

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

Bible Questions

"Thou knowest not the works of God"—Eccl. 11:5

What do these names mean, and why were they so named?

(Asterisk indicates reason not given or obvious)

1. Seth	11. David*	21. Kadesh*	31. Meribah	41. Bethlehem*
2. Cain	12. Nabal*	22. Dorcas*	32. Pharisee	42. Hephzibah
3. Esek	13. Rhoda*	23. Tertius*	33. Immanuel	43. Maranatha
4. Zoar	14. Zadok*	24. Solomon	34. Secundus*	44. Nehushtan
5. Paul*	15. Israel	25. Taberah	35. Nethinim	45. Theophilus*
6. Shem*	16. Samuel	26. Stephen*	36. Onesimus*	46. Perez-uzza
7. Tekel	17. Lucifer	27. Gershom	37. Mahanaim	47. Lo-ruhamah
8. Peleg	18. Michael	28. Rabboni	38. Rehoboth	48. Melchizedek
9. Sarah	19. Sitnah	29. Quartus*	39. Manasseh	49. Mesopotamia
10. Jacob	20. Massah	30. Lo-ammi	40. Pentecost	50. Zaphnathpaaneah

Write the number of the name beside the correct meaning

Holy	Strife	Crowned	Forgetting	Piece of brass
Rose	Gotten	Division	Temptation	House of bread
Name	Hatred	Princess	Supplanter	Breach of Uzza
Room	Second	Stranger	Profitable	Between rivers
Fifty	Master	Righteous	God with us	Prince with God
Folly	Fourth	Appointed	Who like God	The Lord cometh
Small	Gazelle	Peaceable	Lover of God	Not having mercy
Third	Beloved	Separated	Asked of God	My delight in her
Given	Burning	Two camps	Not my people	Diviner of secrets
Little	Weighed	Contention	Light bringer	King of Righteousness

"WAIT ON THE LORD"—Psalm 27:14

We have ample instruction that we must be diligent and redeem the time, but in many problems **waiting on the Lord** is the best solution. God is in complete control: we are merely servants. We have many specific duties and responsibilities, but even in the discharge of these, **waiting: on the Lord** plays no small part.

"Who shall roll away the stone?"—often occasions needless concern. Much of it arises from our failure to recognize our own actual insignificance in the overall purpose of God. If we have any place in that purpose at all, it is merely as instruments in the hands of God. As far as we are concerned, the meaning of every circumstance lies principally in our own reaction to it. God is testing us, not coming to us for help. He who holds the earth in the hollow of His hands has no problems or worries, but simply an unalterable and irresistible purpose. We can safely leave all the planning and engineering to Him. Our simple task is confined to reacting to each new circumstance as it comes, in the way most in harmony with His revealed will.

"Wait on the Lord; Be of Good Courage"

Waiting provides one of the greatest calls upon courage, and one of the most severe tests of it. But circumstances that require courage, like circumstances that require wisdom, are simply arranged by God to give us practical training and experience in seeking these things FROM HIM. They are to impress us with our natural ignorance and impotence.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee"—Isa. 26:3.

There Is One Body

"The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of thee; nor the head to the feet.. All the members of the one body, being many, are one body"—1 Cor. 12:12-21

On every hand we are surrounded by what the New Testament designates as "the world." In Elpis Israel, Dr. Thomas defines it in this manner,—*"The 'lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life'—generated in our nature by sin, and displayed in all the children of sin—taken in the aggregate constitute 'the world,' which stands opposed to God."* This definition is based upon the Scriptures generally, but also specifically on a declaration of John where he says—

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world"—1 John 2:16.

Jesus lived and worked in the midst of the pervading influence of the things which constitute "the world." The apostles followed in his footsteps. It was not the wish of Jesus that they should do otherwise for, said he—

"I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil"—John 17:15.

We live and work in the same atmosphere, and it is not expected of us that we go into seclusion in order to escape its influence. The instructions left on record for us are plain and easy to be understood. No believer can offer any excuse for doing things that are not in harmony with our profession of faith. Among the many things written for our instruction, we have these words of Paul—

"Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"—Rom. 12:2.

If we pay no attention to Paul, and allow ourselves to be influenced by the established social, or national, practices and customs, we will conform, or bring, our lives into harmony with this present evil world. By doing so we will deprive ourselves of the salvation offered by our heavenly Father, through His Son Jesus,

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, **zealous of good works**"—Titus 2:14.

In all ages the people of God have been influenced in various degrees by the social customs of the world. Some withstand it, and maintain a resolute adhesion to the position of Divine wisdom. But the greater part are overcome through an inveterate propensity for dabbling in forbidden things and, one by one, they are drowned in the murky waters of human folly.

Among the many things which constitute the order of the day, great emphasis is being placed on youth organizations. In Canada we have Youth City Councils, and Youth Parliaments, where they practise make-believe in all departments of such political systems. Then we have a religious movement called Youth for Christ where his name is familiar, but nothing is learned regarding who he is, why he came the first time, what his function is now, and what he will do when he comes the second time.

That this is being imitated in Christadelphian communities is evinced by the titles Youth Circles, Youth Magazine, and Youth Hymnal. The effect of this movement is to drive a wedge between young people and the elders—a principle that is entirely foreign to apostolic precept and example. "We are all one in Christ Jesus," says Paul, and Jesus declares that there is "only one fold, and one shepherd."

The greatest example of oneness, in ecclesial life, is the close association of Paul the aged, and the young Timothy. Paul speaks of him as his "fellow worker," and addresses him as "his dearly beloved son." For several years they were constant companions in their work in the Truth.

Coming closer to our own time, we have a wonderful example in Robert Roberts. At the age of 12, he became interested in the Truth as a result of reading a copy of the Herald of the Kingdom. This was followed by a reading of Elpis Israel. In the face of bitter opposition in his home, he continued his reading, and study of the Bible, and was immersed at the early age of 14. Three years later, he wrote a long letter to Dr. Thomas, who looked upon it as of such importance that he published it in the Herald of the Kingdom. When he was 23, bro. Roberts gave the 12 lectures that now constitute the wonderful book we all love—Christendom Astray. One cannot but be amazed when we consider that he left school at the age of 11, educated himself, worked at various trades, and accomplished so much during the 12 years that followed.

Any young person who is old enough to understand the Gospel, to love and obey it, is also old enough to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." If, however, they congregate in youth circles, there is no incentive to grow, but rather a longing to retain youth, not realizing the truth of Solomon's warning that "childhood and youth are vanity"—Eccl. 11:10. The correct relationship of youth to maturity, as exhibited in the life of Robert Roberts, is expressed by Peter in this manner—

"Tend the flock of God that is your charge, . . . not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. . . . Likewise you that are younger be subject to the elders"—1 Pet. 5:2-5 (RSV).

When Peter says "being examples to the flock," there is no doubt but he means as Paul did in writing to Timothy, "in word, in conversation, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." He certainly would not ask the elders to set an example generated by a participation in the things the world loves, such as sports, picture-theatres and television. If an elder fritters away his time by attending these attractions, or sits in his home peering into a television set, he will have nothing left to feed the flock of God except a few husks. Peter would not expect the younger to submit themselves to elders of that class.

It is useless to deplore the absence of strangers from our public lectures, or the sporadic attendance of many brethren and sisters at our memorial services, when there is no divine fire of enthusiasm in our midst. If the power of words will not bring brethren to their senses, then nothing but the personal appearance of Jesus will do it, but then it will be too late.

Can anything be done? *Yes, much can be done!* Let youth and eldership *join hands, and work together as a single unit* so that the transforming energy of the Truth may take possession of us, and show to all concerned that we are the ecclesia of the living God!
—EDITOR.

The Midheaven Gospel-Proclamation

"And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having aionian good news to proclaim to those who dwell upon the earth, saying, Fear the Deity, and give to Him glory, for the Hour of His judgment hath arrived"—Rev. 14:6-7

BY BROTHER JOHN THOMAS

UNDER the Mosaic Law, which is "the pattern of the things in the heavens" (Heb. 9:23), the Pentecostian Feast of Firstfruits of the 3rd month was succeeded on the first day of the 7th month by the Memorial of the Blowing of Trumpets, a Sabbath of holy convocation—inviting to a holy rest and assembly. Between this Memorial and the offering of "an offering made by fire unto Yahweh" was an interval of 10 days.

This 10th day of the 7th month was yom hakkiphurim—"a Day of Coverings"—a day on which the sins of the past were being covered over by fiery expiation.

But before this day of affliction, in which all who did not afflict themselves on account of their transgressions were to be cut off from Yahweh's people, the trumpets blew a memorial blast, to remind the people that the hour (or month) of the annual judgment and covering of sins had arrived.

The sons of Aaron and priests were appointed to blow the trumpets in the day of their gladness, in their solemn days, over their burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of their peace offerings (Lev. 23:24; Num. 10:8-10).

The antitype of this arrangement is found in Rev. 14—the Pentecost is celebrated in the inauguration of the Deity's Kings and Priests on Mt. Zion—the Bread of the Firstfruits.

Then comes the Memorial Proclamation through Midheaven by these Priests of the Deity, reminding the world that the hour of judicial retribution so long threatened has arrived; and inviting men to afflict their souls, in turning from their iniquities to the reverential fear and worship of Him Who made all things.

When this proclamation has been made to the end of the world, the Jubilee Blast of the Day of Coverings, on the 10th day of the 7th month, is then blown—a Jubilee to Israel, proclaiming their return to their country, and their consequent avengement upon all their enemies who worship the Beast and his Image, and receive his sign in their foreheads or hands. This is the "Day of Vengeance in the heart" of the Lamb, contemporary with the "Year of his Redeemed" (Isa. 63:4); the works of which are detailed in Rev. 14:8-20; 16:16-21; 17:14; 18; 19:1-3,11-21; 20:1-4,14.

The Angel who makes the Memorial Proclamation in Rev. 14:6-7 is symbolical of the Royal Priests of the Melchizedec Household.

The Mosaic type requires that the silver trumpets be blown by priests of the High Priest's family. But the priesthood being changed, the Aaronic priests are ineligible for the sounding of this Proclamation in Midheaven.

Hence, the priestly trumpeters have to be provided from another source, and there is no other source of supply but the saints and faithful in Christ Jesus, whom he has made Kings and Priests for the Deity.

The proclamation is therefore made by as many of the 144,000 as the work to be performed may demand. Among these will be the apostle John, as the representative of a class. In Rev. 10 he tells us that after he had digested the Little Scroll of judgment, the Spirit told him that he—

"Must prophesy again before many peoples, nations, tongues and kings.

To do this he must rise from the dead, be judged, and quickened, when he will be fitted for the work. But it is too much for one man to accomplish in the short space allotted for the Proclamation. Others of like qualifications with therefore be associated with him in the work, so that it may be carried on in different countries at the same time. The apostles had their co-labouring attendants and subordinates when they sounded the Gospel Trumpet in old time. In the new proclamation the same condition may obtain.

Be this as it may, it is "those that escape," or the saved Remnant, that are sent as "sounders of the Truth" to the nations that have not heard the fame nor seen the glory of Yahweh, and they shall declare His glory to the Gentiles (Isa. 66:19). This is the plurality represented by the Angel—one messenger emblematic of a multitude, as it is written in Psa. 68:11—

"Adonai will give the word: those who bear the tidings are a great host."

The proclamation is to be made through 'Midheaven.' This is "the Air" into which the judgments of the 7th Vial are to be poured after the proclamation of the message, or "word given," is finished.

It is the political aerial of Babylon the Great which, instead of being as now the highest heaven of the political world, will occupy a middle station between the worshipers of the Beast and the new throne established on Mt. Zion.

The "Midheaven" is the political firmament occupied by all the ranks, orders and degrees of the world rulers—the supreme and subordinate governors of those "many peoples, nations and tongues" before whom John is to prophesy again.

