

The Berean Christadelphian

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

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

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

CHRIST IS COMING SOON AND WILL REIGN ON EARTH

Ecclesial News

ESPERANCE 6450, West Australia—2 Emily Street— Memorial 11 am; Class Thursday 7:30pm—Bro. Ray Hodges (same address).

LOVING Greetings in Christ Jesus' Name.

It is our happy privilege to announce that our Heavenly Father has used us to help another to put on that Saving Name. On Oct. 20, KEITH STOUT, after a good confession of those things concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, passed through the waters of baptism to rise to that newness of life through him who is the Life and the Way.

As brethren and sisters of Christ, may we with our brother be filled with a zeal and love for each other, helping and strengthening one another so that we may be united at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Recently bre. Jeff Hodges and Philip Quenby took a week off to make a 2500 mile car trip to visit our bro. John Mullett in isolation. The visit was enjoyed by all, and we wish our bro. John could be closer to us.

During late Sept. and early Oct., sis. Ada Hodges and I enjoyed a wonderful holiday with the brethren and sisters of Papakura and Whangarei ecclesias in New Zealand. We deeply appreciate the spiritual happiness and companionship these brethren and sisters gave to us, and we realize how lovely the bond of the Truth can be.

Believing the return of the Master to be near, and so our gathering before him, may we each be filled with a zeal for oneness, even as our Master and the Father are one. May the Father bless each of us to this end. With love in the Truth from the Esperance ecclesia, —bro. Ray Hodges

1973 Subscriptions

Each year we endeavor to set the subscription price at the actual cost of producing one copy per month, based on a circulation of 1000 copies. To set it higher would force those who pay to subsidize those who do not. To set it lower would not be acceptable to those who wish to pay for what they receive. Actually we are now currently printing 1400 copies per month, and the great majority are sent out free. The price for 1973 is:

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Building an Holy Temple

"Let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon"—1 Cor. 3:10

WHILE Solomon was the builder of the Temple that carried his name, the plans were of divine origin. This was made known when David gave the instructions and plans to Solomon —

"All this, said David, the Lord made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern" (1 Chron. 28:19).

The work was started by sending men into Lebanon from whence the materials were obtained—

"And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the House.

"And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stonesquarers. So they prepared timber and stones to build the House" (1 Kings 5:17-18).

At the time the Tabernacle was constructed at Sinai, the final solemn admonition given to Moses was—

"See that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount" (Heb. 8:5).

Although similar instructions are not revealed with regard to the Temple, it is conclusively evident they were given, for we read—

"And the House, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the House, while it was in building" (1 Kings 6:7).

Only perfect instructions, and perfect obedience in following them, along with careful coaching and meticulous training, would produce such an extraordinary result.

This verse is very significant. All these things are deep types for our instruction in godliness. There is another Temple to which we are related, and the perfect instructions for this beautiful building of God made of glorious living stones have been clearly revealed, both in the teaching of Jesus, and of the apostles—especially Paul.

There is no question whatever that, if we are to participate in this remarkable structure, we must render very careful obedience in painstaking harmony with the instructions. There can be no last-minute hammering or cutting on the site when the Temple is assembled in all its symmetry and beauty. All the parts must be absolutely ready, and must fit perfectly together.

Prior to our belief and obedience of the Gospel, Paul shows us the helpless, hopeless, useless, beauty-less condition in which we lived—

"At that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" (Eph. 2:12).

At that time, the mind of the flesh was our master and—as far as it was in our power to do so—we did as WE pleased. We pursued self-pleasure, like the rest of the world of darkness. But having learned and obeyed the glorious light of the Gospel of God, we rose from baptism to "walk in NEWNESS of life"—

"Knowing this, that our Old Man is crucified with him (the Lord Jesus), that the body of sin might be DESTROYED—that henceforth we should NOT SERVE SIN" (Rom. 6:6).

At this point, we are ready to begin our work of construction according to the divine and eternal pattern of godliness, so we look to our Master for detailed instructions. And let us not just glance over these instructions rapidly, assuming we are familiar with them because we "do our readings." Let us rather, as befits their urgency, take again a fresh, slow, careful, thoughtful, word-by-word, self-examining look at each one of them.

These things are more vital to our life than our daily food: more essential to our health and wellbeing than all the doctors in the world. Here is the key to life or death.

We are NOT brethren and sisters of Christ if we do not wholeheartedly strain every effort to learn and remember and understand and OBEY these flesh-purging teachings with all our heart. If we nurture any kind of fleshliness, or bitterness, or unkindness, or unforgiveness, in our hearts, we are lost—

RULE 1: "Love the Lord thy God with ALL thy heart"—Matt. 22:37.

- RULE 2: "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you (see the awful context), if ye FROM YOUR HEARTS forgive not EVERY ONE his brother their trespasses"—Matt. 18:35.
- RULE 3: "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also so to them"—Matt. 7:12.
- RULE 4: "Love your enemies: do good to them that hate you"—Matt. 5:44.
- RULE 5: "Bless them that curse you: let no cursing come out of your mouth"—Matt. 5:44; Rom. 12:14.
- RULE 6: "Pray for them that despitefully use you and afflict you"—Matt. 5:44.
- RULE 7: "Beware lest the cares of life or the allurements of pleasure weaken Christ's hold on your heart"—
Matt. 24:44.

Now we look to Jesus' faithful apostles for further instructions. Space is not available for all of them, but here are some extremely important rules of life—

1. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God—which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God .. Recompense to no man evil for evil"—Rom. 12:1,2, 17.
2. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ"—Gal. 6:2.
3. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith: that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God"—Eph. 3:17-19.
4. "Let ALL bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. And be ye kind to one another, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you"—Eph. 4:31-2.
5. "Be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world"—Phil. 2:15.
6. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise think on these things"—Phil. 4:8.
7. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering: forbearing one another and forgiving one another, if any man have a complaint against any. Even as Christ forgave YOU, so also do ye"—Col. 3:12-3.
8. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"—Col. 3:16.
9. "STUDY to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (expounding, handling) the Word of Truth"—2 Tim. 2:15.
10. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that—denying ungodliness and worldly lusts—we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world"—
Tit. 2:11-2.
11. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord"—Heb. 12:14.
12. "The tongue can no man tame. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father, and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be"—James 3:8-10.
13. "As He that hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation"—1 Pet. 1:15.
14. "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another: love as brethren: be pitiful, be courteous; not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing, knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing . . . For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers, but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil"—1 Pet. 3:8-12.

When the Temple of Solomon was in building, he had a number of overseers. We too have overseers, and we call them arranging brethren. Their duties are well outlined in our Ecclesial Guide, Sec.17:

"One principle ought to permeate all appointments in the House of Christ, and that is the one laid down by Christ, when speaking of the exercise of authority of one Gentile over another. He said—
"IT SHALL NOT BE SO AMONG YOU."
"He that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger: and he that is chief as he that doth serve."
"The appointment of brethren to certain offices is not the appointment of men to exercise authority, but to serve."

This clause is based first on the quotation from the Lord Jesus, and also from 1 Pet. 5:1-3—

"The elders (older brethren) which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed.

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre's sake, but of a ready mind:

"Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being EXAMPLES to the flock."

The workers who prepared the stones for the Temple were extremely careful in following the instructions. Let us again think of that remarkable passage in 1 Kings 6:7. So meticulous were they in their work that when the stones were finally assembled—

"There was neither hammer, nor axe, nor any tool of iron, heard in the House, while it was in building."

The Tools of Iron had done all their necessary work beforehand— both the "Iron Furnace" of this present time of probationary affliction and purging, and the aspect illustrated by that beautiful passage (Prov. 27:17)—

"Iron sharpeneth iron: so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

What about the "living" Temple of God to which we are related as a result of our belief and obedience of the Gospel? Of it, Paul says—

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

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the Chief Cornerstone, in whom all the building—FITLY FRAMED TOGETHER—groweth unto an holy Temple in the Lord" (Eph. 2:19-21).

"Fitly framed together": every piece fitting perfectly into place TOGETHER: carefully shaped according to the pattern.

Are we extremely careful in following the instructions that appear in this message, and are we so meticulous in our work that each one of us will form a part of that "holy Temple in the Lord"? It's a searching question for each one of us to seriously meditate upon in humble prayer, for our salvation is at stake. Having pondered it carefully, then let the prayer of David be our prayer (Psa. 139:23)—

"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me, and know my thoughts! And see if there be any wicked way in me!

"AND LEAD ME IN THE WAY EVERLASTING!"

—Editor

The Slaying of the Beast

The Freeing of the World from Superstition

"The Gentiles will come from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, and things in which there is no profit"—Jer. 16:19

THE seven months ensuing the "great slaughter" will be occupied in burying the dead that the land may be cleansed (Ezek. 39:11-16). This, however, does not interrupt the prosecution of the war. The Bethlehem-born Judge of Israel, being duly installed upon the throne of his father David as king over the little mustard-seed-like Kingdom of Judah (Matt. 13:31-32), invades the land of Assyria, and the land of Nimrod, and wastes them with the sword.

Thus, he will not only deliver Judah from the Assyrian when he "cometh into their land and treadeth within their borders" (Mic. 5:5); but the Rainbow Angel will also take away the dominion of the first 3 Beasts of Daniel (7:12). But, though deprived of dominion, they will still exist as national organizations, for—

"Their lives shall be prolonged for a season and a time."

—or 1000 years (720 plus 280). Their kingdoms will become the Rainbow Angel's and they will be blessed in the new administration of their affairs. While Yahweh "inherits Judah, His portion in the Holy Land," and "dwells in the midst of Zion," these nations are joined to Him, and become His people (Zech. 2:10-12).

The regeneration of Egypt, Israel and Assyria becomes complete. His right hand is established in the rivers, and His left in the sea; and He is already "higher than the kings of the earth" (Psa. 89:25-27). And by His prowess He

has changed the face of the East, having wrested those fair and luxuriant countries from the destroyer, and made the land that was desolate into the enchanting Paradise of God (Ezek. 36:35; Isa. 51:3).

"In that day there shall be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.

"In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the land, whom Yahweh Tz'vaoth shall bless, saying,

"Blessed be Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel Mine inheritance"

(Isa. 19:23-25).

But the vindication, or avengement, of the Holy Land (Dan. 8:14: *we-nitzdaik kodesh*) and the conquest and regeneration of Egypt and Assyria, do not consummate the work of the Rainbow Angel. They only serve to place "his right foot upon the sea," and to prepare him for setting "his left foot upon the earth."

He has conquered the Lion, the Bear, and the Leopard: he has taken away their dominion, and placed them under his own. But there still remains that "dreadful and terrible and exceeding strong Fourth Beast" which came up out of the same seas as the others. This is not simply to lose its dominion, and yet continue as a body politic to exist like the others "for a season and a time."

