

The Berean Christadelphian

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

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

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

CHRIST IS COMING SOON AND WILL REIGN ON EARTH

Ecclesial News

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

OUR Labor Day meeting in September was well attended by a good representation from all of the Texas ecclesias. Our bro. Don Newcomer of the Houston ecclesia gave the word of exhortation at the Memorial service. The words of Truth brought to our hearing were very strengthening and upbuilding. We are very thankful to our Heavenly Father for the work and labour put forth by our brethren. May we have the wisdom to hold fast faithfully until the return of Christ.

We are sorry to report the falling asleep of our bro. J.E. (Ellie) Eastman. He had reached the good age of 88 years, and had been quite active throughout his lifetime. He was laid to rest in the Wagram cemetery near his home, on Dec. 22, 1972, to await the return of the Master. We will greatly miss the association of our brother in the Truth. He leaves his sorrowing sister-wife Kate, who is presently in the Anna Lee Rest Home in Mason, Texas.

—bro. Bill Edwards

Bible Questions

Identify the BOOK (5 books are omitted)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Elements melt with fervent heat. | | 2. Whatsoever things are true. |
| 3. O Lord, revive Thy work! | 4. Balaam & Balak. | 5. Thorn in the flesh. |
| 6. Receive him not into your house. | 7. Gourd & worm. | 8. Queen of Sheba. |
| 9. Let no man judge you in meat or drink. | | 10. Thou, Bethlehem Ephratah. |
| 11. Go forth to him without the camp. | | 12. Dare any of you go to law? |
| 13. All serve Lord with one consent. | | 14. Diotrophes loveth pre-eminence. |
| 15. Lord God will do nothing. | | 16. Comfort one another with these words. |
| 17. Chosen to salvation thru belief of the Truth. | | 18. Rose of Sharon. |
| 19. Having food & raiment, be therewith content. | | 20. Thus saith Cyrus. |
| 21. Hating garment spotted by flesh. | 22. Fall of Jericho. | 23. Amraphel. |
| 24. Mene, Mene. | 25. Law of leper. | 26. O foolish.. |
| 27. Let patience have her perfect work. | | 28. I will shake all nations. |
| 29. All things work together for good. | | 30. There is no fear in love. |
| 31. Delilah. | 32. Bare our sins in his own body. | 33. Revolt of Absalom. |
| 34. Demas hath forsaken me. | 35. Messenger of Covenant. | 36. 3 score & 10. |
| 37. I left thee in Crete. | 38. 2 mountains of brass. | 39. Paul the aged. |
| 40. The unity of the Spirit. | 41. Saviours on Mt. Zion. | 42. Song of Moses. |
| 43. Avenge blood of Jezreel | 44. Marriage in Cana. | 45. Man of sorrows. |
| 46. Multitudes, multitudes! | 47. Mother of Harlots. | 48. Virtuous woman. |
| 49. Valley of dry bones. | 50. Jesus in Egypt. | 51. Vanity of vanities. |
| 52. Josiah. | 53. Rich man & Lazarus. | 54. Boaz. |
| 57. Sanballat. | 58. James killed. | 59. Bildad. |
| | | 60. Baruch. |
| | | 61. Goliath. |

(Write correct question number beside name of each book)

Gen.	2 Sam.	Eccl.	Obad.	Luke	Col.	1 Pet.
Exo.	1 Kings	Song	Jonah	John	1 Thess.	2 Pet.
Lev.	2 Kings	Isa.	Mic.	Acts	2 Thess.	1 John
Num.	Ezra	Jer.	Hab.	Rom.	1 Timothy	2 John
Deut.	Neh.	Ezek.	Zeph.	1 Cor.	2 Timothy	3 John
Josh.	Esth.	Dan.	Hag.	2 Cor.	Titus	Jude
Judges	Job	Hosea	Zech.	Gal.	Phlm.	Rev.
Ruth	Psa.	Joel	Mal.	Eph.	Heb.	
1Sam.	Prov.	Amos	Matt.	Phlp.	James	

"Christendom Astray," a 462-pg. book outlining and scripturally proving all basic Bible doctrines involved in the Gospel of salvation, which has helped thousands find the Way of Life, will be gladly sent free and without obligation. Write: G. V. Growcott, 12954 St. Marys, Detroit, Mich. 48227.

Contending for the Faith

"Behold, ye fast for strife and contention, and to smite with the fist of wickedness. Ye fast not this day so as to make your voice to be heard on high"—Isa. 58:4

AT Mt. Sinai, the people of Israel, under the guidance of Moses, became established as a nation, and received a system of religion designed to govern the individual lives of the people, and eventually to lead them to Christ.

The latter days of Israel's commonwealth heralded the arrival of the Messiah, but only a remnant had sufficient faith to recognize the days in which they lived. The rest drew nigh to God with their mouth and honoured Him with their lips, but their heart was far from Him.

However, the Gospel, in all its fulness, was preached to Israel, but in their blind attachment to Moses and the prophets, they failed to observe the fulfilment of the Law in Jesus. Therefore, said Paul—

"It was necessary that the Word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles."—Acts 13:46.

Thus, the way of salvation was opened to the Gentiles, and now, as far as can be determined, we find ourselves in the latter days of the Gentiles. As we mentioned, there was a faithful group to welcome Jesus at his first appearing, so there is a faithful group who are now watching and waiting for his second appearing. But even so this group is waiting patiently, the question of Jesus comes to our minds:

"When the Son of man cometh, shall he find the Faith on the earth?"

If Jesus is to find the Faith when he comes, it will depend upon the action of the small group as to whether they are giving heed to the warning issued to them by Jesus and the apostles. Paul warns—

"That in the last days perilous times shall come."—2 Tim. 3:1.

All we have to do today is to look around us, and we will discover that the words of Paul are accurately descriptive of the age in which we are living. One of the ever-impending dangers by which we are surrounded is that we can easily become involved and partake of some of the forms of godlessness with which the world is steeped without being conscious of it.

In our endeavour to maintain what we consider to be sound teaching, we may become over-zealous, and develop a condition similar to Israel, of whom Paul said—

"For 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 themselves unto the righteousness of God."—Rom. 10:2-3.

It is possible that in our zeal to establish our own righteousness, we may form a strong opinion based upon what we may conclude is a logical deduction. But there is great danger in forcing upon the Brotherhood an issue that is based upon what we may think is a logical deduction, instead of depending upon the direct Word of God.

O that one might come from God in these closing days, and call the Household together and remind them, as the prophet did Israel:

"I desire MERCY, and not sacrifice; and the KNOWLEDGE OF GOD more than burnt offerings"—Hos. 6:6.

Another prophet brings a message from God to Israel that is included in those things written for our instruction—

"He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God"(Mic. 6:8).

Apparently some have read this verse too quickly, for a teaching is being spread abroad in which we are asked to show no mercy to certain ones who transgress one of God's laws. Is it possible that they have not read the 8th chapter of John? Here is recorded the case of a woman guilty of adultery, and the leaders of the people bring her to Jesus, and remind him that under the Law of Moses she should be stoned to death: but what do you say? The answer of Jesus should make every one of us stop and think, not once, not twice, but a thousand times. Here it is in v. 7 —

"He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

From what is being circulated in the Brotherhood, it would appear that there are some who think they have no sin, for they are trying to legislate for the whole Body by passing resolutions much of which is not supported by the direct Word of God. True, they are quoting Scripture in some cases, but it is being misquoted.

Let us digress a moment, and ask a question. Who taught us the Truth of the Gospel? If we are honest, we must admit that brother John Thomas was our teacher and we learned the Truth from his writings in Elpis Israel and Eureka. Then came brother Roberts who simplified the work in Christendom Astray. For myself, who learned the Truth from these two servants of the most High God in 1918, I thank God for my teachers.

But a new generation has come upon the scene, and young brethren are trying to tell us that we do not require the writings of brethren Thomas and Roberts; all we require is the Bible.

It is presumption to say that we do not need ALL the help that God has mercifully provided. The record of our pioneer brethren is complete. Their teachings have stood the test of time, the Christadelphian Body owes its present existence to the fact that these two brethren brought the Truth to light in these last days. It might have been done by others, but it wasn't. They were the means God used. Let us ponder these things deeply, and not be wise in our own conceits. —Editor.

Babylon Is Fallen!

"And another (second) angel followed, saying, Fallen, fallen hath Babylon, the Great City, because she hath made all nations drink of the wine of the raging of her fornication"—Rev 14:8

BY BROTHER JOHN THOMAS

I HAVE styled this Angel the "Second" because the one that succeeds it is called "a Third." The First Angel (which must, of course, precede the 2nd) is the messenger-hood engaged in "drawing the bow/" or sounding the Good News of the Aion in mid-heaven (vs. 6-7), after the manifestation of the Son of Deity on Mt. Zion (vs. 1-5).

The 2nd Angel is constituted of the party of action by which the Roman Question can alone be solved. The purpose of their mission is the overthrow of Babylon, whose fall is proclaimed in the indefinite tense, which declares the event without specifying the exact time. This, however, is certain: the Roman Babylon will not fall until the proclamation in mid-heaven shall have been announced, saying—

*"Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.
"For her sins have reached until the heaven, and the Deity remembers her iniquities" (Rev. 18:5).*

The people here addressed are the Jews in Rome, and the 10s of 1000s in the Kingdom of the Beast, who, if they remain in her, are warned that they will be treated as the enemies of the Great Shepherd of the Sheep. The initiation of the 2nd Angel judgment is synchronous with the 7th Vial, in the outpouring of which (Rev. 16: 19)—

"Great Babylon comes into remembrance before the Deity, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath."

The effect of this is the fall from which she never recovers, and which is proclaimed by the 2nd Angel.

I have said that the 2nd Angelhood is constituted of the party of action. This party solves all questions beyond the ability of human governments to settle. It consists of the Spirit in cooperation with the Saints, who in Rev. 18:8 is styled "the Lord God," or Yahweh Elohim; in v. 20, the "Heaven," or "Holy Apostles and Prophets;" and in vs. 4, 6, 7, "My People."