This will be an exceedingly interesting time, when the clergy of all orders—"the spirituals of wickedness in the heavenlies"—shall be confronted by the apostles and saints, and proved to be liars and impostors before the world. And richly do they deserve to be exposed to this "shame and contempt."

They will no longer be permitted to "deceive the hearts of the simple with good words and fair speeches" with impunity. The occupation of the world's clerical False Prophet will be gone, for—

"The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and Yahweh alone will come to be exalted in that day" (Isa. 2:17)

The situation is illustrated by 1 Chron. 21:16, where it is stated that David saw the Angel of Yahweh standing "between the earth and the heaven"—in midheaven—having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out, as he was just going to afflict Jerusalem with an impending judicial visitation. His position there was exhibited to David, that he might have time and occasion for obtaining the deliverance of the city from the wrath to come.

So the hovering of the Angel was to show that there was room for escape on terms to be proposed, just as the Deity was going to inflict the punishment.

So also with the great host in Midheaven on their proclamation of the Good News. The destruction of Babylon, and the overthrow of the governments of the world, are decreed. Nothing can save THEM from abrogation and obliteration. The proclamation invites mankind to abandon these spiritual and temporal institutions, in commanding them to—

"Fear the DEITY, and give glory to HIM."

It affords them time and opportunity for saving themselves from the impending calamities of the Hour of divine judgment. If any transfer their allegiance from their clerical and civil rulers to the Lamb-Power, they will doubtless be exempted from the fire and brimstone torment which is to destroy the Beast and his False Prophet (Rev. 19:20; 14:9-10). But if they refuse to abjure these authorities, the plagues written in this prophecy for their destruction will assuredly consume the rebellious.

This Good News is styled "aionian," a word which I have not translated, but only transferred. The Angel-Host has "aionian Good News to proclaim." It is styled "aionian," I conceive, because it announces "things not seen" pertaining to the "aion," or "course," during which all nations will be "blessed in Abraham and his Seed.

This "course" is not to last forever, but for 1000 years, styled in Dan. 7:12, "a season and a time." At the end of this Course of Centuries, the nations revolt, and judgment comes upon them to extermination (Rev. 20:9). For this reason I do not translate the word in this text "Everlasting," as in the AV. The Proclamation is the announcement of MILLENNIAL GOOD NEWS, namely—

That the resurrection, immortalization, and inauguration, of the called and chosen and faithful Firstfruits have been accomplished by Jesus Christ, who—having returned in power and great glory—has set up the ancient throne of his father David on Mt. Zion;

That, being established there, he invites the allegiance of all nations to himself, as King of the whole earth by the grace of his Eternal Father Who has appointed him to execute judgment and justice in the earth, and to rule the world in righteousness;

That he is prepared to destroy the powers that corrupt and oppress the nations, and to wipe away tears from off all faces, and to take away the rebuke of his people Israel from off all the earth;

That his purpose is to change the face of the world, and to enlighten mankind with the true knowledge from the rising to the setting sun;

That, as mankind have been for a long series of ages in the bottomless abyss of ignorance and superstition, in commiseration of their helplessness he invites them to hearken diligently unto him, and to come and buy wine and milk of him, without money or price;

That, if they will accept this invitation to the feast he has prepared for all peoples, they shall live under their own vines and fig-trees in peace, and none shall make them afraid;

But if, on the contrary, they determine still to worship the Beast and his Image, and to receive the Sign in their foreheads or hands, then they shall be made to drink of the wine of the wrath of the Deity which hath been prepared without mixture in the cup of His indignation, and shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy Angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.

A proclamation of this kind, made by such "ambassadors of Jesus Christ," and attested by signs and wonders of a character to establish claims to the confidence and respect of the nations and their rulers, cannot fail of arresting attention as the all-absorbing topic of the day.

As folly and falsehood are the stock in trade of the journals of the world, they will doubtless counsel rejection of the message, and hostility to all its claims. As they live by trying to please the majority, they will trim their sails to catch the popular breeze. The editors, clergy, and civil rulers of the Midheaven will be the ruin of society, so that under the guidance of their policy the armies of the nations will go forth "as a whirlwind to scatter Him" (Hab. 3:14).

It is not in human nature, much less in political organization, to surrender power, wealth, honour, at discretion. It does not part with these things without a struggle to retain them.

On such a proclamation coming to the Pope and "crowned heads" of Europe, from a Jew on Mt. Zion claiming to be Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews—are they likely to acknowledge him, to place their kingdoms at his disposal, and cast their crowns at his feet?

We know certainly that they will not, for it is testified that "all nations" shall compass him about like bees, but they shall be quenched as the fire of thorns, for in the Name of Yahweh he will destroy them (Psa. 118:1-12: Rev. 19:19-21).

Now as to the PRECISE TIME after Christ's advent and the justification of his Household by the Spirit, in which this proclamation through Midheaven shall be made, it is immediately after the smiting of the Assyro-Gogian Image upon the feet by the Stone-Power, and before the grinding of its metallic and clay fragments to powder (Dan. 2:34-5; Matt. 21:44). It will therefore be in the interval between the Armageddon overthrow of the 6th Vial, and the outpouring upon the "Air" of the 7th.

The Armageddon discomfiture of the belligerents in the land of Israel (that is, of Tarshish and of the Assyro-Gogian confederacy) will put Yahweh Tz'vaoth in possession of Jerusalem the Holy City, which he occupies as the Lamb with the 144,000. Standing thus on Mt. Zion, the Eternal Spirit in multitudinous manifestation is (Is. 18:4)—

"In His dwelling place without fear, as dry heat impending lightning."

In this still dry heat of impending vengeance, the Pentecostian proclamation of liberty and return is made, after which the "Great Trumpet is blown" by Yahweh Tz'vaoth (Isa. 18:3; 27:13; Zech. 9:14)—the Jubilee Trumpet of the judgment of the Great Day.

As to HOW LONG the period of proclamation will continue, it is not possible to speak with certainty. The work to be done indicates that it will not be an instantaneous operation. It is a work of—
"Prophesying before many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."

This will take time, possibly years. The Deity is never in a hurry, but deliberate, effective, sure. We need not be surprised if 10 years were consumed in the proclamation and the development of its results. Between the "memorial of the blowing of trumpets" on the first day of the 7th month, and the Day of Atonement, there was an interval of 10 days. After this pattern, it may therefore be that between the beginning of the Proclamation in Midheaven and the commencement of the 2nd Angel judgment upon Babylon (14:8) there will be an interval of 10 years.

This would leave an "Hour" or month of years (that is, 30 years) for the judgment to sit in slaying the 4th Beast of Daniel, and destroying his body-politic in the burning flame (Dan. 7:11). These 40 years after the manifestation of the Son of David and his Mighty Ones on Mt. Zion, are the period of—

"Building again of the Tabernacle of David, and of the setting up of its ruins, as it was in the days of old"

(Acts 15:16; Amos 9:11).

—the Exodal period of the gathering together under one King of all the tribes of the House of Jacob (Micah 7:15). These 40 years will be the most important and terrible of the world's history. The most noteworthy developments of this transition period are depicted in the Rev., chs. 14, part of 16 & 17, all 18 & 19, & part of 20.

The work of these 40 years was foreshadowed in the reign of David. His 40 years' reign was to that of Solomon's peaceful administration over Israel and the Gentiles, as a judicial preparation: for before Solomon could reign—

"Over all kingdoms from the River unto the land of the Philistines and unto the border of Egypt . . ."

—these kingdoms had to be subdued by his father David. After the same pattern it will be with the greater than Solomon: 40 years of judgment are consumed in preparing for the millennial reign of peace and righteousness, which, as the chapters indicated show, will not be introduced and established by clerical preaching, nor by the "benevolent institutions of the day," but by (Heb. 10:27)—

"Judgment & fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."

Second Voyage to Australia

BY BROTHER ROBERT ROBERTS

"I bear them record that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. Being ignorant of God's righteousness, they go about to establish their own righteousness."

PART TWENTY-ONE

THURS.-FRI., MAY 26-7: THE TRIP TO HOBART, TASMANIA

The weather continued like this all the way to Hobart, the capital of Tasmania, which we reached about noon on the second day. Here the vessel made a stay of 12 hours, discharging and taking in cargo. We had no appointment for Hobart—but bro. King was waiting, found us out, and took us to his house, where we met several of the brethren and sisters.

We spent a few pleasant hours with them—walking out in the afternoon to show sis. Roberts the noble views of land and water to be seen from the Domain behind the city. I have before spoken of the beautiful situation of Hobart, nestling at the foot of high hills, at the inner end of a long, wide, quiet estuary of the sea flanked by hills in all directions.

I have also spoken of the ecclesia of 12 that constitutes the lightstand of the place. It was pleasing to hear of further progress and welfare in all senses. There has been a valuable accession to their number since my last visit in the persons of sis. Large and her sister—who were both active workers in the Salvation Army or kindred movements. Their zeal and intelligence are now utilized in the channel of Scriptural enlightenment.

Bro. King has moved nearer the town to a new house, in connection with an extension of business. Over the new house is a hall, which there is idea of renting for meetings connected with the Truth.

There were also tidings of the Truth taking root in other parts of the island—Zeehan and Huon, if we do not mistake the names. The former is the abiding place of the Mr. Doidge who wrote to me during my last stay in England—he having casually come in contact with Christendom Astray. Being desirous of intimacy with the brethren with a view to fellowship, I published his letter in the Christadelphian at the time, and recommended bro. King or bro. Barnard of Launceston to open communication with him. Both did so, with the result that he came to Hobart and was immersed.

Zeehan is on the west coast of Tasmania, about 22 hours sail from Hobart—(there is no railway to the place, though a railway has just been commenced to be made). But for this, and the fact that bro. Doidge suffers much on the sea, he wrote that he would have been at Hobart to see us on the occasion of the steamer's call.

Then at Huon, a small place about 15 or 20 miles from Hobart down the water, there is an interesting development. A Campbellite meeting house there has been placed at the service of the Truth through the enlightenment of two of the trustees, and the passive concurrence of a third. There was not much of a Campbellite meeting, and the trustees are the backbone. They are now brethren.

There is an extraordinary case associated with them; the case of an old man who cannot read and who has become stone deaf. He was one of them as Campbellites and broke bread with them regularly. It is probable that with the possession of his hearing or with the ability to read, he would have followed them in the change that has taken place in them; but in the absence of both there is no avenue to his understanding, and there is no way of making him understand why they should withhold the bread and wine from him.

They were in doubt what they should do—whether they should let him go on breaking bread or stop him—which they knew would be to his distress. They asked bro. King's advice. Bro. King was inclined to say that as they could neither show him the Truth nor apprise him of their reception of it, they should, in compassion, make no change.

I said that if we had any liberty to lay down law in the case, the advice he had given was such as must commend itself to every generous mind. But the law of the Lord was the only law we could be guided by till the Lord himself returned; and this law was clear that the fellowship of the Truth must be restricted to those who received the Truth, which the poor old man in this case did not and could not.

I thought it might be possible by some kind of signs and gestures in connection with the Bible to cause the old man to understand that a change had come over them with regard to it, causing them to withhold fellowship; and that interruption of fellowship had no reference to him in any personal sense, and was no reflection on him.

The case is exceedingly painful, but it is only one of a thousand pains connected with the present situation of divine things upon the earth. The day of light, solution and comfort is at the door. It is ours meanwhile, to be faithful to the Word.

SAT., MAY 28: LEAVING TASMANIA FOR NEW ZEALAND

The steamboat sailed at midnight, and after clearing the picturesque estuary, made a straight course eastward on the trackless ocean for the southern end of New Zealand. There was not a large company on board, and they were mostly of the plain substantial order that are common to a Colonial population in which the Scotch element preponderates.

SUN., MAY 29: INCIDENTS OF THE VOYAGE

The second day out from Hobart was a Sunday. Sis. Roberts and I would have wished to break bread together, but circumstances absolutely precluded it. We were in separate sleeping cabins—she, one of 3 women; I, one of 4 men. The saloon was small and in constant use by the passengers, either for meals, chat or music. There was only the deck besides, and this was a thorough-fare and windy. So we had to refrain. We managed our readings daily, in one place and another.