The contrary of this would be the continuance of the European commonwealth as now constituted in church and state (but without human government) for 1000 years. This, however, can never be. The decree of heaven has long been on record for its utter and total destruction. The decree is this—

"Because of the voice of the great words which the Horn spake, I beheld till the Beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame" (Dan. 7:11).

This is the grand catastrophe of the Apocalypse—the slaying of the Latin Catholic Beast, and the destroying of its body politic by the Rainbow Angel—by the Spirit manifested in the saints.

His "pillars of fire" march through the countries of Europe with the destruction of a "burning flame"; the result of which is—

"Judging among the nations, filling their countries with dead bodies, and the bruising of the Head over an extensive region" (Ps. 110:6).

This exposition, then, of the—

"Mystery of the Deity as He hath declared the Glad Tidings to His servants the prophets."

—defines the position of the Rainbow Angel, and brings him up before us as a colossus prepared to bestride the world. By his right foot being placed upon the sea, it plants his left foot, of course, upon the demonial and idol-worshipping Spain, and brings before him all the countries of the Latin and Greek Churches, as: Spain, France, Belgium, Holland, Britain and Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Prussia, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, the Pope's Temporality, Turkey and Greece.

In this enumeration there are Protestant countries, but they all belong to the Fourth Beast dominion, being the "Harlots and Abominations of the earth" which all acknowledge the Church of Rome as their common "Mother"—the "Mother of all the Churches" (Rev. 17:5).

Such is the commonwealth or body politic to be destroyed root and branch, by the saints when judgment is given to them, and they proceed to (Rev. 10:11)—

"Prophesy before many people, and nations, and tongues, and kings."

Then will the high praises of Ail (the Eternal Power, the Father) be in their mouths, and—

"A two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance upon the nations, and punishment upon the peoples:

"To bind their kings with chains, and their honorable ones with fetters of iron: to execute upon them the judgment written.

"This honor have all His saints. Praise ye Yah!" (Ps. 149:6-9).

These are the "labors" to be performed by the Rainbow Angel before he can "rest" (Rev. 14:13). But, before he advances against the demonial and idol-worshippers of 'Christendom' so-called, he—

"Cries with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth" (Rev. 10:3).

Being the "Lion of the tribe of Judah," his proclamations are the roarings of that lion. And the carrying of them into effect is the noise of the roarings (Ezek. 19:1-9).

Before the noise of his roaring lays waste their cities, and desolates their land and the fulness thereof, he is still awaiting the result of his manifesto to the nations of the West. Enthroned in Jerusalem his dwelling-place, he is fearless of attack. Saith the Spirit (Isa. 18:4)—

"I will be still: yet in my dwelling-place I will be without fear—as dry heat impending lightning, as a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest."

Such will be the condition of the political aerial, styled in Rev. 16:17 "the Air," at the crisis when the "lightnings and voices and thunderings and earthquakes and great hail" (Rev. 11:19; 4:5) shall be about to rend the heavens, shake the earth, and beat down the corrupters of the world. During this ominous sultriness and portentous calm, the strong Lion of Judah—

"Sends of those who have escaped (the 'whirlwinds of the South' of the saved remnant of Judah) to the nations Tarshish, Pul and Lud; sounders of the Truth to Tubal and Javan, and the isles afar off that have not heard his fame, nor seen his glory.

"And they shall declare the glory (of which he is the King) among the nations" (Isa. 66:19).

But they will not only declare his glory throughout the west: they will also make known the *aion-evangile*—the Good News concerning the Millennial Cycle soon to commence in all its blessedness. And with a loud voice throughout the Aerial (styled "midheaven"), they will invite mankind to—

"Fear the Deity, and give glory to Him: because the hour of His judgment (which is to destroy the Catholic and Protestant constitution of things) HAS COME" (Rev. 14:6-7).

But this proclamation will not be complied with—by the governments of the Catholic world, at least. They will—

"Prepare war, and wake up their mighty men."

The ten Horn-royalties of the European Commonwealth will make war with the Lamb, and contend with him in battle (Rev. 17:14, 19:15). Foreseeing this issue, the Rainbowed Angel will "roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem" (Joel 3:16), and shall—

"Go forth as a Mighty Man, and stir up jealousy as a Man of War.

"He will cry, yea, roar: he shall prevail against his enemies.

"I have (saith he) holden my peace mai-olahm—from the conclusion of the (Mosaic) cycle: I have been still and refrained myself.

"Now I will cry like a travailing woman: I will destroy and devour at once. I will make waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs. And I will make rivers dry deserts, and dry up the pools" (Isa. 42:13-15).

This testimony shows the import of the action expressed in the phrase 'as a lion roareth.' In the fearful conflict that ensues (Hab.3):

"He causes the nations to tremble, and the mountains of antiquity to be scattered, and the hills of the cycle to be bowed down.

"The goings of the cycle are his. He threshes the nations in his anger."

That great day is the great and terrible "Day of Yahweh." It is the day of the Seven Thunders when they utter their voices, in the midst of whose echoes Babylon falls, and those who worship the Beast and his Image and have the mark on their forehead or hand, are tormented with fire and brimstone—

"In the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb."

—that is, in the presence of the Rainbowed Angel.

When these aerial reverberations shall have died away, and calm shall be restored to the trembling heavens and the quaking earth, the "labors of the saints" will be finished, and they will enter into the "Rest, or Sabbatism, that remains for the people of the Deity" (Heb. 4:9). There will then be found nothing answering to the Image of Nebuchadnezzar, nor to the Fourth Beast of Daniel. They will have become—

"Like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors, carried away by the tempest, so that no place is found for them" (Dan. 2:35).

The judgments of the 7th Vial are exhausted, for "the Lamb has conquered," and has executed all the bitternesses of the Little Scroll (Rev. 10:10). There is no longer any Papacy to stultify humanity. All "names and

denominations" (of Christendom) are abolished, and all the political hills and mountains (or Gentile imperial, regal or republican States that upheld them) are overthrown.

A glorious consummation is this! The Laodicean Apostasy is destroyed, and all Europe delivered from the immense mass of ignorance and superstition that bewilders and demoralizes its Catholic and Protestant populations.

"It shall come to pass when any shall yet prophesy.."

—or in modern phraseology, preach—

".. then his father and mother that begat him shall say to him,

"Thou shalt not live, for thou speakest lies in the Name of Yahweh.

"And his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth.

"And it shall come to pass in that day that the prophets . . ."

—clergy and parsons of all grades and classes—

". . . shall be ashamed every one of his vision when he hath prophesied: neither shall they wear a rough garment (or professional garb) to deceive . . ."

—or impose upon the ignorant (Zech. 13:3-4), for the nations conquered by the Lamb and those cooperating with him (who are called and chosen and faithful—Rev. 17:14) are also enlightened by them, for (Rev. 18:1)—

"The earth is lightened by the glory of the Rainbow Angel."

And under the influence of this light (Isa. 2:3)—

"Many people will go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to the House of the Elohim of Jacob, and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the Word of Yahweh from Jerusalem."

Thus of a free and willing mind (Jer. 16:19)—

"The Gentiles will come from the ends of the earth, and say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, and things in which there is no profit."

Such will be the judgment of posterity upon the spiritual wisdom of their ancestors. The Creeds, Articles, and Confessions of Faith which are now cherished with so much zeal, will be pronounced by a succeeding generation mere lies and unprofitable vanities.

And so they are. They can teach no man the way of salvation, and therefore they are mere "vanities." And they teach what is either not true, or they nullify the Truth, so that they are neither more nor less than "lies."

These false teachings will all have been suppressed by the victorious heroes of the Covenant, who will have (Zeph. 3:9) "turned to the people a pure language," and have taught them all to—

"Call on the Name of Yahweh, and to serve Him with one consent."

What an extraordinary and unparalleled revolution will this be among the nations of the earth! Catholic, Protestant, Sectarian, Mohammedan and Pagan, all without exception freed from their special ignorances and blasphemies, and meeting together unanimously in peace and concord—indignant at the old fooleries imposed upon them by their pious predecessors, enlightened in the Truth, delivered from the crippling tyranny of thieves and robbers in Church and State, and blessed in Abraham and his Seed, whom all nations—though conquered by them—joyfully proclaim to be the blessed (Psa. 72:17-19).

The Sea upon which the Rainbow Angel stands in Rev. 15:2 will no longer be mingled with fire. It will cease to be troubled with unrest, casting up only mire and dirt (Isa. 57:20), but will have subsided into a calm which no storms nor tempests will disturb for 1000 years. It will be a "glassy Sea like to crystal before the Throne."

The Beast with 7 heads and 10 horns will have been exterminated from its waters (13:1), and it will have become transparent—affording in every part transmission to the glorious, illuminating and healing beams of the Sun of Righteousness, whose enlightening influence will pervade the earth to the dispersion of all darkness in its utmost corners and profound depths. The present Dead Sea of nations will be filled with the choicest fish—fished by those incomparable "fishers of men," the companions of Deity in flesh.

Upon this bright blue Sea, purified by commingled fire from the colossal feet of the Rainbow Angel, the victorious saints will stand with harps of the Deity (Rev. 14:2-3). Each one will himself be a living harp, a living

embodiment of melody and song. And such music will ascend as no concert of earth-borns has executed, and no inventor has composed before.

This Rainbow'd Multitude, in throng which no man can number, will sing what none beside themselves can sing—the great Song of their redemption and triumph (Rev. 5:9-10; 15:3-4). Victory crowns their labors, and they rest in a strong, peaceful reign of 1000 years.

Second Voyage to Australia

BY BROTHER ROBERT ROBERTS

"I will make them one nation upon the mountains of Israel, and one King shall be king to them all. And the nations shall know that I do sanctify Israel, when My Sanctuary shall be in their midst for evermore"—Ezek. 37

PART TWENTY-THREE THURS., JUNE 16, 1898: ISRAEL'S RESTORATION DENIED

There was to be a meeting of the brethren on the evening of our arrival. I expressed a wish that the seceding brethren (7 in number) might be present. One of the brethren said he would take round an invitation from me. He did so, and when we came together at night, the report was that in all likelihood they would not come. So I resolved (having a memory of bro. Seward's former faithfulness and cheerful intelligence in the Truth) to go and see them by myself.

I went with bro. Shrimpton to carry out this resolve and met them on the way. We turned back with them to bro. Seward's house, and spent an hour in conversation—without any satisfactory result. They had been fighting the brethren for 2 years, and therefore had settled down into the use of what might be called the logical quirks necessitated by their positions.