The Saints (to whom judgment is given under the whole heaven) in command of Judah and their allies, are the constituents of the Second Angel Power.

It is their mission to give torment and sorrow to Babylon in a double proportion to the cruelties she has inflicted upon them, and not withdraw their hand till they have destroyed her from the earth.

The Babylon whose fall is proclaimed by the Second Angel is the City consisting of Ten Parts, or Kingdoms (Rev. 11:13), whose Queen, as yet unwidowed, is the Mother of Harlots enthroned in Rome (Rev. 17:5, 18).

This ch. 14:8 (which we are now considering) is the first place where the name "Babylon" occurs in the Apocalypse; but, as we have seen, not the first place where it is alluded to. In Rev. 11:8 it is "styled spiritually Sodom and Egypt," because its wickedness is equal to theirs, and the judgments decreed against it are as terrible and disastrous.

She is as Sodom, for her fornication is raging. And as Egypt, for she had made all nations to drink of its wine. Hence the plagues of the Second Angel in all the fierceness of the wrath of God.

The initiation of the Second Angel tormentation of the worshipers of the Beast and his Image is the inauguration of the Day of Revenges, when Yahweh whets His glittering sword, and His hand takes hold of judgment. It is the opening of the Hour of Judgment upon the rebellious goats, in which Yahweh, the Man of War, will render vengeance to His enemies, and reward them that hate Him.

Some idea may be formed of this vengeful recompense from Deut. 32:42, in which He saith—

"I will make Mine arrows drunk with blood, and My sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy."

This will be (Dan. 12:1)—

"A time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation to that same time."

—the antitype of the great Pentecostian Day of Atonement, in which the trumpet of the Jubilee shall sound (Lev. 25:9).

The Second and Third Angels of Rev. 14 are the executors of the " judgment written" in this "Great Day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14)—a day in which an offering shall be made by fire to Yahweh unto the total and complete consumption of the apocalyptic Beasts, which, as the sin of the political world, shall be destroyed by fire and sword.

The whole burnt offering of these Beasts is a grand condemnation in the flesh of the Sin-Powers.

They are to be put to death by being slain with Yahweh's sword, and tormented with fire and brimstone in the burning lake, in the presence of the holy angels, or messengers, and in the presence of the Lamb, who kill and offer the sacrifice to the Eternal Power of the universe (Rev. 14:10; 19:20-21).

But this "day of vengeance" in which the Great Shepherd (who is a Priest on his throne—Zech. 6:13) punishes the Goats, is also the "Year of His Redeemed" (Isa. 63:4).

He is Redeemer of the two classes of mankind. These are: first, his "brethren" whom he has taken out from the nations for his Name (Acts 15:14); and secondly, the "many nations" who shall be joined to him as his people (Zech. 2:11).

Of this second class are the 12 Tribes of the House of Jacob. The nation of Israel is to be the First-born, or chief son, of the national family, being the beloved nation for the fathers' sake (Rom. 11:28).

The first class (the Saints) are redeemed from the earth, and stand with the Lamb on Mt. Zion, and follow him in all his wars and enterprises ' whithersoever he goeth.' The redemption of the second class (the nations) is the work of the Eternal Power through Christ and his Brethren. He "saves the tents of Judah first," and strengthens Judah's house (Zech. 12:7; 10:7); and then saves the house of Joseph, or the 10 Tribes of the Kingdom of Ephraim.

This salvation or redemption of Jacob is developed in the Jubilee, when "the Great Trumpet is blown" against the Goats; and all Israelites are invited to "return every man to his possession."

The day of the Second and Third Angels is a "time of trouble" to all nations—to Israel as well as the rest. But there is this difference with respect to them, expressed in the declaration to Daniel that—

"At that time THY PEOPLE shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the Book" (12:1).

Daniel was an Israelite AND a Saint. Hence HIS people are Israelites and Saints, both of which classes are delivered in the "time of the end"—

"When Yahweh shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning" (Is. 4:4).

It is the day in which the captivity of Israel and Judah is to be brought again to their own land, consequent upon the breaking of the yoke of the House of Esau from off their neck, that foreigners may no more serve themselves

of them; but that they serve Yahweh their Elohim, and David their King, whom the Eternal Power hath already raised up for them in raising up the crucified "King of the Jews" from the dead.

But this great national redemption is only arrived at through a terribly severe refining process. It is styled in Joel 2:11—

"The Day of Yahweh, great and very terrible; and who can abide it?"

The Goat-nations will be unable to abide it; and all the dross of Jacob will be consumed. All the rebels will be purged out of the great army of resurrected dry bones—now scattered and "very dry" in all the countries of their dispersion where they are politically entombed—but in the time of the Second and Third Angels, passing under the rod of discipline in the Wilderness of the peoples (Ezek. 20:33-38; 37:1-14).

Malachi asks the same question as Joel (3:1-4)—

"Who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he (the Messenger of the Covenant) appeareth?"

"For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap. And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver;

"And he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto Yahweh an offering in righteousness.

"Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto Yahweh, as in the days of old, and as in former years."

This Day, so great and very terrible, is the "Hour of His Judgment" proclaimed by the First Angel in midheaven (Rev. 14:6-7). The judgments or plagues inflicted are styled "torment with fire and brimstone," and those who are tormented—

"Them who worship the Beast and his Image, and whosoever receiveth the sign of his name."

They are the plagues which cause Babylon the Great City to fall. She falls because of her wickedness in church and state, and her sanguinary and merciless oppression of the Saints and Witnesses of Jesus, and of all the Jews and others she has slain upon the earth (Rev. 17:6; 18:24).

Jeremiah, contemplating the terribleness of these "latter days," says (30:7-11)—

"Alas, for that Day is great, so that none is like it! It is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

"For it shall come to pass in that Day, saith Yahweh Tz'vaoth, that I will break his yoke (the yoke of Esau's house) from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of Jacob.

"But they shall serve Yahweh their Elohim, and David their King whom I will raise up unto them.

"Therefore fear thou not, O My servant Jacob, saith Yahweh. Neither be dismayed, O Israel. For lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity.

"And Jacob shall return and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. For I am with thee, saith Yahweh, to save thee.

"THOUGH I MAKE A FULL END OF ALL NATIONS WHITHER I HAVE SCATTERED THEE, YET WILL I NOT MAKE A FULL END OF THEE.

"But I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished."

Nations are political organizations of men. To make a "full end" of such is to dissolve and abolish all national bodies founded and built up by the violence and craftiness of the wicked.

A FULL END IS TO BE MADE OF ALL THE NATIONS WHITHER YAHWEH HAS SCATTERED THE JEWS.

This declaration is fatal to the independence and political existence of the United States, as well as that of all nationalities. The Second and Third Angels (which are identical with the Rainbowed Angel of Rev. 10), in the great and terrible Day of Atonement, execute this divine purpose of reducing mankind to a common and universal brotherhood, and of subjecting them to the imperial and regal sovereignty of Jesus and his Brethren.

The Israelitish Nationality, however, is not destroyed. In this Day of Judgment, Israelites are "corrected in measure," and the rebellious among them destroyed. But a remnant will survive the refining process of this terrible Day, and its constituents will every man return to his possessions in the land of the Holy One of Israel.

Therefore, for the sake of His Name (Jer. 30:16-17,24)—

"All they that devour Jacob shall be devoured; and all his adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity (13:10). And they that spoil him shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon him will I give for a prey.

"For I will restore health unto Jacob, and I will heal him of his wounds; because they call Zion an outcast, saying, This is Zion whom no man seeketh after.

"IN THE LATTER DAYS ISRAEL SHALL CONSIDER IT."

Now, the Lamb-Power, as the Man of War, Yahweh, will do all this after the example of Joshua in his war upon the Canaanites, which illustrates the manner in which Yahweh "fought in the day of battle" (Zech. 14:3).

Christ Jesus, the King of the Jews, with the 144,000, as the commanders of the armies of Israel, are "the Holy Angels" and "the Lamb" in whose presence the worshipers of the Beast and his Image are tormented in the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

As the Prophet "like unto Moses," he will serve these as the great lawgiver served Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan, whose story is narrated in Deut. 3 & 4. When he opens his eyes upon the house of Judah (Zech. 12:6)—

"He will make the governors of Judah (the Saints) like a hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf. And they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left."

Judah will then be the sword, and the bow, in the hand of the Lamb. And the house of Joseph (the 10 Tribes of the old Ephraim kingdom) will be his arrow which shall go forth as the lightning. When this bow is drawn, its arrows will be "sharp in the heart of the King's enemies" (Ps. 45:5), as it is written—

"Today do I declare that I will render double for thee, when I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and RAISED UP thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece (the goats), and made thee (the Lamb-Power in Zion) as the sword of a mighty man.

"And Yahweh shall be seen over them, and his arrow (Ephraim) shall go forth as the lightning. And Adonai Yahweh shall blow with a trumpet, and shall go forth with whirlwinds of the south.

"And Yahweh their Elohim shall save them in that Day as the flock of His people, for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an Ensign upon His land" (Zech. 9:12-16).

"And they shall be as mighty men who tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle..

"And they shall fight because Yahweh is with them; and they shall be as though I had not cast them off..

"And they of Ephraim shall be as a mighty man. Yea, their children shall see it and be glad..

"And I will hiss for them and gather them. And I will sow them among the people, and they shall remember Me in far countries. And they shall live with their children, and turn again.

"And I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria.

"And I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon, and room shall not be found for them"

(Zech. 10:5-10).

Thus, on returning home from their dispersion after they "stand upon their feet as a great army" (Ezek. 37:10), they will have to fight their way through all the countries of the house of Esau. In this Jubilee return, under the Second and Third Angels—

"The House of Jacob shall be a fire, and the House of Joseph a flame, and the House of Esau for stubble. And they shall kindle in them, and devour them.

"And there shall not be any remaining of the House of Esau.

