. As they scurry to class, teachers are set on & beaten, kicked & stoned by hyper-leftist student zealots.

Nor is Tokyo U. unique. Such student strong-arm squads have become an occupational hazard on scores of Jap campuses. Situation so dangerous, professors at Waseda U. rarely venture out without a bodyguard. (Nwk 11:3)

"Disobedient to parents" is one of the marks of the last day. Student revolt, a world-wide phenomenon, is a striking fulfilment, and a part of the general "sea and waves roaring." Who would have expected the prophecies to be fulfilled to such an intense degree, and clearly it is to grow worse and worse—more and more like the wild animals that natural men really are.

USSR: Revolutionary New Missile

Missile now carried by Russia's most modern subs could revolutionize naval warfare. It's radar-equipped & said to be able to hit ships 450 mis. away in minutes. (USN 10:20)

WW II was far more vicious and destructive than WW I, but it was nothing to what WW III will be, for crazed man now has deadly toys that former generations never dreamed of.

ISRAEL Expects WAR in SPRING

Last wk, new Israel mood of confidence suffered blow when Dayan expressed his thoughts on military situation. To regain their lost prestige. Dayan said, Nasser & Co. will either have to obtain an Israel withdrawal from occupied territory thru diplomatic means or renew large-scale warfare.

He left little doubt which course he thought Arabs would take. When he warned Israeli settlers to use coming winter mos. to prepare for artillery bombardments on scale they had never experienced, it was clear he expected Arabs to start all-out war early as next spring. (Nwk 10:27)

* * *

Israel preparing to wage 100 yr. war with Arabs—if necessary; surprising number in Israel convinced it probably will be. Few see any hope of negotiated settlement.

Beleaguered nation getting set for prolonged struggle. Farm settlements in Jordan & Beisan valleys shelled nightly; army patrols along Jordan constantly ambushed; bombs explode in crowded public places. On "cease-fire" lines along Suez, an active war continues—with incessant shelling, sniping, mine laying, air strikes.

Occupied land considered vital to security is being tacitly annexed: 19 Jewish farming settlements established in occupied regions, 6 more planned.

In vulnerable frontier areas, formidable defence installations being built. Golan Heights "annexation" is far advanced. (USN 10:20)

* * *

Since June, '67, 450 Israelis slain & over 1800 wounded by enemy action. That compares with 780 killed, 2500 wounded in '67 war.

With a population of only 2½ million, Israel's suffering heavier casualties, proportionally, than US in Vietnam.

Economic costs are staggering. About 1/5 of Israel's total output is devoted to defence. In past yr., foreign-exchange reserves have dropped to danger point as result of need to purchase sophisticated weapons. (USN 10:20)

Both Jew and Arab are convinced of the inevitableness of war, and each week sees an increase in the scale of hostilities. We live in very exciting times, and it should be strengthening to our faith to see prophecy fulfilled before our eyes. "Where much is given, much is expected."

ITALY Govt. Out: Reds Awaiting

Italy: centre-left coalition that premised prosperity for all has collapsed. Caretaker Cabinet now in charge is practically no govt. at all. Communists & leftwing Socialists, who have support of ½ of Italy's voters, are trying to force their way into new all-left coalition govt. (USN 10:20).

Communists stand a good chance now of taking over Italy's govt. That surely would mark a milestone in the development of events.

BOLIVIA: COUP TO THE LEFT

Bolivia: Coup to Left. In overall picture of Latin America, Bolivian coup fits recent trend on part of many military establishments to shift to leftist nationalism.

Already, Peru has a military govt. that clearly answers that description. Many younger military leaders across Latin America have expressed open sympathy with this course (Nwk 10:6)

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Bolivia has become 9th Latin American country to come under military rule, joining a growing club whose members now control over ½ of Latin America's 260 million people. During its 144-yr. history, Bolivia has had 185 changes of govt., mostly by coups.

The soldiers who seized power last wk. promised land reform, recognition of "socialist countries," & a left-wing policy. (Tm 10:3)

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When Gen. Ovando seized power in Bolivia last mo., one of his first acts was to declare that "new arrangements" would have to be made with Gulf Oil.