I asked if it was true that they denied the restoration of Israel after the flesh? They answered it was so. I called their attention to God's declaration by Jeremiah 32:42—

"Like as I have brought all this evil upon this people, SO WILL I BRING ON THEM ALL THE GOOD I PROMISED THEM."

Oh, yes, they believed that: God had brought great evil upon His children, and He would deliver them out of all evil at last.

"But," said I, "it is Israel after the flesh that is spoken of."

A lady (of some spiritual excellence, introduced to me as "sis. Broadhead") thought it was spiritual Israel, and the suggestion seemed to be endorsed by the rest. I then pressed the context upon their attention—

"I will give THIS CITY into the hand of the Chaldeans . . . This city hath been to Me AS A PROVOCATION OF MY ANGER, and of My fury from the day that they built it. . . The inhabitants of Jerusalem have turned unto Me the back and not the face."

Therefore it should be delivered into the hand of the enemy, and the people into dispersion. Was it not the Jews after the flesh that were addressed in these words? After considerable beating about the bush, the fact was granted, in a hesitating sort of way.

Then, said I, here is the point—God says He will bring upon Israel after the flesh, "all the good he had promised them." What good had He promised them? I would give them God's own answer—

"It shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them to pluck up and to break down and to destroy and to afflict, so will I watch over them to build and to plant, saith the Lord" (Jer. 31:28).

"The days come that I will perform that good thing that I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. I will cause the branch of righteousness to grow up unto David, and he shall execute judgment and righteousness IN THE LAND. In those days Judah shall be saved."

—that is, gathered; for He had said a little before (32:37)—

"I will GATHER THEM OUT OF ALL COUNTRIES whither I have driven them in Mine anger and in My fury and in My great wrath, and I will bring them again into their place and cause them to dwell safely."

And now you say He will not do this. How is this?

"MUST BE EXACTLY THE SAME PEOPLE"

"You yourself don't believe it, bro. Roberts," said bro. Seward.

I said I did not understand him.

He said, "I will prove that you don't believe it; do you believe that the persons that went into captivity will be gathered?"

I answered, "Not the persons, it means the nation, the race."

"It says nothing about the race or nation," said bro. Seward.

I replied, "It says the house of Israel—the house of Judah; that is the nation, of course."

Bro. Seward said, "It says nothing about nation."

"But if it means it," said I, "why object? "

"It does not mean it."

"What does it mean?"

"It means that the individuals scattered will be gathered, and the individual Jews now on earth never have been scattered. They have always been where they are."

The lady said—"They have scattered themselves, have they not? They go about from place to place."

There are some statements that silence knowledge by the very extremity of their childishness, and by the sense of helplessness they create as to the possibility of enabling the utterer to understand. A child persists that the moon is following because as the child looks up to the eaves of the house, it sees the Queen of Night apparently keeping pace.

What can you say? You can only say it is not so. You feel it would be useless to explain the optical principle involved. The child for the moment seems to have the best of it.

"I BROUGHT THEE OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT."

I felt a little like this in the present statement that Israel had scattered themselves and that God's messages to them by the prophets are individual and not of national application. Yet the thing denied is one of the most patent facts of Scripture. God said—

"O My people.. I brought THEE out of the land of Egypt." (Mic. 6:3-4).

This was many centuries after Moses and the whole generation that came out of Egypt had passed away. By the contention in question, He had brought none of those whom He was addressing out of the land of Egypt, because individually they had never been in Egypt, having been all born in the land of Israel. The meaning is plain. AS A NATION, God had brought that people, to whom Micah was sent, out of Egypt, though none of the PERSONS then living had seen Egypt. He said further (7:15)—

"According to the days of THY coming out of the land of Egypt will I show him marvelous things."

According to the contention, there could be no 'thy' coming out of the land of Egypt in the case, for those addressed never were personally in Egypt. Again, Daniel in prayer said (9:15-16)—

"Thou hast brought THY PEOPLE forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, THY PEOPLE ARE BECOME A REPROACH to all that are about us."

Here the people that came out of the land of Egypt are identified with the people that were alive in Daniel's day, nearly 1,000 years afterward, although the individuals composing the people were not the same at the 2 times. So Hosea prophesied (3:4-5)—

"The Children of Israel shall abide many days without a king and without a prince . . ."

—how many days let history tell—

".. afterwards shall the children of Israel return and seek the Lord and his goodness in THE LATTER DAYS."

GOD IS SPEAKING OF THE NATIONAL IDENTITY

Here the children of Israel dispersed for centuries are identified with the children of Israel that are to return "in the latter days." This is intelligible enough when the racial identity from generation to generation is recognized. To introduce the rule of individual application is to stultify reason and produce confusion.

There is truly an INDIVIDUAL dealing with men, concurrent with the racial, but the one does not clash with the other. There is first the natural and then the spiritual; first the national and then the individual—both merging at last in one. There is a place for both in a right division of the words of truth. The use of the one to exclude the other destroys both.

The truth stated by Paul, which the company relied on as against national restoration—(that "all are not Israel that are of Israel," and that "he is not a Jew that is one outwardly," and that Gentiles become "fellow-heirs in the commonwealth of Israel")—was never intended by him to negative the fact that there are "Jews outwardly" who will not be recognized as true Jews at the last;—and that GOD HAS A PLACE FOR THEM in His purpose.

This "Of Israel" class—the natural descendants of Abraham who are no more than that—have figured largely in the work of God already. He declared His Name by bringing 600,000 of them out of Egypt, though He afterwards destroyed them in the wilderness because of unbelief. He established the schoolmaster administration of the Law for spiritual purposes which He achieved (Rom. 5:30; Gal. 3:19), although He finally broke them up and dispersed them through the countries for their disobedience.

GOD'S PURPOSE WITH THE LITERAL NATION OF ISRAEL

And He has declared His purpose to use them AGAIN for the manifestation of His glory in their recovery from all nations to their own land—not for Israel's deservings at all, but for the vindication of His dishonored Name, which has been profaned through their dispersion. Here is the declaration—

"When the house of Israel dwelt in their land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings..

"Wherefore I poured out my fury upon them . . . and I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries. According to their way and according to their doings, I judged them.

"And when they entered unto the heathen (nations), whither they went, they (the nations) profaned My holy Name when they said to them, These are the people of the Lord, and are gone forth out of His land.

"But I had pity for My holy Name which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen whither they went. Therefore (O Son of Man), say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord God,

"I do not THIS for YOUR sakes, O house of Israel, but for My holy Name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen whither ye went.

"And I will sanctify My great Name . . . and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

"For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.

"Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord God—be it known unto you; be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel" (Ezek. 36:17-32).

"I will make them one nation upon the mountains of Israel, and one king shall be king to them all . . . and I will set My Sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore . . .

"And the heathen shall know that I, the Lord, do sanctify Israel when My Sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore" (37:22-28).

"The house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward . . ."

—(that is, from the latter days when God redeems them from the northern invader—see previous part of Ezek. 38)—

"And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity. Because they trespassed against Me, therefore hid I my face from them. So fell they all by the sword."

But—

"Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for My holy Name ..

"Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen. But I (at that time) have gathered them into their own land, and have left none of them anymore there" (Ezek. 39:25-28).

"At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you; for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth when I turn back your captivity before your eyes" (Zeph.3:20)

CAST-OFF NATURAL ISRAEL MUST BE RESTORED

It is little short of blasphemy in the face of these testimonies to deny that Israel after the flesh as a nation will be restored to their land. There may be a little excuse for it in Paul's apparent exclusion of national restoration in the

remarks he makes about the spiritual foundation of true Israeliteship, but it is the excuse only to be allowed to the most childish want of discernment as to things that differ.

Paul never dreamt of such a construction of his words, as is evident from his emphatic statement concerning natural Israel in Rom. 11. Admitting they have been cast away FOR A TIME, he looks forward to their restoration after God's work with the Gentiles is finished (Rom. 11:15, 25)—

"If the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them but life from the dead?"

"I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery. . . that blindness in part is happened unto Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so, ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED."

And he quotes from Isaiah in proof that all Israel that has been blinded shall in the end be saved—that is, all Israel natural and national; for surely no one would maintain that it is spiritual Israel that has been blinded! It is natural Israel Paul is speaking of all the way through this and the preceding chapter—

"My kinsmen according to the flesh who are ISRAELITES, to whom pertaineth the adoption and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the service of God and the promises" (9:3-4).

"I bear them record that they have a zeal of God» but not according to knowledge, for they being ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to establish their own righteousness have not submitted to the righteousness of God" (10:2-3)

This is the Israel of whom he says (11:28)—

"As concerning the Gospel, they are enemies for your sakes, but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes, for the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."

"Have they stumbled," enquired Paul, "that they should fall?"— that is, fall forever? He answers—

"God forbid, but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them (Israel) to jealousy" (11: 11)

THE SONG OF MOSES CONCERNING NATURAL ISRAEL

Here is a reference to a part of Scripture that has an important bearing upon the question, and is, indeed, of decisive weight in its determination. Paul is referring to the Memorial Song of Moses, as is evident from his more specific quotation a few verses before—

"Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people and by a foolish nation will I anger you."

These words occur in a divine composition which has a very express bearing on this question. God called Moses aside before his death to tell him that Israel would forsake God after his removal, and that God would bring them into great evil in consequence, and that Israel would put the blame of it upon God instead of upon themselves. He said—

"My anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide My face from them and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them so that they will say in that day: Are not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?"

"Now therefore write ye this Song for you, and teach it the Children of Israel. Put it in their mouths that this Song may be a witness for Me against the Children of Israel."

The Song thus introduced will be found in extenso in Deut. 32. The study of it will show the whereabouts of the children of Israel in the finish of things. There is first a recognition of their faithfulness in the generation that entered the land under Joshua (9-12), and of the blessedness that came upon them in consequence (13-14). Then their apostasy from God is forcibly delineated (15-18), and then God's anger against them, and then God's advance to the Gentiles—

"They have moved Me to jealousy with that which is not God: they have provoked Me to anger with their vanities. I will move them to jealousy with them which are not a people. I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation . . ."

—which Paul says was fulfilled in the preaching of the Gospel to the Gentiles. Then there is a description of the terrible calamities that should befall Israel in the time of their casting off (22-26)—

"I will heap mischiefs upon them: I will spend Mine arrows upon them: they shall be burnt with hunger and devoured with burning heat and bitter destruction, with the poison of serpents of the dust."

"The sword without and terror within shall destroy both the young man and the virgin—the suckling also with the man of grey hairs."