"For Saviours shall come up on Mt. Zion (the Lamb with the 144,000) to judge the Mt. of Esau.

"And the Kingdom shall be Yahweh's" (Obad. 18-21).

In this way, Babylon and the Goat-Nations are (Rev. 14:10)—

"Made to drink of the wine of the wrath of Deity, prepared without mixture in the cup of His indignation."

Esau will have had the dominion over Jacob long enough, and the time will now have arrived to prove to mankind that—

"There is a God that judgeth in the earth" (Psa. 58:11)

Esau has lived by his sword, but not righteously. He crucified the King of Israel, persecuted and killed his brethren, corrupted the Faith, trod under foot the Holy City 42 months, and poured out the blood of Jacob like water upon the ground. But they who war against Zion and her sons—

"Shall be as nothing, as a thing of nought." (Isa. 41:11).

Therefore (vs. 14-16)—

"Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel. I will help thee, saith Yahweh, and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel.

"Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth. Thou shalt thresh the mountains (or empires) and beat them small, and shall make the hills (or smaller states) as chaff.

"Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them.

"And thou shalt rejoice in Yahweh, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel."

THIS HAS NEVER COME TO PASS SINCE IT WAS RECORDED BY THE PROPHET. For hitherto Jacob has been under the heel of Esau, whose metallic image stands unbroken upon its feet of iron and miry clay.

The work of the Second and Third Angels is to grind to powder the various metals of which it is composed, and to do the work so effectually that no place be found for the things they represent (Dan. 2:35).

Second Voyage to Australia

BY BROTHER ROBERT ROBERTS

"He took the cup and gave it to them, saying, This is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"—Matthew 26:28

PART TWENTY-FIVE JUNE 28, 1898: A MEETING AT WELLINGTON

ON the evening of our arrival at Wellington, there was a meeting in the brethren's meeting room to which we walked after tea. No arrangement had been made for public lecture for the reason before hinted at. This was a semi-private meeting of the brethren and sisters to which some friends had been invited. Bro. Lesueur was prevented from coming, and I had to conduct the meeting myself.

After preliminary exercises, I called attention to the account of a special private meeting in the house of Cornelius, held over 1,800 years ago in Caesarea (Acts 10). The object of it, as defined in the narrative, was "to hear words whereby the company might be saved" (11:14). Though not now assembled in the same express manner, our assembly had to do with the same object. The "words" then spoken were still in force and had the same power to save where they were received and obeyed. I called their attention to Paul's statement that these words were not of human origin or appointment, but were uttered and authorized by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 1:11-12). I indicated the evidence in our possession that Paul's statement was true, and then proceeded to show what the words in question were. In other words—What is the Truth? What is the Gospel?

ALL MEN SINNERS: CANNOT BE SAVED WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION

At the close of my remarks, some questions were put by a lady, the wife of a retired Indian official, who, I afterwards discovered was a sister—a Mrs. Baernacki (pronounced Baernadski). I supposed she was a hostile critic. She wanted my opinion as to how certain people stood with regard to prospects of salvation, who, while receiving Christ in a general way, were ignorant of the gospel of the Kingdom, and disobedient to his commandments.

I said that my duty was to show what the Scripture taught, and not to express opinions about persons. God's proposal to men was, that He would save them if they would believe the Gospel, and obey the command delivered. Our wisdom lay in judging ourselves by this proposal, and leaving to Him the decision of the case of those who were outside of it, from whatever cause.

In this attitude, we were certainly bound to contend that men ignorant of or disobedient to the Gospel could not be saved. Men by nature and practice were already condemned as sinners. They could not be saved unless they were justified from their sins. God had made known by Christ and the apostles that this justification was only to be obtained in the knowledge, belief and obedience of the Truth—of which baptism was only the initial step.

It was a mistake for us to try to bend the institutions of God to the ideas of men. The only safety for ourselves and others lay in frank and absolute submission to what was revealed.

THE TRUTH DENIED: A CLEAR STAND HAD TO BE MADE

The number of the brethren in Wellington has been reduced through the objection of some to adopt a basis of faith—that is a formulated statement of the principles recognized as essential to be in fellowship. The statement proposed was the Birmingham statement. To this there was a determined opposition in the spirit of the man who said "If it comes from Birmingham, that is a reason why we should have nothing to do with it."

This attitude is not intelligible on spiritual grounds. There are carnal reasons that fully account for it. True men are only anxious to secure the Truth. If Birmingham is a help they are not ashamed to have it. Where would even our objecting friend have been, if Birmingham had done nothing?

But in truth, it is not the origin of the "statement" that is altogether the ground of the objection; it is the character of it. The objectors do not consent to all that is in it. As one frankly said— "There are some things there that ought not to be."

Think of some objecting to the restoration of natural Israel! The time is come to take strong and uncompromising ground. If men object to the Truth, they ought not to pass current as brethren. And if the adoption of a statement of the faith will put an end to a false situation, the sooner it is adopted the better. This is the mind of the brethren in Wellington and elsewhere.

The adoption of a scriptural statement of faith, whether of Birmingham origin or elsewhere, will be the beginning of a sounder and healthier state of things, than has for some time prevailed in New Zealand. As for Birmingham, suppose the Birmingham statement is a statement that the Lord approves, where will ye be in His presence who place yourselves in opposition to an endeavour to secure a standing ground for the Truth, in the day of its weakness and unpopularity?

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29: WELLINGTON TO NAPIER FOR A WEEK

We sailed next day in the Mararoa for Napier. The night was dark and stormy, but in the morning we arrived at our destination in sunshine. Bro. Troup and his wife were awaiting us and conveyed us to their picturesquely situated home, on the end of a high spur overlooking the sea, surrounded by hills and long distance views. We had a hearty reception from their two interesting children, whose interest in the Truth shows what can be done by parental care and instruction.

Here we spent a very enjoyable week, marred only by this plague of division, which is the only fruit that factionist writers and speakers have to show for their industry. There is no cure for it except in the individual application to the Word in daily study and affectionate submission and prayer. Some will yield this and some will have only man and not God before their eyes, and consequently strife will continue till the last, till the Lord supplies the conditions of eternal and joyful calm by choosing the men that are godly for Himself, and massing them in a glorified community in which there will be no flaw.

CHRIST'S DEATH WAS APPOINTED BY GOD AS A SACRIFICE

Two well-attended lectures were delivered to the public and two interviews took place, to bring re-union if possible. That no result was produced I cannot say. But there was no such restoration of peace, as sometimes follows such efforts. Divisions from personal causes are easier to end than those which spring from heresy.

The heresy in this case was certainly of the most serious character, namely, to reduce the death of Christ to a merely human occurrence, and to exclude God from its cause and appointment and significance. This heresy seems to be the result of well-meant inability to comprehend how an event may be—at the same time—both human and divine. The stumblers see the wicked part performed by the Jews and Romans, and they cannot see how the wicked impulses of both Jews and Romans were used as instruments to bring about a sacrifice that the righteousness of God required in the salvation of men.

The inability in this case is the more singular since this duality of character is expressly alleged in this particular matter—

"Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together for to do whatsoever THY hand and THY counsel determined before to be done" (Acts 4:27-28).

"Him, being delivered by the DETERMINATE COUNSEL and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" (Acts 2:23).

GOD USES THE WICKED FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES

It is part of a truth exhibited throughout the entire course of the Scripture: that God—without interfering with the free volition of wickedness—uses it in carrying out His Own ends with His people, when such instrumentality is necessary.

Did Joseph's brethren sell him, in jealous hatred, into the hands of the Egyptians? It was that God might "send a man before them," and lay the foundation of good (Psa. 105:17; Gen. 45:5-8; 50:20).

When Israel turned away from God, did Israel's enemies get the upper hand? It was because—

"The anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and He delivered them into the hands of spoilers» so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies" (Jdg. 2:11-14)

Did David suffer from the wickedness of Amnon, the ambition of Absalom, the malice of Shimei? It was the Lord Who raised up evil against him out of his own house because he had despised the Lord in taking the wife of Uriah the Hittite (2 Sam. 12:10-11).

Did God use the blood-thirsty Assyrian as a weapon of punishment against Israel?—

"He (the Assyrian) meaneth not so: it is in his heart merely to destroy."

THE TESTIMONY IS CLEAR AND PLENTIFUL

There is really no end to the illustrations of this principle in the Bible—that God, in the ways of His providence, to accomplish His purposes, uses men who have no idea of those purposes, but are bent only on their own evil aims for which they are justly punishable.

The inability to see it in the death of Christ is worse than ignorance; it is unbelief of express testimony; and as such cannot be tolerated in the fellowship of the brethren. Christ said that no man took his life from him (John 10:17-18). It was his own act, that he might give his life a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28), give it to God, not to man—for he "offered himself without spot to God" (Heb. 9:14). Not by the blood of bulls and goats, but "by his own blood he obtained eternal redemption" (Heb. 9:12). Hence his words at the table concerning the cup—

"This cup is the New Covenant in my blood, shed for the remission of the sins of many" (Matt 26:28).

Hence also the symbolic statement that the redeemed have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 8:14). Hence also the strong statement that Jesus crucified (while to the Jews a stumbling block, and to Greeks foolishness) is—

"To us who are saved, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:23-24).

"Wherefore I determined to know nothing among you but Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2).

These things lie at the root of the Gospel. It is through faith in the shed blood of Christ, as the appointment of God's righteousness, that we are saved (Rom. 3:25; 5:9). It is not therefore possible that the brethren can give place to glosses and manipulations of Scripture that would reduce the sacrifice of Christ to a mere human tragedy. I have no hesitation in avowing my conviction that those who present themselves with such a doctrine to Christ at his coming, will meet the fate of Nadab and Abihu, who offered strange fire before the Lord (Lev. 10:2).