2 wks. ago Ovando ordered nationalization of all Gulf properties—placing new strain on relations with US.

Bolivian policies are just another example of tough, determined nationalism that's becoming a major factor in Latin America. As one Bolivian said last wk: "Our people will survive. Our wheat will be small & black, but it will be OUR wheat." (Nwk 11:3)

Another in the quickening pace of leftist coups, as men revolt against hopeless poverty and exploitation, and fall into Russia's arms. Somalia also went this month, and Lebanon is teetering; France & Italy are very shaky; Germany is looking eastward.

"MANY SHALL RUN TO & FRO"

Of all devices man has created to propel himself from one place to another on earth, Boeing 747 jetliner must rank as most spectacular: ¾ of a football field in length; tail high as a 7-story bldg. Enormous passenger capacity: up to 490. And finally its power & range: 625 mph for 6700 nonstop miles, distance from NY to Tokyo. (Nwk 10:27)

SO much knowledge, so little wisdom! Such physical mastery; such spiritual impotence!

SWEDEN Aids VIET Communists

Sweden's new Premier Palme is one of Sweden's severest & most outspoken critics of US role in Vietnam. Sweden announced plans to give N. Vietnam aid & loans of over \$40 million. Sweden had already recognized Hanoi regime & extended its hospitality to US deserters. Palme is regarded as left-leaning. (USN 10:13)

Sweden, world leader in immorality and dissoluteness, belongs with the King of the North, and is acting like it.

LAOS Next US-RED WARFRONT?

N. Viet troops & their local allies control over ½ of Laos, & they're strong enough to conquer rest whenever they want. Recently, however, govt. of Premier Souvanna Phouma launched massive military operation and recaptured a number of key towns long held by the Communists. The offensive had been made possible by a generous supply of US air power & combat advisers. And this US involvement led many to wonder whether US was quietly slipping into yet another undeclared SE Asia war. (Nwk 10:6)

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Dispute growing over extent of US involvement in expanding war in Laos. Is US being drawn into another Vietnam? The Washington Star reports "US participation in Laotian war is becoming too big to hide." Aircraft losses, not officially reported, rumoured high. Individual pilots report some of hottest antiaircraft fire in war presently is over Laos. (USN 10:6)

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Laos gets more US aid per capita than any other country—over \$250 million a yr. in a country of 3 million people, ½ of whom live in Communist-held areas.

US justifies involvement in Laos on ground N. Viets were there first. Like N. Viet presence, US's violates '62 Geneva accords, which "neutralized" Laos.

US officially admits only to flying "armed reconnaissance" missions over Laos. But in fact, besides bombing Ho Chi Minh trail, Thai-based US planes provide considerable air support for Lao army, flattening whole towns in Reds' zone.

In last 11 mos., bombing of Laos increased 5-fold. (Tm 10:17)

* * *

It's impossible to hide US involvement in Laos—\$300 million a yr. to shore up economy & help in war against Communists.

There's little ground for optimism. Without US air strikes & the "Secret Army" enemy would be in control. The corrupt, inefficient Lao Army is even less aggressive than S. Viet Army & there's little hope for improvement.

Nor does political situation in Laos give any reason for smugness. Govt. largely run by a group of aristocratic families that show little penchant for social reform.

By contrast, Communists have put an end to corruption in areas they control.

If N. Viet as it withdraws some troops from S. Vietnam, chooses to invest more troops & equipment in Laos struggle, it could smash Laos resistance despite US support.

Should Hanoi escalate massively, US will be faced with serious question of whether to beef up present role—or stand by & watch Reds take over Laos. (Nwk 11:3)

The Reds can turn the war on and off as they please—in Laos, Cambodia, S. Vietnam. What chance does U.S. have, fighting a "limited" war against an elusive enemy who always has safe sanctuary near?

ISRAEL: US IMMIGRANTS UP

Despite rigors of Israel life & prospect of a lifetime of unremitting warfare, steadily mounting numbers of Americans have recently decided to settle in Israel.