GOD WOULD NOT PERMIT THEIR COMPLETE DESTRUCTION

Such an experience would be calculated to destroy them from the earth, but God would not permit this, though they deserved it—

"I would make the remembrance of them to cease from among men, were it not that I feared the wrath of the enemy—lest their enemies should behave themselves strangely and lest they should say, Our hand is high: the Lord HATH NOT DONE ALL THIS"(v.27).

It would all be the Lord's doings by regulated human instrumentality (see Isa. 10:6-7,15), but the Gentiles would imagine it was the triumph of their own superior wisdom and strength. Therefore God would turn the tide against Israel's persecutors at last—

"Their foot shall slide in due time, for the day of their calamity is at hand and the things that come upon them shall make haste.

"For the Lord shall judge His people and repent Himself concerning His servants when He seeth that their power is gone..

"And He shall say, Where are their gods in whom they trusted? . . . See now that I even I am He: there is no God with Me..

"Rejoice, O ye nations, with His people: for He will avenge the blood of His servants and render vengeance to His adversaries, and will be merciful to His land and to His people" (43).

Here was the nation of Israel to be punished but to be preserved from destruction in the midst of their punishment, and admitted to mercy at the last when their Gentile oppressors should be no more. With this all the prophets agree. It was afterwards written—

"I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee, but I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure" (Jer. 46:28).

"I will take out of thine hand the cup of trembling and thou shalt no more drink it again. But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee, which have said to thy soul, Bow down that we may go over."

"Thy waste and thy desolate places and the land of thy destruction shall even now be too narrow by reason of the inhabitants, and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away.

"The children which thou shalt have after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, The place is too strait for me: give place to me that I may dwell . . .

"Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? Thus saith the Lord, even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered, for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children, and I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh, they shall be drunken with their own blood" (Isa. 51:22-23; 49:19-26)

AN ANCIENT ERROR REPEATED

Our modern friends who conclude that God hath cast away His people because they are in punishment, are repeating the mistake of certain in ancient times who said (Jer. 33:24)—

"The two families (Israel and Judah) whom the Lord hath chosen, He hath even cast them off."

Mark the Lord's comment (vs. 25-26)—

"Thus (saith God), they have despised My people that they should be no more a nation before them. Thus saith the Lord, If My covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, then will I cast away the seed of Jacob."

"If those ordinances depart from before Me, saith the Lord, then shall the seed of Israel cease from being a nation before Me forever.

"If heaven above can be measured and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord" (Jer. 31:36).

All the visions of Daniel culminate with Israel's deliverance (e.g., Dan. 8:14; 10:14; 12:1) All the visions of Ezekiel, the same, as we have already seen, notably in the case of chapters 36-39. In fact, everywhere in the Scriptures, salvation is interwoven with the return of Israel from their dispersion.

The hope of the Gospel is the hope of Israel (Acts 28:20); the restoration of the kingdom to Israel the goal of apostolic desire (Acts 1:6); the arrival of the restitution of all things spoken of by the prophets, the crisis of the Lord's coming (Acts 3:20). Though the spiritual is the flower and fruit, the natural is the planted tree on which it grows (Rom. 11:15).

The seed of Abraham and the seed of David according to the flesh is the chosen platform on which the wonders of salvation are to be displayed. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets are on this platform: they were all Jews after the flesh. Jesus himself was a Jew after the flesh. And though it is not every Jew that is a real one, by reason of uncircumcision of heart, it remains that the true Jews are real Jews, and that even Gentiles who become Jews inwardly have to be adopted into the stock of Abraham by merging in Christ his seed.

Of course, it was not possible to bring forward all these things in the hurried interview which took place. Enough was brought forward to show the untenable position of those who reject Jewish restoration while professing to believe the prophets; but the company were evidently in the unsusceptible mood that comes with prolonged controversy.

Seeing this, and knowing that the other brethren were waiting for me, I said there could be no object in my continuing an interview which would only be irritating to them. There was a great gulf between us, and while wishing them the best, I could not be with them again till the flag of Israel's hope had been hoisted again over the house where it was before.

FRI., JUNE 17: A LECTURE AT TIMARU

There was a lecture on the following night in the hall occupied by the Conditional Immortalists. The subject ("The State of the Political World") was of that general character that admitted of my giving some prominence to the Israelitish character of the impending revolution that is to change "the kingdoms of this world" into "the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ." Bro. King, of Fairley (40 miles off), presided.

SAT., JUNE 18: A DRIVE WITH THE BRETHREN: END OF VISIT

Next day, a drive out in a wagonette, with most of the brethren and sisters, completed our brief intercourse with the Timaru ecclesia, which is deserving of the special sympathy of the brethren and sisters everywhere in the trying position in which they have been placed by the apostasy of those who were their teachers and leaders.

Let a Man Examine HIMSELF

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin .. He CANNOT sin, because he is born of God"—1 John 3:9

THE most pressing and urgent lifelong consideration of any who aspire to the Kingdom of God must be their own complete personal transformation of character. The realization of this urgent necessity is far too dim among us. This is our foremost ecclesial concern, and the root of most ecclesial problems.

Any attempt to judge, criticize or regulate the lives and conduct of OTHERS—until we have brought OURSELVES into line with the commands of God in this respect—is hypocrisy.

We tend to feel, or at least to act as though we feel, that if we can legislate righteousness upon others, and surround ourselves with the external appearance of a sound ecclesial framework, then our own personal shortcomings will somehow be absorbed, and overlooked, and compensated for, in the general ecclesial strength. We tend very much to get our priorities in this respect completely reversed. Jesus said (Matt. 7:5)—

"Thou hypocrite: first cast out the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matt. 7:5).

We shall find that the more attention and concern we give to our own very numerous shortcomings, the less will be the vehemence of our zeal to condemn our brethren, and the more cautiously, and gently, and Christ-likely shall we approach that task.

Let us, then, frankly examine our own conduct and characters in the light of the plain, simple commands of Scripture, and see if we are in any position to presume to operate on the eyes of others.

Let us judge, and suspect, and expose OURSELVES at least as critically as we so eagerly judge and suspect and expose others.

Rather, indeed, let us judge ourselves far more searchingly than we judge others, for this is the prescribed course of Scripture, of wisdom, and of love. The divine command is —

"Let a man examine . . . HIMSELF."

And not for just the solemn and dramatic half minute or so of the so-reverent silence that ritually precedes the distribution of the emblems on Sunday morning, but ALL the time, all day, every day. Before doing or saying anything, ever, let us ask ourselves—

"What is the scriptural, Christ-like, God-pleasing thing to do or say in this circumstance and at this moment?"

This of course will severely slow us up naturally, as far as getting anything done, but it will tremendously speed us up spiritually, and that is where the progress is so desperately needed.

And of every act or statement, let us ask ourselves searchingly—

"Was that the natural, unthinking reaction of sinful flesh, like all the actions of the animal world, or was it deliberately and consciously motivated by love and faith and submissive obedience to flesh-crucifying divine command?"

Impractical? Too much trouble? Too big a burden in a busy, active, "successful," acquisitive life? Perhaps eternal life with Christ is just a bit too much trouble for us: not quite worth the wholly dedicated lifelong effort required—the constant battle against the natural flesh. Well, that is for each of us to decide, but let us at least be fair enough to ourselves to face it openly and make the decision one way or the other.

* * *

We are all familiar with the 13th chapter of I Corinthians— universally admitted to be a very beautiful, emotion-stirring chapter, like beautiful music. But let us put emotion aside and examine it logically and practically. Let us see just what it says, and let us frankly face just how we measure up to it. Paul describes all the beautiful, unselfish characteristics of spiritual love—

Longsuffering

Freedom from anger

Patience

Freedom from suspicion of others

Kindness

Freedom from envy or selfish desire

Self-abasement

Consistent joyfulness

Selflessness

Consistent cheerful endurance

Deep concern for others

Consistent hope—of self and others

All this we are quite familiar with. But have we noticed the full significance of what he says ABOUT these things? He does not say all this is a very beautiful ideal, and perhaps it would be nice if we made some kind of a stab at doing it, sometime when we are not too busy judging and criticizing others.

Rather, he says THIS IS LOVE, the most vital, important thing in the world, and if we haven't got it, if we haven't by the Spirit-Word developed all these spiritual virtues, then we are "nothing"—NOTHING. It isn't really possible to be much less than nothing. That's rock-bottom.

The motive of ALL we do must be love—

Love of God Love of goodness Love of divine things

Love of all mankind—not because they are lovable, not because they deserve love, but because they need love, and only love coming on them from without and above has the power to transform them.

Love transforms. Nothing else can. God loved us, and if we will let that love flow into us, and work its work within us, it will completely transform us from ugly natural animals to characters of spiritual beauty.

The motive of all we do must be love, but in its detailed working out, that love is manifested in many different characteristics. This is our subject: to consider them, and EXAMINE OURSELVES BY THEM.

Let us first run over the list of the main ones, and then consider some in detail. And let us continually remember: these are not just desirable things, they are ESSENTIAL things, and without them we are on the natural, animal way to eternal death.

There are just 2 kinds of people: the living and the dead. The living are the few who have, and are motivated by, this power of divine love. And the dead are all the rest, who do not. There is no halfway: John plainly says—

"We have passed from death to life, IF we love the brethren."

The characteristics of this love which the Scriptures say we must have in abundance are—

<i>Joy</i>	<i>Patience</i>	<i>Thankfulness</i>	<i>Thirst for God's Word</i>
<i>Peace</i>	<i>Gentleness</i>	<i>Reconciliation</i>	<i>Zeal for God's House</i>
<i>Virtue</i>	<i>Self-control</i>	<i>Knowledge</i>	<i>Rejoicing in tribulation</i>
<i>Holiness</i>	<i>Goodness</i>	<i>Forgiveness</i>	<i>Single-mindedness</i>
<i>Faith</i>	<i>Meekness</i>	<i>Humility</i>	<i>Complete dedication</i>
<i>Truth</i>	<i>Godliness</i>	<i>Graciousness</i>	<i>Rigid tongue control—always</i>

And the opposite things that are forbidden, the things of death—

<i>Anger</i>	<i>Tale-bearing</i>	<i>Thinking evil of others</i>
<i>Wrath</i>	<i>Backbiting</i>	<i>Speaking evil of others</i>
<i>Envy</i>	<i>Covetousness</i>	<i>Suspecting evil motives</i>

And the many corruptions of the flesh that should not even need to be named among us.

Not only our inner motives, but our outward attitude, must be love. We cannot justify a harsh attitude by what we assume is a loving motive. We must speak clearly and frankly, but always gently and kindly and affectionately—to win and to persuade, and not to condemn (2 Tim. 2:24-25; Tit. 3:2)—

"The servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves."

"Speak evil of no man: be gentle, showing all meekness to all men."