THURS., JULY 7: LEAVING NAPIER: HOPES OF RETURN

We left Napier on Thursday morning, July 7, by the s.s. Waihora. Bro. Craig said he would not be able to see us off; but he came, also bre. Troup, Martin, and some others. Bro. Craig said he was thoroughly satisfied with the way the arrangements for the tour had worked out. Another time he hoped our stay would be longer. I thought it possible we might return again in 2 years—if the Lord remains away. If so, I might arrange to spend 6 months instead of 2 months in the country. But there might be great changes by then.

FRI., JULY 8: WELLINGTON, AT BRO. & SIS. LESUEUR'S

We arrived at Wellington next day, entering the beautiful roadstead about 9 o'clock. Knowing our way to Dulce Domum, we proceeded there without guidance. In the evening, at bro. Lesueur's house, we were pleased to

meet bro. Tanfield, of Auckland, for the first time. We had heard of him, and found him much more than we had heard. He had obeyed the Truth some 12 months previously. He is the principal in the firm of Tanfield and Potter, chinaware importers, Auckland.

He held a prominent position in the Wesleyan body for a number of years, but latterly had begun to lose interest in all religion from the insincerity of its professors, and the inconsistency of its doctrines. Christendom Astray was placed in his hands some years ago. His intelligence enabled him to appreciate the argument, and it was an unspeakable joy to him to have the Scriptures cleared of the mountains of fog through which he used to survey them, and to see them in brightness and beauty. He travels a good deal, and we saw him several times in other parts of the country.

SUN., JULY 10: MEMORIAL AND LECTURE AT WELLINGTON

On Sunday we met with the brethren and sisters at the breaking of bread in their meeting room. In the evening I lectured in the same place to an attentive audience on the general bearing of the Gospel message, and on the strong foundation on which it stands in the historic sense.

MON., JULY 11: WELLINGTON TO PALMERSTON BY TRAIN

We left Wellington next day for Wanganui. Our journey was by rail, and lay through the wild and beautiful scenery on the west coast by the sea-shore. We did not go straight to Wanganui, but broke the journey at Palmerston, for the sake of making it easier for sis. Roberts. There are only 2 trains a day, and to have done the journey in one day would have required us to be stirring at 5 o'clock—which would not have mattered so much if we had not been 4 miles from the station, and living with friends from whom we could not have stolen away unobserved, with the quantity of personal impedimenta which a prospective absence of 12 months from home involves.

We were not aware of the presence of brethren at Palmerston. It was not, however, altogether to our surprise that we were greeted at the platform on our arrival. At Napier we had met bro. Taylor, who is superintendent of the rolling stock on the line. He enquired of our plans, and when we told him of our purpose to stay a night in Palmerston, he said there were one or two brethren there and he would inform them. It was, therefore, not unexpected when bro. Grey introduced himself on the platform. He saw us to our hotel close to the Railway Station, where, afterwards, we were called on by bro. & sis. Harvey.

TUES., JULY 12: WITH BRO. SCOTT AT PALMERSTON

Next morning we saw bro. Scott, a railway employee who had just been shifted from Napier to Palmerston. Palmerston is a railway junction, at which a considerable town of perhaps 4,000 to 5,000 inhabitants has sprung up. We spent a pleasant few hours there.

"Judge Not, That Ye Be Not Judged"

"Let a man examine HIMSELF"—1 Corinthians 11:28

IT is certainly true that no man ought to speak of a brother's faults behind his back until he have spoken to himself alone, and afterwards with others.

But even then, you must be quite sure that the fault is of a kind that would warrant you in withdrawing if he do not submit. If there is any doubt on this head, be silent, and leave the Lord to judge at his coming. We generally find men unwilling to leave things to the Lord. They act as though they had no faith in the Lord's coming, and as if Paul had never written—

"Judge nothing before the time, till the Lord come who will make manifest the counsels of the heart"

(1 Cor. 4:5).

—that is, the secret motives which no man can know, and which require to be known before a correct estimate of his action is possible.

It would be wrong for us to judge in personal cases. It is possible to say what ought and what ought not to be done, as a matter of duty for all men; but when it comes to a question whether these are or are not done by particular men, we enter a forbidden field. We must not judge; we must not condemn. We must leave the Lord to do that at his coming (1 Cor. 4:5).

We can, of course, withdraw from a brother who walks disobediently and defends it; but even this we must not do till we have seen him a few times and given him every opportunity of justifying himself.

If men were more busy judging THEMSELVES, which they are COMMANDED to do, they would not have so much propensity for judging others, which they are forbidden to do. —**Bro. Roberts, 1898, p. 388-9.**

INWARD PEACE THOUGH OUTWARD TURMOIL

The Truth can give peace, and in this peace it can preserve a man amid all the troubles and turmoils of life. Not that he will never know trouble. A righteous man cannot be in this present evil world without knowing trouble: but there is a trouble that is OUTSIDE and a trouble that is INSIDE—as regards causes.

Christ's troubles were great, but they were all outside: inside, peace was his experience: "My peace" as he called it. So it will be with his brethren. They may know trouble among men, but in their own hearts towards God, peace reigns.

But even this peace is a thing of conditions; and it is the conditions we have to watch. When have we the greatest peace? Is it not when we see the most clearly and believe the most heartily the things declared to us by the Truth? It is the vivid sense of those "things" that imparts peace. —**Bro. Roberts.**

Judas and Jesus

"The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of Grace and Truth"—John 1:14

PART TWO

WE now turn to consider the victim of base and meditated treachery, to the "man Christ Jesus/" of whom Peter said—

"He did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.

"Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again: when he suffered he threatened not, but committed his cause to Him that judgeth righteously" (1 Pet. 2:22-23).

In John 1:14, Jesus is introduced to us in this manner—

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only Begotten of the Father, full of Grace and Truth."

This appraisal of John's was endorsed by the Father when Jesus was immersed in the Jordan—

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Again, at his transfiguration, we hear the same Voice—

"This is My beloved Son. Hear him."

Speaking of him in Acts 10:38, Peter said—

"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him."

Throughout all of his ministry, he exhibited humility in all its beauty. Paul speaks of it in Phil. 2:7-8 in this manner—

"He made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross."

The crowning example of his humility was demonstrated on the night he instituted the Memorial we share together each first day of the week. John tells us that—

"Jesus rose from supper, and laid aside his garments, and took a towel and girded himself. After that he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded" (John 13:4-5).

Here was the Son of God, the future King of all the earth, completely humbling himself in a manifestation of what he had said in Matt. 11:28-30—

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Foolish, fleshly pride is at the root of a large proportion of all human thought and activity. Much of our effort and struggle and labour is to satisfy and gratify our pride. And it is all so meaningless and unsatisfying! It brings no peace or contentment, but only further struggle and concern. The only sensible, satisfying way of life is complete lowliness, emptying out all the foolish pride of the flesh.

In the capacity of doing good and helping others, it mattered not to Jesus whether those who were suffering were rich or poor, Jew or Gentile; his healing power was granted freely, though he emphasized the fact that his primary mission was to the—

"Lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 15:24).

He heals the servant of a Roman centurion, and restores the withered hand of an unknown man. Then Matthew says—

"Jesus withdrew himself, and a great multitude followed him, and he healed them all" (12:15).

His compassion for the people was so great that on one occasion he fed 5000, and on another 4000, the latter in the Gentile area of Decapolis. The power by which this was done he explained when he said—

"The Father who dwelleth in me, He doeth the works."

We follow him down to Jericho, where a blind man appeals to him for help. Jesus said (Mark 10:51)—

"What do you wish?"

He answered—

"Lord, that I might receive my sight!"

Immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus.

The sympathy Jesus had for others was shown in Bethany at the home of Martha and Mary after the death of their brother Lazarus. When he beheld others weeping sadly, he was so affected that he also wept, though he knew that in a very short time Lazarus would be raised, and weeping would be turned to joy.

Another outstanding case was at his betrayal, when the servant of a high priest lost his ear. Here was Jesus surrounded by a vicious, hostile mob attempting to seize him. But at that very moment he heals one of his attackers! What a lesson in self-control, and in returning good for evil!

Teaching one day in a synagogue, he saw a woman who had been bowed together for 18 years. Without waiting for her to ask, he called her to him and said—

"Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity."

Immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

We now see him in a certain village, met by 10 lepers who said—

"Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

Jesus did not ask any questions, but merely said—

"Go show yourselves unto the priests."

The Law of Moses required this. As they went, they were cleansed.

We now find him in Jerusalem beside a pool, and in front of him is a man crippled for 38 years. "Wilt thou be made whole?" asked Jesus. Without waiting for a complete answer, he said to the man—

"Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked."

In Matthew 4:23 we are told that—

"Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."

The reason Jesus gives for the things he did for others was—

"The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

This word "minister" means "be an attendant, wait upon, serve."

In Mark 5:1-20 is recorded one of the great miracles of healing on a raving madman. Again he was in Gentile territory, and we note the presence of a great herd of swine, which the Jews did not keep. Jesus entered into conversation with the man, and so great was his pity and compassion that he healed him, and left him joyful, clothed, and in his right mind, praising God.

Another example of his deep compassion was in the city of Nain where a dead man, the only son of his mother, was being carried to the grave. Jesus stopped and spoke to her, saying, "Do not weep." And then he touched the bier, and told the man to arise—

"And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother."

A rare case of healing was that of the woman who had haemorrhages for 12 years, who said—

"If I may but touch his clothes, I shall be whole."

So she touched his garment in simple faith, and was made whole at once. Jesus realized that power had gone out of him, so he asked who touched him. The woman came to him, and told him what had happened. Jesus said to her—

"Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole. Go in peace, and be whole of thy plague."

This has been but a brief cross-section of the work of the greatest man in history, of whom Nicodemus said—

"We know that thou art a teacher come from God, for no man can do these miracles that thou doest except God be with him."

Later on, when Jesus was addressing the Jews at the Feast of the Dedication, he said (John 10:37-38)—

"If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in Him."

The works to which Jesus referred were those of the message he sent to John the Baptist, who was then in prison (Luke 7:22)—

"Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard: how the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and to the poor the Gospel is preached."