The weather was cold, dull, and occasionally wet but not boisterous. The sea was comparatively smooth, all the way to "the Bluff" at the south end of New Zealand, close on a 1000 miles, which it took us over three and a half days to cover. There had been violent storms before, and the normal state of the sea in these southern latitudes is stormy, so that we were favoured in having a quiet and comparatively comfortable voyage. I was glad of this on sis. Roberts' account. As it was, she was troubled with a little nausea.

There was very little incident on board. One day, the captain opened a conversation with me on the upper deck in a way that seemed to say, "Look here, I am going to have a talk with you, and you needn't think I am going to let

you off; so come on." So of course, I surrendered. It was easy to talk with him, because he had so much to say of a sensible order.

He was a tall, capable-looking man of between 50 and 60; a Dublin Irishman as I discovered—which accounted for his being so free and cheery and chatty. He talked about the state of the world, the likelihood of an alliance between Britain and America, the new local Government bill being a bad thing for Ireland, his desire to see a war with Russia, that Russia might get a proper thrashing, etc., all interesting topics in their way.

But to see how little it all means, you have only to read any political conversation that is 100 years old. You can do this any day by means of the political diaries and correspondences that are coming out every now and then from the press. It was all so important at the time; it has all gone so stale and meaningless with 100 years. These things divorced from the purpose and the love of God are like spokes separated from the hub and circumference of a wheel. Yet the men are scarcely to be met with who treat them in this connection. Consequently every conversation is lacking salt.

I thought I would talk with the captain on his own basis the first time, and that in the next conversation, I would bring the green light of the sanctuary to bear. But circumstances did not give opportunity.

CAN THE SALVATION ARMY SAVE THE WORLD?

There was a Salvation Army official on board—a travelling inspector of properties. He put it in his way to join me in a deck promenade. We both agreed as to the godless state of the world, even of the most respectable society everywhere, and that the world was not coming nearer God with the advance of time.

"Yet," said I, "I believe the time will come when God's promise will be fulfilled, that all shall know Him from least to greatest."

Well, yes, the Salvation Army lieutenant (or whatever he was) believed that too. "But," said he, "it must require some extraordinary agency to bring such a state of things about."

"Undoubtedly," said I; "and it is revealed what the nature of that agency will be; Christ himself will come and take the world in hand, and coerce it into divine subjection."

I thought he looked disappointed. He appeared to be opening the way for the suggestion that the Salvation Army movement might turn out to be the agency so much to be desired. I quoted various Scriptures to him in elucidation of the idea he had expressed, but I had only a courteous—not an attentive listener. He afterwards gave me some Salvation Army literature—(profusely and beautifully illustrated)—going to show the extensive work the Army is doing, in helping the destitute and rescuing the fallen.

I could not but think it an interesting phenomenon, but it was not possible I could accept it as a substitute for the work established by the apostles, the work of taking out a people for the Lord, by the preaching of the Gospel and the application of his commandments—in preparation for his use in the day of his own power and glory at his return.

It may subserve some preparatory purpose—as even the Papacy itself has done in subduing the northern barbarians and fitting the nations of Europe for divine treatment by means of the Kingdom; but it cannot justify men before God unto eternal life. This is an affair of enlightened submission to the claims of the Gospel for the glory of God, and not of ignorant excitements for the benefit of man.

NO CONCERN FOR WHAT GOD HAS SAID AND DESIRES

There was a meeting in the saloon on Sunday evening, under the leadership of the Salvation Army official. The best part of it was the reading of John 3, on which, however, nothing was said. One of the passengers delivered a sermon on Joseph—mildly good so far as it went, but leaving the roots of things untouched. Hymns were beautifully sung and the people were made to feel good.

But it was all outside the question—"What is pleasing to God as revealed?" It is divine feeling that governs the situation—not human; people forget this, or they would be anxious to know the mind of God by studying the Bible, where alone it is to be learnt in our day. When Christ comes, it will be learnable in another or a supplementary way. But for many, that will be "too late."

There was an orphan girl of 16 or 17 on board, travelling all by herself, with whom sis. Roberts had more than one interesting conversation on the Truth, ending in a promise to send her Christendom Astray to read, as the girl seemed anxious to be enlightened. Sis. Roberts was afterwards surprised and pleased to discover that she was a cousin to a sister in the Faith in Invercargill.

TUES., MAY31: ARRIVAL: RUSH FOR A TRAIN AND A LECTURE

We arrived at the Bluff on Tuesday evening, at 5:30, in moonlight. It took us a good while to moor at the wharf, which was a cause of some anxiety, because the train that was to take us to Invercargill (17 miles distant) was due to start at 6 o'clock, and there was no other that night. It would not have mattered for ourselves to have stayed at the Bluff all night, but the probability was (and it turned out to be the case) that a lecture would have been arranged for that night, and after missing the one that had been arranged for on the Sunday night in the expectation of our arriving on Friday or Saturday, we felt it would be the complete spoiling of our Invercargill appointment if we could not now catch the train.

The gangway was let down on the wharf at just 5 minutes to 6. At that moment, bro. John Brown, "the first Christadelphian of New Zealand," otherwise known as "honest John Brown," sprang out of the darkness on to the deck of the Wakatipu. He found us at once, as we were on the lookout. He said, "Where are your things? We must get ashore at once; the train starts in 5 minutes, the station is close."

I dived below for the said "things." It was dinner time. The passengers were all seated at the tables, and the stewards "nipping about," with just room enough to pass between the tables and scarcely that. My cabin where the things were, was at the other end and beyond, in a narrow passage. There was no other way of getting to it but right through the guests. There was no help for it but to go forward. The forward journey was comparatively easy, but the return journey loaded with things and jostling between rows of seated passengers liable to consider themselves injured, was an affair calling for nerve and determination.

What were the stewards about that they did not carry the things for you? Well, you see, they were busy carrying about plates of soup and other things and could not spare themselves for bundles and valises; so I had to do the best I could for myself. Bro. Brown and sis. Roberts were upstairs impatiently expecting the things, to carry them to the train which was standing with steam up ready to blow the whistle.

I could not carry all at once. It would have taken 3 journeys to do it, but going back the second time, one of the stewards took pity on me (or rather, I fancy, on himself, for he saw the chance of the customary gratuity slipping through his fingers), and came and helped me. Between us we got all up the second journey, and laid them down at the feet of bro. Brown in the dark.

He seized one or two; I, some of the others, a porter the rest; and we bundled down the gangway, in the dark, before the steamboat had really moored, and while the gangway, not fastened, was passing between the high side of the vessel and the low-lying wharf at an angle of about 45 degrees. It was really a dangerous operation, and there had to be a pause between the landing of the first part of the procession and the hinder end.

However, we got safely on to terra firma, and then there was the usual scramble among porters and Custom House officials—this time in the dark, and wet—rather distracting. The revenue officer had to inspect our 8 or 9 packages. "Take my word for it," said honest John Brown, "all is right—no contraband." It is useful to have an honest man by your elbow sometimes. The Custom House officer did not know us; but he knew John Brown, and so he passed our things without examination.

"What is that?" said he, clutching at the small leather case containing my Bible.

"Only a Bible," said I; "the best thing upon earth: pity there are not more of them in use."

"There are too many of them already," quoth he.

"Oh no," I answered; "the people don't understand the Bible, that is the trouble; if they understood, they would see it was the best thing in the land."

I think he mistook me for a cleric—which, said even sis. Roberts, I looked rather like. What a pity! The last thing in the world I would look like; but this is a point you cannot always control. With a critical wife supervising and interested friends suggesting, one gets wheedled out of his own simple tastes—for the sake of peace.

We then made a rush for the train. The head of the procession got ahead in the dark, and forgot that the hinder end did not know where the train was. So we suddenly found ourselves in the dark, ignorant, and without guidance, and consequently momentarily helpless. Sis. Roberts, who has "got a good Scotch ('Englified') tongue in her head," enquired of a passer-by, and we got on to the right track, after going a little on the wrong.

The train, which had waited for us a little—(John Brown had asked them to wait, and someone had telephoned to Invercargill—right into bro. Mackay's house; you see his house is the office of the Town Clerk: "Bro. Roberts has arrived, and will be in Invercargill in time for the lecture")—started at once, and in a little over an hour, we were in Invercargill.

I had asked bro. Brown what time the lecture was. He said, "Half-past six." (He meant the lecture on Sunday, which bro. Mackay had taken—but I did not understand. I supposed he meant that night.)

I asked how we should do then, as it was now near eight? He said bro. Mackay would keep the people together and engage their attention till my arrival. I expected to have to rush from the station to the meeting-place, and to find bro. Mackay speaking, and that I would have to do a little finish.

I was puzzled, therefore, when I found bro. Mackay waiting our arrival at the station; and still more puzzled when he deliberately conveyed me to some tea-rooms for a cup of tea—extraordinary tearooms, certainly, they seemed to me; no light outside or in; no sign of a soul about. The street door opened at last, and we were shown upstairs—several flights of dark stairs—by the light of a candle; then at the top of the house, a snug enough room, with a fire and tables—several ladies in the room.

Some confusions on the subject. First supposed they were guests, then waitresses, and then found they were—one, the wife of John Brown; and the others, I think, some kind of relations.

Sis. Roberts and the things had been driven straight to bro. Mackay's house, about a mile out of town. There she was heartily received by sis. Mackay (originally of Tamworth, near Birmingham) whom she had not seen for over a quarter of a century.

THE APPOINTMENT IS FULFILLED UNDER DIFFICULTY

As for me in the tea rooms, a hurried cup of tea, and then I was marched off in the darkness and the rain to the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, where an audience filling the hall was assembled. Then I discovered the mystery of things. The meeting was for 8 o'clock. It was now 5 minutes past. Bro. Mackay had lectured on the Sunday night in my place (6:30), and had asked them back for Tuesday night in the hope of my presence.

Bro. Mackay explained the situation to the audience, and begged their indulgence on the score of my having marched right off the steamer on to the platform. It certainly was not a good preparation, but I managed to get through, and (as I was told) with much satisfaction to those assembled. I think the subject was "The Coming Kingdom of Christ; Its Nature and Reality from a Geographical, Political, and Personal Point of View."

The chief feature of the occasion was the presence of several "Disciples"—(otherwise known as Campbellites)—who had for some time been interested in the Gospel of the Kingdom—notably, a sturdy family of grown-up sons, who, with their earnest-minded father and mother, were the backbone of the Campbellite meeting.

(We use the term "Campbellite" merely in a distinctive, not in a scornful sense, being unable to concede the term "Disciples" as being applicable, for disciples are those who submit to the teaching of a master; which the Campbellites do not do, except in very feeble measure, to Christ.)

One of them obeyed the Truth some time ago, and he is likely to be followed by them all by-and-bye. Their name is Todd. They have a brother up in the country—a medical man—also in the Faith.

WED., JUNE 1: VISITS AND ANOTHER LECTURE

Next day sis. Roberts (who with sis. Mackay, entered the meeting shortly after the commencement of the lecture) paid Mr. and Mrs. Todd a visit at their house, while I did my writing at home. Afterwards, on other days, she paid other useful visits.

On Wednesday night (next night), the subject was "The Resurrection of Christ as an event that really happened; its nature and bearing on the purpose of God"—or something to that effect.

FRI., JUNE 3: A THIRD LECTURE MAKES UP FOR SUNDAY

Then a third lecture was arranged for the Friday, "The Millennium near and its nature when established." (Thursday was blank and given to writing.) Friday also was to have been blank, but for the steamboat having taken away the Sunday lecture, and the Riverton brethren refusing to give up the coming Sunday, Friday made the third lecture for Invercargill, so that nothing was lost of real work. It only made it a little harder for me, but no real harm was done. Considering that the steamboat was 4 days late, we got through the Invercargill appointment wonderfully well.