* * *

Spiritual transformation MUST be the biggest, most pressing matter in the forefront of our attention all our lives, if we hope for life. Eternal life is well within the reach of any who are WILLING TO PUT FORTH THE REQUIRED LIFELONG EFFORT—to make it their foremost and constant concern. Anything less is belittling God and His great promise of love.

God earnestly SEEKS men that He may save them. Victory is promised, yea, it is guaranteed "to him that overcometh." Overcometh WHAT? Clearly it is himself, his own flesh, his own lusts, his own natural thoughts and emotions and desires and reactions.

We have got to completely change our basic nature from conflict and antagonisms to love and gentleness.

This transformation of character is the "overcoming" that is required by God. It is a constant struggle. In many ways the problem becomes more deceptive as we advance in accomplishment in the Truth. Knowledge puffeth up. Achievement creates self-confidence (when in reality all good is of God). We can never relax, assuming we HAVE overcome, and the struggle is safely behind us. Greater, more searching tests are always, in the wisdom of God, likely to lie ahead—

"Every branch that beareth fruit, He PURGETH it, that it may bring forth MORE fruit" (John 15:2).

We have GOT to completely change our whole natural character if we are going to be accepted by Christ. We are given our whole lifetime to do it, and it is the only really important thing in that lifetime. Everything else is very secondary. Anything in that lifetime that does not contribute to this one central purpose is precious time and effort wasted. If we do not accomplish this one thing—complete transformation of character, the overcoming of the natural flesh—then our whole life is a wasted struggle, a tragic failure, and any present "success" only compounds the tragedy.

Making rules and regulations for others, setting up standards of what we will and will not fellowship, is all very well, and to some extent necessary. But unless we bring our OWN hearts and lives and characters COMPLETELY under the rules and regulations of God, the beautiful, unearthly pattern of I Cor. 13, then every rule we so righteously impose on anyone else is just one more nail in the lid of our own coffin—

"As ye judge, so shall ye be judged."

Let us never forget the very sober lesson of Jehu and his so righteous "zeal for the Lord" (2 Kings 10:16). It doubtless truly WAS a "zeal for the Lord," and heads rolled in abundance as he exercised that zeal, but he was condemned for the bloodshed of that very zeal, though it was what God commanded, because while so zealous against others he did not judge and examine himself (2 Kings 10:30-31; Hos. 1:4).

Let us first make ourselves the something very special and unique and unearthly that the law of God requires of ALL claiming relation to Himself and His Son. THEN, if necessary, let us concern ourselves with others' sins.

Individual, spiritual transformation of character is the only solution to ecclesial problems. There is no use wasting time and effort on any other attempts at solutions. They do not get to the root of the problem. They may patch up, and paper over, but they do not purify. The trouble is rooted deep in the natural flesh. If brethren and sisters can be persuaded to let God completely transform their characters, then ecclesial problems can and will be solved. There is no other way to solve them.

Naturally, all of us are evil, quarrelsome, touchy, harsh, selfish, impatient, cruel, vengeful, spiteful, belligerent. It takes but very little irritation to bring all this out in ugly display. The vicious diabolos lurks very close below the surface in us all. This is the character of all human flesh without exception.

From fear, or self-interest, or indolence, or other motives, we suppress a lot of this, and therefore often manage to look pretty good on the surface. That may be good enough for getting along in the world, but for pleasing God we must go far deeper. We must introduce SPIRITUAL POWER. We must put something real and powerful and holy and beautiful in the place of the crude natural lusts of the flesh—the New Man, created after the image of God in holiness and true godliness.

All this must be the work of God in us. We cannot do it ourselves. Evil cannot create good. "In our flesh dwelleth no good thing"—

"It is GOD that worketh in you, both to will and to do, of His good pleasure."

Our part is to submit to the operation of God—to yield ourselves to God, completely, unreservedly, enthusiastically—to seek the operation of God upon us, and to be THANKFUL for it, no matter how bitter it may be, for this "God working in us" is very hard and crucifying to the natural flesh and its desires—

"I rejoice in tribulation, knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience worketh hope."

The main thing, the all-important thing, is to be able to examine ourselves: to be able to stand back and look at ourselves in all our natural ugliness—coldly, objectively, unemotionally—by the searching, revealing light of the Spirit-Word. And to do that we have got to KNOW the Word, learn it more and more, because, in the wisdom of God, the instruction is woven all through its many parts, in many forms.

If a man cannot be persuaded to "examine himself"—to critically and searchingly analyze his own thoughts and words and acts in the light of the divine Word, then any examination of him by anyone else is not going to accomplish much. The key to any break-through out of the self-perpetuating darkness of the natural fleshly mind of all of us, is SELF-examination, with God's help, by the all-exposing Spirit-Word.

This must be a constant, continuous activity—to search our own dark and devious hearts and emotions: not morbidly, but cheerfully and constructively and hopefully. Success is guaranteed, if the right tools are used and the right effort is applied.

We shall find malignant cancer, but it can be cured. Truly the flesh is evil, we all have the cancer of sin eating us up, and the body of death is a curse and a burden to the spiritual mind: but power is on our side, and success and cure is guaranteed, if we will honestly examine ourselves, and then follow through faithfully to the end.

Our daily reading of the Word of God must have a conscious plan and purpose. It must be mainly for the purpose of examining ourselves, and learning God's will concerning our OWN lives and characters.

The power is in the Word. If we are attentive, if we are receptive, we cannot help but feel, as we read over and over again the commands concerning character and kindness and gentleness and joy and peace and godliness and love and patience and cheerful self-sacrifice, that THIS IS IT—this is the answer to everything, the ONLY answer. This is the only possible, satisfying, healthful, eternal reality: all else is passing, purposeless, meaningless chaff.

To attain to life, we have got to make the Word of God our principal interest, our principal study, our constant meditation. We must resolutely and relentlessly weed out all the passing worldly rubbish that tends to attract our interest and clutter our minds. Solomon says of the Word (Prov. 6:22-23)—

*"When thou goest, it shall lead thee;
When thou sleepest, it shall keep thee;
When thou awakest, it shall talk with thee;"*

For the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light."

This is the only possible way that we are going to be transformed into something that God can use. David says—

"O how LOVE I Thy law!" (Psa. 119:97).

"The Lord's statutes REJOICE the heart" (Psa. 19:8).

"His DELIGHT is the law of the Lord" (Psa. 1:2).

Love, Rejoice, Delight. This is the spirit and attitude we must have toward God's commands, especially to those that apply most directly to us, and that bear most heavily upon the natural fleshly mind. We must have this attitude, not only because of our deep love for God their Author, but for the law's own very beauty and wisdom, and the power to transform the ugly, fleshly, animal nature into a character that patterns Christ.

Once we have repudiated the natural flesh as evil, perceived within ourselves its ugly, sinful, death-tendencies, then we shall eagerly welcome anything that offers us deliverance, even though it bears hard upon us. We shall realize that the very laws that our natural flesh rebels most at, are the most necessary for our cleansing and training and development and beautification.

Over and over again in Scripture, we find the expression; "with ALL your heart." This is the essential qualification of everything that has to do with God. God not only demands to be first, He demands to be EVERYTHING. Thought of God, love for God, thanksgiving to God—have to dominate all we do or say—

"Meditate day and night . .

Cry aloud after knowledge . .

Lift up thy voice for understanding ..

Search for it as for hid treasure .. "

Such is the plain command. Do we really do this? And if we don't, what is our excuse? Is it an excuse that we shall be proud to offer at the judgment seat of Christ?

When we have to sit down and wait somewhere, do we thank God for the moment, and take out a pocket Bible to read or sit quietly and meditate on what we have read? Or do we automatically and thoughtlessly, like the animal world, reach for a rubbishy newspaper or magazine and scan mindlessly through its meaningless froth, prostituting to corruption the wonderful mind God has given us?

It is a question whether we know enough about the Word of God for it to be ABLE to guide us in all that we do, even if we wanted it to. We just don't study it enough. We just do not meditate on it enough. We just constantly have too much else on our minds and taking all our energy and attention.

Christ in Matt. 5 to 7 gives a very searching and detailed outline of the way of life he requires of all whom he will recognize as his. In every one of its many aspects it is diametrically opposed to the natural way of death. Summing up, he says very plainly: he that does these things shall stand; he that does them not shall fall.

Now: how many of us could sit down and write a list from memory of even ONE HALF of the commands in these 3 chapters? Let us try it. If we do not KNOW them, how can we possibly guide our daily life and every action by them?

* * *

The apostle John has some very strange and solemn words: words which though very simple, are very difficult for our human minds to fully grasp and comprehend—

"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not. Whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, nor known him" (1 John 3:6).

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin .. He CANNOT sin, because he is born of God" (1 John 3:9).

Clearly what John is saying to us here is something very special, and worthy of deep study: something very unique, very unnatural. We know he is not speaking of perfection, of absolute sinlessness, for he himself makes that clear elsewhere (1 John 1:8-10)—

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves: If we say we do no sin, we lie" (1 John 1:8-10).

Then what DOES he mean by saying that—

"He CANNOT sin, because he is born of God"?

He is speaking of a consistent, wholly dedicated way of life that totally abhors sin and anything connected with sin, and that constantly strives to discern and repudiate its deceptive impulses within ourselves: eager and anxious, above all things, to please God and to do His will: to examine SELF very searchingly, and OTHERS very mercifully.

He that is truly "born of God" cannot sin voluntarily, cannot choose to sin, cannot entertain the idea of sinning. The thought is utterly abhorrent to him. Truly he DOES sin, through weakness—but never through deliberate choice.

Anyone that can deliberately sin, CHOOSE to sin—whatever sin, however "small"—has not been born of God. They are still in the flesh, in death. They may mean well, they may be trying, they may be on the way. But they have not yet made the great transfer of allegiance from death to life. They are still dead. They are still deliberate slaves of sin by choice. They have not yielded themselves unreservedly to God. Life has not yet happened to them.

He that is born of God may sin—through weakness: but he hates it, he repudiates it, it horrifies him, he confesses it, he struggles against it, and never gives up the struggle. He may, like David, sin terribly, but never deliberately. And any such failure is an anguish or remorse and grief to him, as it was to David forever thereafter.

Above all, he recognizes that overcoming sin in himself is life's main and only important concern. He gives his whole heart and soul to it, nothing else is important except that—with God's help and guidance—he discerns with himself and overcomes all the fleshly motions of sin. He never relaxes, and is never satisfied with himself, for he knows it is a lifelong struggle which in some ways gets more difficult and deceptive with development in the Truth—

"Every branch that beareth fruit, He PURGETH it, that it may bring forth MORE fruit."