Apart from 3 million Jews in hostile Russia, US—with a 6 million-strong Jewish community—is only large, untapped reservoir of Jews living outside Israel. Of 40,000 new immigrants expected by Israel this yr., 5000 (12%) will be from US.

The '67 war definitely did it, one housewife newly arrived in Israel said: "It suddenly became real that we could lose this state of Israel unless we all helped."

Troubles are many for the new immigrants. Salaries are low, taxes & living cost staggeringly high. Apartments not only small & expensive (3-rcn. flat can cost over \$15,000) but hard to find & frequently lacking in US conveniences like refrigerators or modern stoves.

For many of immigrant Americans, all this comes as shock. So does fact that Israel schools are overcrowded—&, on high school level, not all that good.

Despite problems, Americans still migrate to Israel—& at a record rate. If there's one predominant theme that runs thru the stories of most recent US immigrants, it is, as always, the search for a Jewish way of life, and a Jewish identity. (Nwk 10:27)

What a wonderful witness the Jews are to the reality of God, and the sureness of His power and purpose! After 2000 years of wandering the whole earth, this strange people is being gathered again "in the latter days."

FRANCE Flounders: REDS WAIT

Can France dig its way out of mess it's in? There's almost no profession, no social category which hasn't demanded subsidies, tax relief or regulations from govt. France lives in frozen society of castes.

Standing on political sidelines are Communists: they'd like chance to break up France's "frozen castes" & impose their own. (USN 10:20)

DeGaulle and his illusions of grandeur seem to have ripened France for a Communist plucking. Everything is working Russia's way, because that suits God's present purpose.

FLOOD of CORRUPTION in MAIL

"US homes being bombarded with largest volume of sex-oriented mail in history," Nixon declared in message to Congress. (Nwk 10:6)

RUSSIA GETS VIET BARGAIN

Russia has never let up on military & economic aid to Hanoi. They give every sign of wanting Viet war to drag on indefinitely, killing US soldiers, destroying US equipment, straining US budget, tarnishing US image abroad, dividing US allies & US people too.

This for \$2 billion a yr. in Soviet aid is a great bargain for Moscow. (USN 10:6)

RUSSIA-CHINA TENSION EASES

For much of '69, threat of a major conflict hovered over 4500-mi. Russia-China frontier. Last wk. Chinese blinked first. In dramatic retreat, Peking agreed to discuss border issue. At same time, China urged that troops massed along border be pulled back, and that no force be used.

They also expressed hope relations could be normalized. The Chinese even referred to "peaceful coexistence," an abrupt about-face after all their talk of "overthrowing Soviet revisionist renegade clique."

Another apparent softening on the part of Chinese was expression of willingness to negotiate on basis of frontier treaties that Peking considers "unequal" because imposed by czarist Russian on tottering Chinese empire.

What caused Peking's retreat? Most Western analysts were certain that Chinese backed down out of fear.

Moscow's hints of preventive nuclear strikes finally convinced Peking's leadership that Russia meant business and time had come to face reality and yield before superior Soviet power. (Tm 10:17)

China appears to have backed down. Another victory for Russia. World power demands great military strength, and an obvious, ruthless determination to use it to gain one's ends. Russia is manifesting both. In a world that has ever been ruled by fear and power, perhaps Czechoslovakia was the best thing that could have happened to Russia. This is a language mankind understands.

BRITONS COOL to COM. MKT.

Only 26% of British now favour Market membership. In '65, 57% favoured entry. Today, 57% say drop idea altogether. (USN 10:6)

Britain has no place in the Catholic, European, Gog-&-Magog Image of the last days that Christ destroys on the mountains of Israel.

CONTRASTS IN SINCERITY

Seventh Day Adventists donate \$315 annually on average to their Church; Nazarenes \$197; Wesleyan Methodists \$290. By contrast, Episcopalians average \$70, United Methodists \$65. (USN 10:6)

The children of God know that He requires everything they have to be dedicated to His service—time, money and labour.