The Last Terrible Forty Years

"Sing and rejoice, daughter of Zion, for I will dwell in the midst of thee . . . And many people shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and shall be My people"—Zech. 2:10

PART FOUR

THIS proclamation period comes after the smiting of the Gog Image on its feet, and before grinding it to powder (Dan. 2:34-35). It is between the Armageddon overthrow of the 6th Vial and the commencement of the pouring out of the 7th Vial into the Air.

The "Air" is the ruling elements of the earth. It is upon them primarily that the wrath is poured, and it is these that will blindly and stubbornly resist unto the end—like evil, arrogant, power-mad, judicially-hardened Pharaoh, though his servants cried to him—

"Knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?"

The messengers sent throughout the earth have a 3-fold message—

1. *To declare the power and glory of the Lord* (Is. 66:19).
2. *To proclaim the Everlasting Gospel—the Good News of the Kingdom* (Rev. 14:6).
3. *To demand total submission, on pain of death* (Rev. 14:7).

Before Babylon's destruction there is a people to deliver (Rev. 18:4) :

"Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

These "My people" are not the Saints. The Saints (the faithful of the present dispensation) have already been assembled and judged and glorified. These "people" are those being called to become God's people by believing the Everlasting Gospel then being preached, and by obeying its call to come out. We remember Christ said to Paul regarding Corinth, as Paul first started to work there—

"I have much people in this city" (Acts 18:10).

They were still at that time in heathen darkness, but they were his people in prospect, for they would come out and take their places as his people by the instrumentality of the preaching of Paul. This is the period of which the Spirit said in Zech. 2:10-11—

"Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord.

"And many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and shall be MY PEOPLE" (Zech. 2:10-11).

In ch. 18, where the judgment and destruction of Babylon is announced, we are told (v. 4) that it is "another voice" that calls for God's prospective people to come out of Babylon and escape her pending plagues. This is the voice of the messengers of the Everlasting Gospel of Rev. 14:6-7.

The proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel is in "Midheaven" (Rev. 14:6). This is the political aerial of the world upon which the impending judgments of the 7th Vial—the final, culminating, completing Vial—are to be poured out (Rev. 16:17). Long have the Sin-Powers of the earth—the present "heavens"—ruled the world in wickedness according to the mind of the flesh. Now a door has been "opened in heaven" (Rev. 4:1), and a new heavenly power has burst in on their dominions, and is about to sweep them all out into oblivion—to "cast them out of heaven."

It is "MIDheaven because it has now ceased to be the supreme political heavens, now that Christ has begun to set up his Kingdom and has been established in Jerusalem as the true and rightful and sole King of the whole earth.

Bro. Thomas interestingly and instructively draws a parallel between the "Angel in Midheaven" and the incident in 1 Chron. 21 where David sees an angel "standing between the earth and heaven" with a drawn sword of impending judgment over Jerusalem. David is being punished for having disobeyed God and taken pride in the arm of the flesh in numbering the manpower of Israel. And as the angel stands with his sword poised, David is instructed what to do to avoid the threatened destruction of the city.

The introduction into this picture of Oman, a Gentile, and his 4 sons (who hid themselves at this time of judgment) adds to the significance of the parallel. The Gentiles at this epoch of judgment submit and give their wealth to the Lord. (The ones who do not submit—though they appear to be the majority—cease to exist and cease therefore to be of any account in the picture.)

The Gentiles at Christ's coming, like Oman ("as a king"—2 Sam. 24:23—a strange expression), offer their riches freely, though their gift is not accepted without recompense, for the temporal and spiritual blessings they receive infinitely outweigh the wealth they relinquish to the new and greater David, who in turn dedicates it to God and His Temple.

The 4 sons of Oman who hide themselves at this time of judgment are clearly the 4-fold Sin-Powers of the world, the 4 Beasts—

"Every island fled, & the mountains were not found" (Rev. 16:20).

"And the kings of the earth, and the rich men, and the mighty men, hid themselves . . . and said to the rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne" (Rev. 6:15-16).

"And they shall go into the holes of the rocks.. for fear of the Lord when He ariseth to shake terribly the earth" (Isa. 2:19).

The nations of the Gentiles are separated into 2 classes on the basis of their reaction to the proclamation—the Goat-nations and the Sheep-nations. The Goat-nations are all of Europe—all the Catholic nations—all the nations of the 10 Horns, Beast, False Prophet and Dragon—including Russia which is historically Orthodox Catholic (like Greece) and which will have been reunited under the papal banner in that day. All these we know are Goats, for they are represented in actual warfare with the Lamb, and are destroyed by him.

The Sheep-nations are those who are allies of the Shepherd of Israel. They are primarily the Tarshish nation—Sin-Powers, truly, like all the rest—but rewarded at this time with lesser punishment and quicker reconciliation because of their historic better treatment of God's people, both natural and spiritual. This will be the Tarshish nations and those few if any who have the wisdom to stand with them.

Bro. Thomas in his day, viewing the boastful arrogance and wickedness of the United States, did not expect it to submit to Christ without terrible judgments and desolations. Today the arrogance and wickedness are even greater, but for the present U.S. has largely assumed the historic Tarshish role of Israel's friend and protector. Apart from the protecting arm of U.S., Israel long since would have been wiped off the map, to the mutual joy of Russian, Catholic and Arab.

U.S. and Russia are equally fleshly and worldly and animalish, but while U.S. gives freedom and protection to God's Word and to His people, Russia suppresses and persecutes both, after the fashion of the Roman Beast in all its blood-stained history.

Zech. 6 gives us a similar picture of distinction of treatment between the Goat and Sheep nations, in the vision of the 2 Mountains of Brass. These 2 mountains are the 2 great fleshly powers of the last day—King of the North and King of the South—Gog and Tarshish.

From BETWEEN them issue forth 4 chariots. Here is the Bozrah picture of Christ stepping in between them. These are the Chariot of the Cherubim—the Elect of God in judicial war-chariot manifestation for the subduing of the earth, and the levelling of the 2 great Flesh-Brass Sin-Mountains.

The 4 Chariots are drawn by horses of 4 different colours—red, black, white, and grisled (grey or spotted). The horses are the "goodly" Israel battle-horses (Zech. 10:3), made "goodly" and thus useful to God by the purifying judgments of the last days, and their deeply repentant conversion to their true Messiah.

It is the different colours of the horses which gives indication of different treatment—different degrees of punishment and destruction—visited upon the different areas to which each goes. To the north (Gog) first go the black horses, and then the white follow them. Here appears to be indicated a double operation, or an operation of double intensity, which is at first all black—complete woe and destruction; then all white—complete victory and purging.

To the South (Tarshish) go the "grisled" horses, an indication of mixed and milder treatment. The red do not go anywhere specifically. They, listed first, appear to be a general type of the warlikeness of the whole operation, in contrast to Christ's first mission on earth. The bay (or "strong," or "swift") horses go through all the earth, after the operations of the black, white and grisled in the North and South.

Again, the same Sheep-Goat distinction appears in Zech. 10, in the very context in which the "goodly horse" symbol appears—

"The idols have spoken vanity, the diviners have seen a lie. Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I punished the goats:

"For the Lord of hosts hath visited His flock the house of Judah, and hath made them his goodly horse in the battle . . . They shall be as mighty men . . . they shall fight because the Lord is with them" (2-5).

The False Prophet—the Papacy—is the "Idol Shepherd" (Zech. 11:17), the Shepherd of the Goat-nations, blasphemously claiming to be God on earth, and stirring up the nations against the true Shepherd of the Sheep.

The Sheep and Goat concept has many degrees of application: the Saints, Israel, the nations, and the individual inhabitants of the earth. In each case there must be a day of separation: some on the right hand, and some on the left. Bro. Thomas (111:408) makes a double application of Matt. 25:31-33—individual and national.

Another indication of the separation of the nations into Sheep and Goat powers in relation to Christ appears in the various references to the actions of some nations as voluntarily bringing gifts. One group of nations—the Beast nations—we know unite to fight Christ, and their defeat and destruction is given in terms that appear to eliminate any possibility of rulers bringing gifts of peace—

"And I saw the Beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

"And the Beast was taken, and with him the False Prophet.. these were both cast alive into a lake of fire. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat on the horse" (Rev. 19:19-21).

This is one picture. Then we have such prophecies as—

"The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts"
(Psa. 72:10).

"The daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift" (Ps. 45:12).

"Tyre's merchandise & hire shall be holiness to the Lord" (Is.23:18).

With all the foregoing, the warning and promise of Psa. 2 would also seem to give a strong indication that there is expected, and will be, different degrees of wisdom and submission manifested by the world's rulers—

"Be wise now, therefore, O ye kings . . . serve the Lord with fear lest ye perish from the way. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."

Similarly Isa. 60 seems to carry the same implication that nations as such will react differently, and will consequently be treated differently. Addressing Israel in the day of her blessing and glory, it is promised—

"The nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish: yea, THOSE nations shall be utterly wasted"
(v. 12).

This would surely imply that some will submit and some will fight. Just previously, in v. 9, we are told—

"The isles shall wait for Me, and the ships of Tarshish FIRST, to bring thy sons from afar."

"First" here again points to different degrees of order and alacrity in recognizing and submitting to the power of Christ.

(Continued next month, if the Lord will)

Shall He Find Faith on the Earth?

JESUS did not picture a believing world at his coming, but a world in rebellion against him. And we see today even the "Christian" elements giving only lip service to him while denying his teachings and making little or no pretences of obeying his commands.

We see church systems inseparably connected with the world and its ways—an integral part of that godless order of things which must be removed to give place to that new and righteous order in which no place will be found for them.

And what of the Household of Faith? Is it not also true that those who have been given the blessed privilege of being called out of darkness may also contribute to the signs of the times? Christ does not picture a Household at his coming in a state of high spiritual vigour, but a Household in a state of weakness, laxity and self-satisfaction, saying,

"I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing. And knowest not that thou are wretched, and poor and blind and naked."

—spiritually blind, naked, willingly deceived; self-deluded.

The oft-repeated warnings of the Saviour envision a Household the *majority* of which have grown worldly, deeply concerned about temporal things, but unconcerned about preserving the unity of the Faith, and keeping of the commandments of Christ.

"The love of the many (R.V.) shall wax cold."

A people in grave danger of being overcome with "Surfeiting, drunkenness (spiritual), and the cares of this life." Absorbed in temporal things; so weak in the Faith as to say:

"My Lord delayeth his coming — "smiting his fellow servants; eating and drinking with the drunken (the world)."

It is not a picture of a Household growing in spiritual strength and vigour, but a Household weak in faith, with few ready to meet Him when He comes—

"When he cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Yes, we too, should beware lest we contribute to the fulfilling of this fearful sign of the time. —O.B.

Be Ye Steadfast and Unmovable

"Who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire"

—Mal. 3:2

PART TWO

Our ecclesial meetings—Memorial, Lectures, and Bible Classes—are designed to develop within us a character well-pleasing to God. And such a character can only be formed by complying with divine standards as revealed in the Word of God.

It is no easy matter to develop a godly character in this age, when the natural evil characteristics of sinful flesh are glorified, and the ambitions of the flesh are encouraged in every walk of worldly life. It requires courage and determination: courage to face the world and all its ideas firmly, and do what we know to be right; and determination to carry out whatever we set our hands to do in the service of the Lord, regardless of the cost or consequence.

Important as these are, there is still a greater element in the work of preparing a people for the coming of the Lord (Col. 1:10)—

"That you might walk WORTHY of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, & increasing in the knowledge of God."

Yes, brethren and sisters, we may read the Scriptures daily, and attend all ecclesial meetings: BUT—unless we walk WORTHY OF THE LORD, we will not enter the Kingdom. Walking worthy was the continual subject matter of Paul's preaching and writing. To the brethren at Thessalonica he said (1 Thess. 2:11-12)—

"You know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you (as a father his children) that you would walk worthy of God."