* * *

Peter says (2 Pet. 1:5-7)—

"ADD to your faith virtue . . . knowledge . . . temperance . . . patience . . . godliness . . . brotherly-kindness . . . LOVE."

Here is a specific and detailed command, or rather, an orderly series of commands: a program of action and development. How far along it have we, in obedience, progressed? Peter further says that if these things ABOUND in us, they will give us an entrance to the Kingdom. If they do NOT abound, no entrance.

"Add to your faith VIRTUE."

Virtue here is goodness, excellence, moral worth, integrity, a repudiation of and separation from anything fleshly and unworthy of God and our high and holy calling in Christ. Faith must FIRST completely purify our hearts and thoughts and motives and emotions—swing us over completely to God's side, the side of purity and holiness. The natural heart is crude and lewd. The spiritual heart is wholesome and pure.

"Add to virtue KNOWLEDGE."

More and more knowledge of the Word of God: advancing from the milk to the meat: increasingly filling the mind with divine information and ideas and principles. This can only come by the expenditure of MUCH time and effort. The Scriptures give us no reason to think we can get the inestimable gift of eternal life in the divine nature without this effort. Any who truly value the gift will never be satisfied that they are giving sufficient time and effort.

"Add to knowledge TEMPERANCE."

This word, *egkrateia*, from *kratos*, strength, means self-control (as in RV margin). It means having the body and actions completely under the control of the spiritually enlightened mind: not a slave to any lust or habit or emotion or fleshly feeling: never acting by impulse or emotion or desire, but always by calm, prayerful, well-thought-out scriptural enlightenment and motive—with the help, and by the power, of God:

"It is God that worketh in you, both to will and to do."

* * *

"Add to self-control PATIENCE."

Patience, as scripturally used, means calm, cheerful, unmoved endurance under trial or provocation. It is not a mere negative, passive submission, but an active CARRYING ON, faithful and undisturbed, without doubt or despair.

If we are in the way of God, we cannot lose, nothing can fail, EVERYTHING that happens is for eventual good. If we are not in the way of God, then nothing matters anyway: a brief flash, then eternal darkness.

Patience is not scriptural if it is not cheerful and loving. There is nothing more repulsive to the Spirit, or more gratifying to the flesh, than sullen, resentful, self-righteous, self-pitying "patience."

"Add to patience GODLINESS."

This word—*eusebeia*—means God-CENTERED-ness: a constant yearning for God, as so beautifully illustrated by David's psalms: drawing toward God, a constant seeking to please God and to be as He wishes.

*"Add to godliness LOVE OF THE BRETHREN,
"And add to love of the brethren, LOVE."*

There are 2 words for love used here, *phileo* and *agape*. They cover 2 aspects. *Phileo*—love of the brethren—is tender, personal affection. *Agape* is the higher, broader, more spiritual word: God is love—*agape*—universal benevolence. *Agape* is more spiritual and universal, but less intimate and personal. It is, however, impossible to draw an absolutely clear line between them, just as it is impossible to do so between the uses of "soul" and "spirit."

But generally, and as used here by Peter, *phileo* is individual, tender, personal affection; while the final crowning addition to Peter's list—charity, *agape*—is universal goodness to all for a spiritual motive: an intense desire, because of the love of God, to serve the wellbeing of all mankind.

If we do not, by constant reflection on divine things, achieve in our hearts this supreme *agape* toward the whole human race, corrupt and evil as it sadly is, then we have not been "born of God": we are still "in the flesh."

All this is very beautiful and inspiring, but the practical thing to remember is that all this is something we have GOT to have, and in ABUNDANT measure—

"IF these things be in you, and ABOUND, they make you that ye shall be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

So says Peter, as he sums up. Without these rare spiritual virtues, in abundance, we ARE "barren and unfruitful."

(Continued next month, if the Lord will)

Current Events Fulfilling Prophecy

"I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there"—Ecclesiastes 3:16

EUROPE'S THREAT FROM RUSSIA. "Russia doing everything possible to acquire influence in Mideast at expense of West. One major effect: undermining certainty of Europe oil supply. National confiscations of oil interests going on in Mideast with active support of Russia.

"Russia not likely to launch aggression in near future, but continue to build military forces to put West in position of clear inferiority & under severe political pressure, so they could easily resort to military force when they chose. Under Russian political system, they can afford to keep the people's standard of living low, which West cannot do.

"Russia has all the military power it needs for its own security, so if it continues to build, it is not for defense. They want to widen their standing as a great, global world power, able to impose their interests.

"An overwhelming Soviet military preponderance in Europe, and withdrawal of US forces, would put Europe at mercy of Russia, politically & economically"—Brosio, former NATO Sec.-Gen. (USN 8:28).

NOTE: The present trend of ever-growing Russian military power and aggressiveness, projected a few years ahead, must inevitably put all Europe at Russia's mercy, exactly as prophecy requires—especially if Russia can throttle Mideast oil.

US ANTI-DRUG EFFORT NOT NOTABLY SUCCESSFUL. When Nixon announced all-out war on drugs a yr. ago, estimated 315,000 US addicts; now 560,000. Despite greatly increased surveillance, US able to seize only small fraction (8 pct.) of heroin entering US.

Many govts. not receptive to US pleas for cooperation. In Burma (annual harvest a hefty 400 tons), narcotics trade "not viewed with great alarm. Pakistan considers its opium output (170 tons) "quite small."

US's one big success, Turkey, may turn out discouragingly hollow. In return for \$35 million, Turkey agreed to curb opium cultivation after 72. But Turkish dealers are said to have stockpiled large supplies. (Tm 8:28)

NOTE: The divine decree is: "No peace to the wicked"—& US, & all the world, are sunk in wickedness.

TRAGEDY OF IRELAND. Belfast's 400,000 inhabitants live with guerrilla warfare day & night. Three yrs. of increasingly bloody Catholic-Protestant strife have ravaged the people, & left the city's functions in shambles. Since '69, 1000 bombs have rocked Belfast.

In Catholic enclaves, where most of fighting between British troops & IRA has occurred, row on row of tenements are either burned out or abandoned. Few streets in central Belfast are without bombed-out shops. Several gigantic IRA bombs have devastated whole blocks. Main RR station is a gutted ruin; so is largest dept. store.

Lawlessness has become so rampant that random murders are fast becoming a grisly fact of life. In July, 39 people were murdered—many mutilated beyond recognition—simply for crime of being Protestants or Catholics. Few stores, banks or offices unlock their doors unless called can produce identification. In almost every building, all visitors are frisked—yet terrorists still seem able to strike at will. (Nwk 9:4)

NOTE: The Irish, North & South, are just ordinary people like ourselves, whose propensities & passions have been freed from inhibition by the excitation of conflict & religious hate. As strife is glorified, murder becomes a joy & a virtue. Such is human nature. Let us all beware of our own!

CHAOS IN UGANDA. Uganda last wk. was gripped by hate—& fear of what might happen next. Asian community prepared to depart in mass expulsion order by dictator Amin. Since he seized power 18 mos. ago, he has driven Uganda to verge of bankruptcy.

Now his decision to expel Asians, who pay a large share of country's taxes, & employ 10s of 1000s, will cause incalculable disruption. (Tm. 9:11)

NOTE: The Black peoples of Africa thought freedom from colonial rule would bring Utopia, but they reckoned without human nature & the purposes of God, Who sets up vile rulers to cause the nations to punish themselves for their godless wickedness.

BLOCK TO MIDEAST PEACE: the hatreds & passions of over 2 million Palestinians—½ living under Israel control, rest scattered thru Arab world. Every time terrorists strike out at Israel, the Jewish state becomes more & more suspicious of Arabs in general, more & more ruthless toward Arab nations that harbor terrorists. Every time Israel retaliates, the Arabs become more angry, hostile & fearful. When passions cool, when signs of accommodation, terrorists lash out again, & circle of violence repeats.

Palestine guerrillas demand elimination of Israel. Anything short of that is viewed as a sellout. It is becoming increasingly clear that their tactics of terror can perpetuate bloody cycle of conflict & effectively block peace.

On Sept. 12, Israeli Parliament passed resolution holding Arab states responsible for any acts of terror committed by guerrillas they harbor. That sets stage for more massive reprisals. (USN 9:25).

NOTE: The Palestinian Arabs were advised to leave the land in 1948 by the invading Arab armies who rushed in when Britain withdrew, & who promised they could come back as soon as the Jews were destroyed. That rash promise is still pending. The deeply suffering & embittered Palestinians, now multiplied 5-fold by politics & population explosion, are clearly a factor in the prophetic picture in keeping aflame the intense enmity which might otherwise cool with time & the operation of common sense.

JAPAN TAKING THE PLAY AWAY FROM US—in dealing with China, to US's growing concern. US-Jap relations deteriorated to critical point; mutual confidence badly shaken; alliance showing signs of strain. Japs still rankling over last year's twin shocks: trade embargo & Nixon's China trip. In past 2 months, Japan has abruptly jumped ahead of US in mending relations with China, causing US uneasiness. (USN 9:4)

NOTE: As DeGaulle cynically, but very truthfully said, nations do not have friends, but only "allies." Nations, in the jungle nature of the world, are—and must necessarily be-selfish & self-centered, betraying "friends" as self-interest dictates.

WHAT RUSSIAN TREATY DOES TO US DEFENSES. Under agreement, US defense system reduced to shadow of original concept. US permitted to build only 2 anti-missile sites, instead of 12 once planned & considered

necessary. An investment of over \$1 billion may have to be written off. System now scarcely resembles the sophisticated network of radars & antimissile weapons US set out to build 3 years ago.

If Russia makes surprise strike, this will be probable sequence:—

RUSSIAN MISSILES would be launched against National Command Center in Washington, D.C., & 9 widely separated fields housing 1054 Minutemen-Titan nuclear missiles.

US WARNING NETWORK would spot the attack, give 30-minute warning before Russian missiles due to hit.

PRESIDENT & TOP ADVISORS would go to a protected command center. Strategic bombers would take off from exposed airfields. Missile subs would be alerted. President would decide whether to launch US missiles immediately against Russia, or ride out Russian attack.

SHORTLY AFTER FIRST WARNING, Grand Forks (N.D.) missile field would swing into operation. Perimeter acquisition radar (PAR) would pick up & track missiles headed for that area while they were still over 1000 miles away.

AS RUSSIAN MISSILES NEARED, PAR would transfer tracking to missile site radar (MSR) at Grand Forks. MSR would distinguish between armed & decoy warheads, then guide long-range Spartan antiballistic missiles to intercept enemy weapons several 100 miles away in space.

NEXT, MSR would launch smaller, faster Sprint missiles to intercept, up to 25 miles away, any missiles that had penetrated the Spartan barrage.