USSR Hints GERMAN WAR PACT

Moscow's already working on deal to sell natural gas to W. Germany in return for steel pipe. Moscow's even hinting the 2 countries could co-operate on military levels, just as they did before Hitler took power. (USN 10:20)

This is indeed good news. The rise of the Socialists to power in Germany gives promise of being a big step in the development of the divine purpose. Russia is moving swiftly to capitalize on this favourable development.

DDT: Growing HEALTH MENACE

DDT & its chemical relatives are nerve poisons. In lethal doses they cause violent convulsions, then death. They don't break down readily into less potent forms.

These persistent chemicals have been carried down rivers & streams into lakes & oceans of world. DDT, the most widely used pesticide, has been found in fatty tissues of birds & fish in Arctic & Antarctic.

Average human being now carries 10 to 20 parts per million of DDT in his body. The chemical is transmitted to babies thru mothers* milk. It has been shown to kill fish & birds & to cause cancer in laboratory animals.

Breast-fed infants throughout world are ingesting twice amount of DDT World Health Organization says is safe.

Persons afflicted with liver, cancer, leukaemia, high blood pressure & carcinoma had at death 2 to 3 times the residues of DDT & related pesticides stored in their body tissues as did persons who died accidental deaths. (USN 10:20)

Man is getting so "clever" at tampering with nature, and destroying what he does not understand, that he must be stopped before he destroys the whole race. Another sign that the end is near.

India: Worst Riots Since Independence

Much of civilized world this wk. is noting centennial of birth of Gandhi, India's great apostle of peace & non-violence. Yet in Indian state of Gujarat, where he was born Oct. 2, 1869, his own countrymen set stage for anniversary observances with bloodiest religious riots since independence 22 yrs. ago. In a 7-day outburst of communal hatred, Hindu & Moslem mobs tore thru the capital city of Ahmadabad. By wk's end, at least 1,000 lay dead, 3,500 in prison, over 30,000 homeless. Rampaging groups destroyed shops & homes in every part of the city. Using everything from Molotov cocktails to light bulbs filled with acid, they slaughtered men, women, & children with what one Indian official described as "rare brutality." Hundreds had their throats cut. Others were dragged from their homes by frenzied mobs who trussed them up, doused them with gasoline, set them afire. The bloodletting went uncurbed for 2 days. Seven days after the riots began, a grim Prime Minister Gandhi drove silently past Ahmadabad's blackened bldgs. (Tm 10:3).

Scratch the surface of human "civilization" and gentility, and what evil and depravity and cruelty we find lurking underneath!

70% of PEOPLE on 1 % of LAND

70% of our people are crammed on to just 1% of our land. Problems have been heaped on problems. What have we got today? Smog, pollution & traffic jams in cities; abandoned farmsteads & empty stores in country. And economic & social ills in both. (Nwk. 11:3).

POPE-BISHOPS: Power Struggle

Never, in modern times, had seat of Catholic Church itself been under such combined attack from visitors. At official meetings of bishops, and at a completely unofficial assembly of priests, central topic of discussion in Rome this wk. will be Pope's authority—and possibility of limiting it.

The meeting of 144 bishops, archbishops and cardinals, who represent national conferences of bishops in 92 countries, has one overriding subject on agenda: should pope rule with only advice of his bishops, as Rome insists, or should he allow bishops co-responsibility with him? (Tm 10:17)

* * *

In atmosphere of rebellion & crisis, top Catholic prelates from around globe gathered in Rome for World Synod of Bishops opening Oct. 11. Pope summoned bishops to discuss extent to which he should share authority with them.

Dissident Catholic priests from 10 European countries converged on Rome for their own conference starting day before synod. "Rebels" want limitation of papal powers & less strict rules for priests.

Pope replied to critics in strong warning. He said whoever questions his authority assails the one true Church & undergoes responsibility before God's judgment.