Why did Paul appeal so urgently and frequently to the brethren, and plead with them so much about walking worthy?

And why do we have the word of exhortation each first day of the week? One thing is certain, it cannot—at the last minute and in such a short time—"prepare our minds for an acceptable participation." in the memorial emblems, if our minds are not already prepared. Surely only a faithful walk in the Truth can do that. A true exhortation of the apostolic stamp will incite us by words from Scripture, so that we will be stirred up and reminded of our duty as brethren and sisters.

We all know the Truth of the Gospel, and we all know (or should know) what it means to "walk worthy" of God. But the mind of the flesh likes to ask questions: those sad old familiar ones—

"Do you think there is any harm in doing this?"

"Do you think it is wrong to do that?"

Or as one brother strangely said—

"I often wonder how near we can come to the things of the world without being burned."

If we reason on these questions, the first thing we discover is that we are trying to make the path of wrong appear right, or perhaps less dangerous than the Word of God shows it to be. Therefore, let us do all in our power,

with prayer to God for help, to discern the deceptive motions of the mind of the flesh within us, and to overcome it with "Thus saith the Lord!"—for it is only to those who overcome that God will give the great prize of Eternal Life. If we, like Paul, should say—

"Lord, what will you have me to do?"

—we will find the answer in this letter to the Colossians—

"If, then, you are risen with Christ, seek those things which are ABOVE, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

"Set your affection (mind, interest, desire) on things above, NOT on things on the earth" (3:1-2).

Surely a plain, simple, easily-understood command! If, as we claim, we love God and want to please Him, we'll OBEY it. It would eliminate much uselessness from our lives. If we had no other instruction on how to walk worthy of God, we would have all that is required in this letter—

1. *"Set your affection on things ABOVE";*

2. *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you RICHLY";*

3. *"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without."*

By observing instructions such as these, it will produce within us a ZEAL for God, and we will want to know all we can about Him. We will not have time or interest for worldly things. Our minds would grow out of such childishness. What a wonderful ecclesia would be ours! The peace of God would rule calmly and serenely in our hearts, whatever came. The word of Christ would dwell in us richly, and flow from our lips in love and wisdom, and we would find ourselves "teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and spiritual songs."

If we feel we must admonish a brother or sister, is THAT the way we do it: gently, lovingly, kindly, scripturally? Or do we get them on the telephone and manifest the diabolos within us with harshness and fleshliness? If we do it the usual fleshly way, it will be well to ponder deeply on Col. 3:16—

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom .."

Do we make sure that is true of ourselves FIRST, before we criticize others?—

". . teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. "

Those are not just flowery words: they are a specific COMMANDMENT, and we are supposed to take them to heart and obey them. It is quite likely that some of the worst marks God has against OUR record is the spirit and manner in which we have self-righteously criticized others.

To accomplish the high standard that God lays down for us to attain unto life, we do not have to go out of the world, but we do have to strive to keep ourselves unspotted from it, by not partaking of its natural, evil ways.

Jesus is expected in the earth again, and that very soon. To us that coming can be one of two ways, and either of them will be sudden and final. If death overtakes us, our probation will end at once. If we live until he comes, his coming will be just as sudden—like a "thief in the night." We know whom he will choose to be associated with him in the Kingdom of God: not all those who have said, "Lord, Lord!" It will be those who have devoted themselves completely to the service of God in ALL they do, and have by the light of the Scriptures walked worthy of Him.

We also know whom he will reject. It will be those who have not made the keeping of his commandments the supreme endeavour of their lives. A popular saying among many today is that when Christ comes he will "right all wrongs." But we are not supposed to wait for him to right things within us and under our control—we are supposed to do that NOW ourselves. That is what our present probation is for.

In the first century, when the Truth was being established through the labours of the apostles, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Paul warned the brethren "night and day with tears." If such warning was needed then, surely it is needed much more today, when we have only the written Word to guide us, and not the inspired apostles to watch over us. We must pray for strength to help us from becoming lukewarm.

The lesson of Israel is a severe one. Their sacrifices were offered according to the Law, and their feasts were held in the appointed seasons. But there was something of greater importance omitted. God was not glorified. They did not comprehend the great message of life that lay beneath the ritual of the Law. As Paul said—

"The Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it" (Heb. 4:2).

This is not just written as history—it was written to TEACH us We can easily fall into the same pattern. Therefore Paul says—

*"If the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward,
"How shall WE escape, if we neglect so great salvation?"*

Watch that tragic word "NEGLECT," for it means to be heedless, careless, thoughtless, failing to fully realize urgency and importance—until too late! Also, let us not forget the words of John—
"Look to YOURSELVES, that we lose not those things we have gained."

Oh, how so easy to forget to watch our own sin-natures, when we are so carefully watching others!

The Gospel is simple and easy to be understood. Eternal life is offered to men and women on condition that they have unwavering faith in the promises of God, in which He has assured us—
*That all nations will be blessed through the Seed of Abraham;
That this Seed, Jesus, is the Son of God, and came into the world to take away sin by the sacrifice of himself;
That he was faithful in all things, even unto death, and because of this he was raised from the dead, and is now alive forevermore;
That he will come again to establish the Kingdom of God on earth, and will then redeem those who have walked worthy of God out of every kindred, and will give them glory and immortality.*

Let us, therefore, dearly beloved, STAND FAST IN THE LORD, and think upon His Name, and talk of those things only that will cause Him to hearken, and to inscribe our names in the Book of Life. This is wisdom and life. By so doing, our ecclesias will prosper, and be edified and built up in love. The fruits of the Spirit will have free course among us, and we will have joy and confidence as we walk in the Truth. Then—
"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, shall we also appear with him in glory."

But it is not as easy as it may sound, or some may think. You will realize that if you listened carefully and thoughtfully to our readings from Colossians this morning. Paul makes it clear when he said—
*"You that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death . . .
—and what a terrible death it was!—
. . . to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in his sight—IF ye continue in the Faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the Hope of the Gospel."*

My beloved brethren and sisters, I have one final message to leave with you. It is in the form of a warning. A brother in England (in another group) writes—
"Elpis Israel and Eureka are out-of-date, and are unsuitable for the present generation. They were all right for the days of the horse-drawn carriage and the bustle."

That is the present trend in the major part of those using the name Christadelphian. My warning is—

Unless we remain on the sound basis of the Bible teaching of brethren Thomas and Roberts, as a WAY OF LIFE, the exalted work of the Christadelphian Body will soon end, and it will only be a matter of time when our light will go out.

Apart from their labours and their writings, I would never have known the glorious Gospel of the blessed God. For 54 years I have never wavered from what they taught me, and I intend to stand by them as long I live. Yes, we ARE "made partakers of Christ"—

"IF WE HOLD FAST THE BEGINNING OF OUR CONFIDENCE STEADFAST UNTO THE END"

(Heb. 3:14). —G.A.G.

THE PSALMS

There are many types of literature in the Bible, each suited to its particular purpose. In the Psalms there is a freedom of subject and expression not possible in other forms—history or letters or doctrinal expositions.

The Psalms are the free outpourings of a mind filled with the contemplation of God, and of all God's works and His purpose with them. Many moods and frames of mind are reflected, from extremes of sorrow to extremes of joy, but confidence and love underlie them all.

But the Psalms are much MORE than the outpourings of a human mind. They are not limited by human limits, or marred by human imperfections. They speak freely of prophecy and eternity and the deep original causes and purposes which only the mind of the Spirit knows. They portray the mind and development and destiny of the multitudinous Christ, centring particularly in the training and perfecting of its glorious head.

The Psalms fill in the gaps and omissions of the Gospels. They take us behind the scenes, and give us an inner view of the Gospel picture. In them we are with Christ during those years when he was hid from the world, and during those hours when he was alone with the Father.

Be Ye Perfect

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father Which is in heaven is perfect"—Matthew 5:48

THE WHOLE theme of the Scriptures is perfection. How did Jesus sum up the wonderful, unearthly teachings given in Matthew 5—the teachings that comprise the very heart and basis of his Gospel? He says at the end of them—

“BE YE PERFECT.”

And if there be any quibble as to what perfect means, he adds—

“EVEN AS YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN IS PERFECT.”

Surely no one will question the meaning of perfection as applied to God, or attempt to attach any limitations to it.

Jesus prayed—and he would not pray for an impossibility—Jesus prayed that his disciples might be made perfect. Paul says we should be no longer children, but all (and we note throughout the Scriptures these words of completeness)—

“ALL come in the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto the PERFECT MAN, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

Paul records that his brother Epaphras laboured fervently in prayers that his brethren "may stand perfect in all the will of God." And Paul told Timothy that the very purpose for which the Scripture is given is that through doctrine, correction, reproof and instruction—

"The man of God might be PERFECT."

Can we say that these statements of the Word of God are all meaningless exaggerations put in to mock our weakness and imperfection—that we have no right to expect this condition in the holy, called-out, sanctified Body of Christ in whom the Spirit of God dwelleth?

That we must be practical and reasonable and abandon these ideals of holiness and come down to earth? That we must resign ourselves to a common, natural, earthy mediocrity, and be thankful that it isn't any worse?

THAT IS THE COUNSEL OF DEFEAT. And one thing is certain:—An individual or a body will never attain any higher than they aim. And the only standard the Scriptures give us to aim at is PERFECTION. If we do not at least aim and strive for perfection, we have no hope of eternal life.

Current Events Fulfilling Prophecy

“They have sown the wind, & shall reap the whirlwind”—Hos. 8:7

CZECH RELIGIOUS REVIVAL. In 4 yrs. since Russian tanks crushed Dubcek's liberal govt., predominantly Catholic Czechoslovakia has undergone a national religious revival, in reaction to imposition of Soviet repression. Number of baptisms, church funerals & applications to seminaries has been steadily rising, & more & more are giving their children religious instruction. (Tm7:10)

NOTE: Religion—Catholicism—has a large part to play in assembling the nations against Christ to Armageddon. The signs are moving very encouragingly in this direction.

EUROPE: NEW RUSSIAN THREAT. McGovern program to cut US troops in Europe by ½ would drastically alter US's relationship with allies, & is fraught with terrible danger, Unquestionably, Russia would try to fill the political vacuum created by US, & ultimately present US with agonizing dilemma—either to plunge into a new confrontation with Russia, or see w. Europe become a Soviet satellite.

W. Europe today is a collection of nations united only in disunity. It's all but impossible for Europe to provide an effective military deterrent to Russia & its allies. Reds have 91 divisions in Europe, & 80 more nearby in W. Russia. Against this power, NATO has only 24 divisions, 4½ of them US.

But if US seems unwilling to think about Europe's future, so, curiously, does Europe itself. Among ordinary Europeans there's neither concern nor interest about affairs beyond national borders.

Russia has been conducting a generation-long campaign to ease US out of Europe, & induce neutralism feelings among Europeans. With Moscow projecting a carefully cultivated image, European politicians are beginning to think less critically of their own national Communist parties. This could open door to Russia. Last wk., for example, France's traditionally anti- Communist Socialist party announced common program with Communists in coming elections.

Moscow's goal is obvious—domination of W. Europe, not by military conquest but by subtler, yet equally effective, diplomatic, political, & economic pressure. Because Europe has failed to define its own identity in a swiftly changing world, opportunities for Russia's westward thrust are unprecedented. All Moscow needs to do is to wave "pan-European" prospect of a Europe Security Conference, & West parliaments immediately see an alternative to costly military burdens of NATO.

In pursuit of its Finlandization of W. Europe, Moscow has also marshalled its economic weapons—& they're impressive. Slowly, & without much public notice, Europe is becoming more & more dependent on Moscow's goodwill for one vital commodity—oil. Few Europeans realize that when Iraq recently allowed France—& France alone—to retain a share of Iraq's nationalized oil industry, it was Russia who engineered the deal. Russia put Iraq up to it with dual goal of forcing France to break ranks with its allies, & shrouding Russia's drive to get control over W. Europe's oil supplies from Persian Gulf, which make up 65 pet. of all W. Europe oil.