It would be impossible for us to describe the greatness of Christ, so we turn to the opening words of Hebrews—

*"God, having anciently spoken, in many portions and by various methods, to the fathers by the prophets,
"In the last of these days spoke to us by a Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, on account of whom also He constituted the ages:
"Who, being an effulgence of His glory, and an exact impress of His substance, and making manifest all things by the Word of His power, having made a purification for sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in high places,
"Having become as much superior to angels as he has inherited a more excellent Name than they" (Diag.).*

If God had not spoken, we would not be in the position of hope and joy that we are. We would be "without hope," like the outside world of darkness, and would be wandering in the path that leads to death—a death from which there would be no awakening. Therefore we bow our heads to express our heartfelt thanksgiving and sincere appreciation for the Word of Truth that brings us together as loving companions on the Way of Life. And that Word, says John—

"Was made flesh, and dwelt among us. And we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only Begotten of the Father, full of Grace and Truth."

This is the man to whom we have become related by our belief of and obedience to the Gospel, and we are now—

"Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:29).

And it is the same man with whom Judas was associated for 3½ years, preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, cleansing lepers, and raising the dead. But he was only a pretender, and finally betrayed his Master into the hands of a mob for the paltry sum of \$15.00, an action that soon brought about his swift and ignominious death.

This is a sharp lesson for us. Judas joined in with all the other apostles in preaching the Kingdom of God. Outwardly he was just like the rest, so much so that they did not suspect him, even when told there was a traitor among them. This shows that it is possible for us to go about giving lectures, and making a great show before the people of the world, and outwardly conforming to all the appearances—and, at the same time, not at all be living a life in harmony with the Truth. This fact was emphasized by Jesus in his great address from the Mount (Matt. 7:22-23)—

"Many (not a few, but MANY) will say to me in that day,

"Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy Name? And in thy Name cast out devils? And in thy Name done many wonderful works?"

Surely such would have reason to think that they were an accepted part of the Body! But Jesus continues—

"And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

The identity is not outward, in great works and appearances, but inward—in the character and in the heart: in the vital outcome of the inner battle with the flesh and with the diabolos. Here is the crucial battlefield. Paul comprehended this clearly, for he said—

"I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest by any means—when I have preached to others—I myself should be a castaway" (1 Cor. 9:27).

Let us stop and think for a moment, and ask ourselves if it is possible for any of us to be in the position of Judas: outwardly a disciple, inwardly a traitor. We cannot betray Jesus in the same manner he did, but there are many ways in which we CAN betray him. One vital one is this: WHAT WE DO TO OUR BRETHREN AND SISTERS, WE DO TO CHRIST HIMSELF. He said (and someday soon these words may rise before us in letters of fire)—

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

—the LEAST. Those who appear to us to be least important, least active, least deeply rooted. These are the ones we are most likely to be careless and thoughtless about, in our own assumed greater zeal and faith. This is something to be kept foremost in our minds when we have any problems relating to our brethren and sisters. Would we dare to think of, speak about, or treat Christ the way we do some of our brethren and sisters? That is exactly what we ARE doing.

Peter (1 Pet. 5:1-4) speaks to the "elders." Now the word elders means the older or senior brethren. A greater responsibility lies on them. He tells them to "feed the flock of God"—that is, the members of the ecclesia. And they are to do it "willingly" and of a "ready mind." There must be loving eagerness in the work—

"Neither as being lords (not domineering, or assuming a fictitious self-importance) . . . but being EXAMPLES."

Not so much TELLING them what to do as SHOWING them what to do. Now, you elders (and I am one also), let us face the facts. ARE we 'feeding the flock' with an example? And if so, WHAT are we feeding them?—the sincere milk of the Word, or some concoction of our own? Does the food we are feeding them cause them to—

"Grow in GRACE, and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?"

Does it digest well, and cause them to be kind to one another, to be tender-hearted, to walk in love, and to think continually and cheerfully on the—

"Things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report?"

If it does, then we are doing that which is well-pleasing to our heavenly Father, and our work will bear the fruit of the Spirit.

But if we are not being faithful in our duty, but are feeding them the dry and worthless husks of controversy and dissension and criticism and crotchet and private interpretation, then we are betraying the Lord Jesus and, like Judas, are only fleshly-minded pretenders. It is a serious thought. Peter continues (1 Pet. 5:5)—

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility.."

—(why does he say that?)—

". . . for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

This command of Peter's is essential to the well-being of the individual members, and of the ecclesia as a whole. Therefore let the younger brethren ask themselves this question—

"Am I subject to my seniors, or am I allowing myself to adopt the proud, self-assertive and rebellious spirit of the young in the natural, animal world around me?"

If we are inclined to be rebellious against the appointments of God, and to want to have our own wilful way, it will be well for us to remember what Samuel, by the Spirit, said to King Saul—

"Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft; and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" (1 Sam. 15:23).

But there is a qualification attached to the matter of being subject to the elders, and that is stated by Paul in 1 Tim. 5:17—

"Let the elders who preside well be esteemed worthy of double honour, especially those who TOIL in word and teaching" (Diag.).

The first characteristic of true saintship is zeal and TOIL for the things of God, and not zeal for having our own way. Without any hesitation, let us have the wisdom to cheerfully obey the advice of Paul to Titus to keep away from—

"Strifes of words, foolish questions, and contentions that are unprofitable and vain."

They are not only unprofitable and vain, but the agitation of them results in the development of the thing God especially hates: sowing discord among brethren.

Paul further tells Titus that a bishop (that is, an elder, an arranging brother) must be blameless as the steward of God, holding fast the faithful Word as he has been taught.

The Truth is the most serious, demanding, responsible business that a man can put his hand to.

The humblest brother of Christ has a greater responsibility, a more important, meaningful position, than the president of the greatest government or the biggest corporation in the world. Their activities and decisions are tinkertoys compared to the work of the Truth, for their work is but for the passing moment, soon to be all swept away into forgotten oblivion, while all the work of the Truth is for eternity.

Being a Christadelphian—a Brother of Christ—is not just being a member of an ecclesia. It is a complete, fulltime, wholly-devoted way of life based upon zealous faith and obedience, which in turn is based upon love: love of God, love of Christ, and love of the brethren. What IS "love"? John says—

"This is love, that we walk after his commandments."

This is based on Jesus' own words—

"If ye love me, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS" (John 14:15).

And he makes it more emphatic by making this the real, living, crucial test of love (John 14:23)—

"If a man love me, he WILL keep my words."

There is no use mouthing fine sentiments about "love" if we do not assiduously set ourselves to learn and fulfil every commandment he has given us, constantly studying the Word for guidance and constantly searching ourselves by it.

Let us then, as we face the future, be firmly determined to walk in a manner that will prove to all who call themselves Christadelphians, yea, and to all the world, that we ARE truly "Brethren in Christ" in heart and soul, and not just surface pretenders as Judas was. The pattern set before us is in Eph.5:19—

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord:

"Submitting one to another in the fear of God."

These words are not just pious platitudes intended to please the ear. They are serious, divinely-inspired COMMANDS of God through Paul, expressing the apex of the ideal ecclesial life—the pure, joyful, spiritual life as God intends it; yea, REQUIRES it.

If we agree with Paul (and who dares disagree?), then we can sing with the understanding, and break forth into joy when we sing the inspired words of our Hymn 4—

*"Behold how good a thing it is, and how becoming well,
Together such as brethren are, in unity to dwell!" —G.A.G.*

WHAT WAS CHRIST "PURIFIED" FROM?

Under apostolic guidance, we see Christ in the bullock, in the furniture, in the veil, in the high priest—in brief, in all these Mosaic "patterns" which Paul says were "a shadow of things to come" (Heb. 8:5; 9:23; 10:1; 3:5). All were both atoning and atoned for (Lev. 16:33).

There is no counterpart to this if Christ is kept out of his own sacrifice. He cannot be so kept out, if place is given to all the testimony—an express part of which is that as the sum-total of the things signified by these patterns, he was "purified" with a better sacrifice than bulls and goats—namely, his own sacrifice (Heb. 9:23. 12).

If he was "purified," there was something to be purified from. What was it? Look at his hereditary death-taint, as the son of Adam, through whom death entered the world by sin—and there is no difficulty.

As the anti-typical bullock without the camp, Jesus was a sin-offering—an offering to be burnt, consumed—to be which he had to be the very nature cursed by sin, that "the body of sin might be destroyed" (Rom. 6:6).

— Bro. Roberts, 1897.

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In the Image of God Made He Him

"With him (Moses) will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches, and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold" —Numbers 12:8

THE TRUTH FULLY DISCOVERED

IT is our conception and conviction that the Truth in all its essential elements was formulated from Scripture by brethren Thomas and Roberts. We regard the matter of the scripturally-revealed Person of the Father as one of these elements. We do not regard these brethren as inspired authorities, but we do consider them faithful and dependable expounders of basic scriptural truth.

Christadelphians have for 100 years embraced what they believe to be the "Faith once delivered to the saints." Regarding the element of scriptural truth as to what is revealed concerning the personal form of the Father, it is our conviction from Scripture that the Christadelphian belief—as in all other basic points—is sound and true.

The suggestion that God has no form, or that His form, if any, is different from that manifested in the angels, and man, and the present glorious eternal spirit body of Jesus, and that the simple record of man's creation in the image of God must be interpreted symbolically—these views are not new in the world but have been fully considered in Christadelphian literature and study in the past, and have been rejected as error.

In the words of bro. Roberts (Chdn. 1896, p. 348), "Our mind is that the Truth has been found in its original simplicity and purity and completeness, and that the only enlightened business in hand is to preach and contend for and apply this."

THE TEACHING OF BROTHERS THOMAS AND ROBERTS

WE shall first show what bre. Thomas and Roberts and the whole Christadelphian body from their day to the present have believed to be the scriptural truth on this matter—one of the foundation truths upon which the whole structure of revelation and the ultimate purpose of God is founded. These references are abbreviated. The intention is not to give the reasoning in full (which can be looked up), but to briefly illustrate the consistent conviction throughout.