MEANWHILE, other Russian missiles probably would be on their way to destroy Washington, DC, & up to 854 Minuteman & Titan missiles at the 8 fields unprotected by antiballistic missiles. But Minutemen at Grand Forks should survive the first attack.

THUS, President would have 200 Grand Fork missiles to fire in retaliation. Their predicted impact on Russia: death for 30 pet. of population; destruction for 76 pet. of Russian industry.

NOTE: Clearly man's history must be a series of unlearning Munichs, trying to buy off and appease, for "Peace in our day," each successive would-be world conqueror. Russia must win every chess move except last.

HOW PHILIPPINE TURMOIL AFFECTS US. Martial law in Philippines is admission of breakdown of constitutional govt. Suddenly, a threat to US's vital need to have friendly, stable govt. in this strategic nation. US stake in Philippines is both military & economic: 5 bases there are probably most important US installations in W. Pacific.

Insurgent power on rise recently: 3 Red groups now operating, with guidance & arms from Red China. Part of political appeal of Left in Philippines based on anti-USism. US unpopular because of military bases.

No one denies there's inadequate national growth, crippling unemployment, soaring inflation, widening gap between tiny rich minority & poverty-stricken majority, widespread corruption, & lawlessness ranging from extortion to piracy. (USN 10:9)

NOTE: All of US's major "democratic" friends & allies in SE Asia (except increasingly cooling Japan) are now under rigid emergency martial law—imposed because "democracy" broke down: Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, S. Vietnam, Philippines & S. Korea. "Democracy" in the Philippines has meant violence, corruption, vast wealth for the few rich, & hopeless, grinding poverty for the great majority.

RUSSIA PRESSING FOR WORLD POWER. While US & Russia have achieved nuclear deadlock, Russia is pressing ahead with conventional military buildup. Her armed numerical superiority growing (3.4 million; US 2.4). Red forces' superiority over NATO continues to grow.

In sea race, Russia concentrating on subs. Soviets fleets now able to offer challenge at every level of military or politico-military action. (USN 9:18).

NOTE: God has declared Russia must rise to world supremacy. The current news is documenting that rise before our eyes, step by step.

MAIL-A-DEATH. Police fear new Arab letter-bombs will inspire legion of amateur imitators, as original skyjacking has done. Problem of terrorism dominated opening session of UN last week. But many European countries are hesitant about offending oil-producing Arab states. (Tm 10:2)

NOTE: Another gruesome chapter in the story of the developing "time of trouble such as never was."

EUROPE'S BLACK SEPTEMBER. Europe now in front lines of new Palestinian-Israeli war of terror. Not much can be done about it. Security measures are no real deterrence: too many potential terrorists. At least 6 secret Arab political organizations in W. Germany; 100 subsidiary groups.

Another Arab terrorism center is Italy. Terrorists' life in Italy made relatively easy by fact that govt. is determined to remain on good terms with Arabs, & Italian Reds provide hospitality & support.

Only France seems spared terror incidents, because Arab terrorists do not wish to embarrass a govt. that is supplying jet fighters to Libya.

Arabs have turned skyjacking into a highly profitable enterprise: last Feb. they extorted \$5 million ransom from Lufthansa. In all their activities in Europe, terrorists have access to Arab business offices, embassies, & consulates, which provide money, passport changes, etc. Until those sources of support are dried up, security measures will be ineffective. (Tm 9:25)

NOTE: How wonderfully is the Jew & the Land being kept in the focus of world attention, as the final great drama of human history unfolds to its climax! But the world in its total blindness, as on the eve of the Flood, cannot see the divine Hand at work.

CHINA-JAP HONEYMOON. Sudden thaw in China-Jap sending shock waves thru Washington, Moscow & Far East. Over 40 years of enmity ending with dramatic swiftness.

If Japan, Asia's most industrialized nation, establishes official relations with China, world's most populous nation, the military, diplomatic & economic balance of Far East will undergo sweeping changes.

US worried about effect on US-Jap security treaty. Eviction orders by Japan, under Red Chinese pressure, would eliminate north anchor of US installations stretching round China from Japan to Thailand. (USN 10:2)

NOTE: The defenders of Israel must at the end stand alone against the world, with their backs to the wall. Nixon, in deliberately ignoring & offending Japan to heighten the dramatic impact of his China pilgrimage, may have helped to hasten that day of aloneness. Other nations will take note. He showed the callousness of national 'friendships': it's a game others can play.

ASSYRIA SHAPING UP. Iraq looks like Russia's firmest Arab ally. A formal treaty links them. Iraq's main asset for Russia is its strategic position between Turkey, Iran, Syria, Jordan, Kuwait & Saudi Arabia. And it's rich in oil. And it has no border with Israel to cause constant crises. Iraq has Persian Gulf ports Russia would like to use. (USN 10:2)

NOTE: At last the picture is zeroing in where it really belongs! The ancient Assyria & modern Assyria must merge as the Image takes shape.

NORTH SEA OIL BOOM. North Sea almost crowded these days. Lights of towering oil rigs dot the darkness. After 5 yrs. of frenzied exploration, may be oil bonanza beyond any early dreams. In one 4-wk. period recently, 4 new major fields were announced.

Dizzying pace of discovery causing jubilation in Europe, for both location & timing of strikes are near perfect. Oil lies within short pipeline's length of enormous European market, & it's coming at time when Europe's oil thirst is growing even faster than difficultness of its Mideast suppliers.

Oil boom could put an abrupt end to Britain's chronic balance-of-payments problems. Biggest beneficiary undoubtedly will be Britain. It's biggest thing in British extractive industry since development of coal in 18th century.

By '80, Britain expected to be supplying at least ½ its oil requirements; by '90 perhaps 100 per., with surplus to export. Also by '75 Britain expected to be self-sufficient in natural gas from North Sea. (Nwk 10:2)

NOTE: Lazy, flabby, inefficient, non-productive little Britain today (far down the world's industrial scale—on a par with Italy), is a far cry from the Goliath GREAT Britain that was once the world's workshop, merchant, banker, maritime Colossus, & imperial ruler of ¼ the world's land & people, on which the sun never set! But there may be a change, & North Sea oil may be the fulcrum of that change. The decrepit old lion, with the vigorous young ones, may still have a Tarshish work to do.

RUSSIAN FARM CRISIS. Worst since disastrous harvest of '63 that led to Khrushchev downfall. Grain harvest 33 million tons under target. Less grain for bread, less for livestock, so less meat. Almost everything else on farm is down too. Potatoes 35 percent below last year's poor harvest. Food hoarding is officially admitted. Black market thrives. Potato lines commonplace. Bill for imported food may exceed \$2 billion. (USN 10:9)

NOTE: Dictatorships' historic answer to problems & unrest at home has been the diversion of aggression & plunder abroad» Some combination of reasons must cause Russia, when the appointed time comes, to sally forth "to take a spoil & to take a prey." Peace & progress at home would dull this drive, but dictators in trouble domestically are desperate men.

INDO-CHINA WAR has ground to a stalemate with no foreseeable end. Reds control ⅔ of Cambodia, & have recaptured most of sanctuaries they lost along S. Viet border in '70 S. Viet offensive. They've cut 6 of the 7 principal roads linking capital with rest of country. Local Cambodian Communist forces have grown to 30,000.

N. Vietnam controls 4/5 of Laos, including strategic eastern region with supply routes from N. Vietnam to S. Vietnam. As in Cambodia, Laos govt. (propped up by US) in deep military, political, economic trouble (USN 9:25)

NOTE: With endless Russian & Chinese support, & with fanatical determination & ability the N. Viets have shown for 20 dogged years, & with the corruption & weakness of the local govts., it seems inevitable that the N. Viets will eventually bring all Indo-China under Communist dictatorship, however long US struggles & maneuvers to stave off that day.

"CANDOR" or CORRUPTION? TV has embarked on a new era of candor. During season that began last week, programmers will be competing to trace largest number of touchy—& heretofore forbidden—sexual, ethnic & psychological themes. All the old taboos will be toppling. (Tm 9:25).

NOTE: The trend of the modern world downward into the abominations of Canaan (for which God decreed total annihilation of the people) is paved by giving evil things high-sounding names. Unbridled animal lusts become "creative self-expression"; licentiousness becomes "freedom"; pornography & filth become "candor" & "maturity" & "healthy, wholesome escape from depressive, old-fashioned religious guilt-hang-ups." Doubtless the depraved Canaanites had the same kind of perverted rationalizations for their bestiality & vileness.

ISRAEL'S NEW WAR. Israel last wk. declared new war on Arabs. "It will be fought on a far-flung, dangerous, & vital front line," Golda Meir grimly said, "with all the assiduity & skill our people are capable of." Thus Israel vowed to carry war of terror back to Arabs—guerrillas & host countries—& to strike at times & places of Israel's own choosing. Israel intends to systematically attack terrorists & countries that harbor them.

Israel's Arab neighbors waited offensive with mixed apprehension & truculence. Syria admits it urges terrorists to action. (Tm 9:25)

NOTE: The Powers of Europe, under Russia & the Papacy, must be persuaded to join the drive to destroy Israel for the sake of Catholicism & world "peace". Doubtless headstrong & proud Israel will itself, as in the past, contribute to this development.

POLAND WOOS CATHOLIC CHURCH. Gestures of conciliation have been made to heal breach between govt. & Church. Under former ruler Gomulka, relations dipped to near-break.

A Western diplomat says: I've served in Italy, Spain & Latin America, but Poland is most Catholic country I've ever been in."

New dictator Gierek has given to Church the title to properties in territories that were once part of Germany. He repealed law that allowed Govt. to examine Church revenues & expenditures. Relationship between Govt. & Church considerably improved. (USN 9:25)

NOTE: This is very encouraging. The 2 dictators of Europe, the 2 Horns of the Earth-Beast-Vatican & Kremlin—must unite to rule the Beast's last phase.

JAP-CHINA ACCORD. End of freeze between 2 great Oriental powers ushered new era for Asia. Like it or not, many small Asian nations suddenly forced to think in new terms. Specter in minds of many Asian leaders: vast Sino-Jap condominium dominating all E. Asia.

In next few months, a number of economically-vulnerable nations—as Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia—almost certain to sever ties with Taiwan & edge closer to China. What has upset US is speed with which China & Japs have come to terms. (Nwk 10:9)

NOTE: As the final days of human rule on earth approach, world power & alliances must gradually coalesce around Russia, the Gog who is to lead all nations against Jerusalem to battle. Quite recently, there were apparently secure Russia-China & US-Jap alliances. Now all alliances being shuffled.