Russian control over Europe's fuel supply, coupled with Russian military might, & prospect of US disengagement, would almost inevitably mean subordination of Europe politics to Soviet interests. It's frighteningly clear that Moscow has begun process which will in end lead to Russia encroaching on vital Western interests—at which point Europe is all too likely, from habit & inadequate military capacity, to surrender. (Nwk 7:10)

NOTE: US is in the midst of a presidential campaign which is especially interesting this time. We know that results are wholly in God's hands, & He will override the will of man & install the one that suits His purpose. While all natural indications are that Nixon will win, it would certainly appear to better further the prophesied picture for these days for McGovern to get in, for his announced program is for US global retrenchment & withdrawal, leaving the field to Russia. It is obvious that his program would give Europe to Russia, & put the Mideast at her mercy. However, the results of the election will depend upon just what God has in mind for the present moment, & just how far He desires they go in Russia's favour. They are certainly already moving rapidly that way, even under Nixon's stronger policy.

CRIME FIGHTING COSTS SKYROCKET. Cost of fighting crime tripled in 11 yrs.—still rising rapidly. In '60, police, courts & penal institutions cost \$3½ billion; in '71, over \$10 billion.

Despite increase expenditures, reported offenses rose 176 pet. in '60s. Major crimes in 1970 hit record of 5.6 million. Police depts. & court systems being enlarged everywhere. (USN 6:5)

RUSSIANS LEAVE EGYPT. Balance of power in Mideast, shifting in Russia's favour for past decade, suddenly altered. Pillar of Russia's strategy has been shaken. Arabs' united front against US that strengthened Russia's hand may be starting to crumble.

Russian exodus moving faster than expected: Moscow gives every appearance of removing all its forces from Egypt—even the long-range bombers that kept surveillance over US 6th Fleet. Egypt looking more & more to US, not Russia. There's no doubt Russia's boiling with anger.

Egypt is left weaker than before. Russian advisers were ousted before they could complete modernizing the armed forces. With Russians gone, modernizing will be even slower than before. Removal of Soviet air-defence takes away key restraint on Israel. Israel feared confrontation with Russia.

Israel ends up stronger. While Russia poured billions into Egypt, US kept building up Israel's arsenal, matching Russian input. With added military punch has come unprecedented stability. Ceasefire of Aug., 70 is holding. Jordan has firm control of Palestine guerrillas. No longer are 24,000 Iraq troops stationed on Jordan's border with Israel. Terror attacks inside Israel have failed. Arab air hijacking is under control.

To top it off, Nixon has made it evident US is committed to survival of Israel—most explicit commitment ever from a US President. (USN 8:14)

NOTE: It was said, 2600 years ago—while Egypt was (& had for millenniums been) one of the world's leading industrial, scientific, educational & military powers—that she would henceforth become a weak, base, powerless, downtrodden nation, & should never lift her head in world power again. (Ezek. 29: 14.5).

MANMADE WILDERNESS. In Vietnam, on scale unprecedented in history of warfare, land itself has become an enemy subjected to systematic destruction. To get at the elusive Communists, US has ravaged forests with millions of tons of bombs & shells, sprayed 1000s of acres of farmland with deadly herbicides, & sent teams of giant bulldozers to cut huge swathes thru jungles. Damage staggering: land looks like it's been torn by angry giant.

In eyes of many scientists, US guilty of nothing less than ecocide—intentional destruction of a functioning, life-supporting environment. Pilots have sprayed 1/10 of farmland & 1/3 of forests with destructive herbicide. Half of mangrove forests "utterly destroyed": no chance of recovery.

Giant 32-ton bulldozers, sometimes operating 20 abreast, have scraped away 800,000 acres, ripping thru landscape, piling precious topsoil in heaps—leaving it to wash away with next rain. US has gouged over 21 million bomb craters, each 30 ft. across & 5 ft. deep. They fill quickly with water & become vast breeding grounds for malaria-carrying mosquitoes. One to 2 pct. of all bombs fail to explode, so some areas have become virtual minefields.

Perhaps most serious & long-lasting effect of war against land has been expulsion of people from it. Fury of war has forced millions to abandon their rural heritage & move into squalid cities. These people will never be the same, & therein may lie the ultimate tragedy of the war.

With many areas seeded with booby traps & mines, with farms & forests cratered & stripped, & with addiction to urban living now established, it seems certain many of Vietnam's onetime country folk will never return to enjoy & use the land they were once so much a part of. (Nwk 8:7)

NOTE: What a terrible, shameful, wicked picture! How can evil man make any pretence at being "civilized"? And all this is done by "friends" who are helpfully "defending" them! What would ENEMIES do?

BACK TO ROME. For 3 yrs. Anglicans & Lutherans have been holding international talks to bring about closer relationship. Now they've issued a joint report unanimously urging increased intercommunion, more joint worship, even integrated ministries. They recognize each other as 'apostolic'

In wake of recent Catholic talks with both Anglicans & Lutherans, report could help pave way for intercommunion among all 3 groups soon. (Tm 8:21)

NOTE: Very good. The quicker the better, generally speaking, though the Anglican (Church of England) aspect is not so clear, for Britain does not belong with the Roman Beast.

WORLDWIDE NUCLEAR RACE INTENSIFYING. France conducting elaborate tests in S. Pacific. 25 nations near point where they could build atom bombs & missile systems. World plutonium production skyrocketing— will be 120,000 lbs. by 1990. Atom bomb takes 13 lbs.

France making determined bid to be world's 3rd most powerful nuclear nation: has 18 2000-mile missiles; plans 5 subs with 16 missiles each; building new hydrogen warhead immune to present ABM defences.

Britain, with 64 sub missiles & 50-plane nuclear force, is No. 3 at present. China is 5th, with 30 1000-mile missiles, & 25 bombers—reported to have some 2500 mile missiles.

Almost any nation with a plutonium reactor can produce weapons in secret. Japs already have a 7000-mile rocket—bigger than US's basic Minuteman. By '85, Japs will have enough plutonium for over 1000 bombs.

US & Russia will have to find some way to bring all other nuclear powers into the arms-limitation talks: alternative is a world always on verge of blowing itself up. (USN 7:31).

NOTE: "A world always on the verge of blowing itself up." A pretty picture indeed of man's vaunted "civilization" & "progress." How clearly is foolish man demonstrating the Bible's truth, & the fact that he has not—and never will have—the sense or ability to rule himself intelligently, but that God must soon step in to save him from his own insane folly.

JEWISH SWING TO NIXON. Over yrs. no ethnic group has been more identified with Democratic Party than Jews.

Reason most frequently given for present change of heart is Israel. On that issue, Nixon has proved himself. He has provided as much economic & military aid as all previous Presidents combined. In times of crisis he has stood up to Russia in Mideast.

McGovern has wanted Israel to give up territories taken in '67 War, & to internationalize Jerusalem. McGovern's western campaign chief signed pro-Arab newspaper ads a few yrs. ago.

Unilateral troop withdrawals from Europe, as McGovern recommends, might encourage Russia to be more aggressive in Mideast. Recently, McGovern pledged to end all aid to Greek Govt. Nixon, on other hand, is planning to build a home port for 6th Fleet near Athens. (Tm 8:21)

NOTE: Why should Nixon favour Israel? The Jewish vote has never been that important to the Republicans. And how much more sensible and practical it would be to ride with the oil-rich Arabs with their strategically located lands, and thus reap the obvious benefits of Mideast friends, Mideast bases, & Mideast oil, instead of seeing Russia garnering all these things. But when God's purpose requires a defender for His people, that defender will be found, regardless of the practical advantage to him of a contrary course.

"LIBGYPT" POSTPONED. It was touted as "historical" agreement. And on paper it was momentous indeed: merger between Egypt & Libya would produce Africa's largest nation, bankrolled by Libya's oil wealth, & manned by Egypt's large & relatively sophisticated population.

But the reality was something else. What the agreement really represented was some fancy footwork by Sadat to fend off Kaddafi's fervent advances. Obstacles loomed far larger than advantages. (Nwk 8:14)

NOTE: "Libgypt" does not at all fit into the prophetic picture: one must go one way, the other must go the other way.

SADAT BOOTS RUSSIANS. Sadat was saddled with Soviet forces far larger & more arrogant than he had ever contemplated. So last wk. he decided it was time to about-face: he announced he had decided to boot Soviet "advisers" out. Seldom since Cuban missile crisis have Russians been handed such a stunning diplomatic slap.

Syria's relations with Moscow have become more genial as Russia has stepped up their cultivation of Mideast allies other than Egypt. Moscow has been reduced to 2 seemingly reliable allies—Syria & Iraq. Sadat's decision makes sense mostly if it creates a shift in Mideast stalemate. (Tm 7:31)

NOTE: A good, encouraging, hoped-for development, as previous issues of the Berean will manifest.

NEW MONEY CRISIS. Last Dec, new agreement reached to stabilize world currencies. Last wk., an explosion left whole network badly shaken. Trouble started with British pound. Britain & Europe spent nearly \$4 billion trying to support it, then let it drop. The \$ quickly came under attack. Germany had to buy \$1 billion worth before officials halted trading. US was stunned by crisis & unable to suggest solution.

Common Mkt. countries now face 2 alternatives, neither pleasant for US. One is a unified float of all Europe currencies against \$. That might calm speculation, but would be step toward dividing world into hostile monetary blocs—US vs. Europe—that US has long feared. Or they could clamp tighter controls on currency: that would hamper trade, encourage hostile blocs.

Pound is weakest link. And when Britain enters Common Mkt. in Jan., it will have to further weaken its financial position by reducing protective tariffs & contributing 100s of millions of pounds annually to Mkt. programs.

Most discouraging thing about last week's panic was that new safety devices collapsed promptly when put to test. (Tm 7:3)

NOTE: Once the British pound, then the US \$, were the impregnable, Gibraltar-like foundation of the whole world's trading & monetary systems. But now, due to folly & mismanagement & changing times, both are pitiful, spurned beggars along the world's monetary highway. A new order is shaping up that does not depend on Britain & US.

RUSSIA TURNS TO IRAQ. Soviet military hurrying home from Egypt, ordered out by Sadat. Russia has been preparing fall-back positions elsewhere in Mideast. Doors seem open to Russia in Iraq, potential rival to Egypt for Mideast leadership. Syria also has Russian military advisers.

From Russian's point of view, most attractive alternative to Egypt is Iraq. Communists are in Iraq Cabinet—level of power no Communist ever approached in Egypt. Russians are getting oil out of N. Iraq with \$200 million technical aid. Russia hopes to boost Iraq oil production by 3½ times by 74.

Russia has 70 aid projects going in Iraq. Iraq has Persian Gulf ports—ideal for Kremlin planners who see most Mideast oil located on Gulf & want to control it. (Persian Gulf gives access to Indian Ocean).

In Syria, Russia is building Euphrates Dam, to double Syria's electric power & irrigated land by 74. Also 50 other Russian projects in Syria, & a lot of military aid: jets, tanks, equipment. (USN 7:31)

NOTE: This is good, especially coupled with Russia's expulsion from Egypt. Russia is clearly being forced into the direction that the finger of prophecy points.

TEEN-AGE SEX: LETTING THE PENDULUM SWING. (Tm8:21)

NOTE: Just a headline; no quotation. There was nothing in the article that was not too coarse & crude to quote. In fact, there was little that would have been legally quotable in Time itself just a few years ago, but morals & standards & publishing ethics have declined alarmingly in recent years. This article, with a front cover picture and glaring headline, was how the Aug. 21 issue of Time was promoted. This was clearly that week's spicy selling feature. The article goes out of its way to be vulgar, & what is worse, to involve young children in the vulgarity. The basic theme is that license & immorality is "a healthy attitude," while concern for obedience to God's laws of purity & morality is a "hang-up." Surely Sodom & Gomorrah were not as lewd as this! We can only marvel that God restrains His hand.