Then we shall show, by a few quotations from the "orthodox" writers of Christendom, that the idea that God has no form is one of their doctrines by which they oppose the scriptural truth of **bodily** salvation—the redemption of the **body**.

Then we shall give what we consider to be positive scriptural proof that the Christadelphian viewpoint on the matter is the true one, followed by a consideration of the passages put forward to prove differently.

QUOTATIONS FROM THE TRUTH'S STANDARD WORKS

Elpis Israel, p. 38-9: "The import of the phrase 'in the image, after the likeness' is suggested by the testimony that 'Adam begat a son in his own likeness, after his image, and called his name Seth.' In this respect, Seth stands related to Adam, as Adam did to the Elohim . . . Would anyone be at a loss to know the meaning of Seth's being in the image of his father? The very same thing is meant by Adam being in the image of the Elohim . . . The resemblance therefore of Adam to the Elohim as their image was of bodily form . . . In shape, Seth was like Adam, Adam like the Elohim, and the Elohim the image of the invisible Increate, the great and glorious Archetype of the intelligent universe."

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Eureka, vol. I, p. 95-6: "Incorruptible and living substance, then, is the Body of the Deity; and as the glorified Jesus is the 'Image of the Invisible Theos,' He must have 'parts' . . . He has form and parts, as well as body, and is the great Archetype, or divine Original, after which all the Elohim, or immortal intelligences, of His universe are modelled and made . . .

"Now these suggestions are sustained by 'the likeness of the glory of Jehovah' which appeared to Ezekiel. 'Above the firmament,' says this prophet, 'that was over the heads of the four living ones, was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it . . . This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of Yahweh'—eh. 1:26-8."

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Phanerosis, p. 28-9: "Paul says in Heb. 1:2-3 that the Son is the '**charakter**' (Greek meaning 'graving') of His 'hypostasis' (substance) . . . Seth was the image of Adam, and Adam the image of the Elohim (Gen. 1:26; 5:3) . . . Adam the First was image of Elohim, and this was in relation to bodily form . . . Body and form were the **hypostasis** (substance) of Adam and Seth . . . Where 'image (**charakter**—graving) is predicated of **hypostasis**' (substance), that **hypostasis** must have both body and form. The Father-Spirit . . . is a bodily form."

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Ways of Providence, p. 12-16: "Man is stated by James to be 'made after the similitude of God,' even the Father — see context (James 3:9). Paul also says he is 'the image and glory of God' (1 Cor. 11-7). Christ, formed in fashion as a man, is said to be 'the image of God' (2 Cor. 4:4; Col. 1:15); and 'the express image of His person' (Heb. 1:3); which gives force to Jehovah's description of him as 'the man that is My fellow' (Zech. 13:7).

"From this results the conviction that the Father is not only glorious substance, even spirit substance, but that this substance has the human form in its perfection. The Father's person is, in fact, the prototype of all intelligent being. Of Moses it was said, as indicative of the privilege which he alone enjoyed in his day, 'the similitude of the Lord shall he behold' (Num. 12:8). That this referred to the angelic manifestation of Jehovah is unquestionable, but still the fact remains that the similitude he beheld was the similitude of Jehovah.

"The God revealed to us in the Bible is a Creator, a Father, and a Person; universal in His presence and power, but still a located and glorious Person . . . Our simple duty is to accept implicitly what is revealed . . . The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is a personal Father, yet not a man, though we faintly borrow our image from Him."

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Bible Finger Posts, old #29, new #19 (Written by bro. Roberts, still distributed): "Concerning the Eternal Father, the teaching of the Scriptures is very clear . . . That He is light and life incorporate in glorious form and substance, even the form which the human form faintly reflects."

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Instructor, p. 10: "The Bible reveals that man is a living soul or creature, originally made of the dust of the ground, in the image of God."

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Visible Hand of God, p. 18: "He (man) is the similitude of the divine form . . . a special and noble creature formed for the glory of God."

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Christadelphian Answers, p. 1: "The doctrine that God is 'without body or parts' is utterly opposed to what is told us in the Scriptures of Truth, from which we learn that He is of human form—Exo. 33:23, Heb. 1:3, Jam. 3:9."

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Christendom Astray, p. 118: "The Scriptures plainly teach that the Father is a tangible person . . . We will not say that the Being with Whom he (Moses) had this intercourse was actually THE ETERNAL ONE, because it is evident from what Stephen and Paul teach that it was an angelic manifestation . . . Yet it is affirmed that to Moses it was a **similitude** of Jehovah (Num. 12:8). It was therefore a manifestation of the Deity."

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Christadelphian Treasury, p. 4: "We learn from the Bible that the Deity it reveals has both body and parts."

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Christadelphian 1889, p. 104: "We cannot pretend to measure God or even adequately compare Him to any mere human standard. The glory of the incorruptible so far transcends the glory of the corruptible that it is impossible to institute anything beyond the very faintest comparison (Rom. 1:23, Isa. 40:18). Still there are some comparisons that are directly expressed in the Scriptures, and some others that are involved.

"First, with regard to the numberless variety of creatures that God made, it is said of man alone that he was made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-7; 5:1; 9-6). This is confirmed by what is again recorded in the New Testament (1 Cor. 11:7; Acts 17:28-9).

"Made like the angels at first with respect to form and faculty (but for the present 'a little lower' than they with regard to nature and function), we are destined at the last — subject to Christ's approval—to become their equals in nature, life, function, power and glory. Like the 'third heaven,' it is the stage in the process of ascension from the earthy to the heavenly, and from the natural to the spiritual (1 Cor. 15:46-9).

"First, being 'born of flesh' (John 3:6), we are descendants of him of whom it is recorded that he 'was the Son of God' (Luke 3:38), and for which reason, as Paul says, 'We are also His offspring.' In this we have the raw material of God's purpose — **God's image in living clay.**

"Next to this, in being 'born of water' we become sons of God upon the still higher principle of being born again of the incorruptible seed, or the word of the kingdom of God sown in the heart (1 Pet. 2:23, Matt. 13:19). It is of this result that John says, 'Now are we the sons of God.'

"This in due time (in the case of the faithful) will be followed by what Christ calls being 'born of the Spirit' (John 3:5-7) . . . a man thenceforward is Spirit' . . . he has entered upon the last degree of qualification that introduces a man to eternal incorporation into the perfected immortal family of God (Rev. 21:7; Luke 20:36) . . . Christ is both the example and the guarantee of its final attainment . . . This accomplished, the likeness of the 'children of light' to the 'Father of Lights' may be accounted complete.

"When the pure in heart see God (Matt. 5-8; Heb. 12:14), they will not look upon a mere shapeless concretion of power or aggregation of nature's forces, but upon the glorious, **personal Archetype** of the universe, of whose person Christ is already the 'express image,' the very impress of His substance, and the effulgence of His glory (Heb. 1:3, Rev. Ver.)."

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Christadelphian 1892, p. 132: "God has form, and His form is the human form . . . we need not go nearer than this."

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Christadelphian 1892, p. 169: "The Divine form —the form of man, who is 'made after the similitude of God,' even the Father (James 3:9). This is the form of the angels, who are also spoken of as 'the sons of God' (Job 38:7). Their designation as sons would point to a Father-form, even He Who 'dwells in light' . . . With this in view, we can join in David's word with fulness of meaning: 'To Thee lift I mine eyes, O Thou that dwellest in the heavens'; and in the prayer that the Lord taught his disciples, 'Our Father Who art in heaven.'"

* * *

Christadelphian 1892, p. 263-4: "He is the Eternal, Increate, Inevitable Archetype after which He moulded the corporeal form of all His children . . . It is not a matter upon which to speculate, for to do so is both irreverent and presumptuous . . . We can approach no nearer than the Spirit has permitted in Exo. 24:10-1; 33:18-23; 1 Tim. 6:15-6, and the various symbols of His glory . . .

"In discountenancing any speculative inquiry into the character of His Form, of His Person, of His Substantial Being, I do most heartily agree . . . It is not a matter to be dealt with lightly or too familiarly; but with awe, reverence, and a worshipful silence, as becometh His children, begotten in the anointed Jesus, who is or bears His express image."

THE FALSE VIEWS OF CHRISTENDOM BASED UPON THE IMMORTAL SOUL

Adam Clarke Commentary, vol. 1, p. 38: "Gen. 1:26 — What is said here refers to his soul—this was made in the image of God . . . God was now producing a spirit; it was created after the image of God, and that image, Saint Paul tells us, consisted in righteousness, true holiness and knowledge, Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10."

* * *

Interntl. Bible Ency., p. 1264: "It lies in the nature of the case that the 'image' does not consist in bodily form; it can only reside in spiritual qualities."

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Westminster Dict, of the Bible, p. 10: "He (Adam) was made in the image of God. Paul describes the similarity as consisting in knowledge, righteousness and true holiness."

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JFB Commentary, vol. I, p. 8: "In what did this image consist? Not in the erect form of man . . . but in the moral dispositions of his soul, commonly called original righteousness."

The above quotations illustrate the general way in which these verses are interpreted by Christendom. Some however—recognizing, and more honestly facing, the force of the words in the original—seek a way of fitting them in with the orthodox conception of God and the soul, as follows—

Companion Bible, p. 4: "Refers only to outward form, not to attributes. 'Our image' that is, of Elohim, the Second Person, who had taken the creature form in order to create."

* * *

Abington Commentary, p. 221: "A further hint of a lower theological position has been seen by some in the repeated phrase 'in our image,' which is thought to point to a time when men believed that God had a material frame like that which man possesses."

(Continued next month, if the Lord will)

Current Events Fulfilling Prophecy

"He taketh away the heart of the chief of the people of the earth. They grope in the dark without light, He maketh them stagger like a drunken man"—Job 12:24-25

A COMMON FELLOWSHIP. We have received a very interesting and significant "Certificate" from a brother in England. It is a common form being used by all the major churches in Britain (Church of England, Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, etc.) to certify what they call "Baptism." It says, "The following Churches have agreed that a certificate in this form is evidence of Christian Baptism, and will be accepted by them all as evidence of the validity of each other's baptism."