With demands for change coming thick and fast, simultaneously, & from all sides, he fears that unless he applies brakes, whole structure of Church may collapse & chaos result. (USN 10:20)

* * *

Many progressive bishops feel papacy would be of greater service to church if pope shared his immense responsibilities with them. But centuries of tradition have so exalted—& isolated—pope, that suggestions are treated in Rome as attacks on papacy itself.

The liberal hierarchies want greater freedom from Rome to experiment with liturgy, to run Catholic marriage courts & in general to adapt church laws & practices to needs of their own people.

Such freedom would of necessity curtail power of Roman Curia. Decentralization of authority would introduce more variety into church than many conservatives can tolerate. "Order is heaven's first law," says Cardinal Wright, conservative prefect of Curia's Congregation for Clergy.

In the current state of upheaval, there are many prelates who still yearn for a uniform flock under one infallible shepherd—& theirs could still be dominant voice in synod. (Nwk 10:20)

* * *

Not since Vatican I in 1870 had there been such direct challenge to papal absolutism within church hierarchy.

The conservatives did not remain silent in face of liberal challenge, arguing that to face up to very grave crisis in Western world—decline of faith, spiritual life & morals—the church now, more than ever, needs "firm & sole authority."

Pope reaffirmed that as successor to Peter he retains full & final authority over church. "The govt. of church," he said, "has an original form of its own, which aims to reflect in its expression the wisdom & will of its divine founder." (Tm 10:24)

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Scene would have been unthinkable a decade ago: pope, a small, white figure, sat silently, smiling occasionally & scribbling notes while his own bishops assailed his conduct of papacy & its basic role as supreme authority in church.

In first wk. of "extraordinary" meeting of Synod of Bishops, it had become clear that at stake was no less than nature of papacy & very structure of Catholic Church.

Pope's opening speech paternalistically asserted his "supreme authority/" & Cardinal Staffa, a high Curia official, told the 147 bishops they depended on Pope as much as medieval vassals owed allegiance to their feudal lords.

The liberal viewpoint so dominated synod that 17 of Wed.'s 18 speakers were seeking a larger role for bishops.

By weekend, Pope had withdrawn altogether from meeting. (Nwk. 10: 27)

* * *

World's Catholic bishops have set stage for significant test over how fast & far they should be allowed to go in sharing power with pope.

2 weeks discussion among 146 top Catholics from every continent make this clear: fresh momentum is building up in Church's drive to "update" its institutions in line with needs of present.

Extent of this latest bid for change was hardly foreseen when Synod opened Oct. 11. Synod's proposals would alter drastically present administration system, now almost completely in pope's hands. In view of most observers, these proposals are certain to be implemented in mos. ahead.

One thing became clear soon after start of sessions—a majority of even senior bishops lean to "progressive" point of view—that bishops are not merely appointees of pope, but hold in their own right power to work "with & under" pope in directing church affairs.

Traditionally the bishops as a body tended to play a passive, secondary role—receiving & obeying directives from pope & Curia almost as tho they were no more than appointed officials. Pace of change is gathering speed. (USN 11:3)

This power-struggle in the Catholic Church is fascinating. Just exactly 100 years ago the popes fought this same battle, and came out victorious with the blasphemous stamp of "infallible" by an obsequious Council. Will the ecclesiastical Horn of the Earth-Beast master HIS Czechoslovakia as capably as his political Horn-partner did his? It would seem he will, and there will be a backlash of totalitarianism in the Church, but time will tell.

RUSSIA: BIG GAINS in MIDEAST

In Mideast, Soviets doing nicely. In Iraq, they're more deeply entrenched than ever: and that's saying a lot. They're now involved in oil production on Persian Gulf for first time, thanks to an Iraq contract allowing them to develop rich Rumaila field, which was taken away from West-owned company.

West interests lost out in a bid to work rich sulphur deposits in Iraq: \$140-million project went to a Polish concern.

Strain in relations between Moscow & Syria seems to have disappeared: Russia going ahead full tilt with \$600-million Euphrates Dam; also railway lines, oil fields.

Present Sudan govt., which seized power May 25, is most left-wing govt. Sudan ever had, with 2 Communists in Cabinet posts.