US SCHOOLS BANKRUPT. Virtually all US's urban schools are in sad financial shape. Perhaps none closer to bankruptcy than Detroit's, 4th largest in US, with 290,000 pupils, 65 per cent. Black. System had \$38 million deficit this yr.; next yr. expect \$101 million deficit. Plans school only 117 days— $\frac{1}{3}$ less than state required minimum of 180. (Tm 6:19)

NOTE: The world's richest country—fabulously rich & productive—richest in all history—with its riches squandered on corruption & rubbish. The whole of society on the treadmill—everyone up to their ears in debt—the national debt an astronomical \$450 billion, on which the poor through taxes must pay \$20 billion annually in interest to the rich.

SPAIN AFTER FRANCO: CRISIS BUILDS. Battle lines already in place. Stakes huge—for US as well as for Spain. Potentially dangerous crisis: who will take reins of power when Franco (79) is gone? US's main interest is keeping important naval & air bases at time when Russia is expanding its foothold in W. Mediterranean.

Anti-Franco forces appear gaining strength. Hardest blow of all to Franco personally has been attempted breakaway of Catholic Church, which has always been a pillar of the regime since '36-39 Civil War. But within last yr. hierarchy has pushed for disassociation from Govt., to seek support from workers & poor.

Dramatic economic progress has transformed Spain into a modern, industrial state. In past 10 yrs., Spain has grown faster industrially than any W. Europe country. In past 10 yrs., refrigerators have multiplied by 25, TVs by 14, autos by 8. Steel production tripled between '60 & 70. Shipbuilding, 20th in world 4 yrs. ago, is now 4th. But a soaring inflation rate has left wages far behind rising prices.

In the climate of change budding in Spain, no development is more startling than emergence of Catholic Church as important force in political unrest. At a national Church assembly last Sept., one of most dramatic resolutions passed apologized for Church's role in Civil War. (USN 7:3)

NOTE: Spain is to be a segment of the assembled Gogian Image. The Church there—for ages a part of the ruling hierarchy of the elite, & from the beginning a staunch supporter of General Franco's Hitler-backed iron dictatorship & crushing of the popular revolution—the Church is now rapidly scrambling to change its stance in preparation for the new coming order.

JAPAN STOPS DRUGS. 10 yrs. ago, heroin epidemic threatened Japan. Now heroin use in Japan has been virtually eliminated by stringent enforcement of a law providing harsh handling of both pushers & users. For selling, sentence is life; mere possession gets several yrs. in jail.

Every user caught is confined for at least 30 days for treatment, beginning with "cold turkey," that is, complete removal of drugs without any chemical crutches. The ordeal can be excruciating. Cold turkey is rarely fatal, but urge to commit suicide is strong.

Japan's success has been dramatic enough to awe visiting US experts. Can Jap system be used in US? US physicians prefer to relieve, not increase, suffering of addict, & keep him on substitute indefinitely if necessary. Flaw in argument: US has high relapse rate; isn't checking epidemic. (Tm 6:19)

NOTE: A striking lesson in man's blind & self-willed folly. Japan, in this case, has taken a drastic, but sensible & successful, approach to a terrible, mushrooming, national cancer. But US's "wise" men prefer a coddling, ineffectual approach. "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

MANMADE MILLENNIUM. Standard of living in Russia is 26th in world—dead last of all lands classed as "developed." Russian workers can buy for their wages 7 to 12 times less than workers in Britain, Germany or US. Average living quarters is $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ of that of workers in these countries. 80 per cent. in US have cars, 60 per cent. in Britain, 50 per cent. in Germany, only $\frac{1}{10}$ of 1 per cent. in Russia. Western workers on unemployment compensation can buy 2 to 4 times as much as average working Russian.

Communist Party bigwigs rate special stores, hospitals, vacation resorts, estates, sumptuous dachas (with swimming pools, tennis courts, latest stereo rigs), & chauffeured limousines (preferably foreign makes).

Russia continues to maintain fiction of fully egalitarian, classless society, & its propaganda media rail continually against "alien bourgeois materialism." But there's considerable gap between pay scale of skilled factory worker (about 134 roubles mo.) & his factory director (up to 1500 roubles a mo. with bonuses). (Nwk 6:26)

NOTE: What a hypocritical picture!—a power-mad dictatorship reeking with inequity & special privilege, & piously posing as the champion of the oppressed. But how could evil man rise to any higher level than his own corruption—apart from the transforming power of God? "In my flesh dwelleth no good thing."

CAN WORLD SURVIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH? In economics, growth has long since been considered absolutely essential to "good life. Now, however, many scientists & social reformers beginning to regard economic growth as malignant. They fear production increases will destroy civilization, either by stripping earth of natural resources or choking humanity in a cloud of pollution.

Anti-growth sentiment has been growing for yrs. Biggest push came from appearance last yr. of "Limits to Growth, by team of 17 scientists. It's the first vision of Apocalypse ever prepared by a computer.

In restrained, non-hysterical language, it insists unchecked growth can have only 1 outcome; "A sudden & uncontrollable decline in both population & industrial capacity some time before 2100 AD."

The study asserts that if world's population & industrial output continues to grow at present rates, then some time during lifespan of children born today, world will begin running out of natural resources. For lack of them, industries will collapse by mid-21st century.

Because industry will no longer be able to produce enough fertilizers, pesticides or medicines, much of human race will be killed by famines & epidemics, and lives of rest will be nasty, brutish, & short. There's only 1 way out: population & industrial growth must be stopped cold before 1990.

This prescription is as chilling as the doomsday prophecy it's designed to avert. Economic growth does not necessarily guarantee the unemployed Mississippi Black or Viet peasant will someday enjoy a balanced diet or a private room. But stopping growth could foreclose even the possibility.

Redistribution of wealth is no solution, because rich & middleclass wouldn't give up wealth unless it was forcibly taken from them. Thus redistribution would imply violent revolutions & wars over ownership of oil wells, mines, fertile lands, etc. This could only produce equality of misery.

It's hard to see how growth could be halted without a world dictatorship. Citizens of underdeveloped countries already suspect the no-growth argument is an aristocratic, white man's conspiracy to lock them into perpetual poverty. It would do little good to stop growth in US if it raged on in Algeria & Indonesia.

World's already getting ominous foretaste of disaster: in Japan industrial growth has already so befouled air & water that pollution has directly caused outbreaks of serious disease & death. (Tm 8:14)

NOTE: This cannot be passed off as doomsday talk for, as the article points out, the process that must inevitably lead to not-too-far-distant destruction & collapse is already well advanced in some parts of the world. To continue "progress" is to destroy the earth's resources, which are running out fast: to stop it is to lock the great majority of mankind hopelessly into their present poverty & hunger & squalor.

CHAOS IN CAMBODIA. With most of N. Viet forces tied up in the big offensive in S. Vietnam, still the Cambodian Communists have clearly been holding their own in battles with Govt. troops. Indeed, despite Govt.'s solid edge in both numbers & firepower, Communists getting ever stronger.

What makes the strength remarkable is fact that only 2 yrs. ago, the Communist forces hardly existed at all. But with overthrow of popular Sihanouk, the Communist forces began to form. Today, expanding rebel forces number 30,000, control 50 pet. of population & 85 pet. of land.

While prices in Govt. controlled areas have skyrocketed by 300 pet. in past 2 yrs., the Communists have held line in their areas. US gives Govt. forces \$5 million aid per week. (Nwk 8:14)

NOTE: The Cambodia & Laos picture gives little hope of any kind of termination or settling of the SE Asia conflict except on Communist terms.

RUSSIA'S AIMS. Suslov, top idea man in Politburo, says new policy toward US is just a facade for the same old policy. "We have no illusions. US remains the enemy of Communism, main promoter of capitalist system of hired slavery." He said Russia needed an easing of tensions to develop still greater strength for the long & fierce battle. (USN 7:10)

NOTE: A frank admission of what everyone should know as a truism. World control is the unchanging goal.

LAST OPIUM HARVEST. The opium poppy has been staple of life in central Turkey for over 2000 yrs. Its image has long bloomed on sculptures & coins, & the central province is named for it. Today over ½ million Turks depend mainly on the poppy for their livelihood.

But a way of life is abruptly ending for the peasants of Anatolia. Last wk. they began last opium harvests. A long & acrimonious campaign by US has finally forced Turkey, a military & economic dependent, to ban it.

The farmers argued bitterly that the order spelled economic death for their area, where the arid ground is too poor for other crops. "Opium is finished: we are finished. There will be no money. We have nothing for food & taxes. We will simply have to die or leave this area."

Ban isn't expected to have much effect on US opium supply: too much is grown elsewhere, as India & SE Asia. It's this that makes ban so galling to Turks, "We know our ban is not going to have any effect on US's social ills. US has forced us to stop growing opium because US is strong & we are weak. Why doesn't it use similar pressure to stop its children from drugging themselves? It's their problem, not ours!" (Nwk 7:3)

NOTE: Surely a devious & hopeless way to try to solve a problem that could—with wise & sensible & firm treatment (as Japan has shown)—be speedily brought under control.

BRAZIL'S VANISHING INDIANS. From earliest days of Portuguese colonization, Brazil's Indians have been enslaved, exploited & extinguished by brutality & disease. When first explorers arrived in 1500, there were 3 million Brazil Indians. By '64 down to 200,000. Today under 100,000.

Tragically, Brazil's touted "Indian Protection Service" was an active accomplice in the decimation. Four yrs. ago, Brazil admitted Service had become a "sinkhole of corruption & indiscriminate killing." It conceded that \$62 million had been stolen from the Indians, & bloody massacres carried out. Some were attacked from air with dynamite; others exterminated by food laced with arsenic. No one was brought to trial.

Brazil today is in grip of abstract devotion to "economic development" that may well complete what individual human greed began—extinction of Brazilian Indian. Govt. says: "Assistance for Indians cannot be allowed to obstruct national development."

As in US, it's likely fate of Brazil Indians will become a general concern only after their way of life has become historic curiosity. (Nwk 7:3)

NOTE: The "civilized" (that is, better-armed) nations' treatment of the world's weaker peoples is all the evidence we need of the Bible's true assessment of man's natural vileness. Recently there was a case in S. America where Indians—men, women & children—were lured with food & then killed for sport. The perpetrators, when tried, were exonerated on their plea that they knew no better, & that Indian-hunting had always been a respectable and legitimate sport there.

REDS CLOSER TO POWER IN FRANCE, ITALY. French Communists & Socialists, for first time since '39 Hitler-Stalin pact, have common policy. They've formed a "popular front" to end 13 yrs. of rule by DeGaulle & heirs.

Italian Communists have new hopes that powerful leftist coalition is in making which could take them into office. Outlook for Italy bleak. Govt. expected to fall soon. Outlook for Reds improving. They're experts at turning Italy's woes into votes for themselves. USN (7:10)

NOTE: This is an encouraging development. Little change would be needed to put the Reds into legitimate, elected power in France & Italy, welcoming Russian "liberators" with open arms.

US BUILDUP IN THAILAND. There to stay. Thailand will soon replace Vietnam as major US base in SE Asia. Top Thais appear delighted. Many senior officials reap financial rewards from the US presence.

More important, Thailand's military dictator Thanom obviously feels that the more US troops there are there, the stronger the guarantee US will come to the rescue if festering Communist insurgency ever proves too much for Thais to handle. At one time Britain had Singapore as its permanent base in Asia: US has made Thailand its Singapore. (Nwk 7:3)

McGOVERN'S PLAN. Almost all Mideast bases & staging areas that used to be open to US forces, in '58 Lebanon crisis, for example, now closed- Turkey, Malta, Libya, Spain, Lebanon, etc. Greece is US's last filling station. McGovern would close the last filling station. He has said he'd immediately withdraw all aid from present regime, which would, of course, retaliate.