NOTE: This is surely a climactic step in the path of "ecumenism," or— more properly, "Back-to-Rome-ism." By this free intercommunion, these Churches have to all intents & purposes become one with Rome. They may for convenience & from custom keep their own sub-titles, but with intercommunion they have essentially become one. And because (like the nations of Europe & Russia) one among them is so much stronger, & better organized, & more rigidly disciplined, & more historically rooted, than the others—it is in effect a full return to Rome. Rome claims, by its age & pre-eminence, to be the original, central, foundation Mother-Church. The others, by accepting her fellowship, must concede to her claims.

POISONING THE SEAS. Oceans have long been main depository for man's waste. Amount of garbage dumped into sea is reaching saturation point. Spread of technology has resulted in dangerous upsurge in amount of highly toxic material. Many closed seas, as Mediterranean & Baltic, so befouled by oil, radioactive wastes, pesticides & other foul residue, that fish are disappearing. Main danger to sea-life & human health is long-lasting or highly poisonous wastes. Worst offender is oil. Each gallon spilled depletes oxygen in 400,000 gallons of sea water, decimating all fish life in the area. More dangerous to human are poisonous metals, as mercury & cadmium. Both concentrate in fish, & can be fatal to humans who eat the fish. Before death, mercury literally drives its victims mad; cadmium destroys kidneys & bones. Among other extremely toxic wastes are radioactive liquids from reactors, & gases used in chemical & biological war research. (Nwk 11:27)

NOTE; For 6000 yrs. man has lived on the earth, & the earth has supported him. Now in our day his vastly increased numbers, & his blind, aggressive "progress" to cater to his lusts & pleasures, are rapidly destroying the life-sustaining properties of the planet. But God will shorten the days; sweep away the vast majority of evil flesh; refurbish the earth in cleanliness, beauty & glory; & establish His pure divine Kingdom.

SAUDI ARABIA-U.S. DEAL? Saudi Arabia far more important to West than Egypt, Syria or even Libya, for it sits on top of world's greatest source of oil. Tho producing since '38, it still holds known reserves of at least 150 billion barrels. Recent discoveries may double that. Production now 6 million barrels a day, with 20 million a day planned in a few years. Saudi Arabia's oil minister recently proposed a major increase in Saudi Arabian investments in US in return for guaranteed oil imports. He said, "You are biggest market; we are biggest supplier. We have a mutual interest." US welcomed idea; seems a likely bet before long. (Nwk. 11:27)

NOTE: "Sheba & Dedan" always point us to Arabia. It is deeply significant, therefore, that (1) Saudi Arabia has the biggest oil reserves, & (2) is closely allied with US & Britain.

POPE RESTORING AUTHORITY. When Vatican II opened doors to modern scholarship, Catholic theologians were quick to seize opportunities. In few short years, they were questioning everything in Church's teachings from sex ethics to papal infallibility. Era of such unfettered speculation seems ending. Vatican's decision: diversity allowed in forms of expression, but not in basic belief. Pope has made it clear only he & bishops have power to "tell the people what God asks them to believe." Time is on Rome's side—people get tired of being told something new every day. (Tm 11:13)

NOTE: The Man of Sin has a vital role to play in uniting & stirring up the world against Christ when he returns from heaven, whom the Pope will denounce as the long-heralded Jewish Antichrist. The Pope must therefore set his house in order. In religion, the masses want pomp & authority.

STRUGGLE TO CONTROL AFGHANISTAN. Strategically located between Russia, China, Pakistan & Iran, an unstable Afghanistan has meant trouble in Central Asia for 2300 years. Today Russia fears emergence of a China-dominated Afghanistan would give China an opening into Mideast.

China fears that a Russia-dominated Afghanistan would strengthen wall of containment Russia is trying to build around China. US is intensely interested in keeping it out of orbit of both. US has given \$½-billion aid since '52; Russia has given \$1 billion.

Govt. is inefficient & corrupt; it's one of world's least-developed nations. As result of Govt. inertia, 200,000 (a conservative estimate) may die of starvation this winter. Afghanistan so deeply in debt that only massive refinancing of its obligations can avert bankruptcy.

Nearly ½ the children die before age 1; nearly ½ the rest before age 12. Afghanistan contains virtually every disease known to medical science. All water is contaminated. Life expectancy is 39 years. (USN11:6)

RACE TROUBLE IN ARMED FORCES. Race violence now troubling Navy spotlights a deep-rooted problem. It's causing growing concern as US switches to all-volunteer military. A greater potential for unrest if, as expected, volunteer army results in a bigger ratio of Blacks. Rioting, triggered by race conflict, aboard carrier Kitty Hawk off Vietnam. Black-White battle on Navy ship Hassayampa in Philippines. Refusal of 100 Blacks to return to duty on carrier Constellation at San Diego. Breakdown of discipline in US Navy. Race tension is boiling issue. On some US bases, animosity so high it's unsafe for a soldier to walk alone at night. In July, '70, in N. Carolina, a White Marine beaten to death by Blacks. Last Dec. 30 & Jan. 1, racial brawling at Iwakuna, Japan: 15 Marines injured. (USN 11:27)

NOTE: In the present evil world of the sword, where "might makes right," a nation's power & safety & very existence depends upon its armed forces (or those of a strong ally). The race conflict, & the modern false religion of "permissiveness"—worshipping the God of Lust & "self-expression"—bodes evil for the vital armed forces of US in its coming time of greatest peril & need.

RISE IN CRIME & TERROR. Terrorism & wanton brutality cutting ever more deeply into lives of people & nations. Terror now a common event in common places... leaving a trail of death & desolation. Trail is widening over much of world by assassination, skyjack, riot, random murder. Fashionable explanations are "childhood deprivation," "social injustice," alienation," & "inescapable inheritance of instinct of violence from prehistoric times." Going far beyond attempts to excuse or explain it, the "New Left" now celebrates violence as a positive virtue: say it promotes "manhood" of oppressed peoples. Experiments in making common cause with criminals are developing, as in efforts to politicize Black convicts. Violence today less & less embarrassed by limits imposed by centuries of lawfulness. By means of hijackings, kidnappings, explosions & fires of recent years, they're announcing their determination to shake & destroy civilization. They may well succeed. In today's "global village," desperate persons move with ease & speed undreamed of by killers in past. As world air travel grows spectacularly—from 46 million passengers in '52 to 325 million in '72—killers find it easier to move undetected. Rising availability of weapons, many the residue of recent wars. In decade or 2, criminals may be armed with nuclear devices. Violent acts growing in number & ferocity. In Britain violent crime up 16 pet. in '72; murder up 30 pet. Many of the crimes were motiveless.

US leads almost all other nations in violent crime. From '66 to '71 crime up 90 pet. Police killed: 57 in '69; 100 in '70; 125 in '71. Some big U.S. cities are in state of virtual siege. Old notions of self-restraint, once thought necessary to make life tolerable, are in serious trouble in US.

World's shaken by upheavals of all kinds—politics, cultures, economies, communications—offering new openings for terror & destruction. Vanishing is stability of values & authority in this world & next. Emerging is free-form attitude toward human relationships. Ideal of "self-fulfilment" in the new culture is freeing people from rules, institutions, & the past. An age of "harmony & understanding" was promised as restraints loosened, but what has

come is a rising flow of violence & disorder, in real life & on screen. Movies make ever more daring forays into depiction of blood-splattered horror. On TV, Viet War is shown with no holds barred—along with riots & other forms of mayhem. People have seen death so many times on TV that now it is nothing for them to kill & hijack. Linked closely to spread of desensitization to violence is undercurrent—even among law-abiding—of hostility to authority. Courts in US & elsewhere are accommodating themselves to concept of "guiltless" aggressor. Real answer to problem of violence must come from within family, & way we raise our children. If that is so, violence will be around as a critical problem for a long time. Fewer young people are anchored to religious belief. (USN11:13)

NOTE: Every crime statistic, horrible as it is, is another faith-building testimony to divine Truth, both as to the basic evil of human nature, & the nearness of the end of human rule on earth. Man truly has always been evil, but in these last days the earth is to be "FILLED with violence." The vile modern doctrine of "permissiveness"—to encourage & indulge the lust of the flesh to its wildest excesses & aggressions, instead of to discipline it with the principles of decency & holiness—is filling the earth with a race of selfish & destructive beasts. And modern "progress" is creating weapons & facilities for violence undreamed of in earlier ages. TV has played a large role in the development of this evil state. The justice of God causes man to destroy himself with his own stupidities. But a new day is coming for those few who desire it, & prepare themselves for it with all their heart.

CHINA'S AGED LEADERS. Mao is 78, Chou 74. These 2 have somehow kept China together. Once they go, then what? All restraint will be gone. No reconciliation between factions will be possible without Mao or Chou. Expect bloody purges, even a massacre. All China will be in turmoil. (USN 10:23)

LATIN AMERICAN ARMS RACE. Latin America turning more & more to Europe instead of US for war equipment. Since '67, Europe has sold over \$1.6 billions of sophisticated weapons to eager S. American countries.

"Against whom are we arming ourselves? " pleads one Colombian. "We're building armies that are meaningless in international terms, but devastating to internal lives of our countries."

Throughout Latin America, burden of meeting payments on foreign debts has been a contributing factor in preventing many countries from breaking out of abject poverty, yet arms race goes on. (Nwk. 10:16)

NOTE: 25 yrs. ago, after WWII, US influence & prestige was supreme in S. America. Its united supporting votes could always be counted on in the UN, where US was always in the great majority, & Russia in the tiny minority. But what a tremendous change has occurred! And well may Latin America say, "Against whom are we arming?" Most countries there are, like Russia, under military dictatorships, maintaining their power by the gun. The arms are against their own people.