PRIEST-RIDDEN IRELAND. "Home rule means Rome rule," Ulstermen used to shout. Even today, main obstacle to Irish reunification is anxiety of 1 million Ulstermen that they'll lose their civil rights in a nation dominated by 3½ million Catholics.

Is Ireland priest-ridden? "Charge is an oversimplification," says prominent member of Irish Parliament, "but has core of truth." Another Catholic member of Irish Parliament says, "Major part of blame for present conflict lies with Southern Govt. No Irish leader has been prepared to subordinate his loyalty to Church to his desire for united Ireland.

Heart of issue is Catholic hierarchy's control over Irish schools. "Priests don't need to go into Parliament because they get us as children. They predetermine our social attitudes." It is over school issue that Church conservatives are expected to mount stiffest resistance. (Nwk 9:25)

NOTE: God's true People cannot take sides, even in their hearts, as the earth's potsherds battle according to the lusts of the flesh, for all are evil. But clearly, as these candid Catholics themselves point out, the dark shadow of the Church is the big stumbling-block to Irish unity & peace. We cannot overlook however, the deeply entrenched bitterness of the long & bloody history of English Protestant pillage, persecution & oppression of the Irish.

DISENCHANTMENT WITH UN. More & more govts. unhappy. UN has fallen flat on its face in coping with crises: failed to achieve Mideast peace; couldn't stop India-Pakistan war; couldn't keep African from killing African in Burundi, Nigeria, Sudan.

Real business of making & keeping peace out of UN hands. It's the superpowers, acting in their own interests, which take action when it really counts. US increasingly upset at having to pay lion's share of UN costs while other nations enjoy low-cost ride. US pays 31½ % per., plus more in voluntary contributions. (USN 9:11).

NOTE: What mistakes & disillusionments the nations could save themselves if they knew & accepted the light of the divine Word, instead of stumbling in their own darkness!

HEROIN "EPIDEMIC." Almost all heroin users are introduced to drugs by friends or family. Heroin use spreading in epidemic fashion. A teenage girl said she and friends persuaded nearly all their 150 boarding-school classmates to try drugs: "when I got there, there was only couple of us on dope. Three of us turned on about everyone there during the one year I was there. Kids today won't listen to anybody but other kids." (USN 9:11).

NOTE: What stupidity! It can only be a delusion from God, to punish evil.

RANSOM FOR RUSSIAN JEWS. New Russian decree requires Jews to pay exorbitant exit fees—a stratagem to extort ransom from Western Jewry. Levies go up to 21,000 rubles: a Jewish scientist observed it would take him 200 years to accumulate that much at his salary.

Nearly ½ million Jews, unable to pay ransom, may be stranded without jobs, as they're usually fired when they apply to leave. (Tm 9:25)

NOTE: Surely terrible retribution is in store for this vile & godless latter-day tormentor of God's people, when he has run his divinely-appointed course. But now is his hour, & the power of darkness.

NEW US "HOME PORT" IN GREECE. US naval power in Mediterranean entered new phase in Sept.: permanent anchorage facilities near Athens, with 6000 dependents to be housed ashore. Heretofore, most of 6th Fleet operated from US ports.

Will enable Fleet to maintain high state of readiness essential to its role as a key to defense of NATO's south flank, to counter growing Russian Mediterranean power. McGovern says if elected he will change the agreement. (USN 9:11).

NOTE: Greece, last US Mediterranean foothold, belongs with Gog & the Europe Beast, & must before long cast US out. US holds its present precarious position of favor by supporting the Greek dictators against the people, just as Britain used to maintain its imperial grip on ¼ of the world.

INSTANT SLUMS. Housing muddle: crisis in Govt. housing is growing, reflecting turmoil, corruption & decay in cities. Federally insured mortgages going bad as whole city neighborhoods are being abandoned. Foreclosures on rise. Many more in default, first signs of foreclosure.

Mushrooming scandals of shoddy houses at exorbitant prices to poor: poorly built, bad locations, likely to wind up as new slums. (USN 9:11).

NOTE: Human greed & corruption & profiteering destroy the best intentioned plans.

NOW IT'S WALLED SUBURBS. For worried refugees from crime in streets & racially mixed neighborhoods, now it's walled suburbs. On outskirts of score or more large US cities, huge new security-oriented subdivisions springing up, some with all characteristics of Biblical walled city. Many boast massive walls, most have gatehouses & private guards, some have their own closed-circuit TV systems. One even has a moat.

In all, security is the major consideration. At some, residents mail metal tokens to guests to get them thru automatic gates. At others, householders must punch combinations into a set of buttons to get into front doors. One can be reached only by a guarded bridge.

Even some of developers themselves admit they're uneasy at trend. One says, "We're concerned that we're appealing to phobias of people running from city. I have reservations about how much 'Checkpoint Charley' I want." But all across US, push for total security goes on unabated. (Nwk 9:25)

NOTE: "As it was in the days of Noah.. All the earth filled with violence." How often the news today vividly reminds us of this prophecy of Christ! How true & infallible the Scriptures! How empty are man's boasts of 'progress'!

GAMES CIVILIZED" NATIONS PLAY. Mountains of arms keep growing. Modern armies maneuver. Rival navies feint. Supersonic planes wheel high. In W. Europe, recent war-exercise was one of biggest NATO ever staged. In E. Europe same time, one of Reds' largest operations ever.

In Eastern Europe Red forces continues to increase in relation to NATO's, far beyond defense needs. It would be dangerous to rely on Russian intentions, as their growing military capability gives them increased political leverage. (USN 10:2)

NOTE: Why cannot normally intelligent people see how inescapable is the divine evidence of prophecy, that so unerringly depicts man's suicidal latter-day antics, despite all his protestations of maturity & sanity? Mankind cannot be sane when God decrees that for his wickedness he must be made mad, & act like the beasts "until 7 times pass over him." & he learns that "the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men."

VIETNAM BOMBING. Tonnage of bombs dropped in Indochina by US in just past 4 years is twice amount dropped by all Allied forces in Europe, Africa & Asia in all of WWII. (Tm 10:2)

NOTE: Poor, suffering little S. Vietnam is only the size of Florida, but its misfortune is to have been, for the past terrible 20 years, the battlefield of the war to defend vested Western interests & to restrain the world dictatorship ambitions of Communism.

RUSSIAN CROP FAILURE: Far more serious than world realized: forcing Russia to turn to US staggering quantities of grain. Purchases have far exceeded the \$750 million worth first agreed upon. Grain in such quantities simply not available in other countries than US. (USN8:28)

NOTE: Russia thinks she can engineer a worldwide Millennium without God, yet how easily God can thwart their proud plans by famine and drought! The latter-day Assyrian cannot feed her own people, yet they can build a destructive war machine that will dominate the world.

ISRAEL RAIDS LEBANON. The 36-hr, invasion last week was 3rd massive thrust this year, & by far the heaviest. Raids were in line with Israel policy of carrying war to terrorists, & clear them from S. Lebanon.(Tm 10:2)

Bible Questions

*How long have you been reading the Bible? How much have you STUDIED it?
Some of us have been reading 50 years: how much are we really GETTING?*

BIBLE CITIES: Identify the association or description

LIST ONE—QUESTIONS: Pair the 48 items in List 1 with the 48 names in List 2.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Dinah | 13. Little one | 25. Bury Joshua | 37. Is not this great |
| 2. Caleb | 14. The palace | 26. Looked back | 38. Philip, Cornelius |
| 3. Hebron | 15. Nigh Joppa | 27. Great woman | 39. Called Christians |
| 4. Eliphaz | 16. More noble | 28. Widow woman | 40. Half in speech of |
| 5. Tabitha | 17. Palm trees | 29. Thru isle to | 41. Exalted to heaven |
| 6. Admah & | 18. Herdmen of | 30. Baasha built | 42. Reproach of Egypt |
| 7. 2 hosts | 19. Much water | 31. Name to live | 43. Poor, blind, naked |
| 8. Gaius of | 20. Saul's body | 32. Well of oath | 44. Little among 1000s |
| 9. Fishpools | 21. Achish gift | 33. Luz at first | 45. Abiathar, Jeremiah |
| 10. Winter at | 22. Bring me up | 34. Lame & blind | 46. Epaphras, Archippus |
| 11. Confusion | 23. Of Chaldees | 35. Apollos from | 47. Chief city that part |
| 12. Any good? | 24. Entrance of | 36. No mean city | 48. City of 3 days journey |

LIST TWO—ANSWERS: Write numbers from List 1 beside the correct names.

- | | | | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|----------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| Ur | Endor | Ziklag | Zeboim | Colosse | Anathoth | Jerusalem |
| Zoar | Aenon | Bethel | Paphos | Nineveh | Laodicea | Bethlehem |
| Babel | Tekoa | Sardis | Shunem | Jericho | Bethshan | Beersheba |
| Derbe | Teman | Tarsus | Antioch | Sarepta | Nicopolis | Capernaum |
| Joppa | Ramah | Ashdod | Philippi | Shushan | Nazareth | Alexandria |
| Lydda | Sodom | Hamath | Timnath | Heshbon | Caesarea | Kirjatharba |
| Berea | Gilgal | Hebron | Babylon | Shechem | Mahanaim | |

October Answers

1. Ruth—Mahlon
2. Adah—Lamech
3. Boaz—Ruth
4. Mary—Cleopas
5. Uriah—Bathsheba
6. Nabal—Abigail
7. Tamar—Er
8. Heber—Jael
9. Jacob—Zilpah
10. Gomer—Hosea
11. David—Michal
12. Merab—Adriel
13. Bilhah—Jacob
14. Judith—Esau
15. Aquila—Priscilla
16. Milcah—Nahor
17. Esther—Ahasuerus

HUSBANDS AND WIVES

18. Josiah—Hamutal
19. Salome—Zebedee
20. Philip—Herodias
21. Zeresh—Haman
22. Joanna—Chuza
23. Lamech—Zillah
24. Salmon—Rahab
25. Joseph—Mary
26. Achsah—Othniel
27. Jezebel—Ahab
28. Chilion—Orpah
29. Bernice—Agrippa
30. Abigail—David
31. Keturah—Abraham
32. Elkanah—Hannah
33. Asenath—Joseph
34. Rebekah—Isaac
35. Abraham—Hagar
36. Ananias—Sapphira
37. Athaliah—Ahaziah
38. Lapidoth—Deborah
39. Elisheba—Aaron
40. Drusilla—Felix
41. Herodias—Herod
42. Zipporah—Moses
43. Tahpenes—Pharaoh
44. Jochebed—Amram
45. Peninnah—Elkanah
46. Hephzibah—Hezekiah
47. Jehosheba—Jehoiada
48. Ahasuerus—Vashti
49. Elimelech—Naomi
50. Zacharias—Elisabeth

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