Things looking better for Soviets in S. Yemen, too: left-wing govt. there overturned recently by an even more extreme leftwing group.

Even in some of traditionally pro-West nations, as Jordan, Soviets have made at least marginal advances. In Aug., agreement made for increase in Soviet commercial activity in Jordan, & Soviet technical help in various fields.

E. Germany has been picking up influence in Mideast at a rapid rate. (USN 10:13)

Every month, this picture seems to get stronger, and Russia seems to get a firmer hold on the Mideast, not so long ago the exclusive property of Britain. Each deeper penetration makes the final picture, as foretold in prophecy, more convincing and inevitable.

US DRUG FIRMS in DOPE TRADE

Psychologically more destructive than heroin—and now more available than marijuana—amphetamines are in many ways the most treacherous of all abused drugs.

92% of the speed & pep pills in illicit traffic were manufactured by legitimate US drug firms.

Last wk., House Committee to Investigate Crime began to probe route of amphetamines from manufacturers to streets. There emerged a frightening pattern of ineffective regulation, corporate negligence & complicity on part of some drug firms that profit from illegal trade.

An estimated 8 billion amphetamine pills are produced each yr. in US. Federal officials estimate that no more than ½ are routinely dispensed by medical prescription. Much of remainder is diverted to criminal channels.

As a test, Govt. investigators set up a fictitious company & received without question nearly every drug ordered from drug cos. (Tm 10:31)

Time & time again, we find vividly emphasized the hopelessness of man's rule on earth. Corruption is too deeply entrenched. When the "legitimate" drug companies knowingly contribute to national drug addiction, for the sake of profit, what hope is there?

GERMANY: More Trade with East

Trade between W. Germany & Europe booming. Trade between E & W Germany at record levels. Bonn reaching final agreement with Moscow to send Russian oil to W. Germany by pipeline. (USN 10:13)

This is good. Germany belongs with Russia, & is the key to Europe.

Bible Questions

1. Three men who killed lions?
2. 4 cases of men killed by lions?
3. Who were killed by bears?
4. Who were killed by serpents?
5. "Am I not thine . . .": what?
6. "Caught 300 . . .": what?
7. CFHSPD: musical instruments?
8. "Opened of its own accord":
9. "Thou mighty man of valour": who?
10. Who said, "Blessed be God Who hath sent His angel and delivered His servants"?
11. "I have played the fool": who?
12. "I have done foolishly*": who?
13. "I speak as a fool": who?
14. "An enemy hath done this": what?
15. Who said, "I cannot dig"?
16. "A great gulf fixed": where?
17. Samuel did what miracle?
18. Two miraculous draughts of fishes: when?
19. Who slept under a juniper tree?
20. Two men asleep in boats: who?
21. Eve said what when Cain was born?
22. Who took 2 loaves, cracknels, & a cruse of honey to a prophet?
23. Lo-ruhamah & Lo-ammi: who?
24. "Deceitful above all things, desperately wicked": what?
25. Whose wife died at even?
26. What did Isaiah see "In the year that king Uzziah died"?
27. Who ascended Mount Olivet barefooted and weeping?
28. "Three white baskets": when?
29. "Seven green . . .": what?
30. "Fifty blue . . .": what?
31. "I will give him a white": what?
32. "15 pcs. of silver & 1½ homers of barley": price of what?
33. "He continued there a year & 6 months": who? Where?
34. What fell upon 18?
35. 5 yoke of oxen: when?
36. 12 yoke of oxen: when?
37. 500 yoke of oxen: whose?
38. 1000 yoke of oxen: whose?
39. "Cared for none of those things": who? What things?
40. "Bread of affliction": who ate?
41. "An eloquent man, & mighty in the Scriptures": who?
42. "Like eagles' feathers": what?
43. Barsabas' other 2 names?
44. "Rushing, mighty wind": when?
45. "Exceeding magnificent": what?
46. "She despised him": who?
47. "A despised, broken idol": who?
48. Despised in her eyes": who?
49. "The dream be to them that & hate thee": what dream?
50. "Lord sent lions among": whom?

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