Under McGovern defence program, there would be, not 5, but 2 US divisions left in Europe, with only 8 divisions at home. Moreover, McGovern plans to reduce the US aircraft carrier forces from 14 to 6. Under the McGovern naval program, Russia's Mediterranean Fleet, already challenging US Fleet, would unquestionably become dominant force in Mediterranean. US would then be able to do little for Israel. (Nwk 7:10)

NOTE: If God puts McGovern in as US president, then we would pretty well have to conclude that the end was very near indeed, for his avowed policies spell quick Russian Mideast ascendancy.

FRANCE'S GRAND PLAN. Pompidou trying to carve out new dramatic role for France in expanded Europe community: wants France to have its "proper place" as political nerve centre of Common Mkt. Key feature in scheme is that Pompidou would preside over political affairs of W. Europe like a benevolent Gaullist godfather, holding Community's other leaders firmly in line. France pushing Phase I of grand design: to establish in Paris a secretariat to deal with Europe's political future. (Tm 6:26)

NOTE: France, the perennial trouble-maker, seeks the leadership of Europe. Perhaps, as Russia's henchman, she will be given that role in the coming coalition of the Image. Clearly the Russian campaign to swing France to her side is well underway.

HANGMAN OF LYONS. Paul Touvier, a Frenchman, was a fascist in pre-war France who headed Militia under Vichy regime. He aided Gestapo in hunting down Resistance Fighters & Jews. He personally commanded an execution squad, & at one time executed 7 Jewish shopkeepers.

After war, he was twice sentenced to death in absentia by French courts for war crimes. He took refuge in French convents & monasteries for 20 yrs.

He has a powerful protector in Monsignor Charles Duquaire, a French prelate with influence at Vatican, who waged 10-yr. campaign to get him a pardon. Pompidou has granted Touvier full pardon. (Tm 6:26)

NOTE: A sordid revelation of the seedy, concealed underside of ecclesiastical politics & machinations.

MOSCOW'S BIG SETBACK IN MIDEAST. Yrs. of frustration on both sides led to Egypt's falling-out with Russia. Cairo's expulsion of Russian military men gave Russia its biggest setback in region since Moscow gained Mideast foothold in '55 by selling arms to Nasser.

Expulsion of Russians is strong evidence Egypt plans peaceful solution with Israel. Sadat is taking a great big gamble that US will now pressure Israel to withdraw from Egyptian territory in exchange for security agreements. (USN 7:31)

NOTE: This is an exceedingly encouraging sign. Russia belongs in Iraq & Syria—the ancient King of the North; and not in Egypt—the King of the South. Iraq & Syria, with Persia, Libya & Sudan, must be Russia's allies, but Egypt must be taken by force when Russia sweeps down through Israel on her (humanly) irresistible career of conquest.

ATHENAGORAS DIES. When he died last wk. at 86 in Istanbul, Athenagoras was widely mourned as one of world's great holy men. His gift had been one of reconciliation. It was he who first sent out feelers to Vatican to end 900-yr.-old battle between Catholicism & Orthodoxy.

Historic meeting between Pope Paul & Athenagoras in '64 on Jerusalem's sacred Mt. of Olives, where they exchanged a Kiss of peace, & prayed together. The next yr., they both revoked the mutual anathemas that had been hurled at start of schism between East & West in 1054. (Tm 7:17)

NOTE: Ecumenism—the Harlot Daughter pilgrimage back to Mother Rome—has come a long way in the past few years, & Athenagoras is a symbol of that great change.

PEACE ALONG THE JORDAN. Reality takes precedence over old enmities. It's 5 yrs. since Israel seized West Bank. Peace accepted today as fact of life along both Banks. In sharp contrast to Israel's troubled borders with Syria & Egypt, no one along Jordan talks of new round of fighting. For yrs. after fighting ended, Arabs were convinced they could dislodge Israel by force. Jordan, with Syria & Iraq, formed "Eastern Command" to plan coming "battle of liberation". That's now history. Arabs go quietly about their business, just as before the war. 100s of Arabs daily cross Allenby bridge, to & from Jordan. Arab visitors are free to travel anywhere in occupied Jordan or Israel itself: many sun themselves on Tel Aviv beaches. Two-way flow of trade is growing across Jordan. Israel expected soon to let Jordan use Mediterranean port of Gaza. Free flow of currency across border. Hussein has broken with rest of Arabs, & has turned to US for bulk of aid he needs to keep economy afloat. US now gives Jordan \$100 million a yr. (USN 8:14)

NOTE: This is all in the right direction. Jordan is no longer allied with the vicious, Russia-oriented, anti-Israel powers of Iraq & Syria, but is working closer & closer in harmony with Israel.

RUSSIA TIGHTENS GRIP AT HOME. Secret police executing toughest crackdown on dissenters since Stalin died in '53. 100s of poets, writers, scholars, scientists, & others have been jailed, banished to lunatic asylums, or forced to leave country in recent months. Kremlin fears that free exchange of people & ideas with West would mean curtains for Communism.

"Nationalities problem" is most dangerous issue. Russia contains 50 distinct national groups: 23 have over 1million people; 15 have own so-called "autonomous republics." Emboldened by Jews' example, nationalist

intellectuals have been increasingly outspoken against attempts to obliterate their culture, & in asserting their national rights.

One more factor in campaign of repression is lesson of workers' revolt in Poland in '70 (which overthrew Gomulka). Kremlin authorities—now they've seen that a Communist state is not immune to uprising by workers intend to make sure it doesn't happen in Russia. (USN 8:7)

NOTE: Russia must maintain rigid discipline to keep her people under control while she spends the bulk of her efforts building her war machine in preparation for world conquest. Here is her advantage over the loose, luxurious, effort-diffusing, resource-dissipating US economy.

TRADE WITH RUSSIA. US & Russia on threshold of new era of expanding trade & more peaceful relationship. US to sell Russia \$750 million in grain in 3 yrs.—biggest deal in history of its type.

Behind grain deal was this reality: Kremlin, determined to improve Russian diets, has nowhere else to turn. Only US can produce the agricultural abundance Russia must have to give its people the promised 25 pct. increase in protein foods.

US has, in its corn & wheat belt, world's largest contiguous land-mass area with good growing climate, adequate rainfall, well-capitalized & equipped farmers, reserve acres. Exports \$8 billion yr. farm products. (USN 7:24-31)

VICTORY FOR RUSSIA? Serious objections about terms of deal Nixon made with Russians on arms. Treaty allows Russia to increase its present superiority over US in number of ICBMs. (Russia authorized to have 2306 vs. 1710 for US). Russia expected to develop multiple-warhead technology enabling them to overcome present US advantage in that area). (Nwk 6:5).

HOLLANDS CHAOTIC PARTY SYSTEM. Thanks to a scheme of almost total proportionate representation, there are now over 100 political parties in Holland, reflecting religious & ideological differences so subtle that even Dutch themselves have trouble sorting them out. There are so many parties that some are named for yr. they are founded.

Under these conditions, forming a Govt, is a frustrating job. Dutch talk constantly of reform, but members of Parliament seem extremely reluctant to "reform" themselves out of office. (Nwk 8:14)

NOTE: A prime example of man's weird "Alice-in-Wonderland" ways of trying to regulate his affairs.

God's Witness: The Jewish People

Evidence of God's Character, Power and Purpose.

"He that scattered Israel shall gather him."

Meaning of "Jew"—the whole Hebrew race from the beginning (John 4:22; Rom. 3:1; 1:16; 2:9).

Jews put forth as witness (Isa 43:10, 12, 21) of God's character, power and purpose. Chosen people (Amos 3:2· Deut 32:8; Deut 7:6) to manifest God to man (Exod 9:16; 1 Cor 10:11).

Unique among men—found everywhere; have remained distinct for 3500 years; vastly ancient; greatest man a Jew; greatest book Jewish; antiquity & excellence of their Law (Deut 4:8).

Proves 2 things: (1) Truth and divinity of Bible; (2) Truth of coming worldwide Kingdom of God on earth.

7 Matters of Prophecy—6 Fulfilled, 1 Present & Future

1. JEWS TO PRESERVE SCRIPTURES as a witness for God against themselves (Deut. 31:19, 21, 26).

2. CONTINUAL WICKEDNESS (a) Prophesied; (b) Record preserved by themselves (Deut. 31:16, 29; Deut. 32:5-6, 26-29, 32-33; Jer. 7:25-26; 32:30-31; Mal 3:7, 9; Psa 106; Neh 9).

—(Entirely different from any ordinary history, Jewish or Gentile).

3. GREAT DELIVERER TO COME (Gen 49:10- Psa 72; Isa 9:6; 11:1; 21:1; 42:1-7; 46:6-9; 52:13; Ezek. 21:27; 37-22; Mic. 5:2-5; Zech. 3:8; 6:12-13; 9:9-10; Mal 4:2).

But Jews would reject him (Isa 53:3-4; Psa 118:22; Isa 8:14; 49:7; Zech 12:10; 13:7; Psa 22; Dan 9:36; Isa 50:6; 22:25· 2 Sam 22:44). Divinely blinded (Isa 6:10; Matt 13:13-4).

4. TO BE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT ALL NATIONS (Deut. 4:27; 28:25, 64; Lev. 26:33; Jer. 9:16; Ezek. 12:15; Luke 21:24). Everywhere persecuted & despised (Deut. 28:29-33, 37, 41, 65-68; Amos 9:4).

5. PALESTINE TO BE UTTERLY DESOLATE (Lev. 26:32; Isa. 6:11-12). Lowder-writes: "Palestine gradually became more desolate from the 7th to 19th centuries. Lowest ebb, 1850."

6. BUT JEWS NEVER TO BE DESTROYED—always to remain distinct (Jer. 30:11; 31:35-6; Amos 9:8).

7. TO BE FINALLY REGATHERED TO THEIR OWN LAND (Ezek. 37:21; Jer. 31:10-12). What more improbable? But it is happening! For 2000 years they have prayed, "Next year in Jerusalem."

60 yrs ago—very few—Turkish heel. Herzl—"Jewish State" (1896)—derided as hopeless.

120yrs ago—J. Thomas: "Must be prosperous Jewish settlement there before Christ returns—THIS sign only STONE-BLIND could fail to understand." NOW 3 MILLION JEWS IN PALESTINE.

BUT—present gathering only a token. Far, far more involved. Gathering of Jews inseparably connected with a worldwide reign of righteousness by the promised Son of David.

—(Jer 23:5-8· Isa 11:1-12; Zech 8:7-8, 22-23; 9:9-10; 14:9-11; Isa 2:1-4; Psa 47:4-9; Isa 60:9-14; Ezek. 39:21-27, see 38:23; Psa 102:13-16, 22; Mic. 4:1-8).

Not for Jews' sake, but for God's glory & purpose (Ezek. 36:22-4; Ps 106:8; Ezek. 20:44; Rev 4:11).

God's eternal purpose—to individually develop a holy people. Jews are instruments in this purpose. Thru their regathering, way of life to be brought to all nations (Romans 11:12, 15, 26).

Jerusalem trodden down till Gentile times end (Luke 21:24). No blessing, peace or salvation till these times end, and Jesus sets up Kingdom (1 Tim 4:1; Matt 25:31-4; Luke 14:14; Rev 2:26-27).

Revival of Jews & Palestine Is the Great Signpost of His Coming

Our duty—Learn lessons God teaches thru Jews—of Himself, His purpose & His requirements.

Eternal salvation is offered through—

(1) Belief of the One True Gospel of the Kingdom (Rom 1:16; Gal 1:8-9· Matt 24:14).

(2) Baptism into this One Faith (Matt 28:19; Gal 3:27-29; John 3:5; 1 Pet 3:21).

(3) Complete dedication of life to God (Rom 12:1; Eph 3:2, 17, 23; 1 Tim 4:15; Matt 6:19-34).

To the few who do this—a great & endless recompense of reward

\$3.00 per yr. (only for those who desire to pay)

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