TYRANNY IN UGANDA. 10 yrs. after independence, Uganda quivers under rule of Gen. Amin, a military despot who has terrorized & silenced country's best-educated citizens, murdered & mutilated army officers, & dashed hopes for orderly progress & cooperation in E. Africa.

Amin is visible symbol of a common tendency—not limited to Africa—to seek solutions by military dictatorships & law of the gun.

He was once widely regarded as Uganda's saviour. When he overthrew socialistic Obote 21 months ago, rapturous crowds danced in streets.

At first, no one seemed more pleased with Amin than Britain & Israel. The 2 nations had trained him as a soldier, & they gave him economic and military aid, including an Israeli jet flown by British pilots for his own use.

Amin is a devout Moslem. He gradually turned against Israel. Last month he issued a eulogy to Hitler's massacre of Jews to emphasize his anti-Zionist fervour. (Nwk 10:16)

NOTE: Britain & Israel trained & supported Amin, & now he has turned against them. The nations are powerless in their shady schemings. All is in the hands of God. He sets up & puts down whomsoever He will, often, as He says 'exalting basest of men,' as suits His purpose of punishing wickedness.

NEW KIND OF CRIME. New kind of international thievery: nominally respectable dealers in US & Europe hire gangs of thieves & killers abroad to get ancient works of art. Looters & their sponsors use every device & stratagem known: diplomatic intrigue, bribery, & violence when necessary.

Result is sharp rise in corruption Few officials willing to turn down bribes that can exceed their annual salary. Corrupt officials represent just one cog in huge machine engaged in archaeological destruction & looting. Archaeologists foresee eventual destruction of all records of past. (Nwk. 10:16)

NOTE: Under the modern God-less doctrine of "permissiveness," crime & plunder are respectable. The only law is the law of lust. We shall inevitably see more of this spirit in the marketplace. Nothing is sacred. Desire is the only determinant of action.

THE COMMON MARKET. Little unity. The 9 leaders look back nervously to voters at home. One candidate, Norway, has already opted out. Not one of remaining 9 leaders can be sure their voters may not want out.

The closer British get to membership, the less they appear to like it. Latest polls show only 31 per. in favour—a record low. (USN 10:23)

NOTE: Surely there must be a change of direction here. Something must bring Britain back to her proper position. Her politicians forced her into the Mkt. over the objections and reluctance of her people, but she has no place in the Catholic Europe Beast which must make common cause with the Russian Gog.

EARLY JEWISH OPPOSITION TO ZIONISM. Jewish opposition to Zionism was as formidable an obstacle as anti-Semitism & Arab resistance to formation of Jewish state. In optimistic early decades of 19th century emancipation, the total assimilation of Jews into Europe seemed likely.

There was widespread Christian conversion of leading families. Baptism was entrance ticket to European civilization. One prominent Jew said at that time, "A Jew who prefers a non-existent state & nation (Israel) to Germany should be put under police protection, because he's obviously insane."

Most Jews continued to believe that, in spite of periodic resurgences of anti-Semitism, assimilation could proceed.

Theodor Herzl "almost singlehandedly" transformed Zionism from a mood into a political movement. In organizing first Zionist World Congress, he immediately found he could get no support from rich Jews such as Rothschilds. "Why stir up trouble?" sums up the reluctance of Munich Jewish community to sponsor the first Congress.

It took Nazism, murder of 6 million Jews, & total Arab rejection, to galvanize Zionism into an aggressive force. (Nwk. 10:16)

NOTE: The appointed time came in God's prophetic purpose for the Land to be rebuilt, & the Nation to be reborn. But how many comfortable & prosperous Jews would have turned their hearts & steps toward the barren sands of Palestine, without the Catholic pogroms of Poland & Russia, & the Nazi gas chambers of the monster Hitler?

"EVOLUTION" CONFUSION. Students of evolution agree on little beyond fact that a recognizable man equipped with a large brain & standing erect, appeared on earth about a million years ago. Now even that benchmark of human ancestry in doubt. (Nwk 11:20)

NOTE: Truly students of evolution are "agreed on little" beyond the fact that they must reject the reality & authority & Word of God, & manufacture some theory—however impossible & absurd—to account for all the endless marvels & beauties & intricacies of God's Creation, on the basis of dead, blind, mechanical chance. How pitiful!—when the comforting glories of God's love cry out from every aspect & detail of His marvellous handiwork! Blind Evolution, for all its pomposities, has never explained, or even attempted to explain, the phenomenon of BEAUTY, & beauty is the hallmark of all God's work, from the tiny flower to the sunset: "He hath made everything beautiful in his time."

US vs. EUROPE. Unless some way is found to head off a full-fledged US-Europe trade war, the former allies may find themselves in bitter rivalry for world energy resources. Economic difficulties could lead to political confrontation. Nixon may go down in history as man responsible for US & Europe breaking their bonds & going own ways. (Nwk 11:27)

NOTE: A wonderful sign. This must be. US's stupidity & arrogance, & Europe's greed & resentment, must cause a falling out, & a turning of Europe to Russia. God will send an "evil spirit" between them when the proper time comes.

ARAB OIL VICTORY. The decades-old Arab dream of gaining control over the vast pools of oil beneath Mideast deserts now realized. New oil deal calls for 51 per. Arab ownership by early '80's.

With Arabs now clearly holding upper hand, both availability & price of oil is more than ever under their control. (Tm. 10:16)

NOTE: From the point of view of the West's interests & vulnerability, these agreements are far more ominous than they appear on the surface. Let us not forget the Suez Canal, once the proud "life-line" of the mighty British Empire—history's greatest dominion, on which the "Sun never set." Rusty hulks now clog the Canal's stagnant, silting channels. The noose is tightening. Arab control inevitably means, in the end, Russian control. Prophecy & history are rapidly converging for the final act on the human stage of strutting little puppets.

DEEPENING CRISIS IN RUSSIA. Worst crisis in decade, & impact is deepening. Worst crop failure since '63; series of foreign-policy setbacks; shortage of consumer goods; growing internal ideological dissent. Russia being forced to turn to US for help: already has bought billion dollars' worth of grain, & still more will be required.

A year of incredibly bad weather: last winter very cold with little snow cover, the summer hottest & driest for a century, then rains fell in torrents just when least wanted—in middle of fall harvest. Vegetable supply, chronically short at best, even smaller than ever.

Russia has 40 million persons working in agriculture, compared to 3½ million in US. (USN 10:16)

NOTE: Russia is geared for world conquest, not for the well-being of her people. In the instruments of aggression she is frighteningly efficient, but in caring for her masses she is callous and bumbling. And surely the hand of God can be seen in her recent weather—worst in 100 years. She must come hat in hand to US for food, but it will whet her determination for world control. Only US stands in the way, & US is a faltering giant, bogged in its own pleasure-seeking and greed.

PHILIPPINES AT CROSSROADS. Marcos declared martial law and seized one-man control on Sep. 22. Philippines faces possible economic collapse, a military takeover, or a Communist armed revolt. If Marcos fails, anything could happen.

The overwhelming majority of the 40 million Filipinos live barely above subsistence levels, with yrly. per capita income of under \$200. A few "first families" have cornered a large chunk of national income.

Country has to import rice & fish, tho it has fertile farmland and is surrounded by ocean. Under ½ population has safe drinking water; only 1 family in 5 has electricity.

Resurgence of Communist guerrilla movement. Communist cells multiplying rapidly. Next few months will be critical. (USN 10:16)

NOTE: Again & again we are impressed with bro. Thomas' deep understanding of men & nature, based on Scripture. He had short shrift for the charade of "democracy," tho in his day it was greatly in vogue as the "wave of the future" to free man from poverty & oppression.

PILGRIM IN POLAND. At least 150,000 pilgrims went to Auschwitz extermination camp last week to honour a Franciscan friar named Kolbe, one of the 4 million murdered there by Nazis.

The principal celebrant at Auschwitz was Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, whose father came from Poland. When he arrived at his father's home town he was greeted by horsemen in 17th century uniforms of Polish cavalry, & a brass band welcome amidst cheering throngs.

In 1966, when Poland celebrated its 1000th anniversary of Christianity, both Krol & Pope were denied permission to visit Poland. Krol's welcome now is just one sign of thaw between Poland's Govt. & Church. (Tm 10:30)

NEW US ASIAN OUTPOST. Naval installation in Thailand could become US's "Singapore." US has spent \$40 million to convert Sattahip into a deepwater port. Warships operating from here would be in a position to quickly counter Russia's determined bid to expand its power in this region.

Russian naval ships are appearing in rapidly increasing numbers in Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea. (USN 10:23)

NOTE: In so many ways the young US lion has taken over the position and destiny of the decrepit old British lion. The picture is fulfilling, but how differently from what we expected! This strengthens our faith, and sharpens our caution against presumption. We are not prophets. We can only laboriously glean the prophecies for guidance, to the extent God deigns to open them to us.

RUSSIA-CHINA TENSION becoming more acute, more dangerous. Russia has over million troops, nuclear weapons, missiles, most modern arms on Chinese border. So has China. Build-up continues. National rivalry between 2 imperial giants. China sees Soviet troops in Mongolia, never a Russian possession; sees Russia holding 400,000 sq. mis. that was Chinese before 1858. Now China fears Russian designs on Manchuria, home of 75 million Chinese. Russia sees China reaching for Mongolia, almost empty & rich in pastoral land; sees China threatening the whole of Soviet Far East with an expanding horde of people. Danger remains, and grows. (USN11:27)

NOTE: Very interestingly the pattern develops, as God balances one nation against another. It was a pact between arch-enemies Hitler & Stalin that inaugurated WWII. China's 2 dictators, Mao & Chou, are both very old. Big changes due.

U.S. BECOMING "HAVE-NOT" IN RAW MATERIALS. Blessed in beginning with wealth of natural resources, US now leaning more & more on other countries for vital raw materials. By '85, US may have to depend on imports for ½ its raw materials, including iron, aluminium, chromium, manganese, nickel, tungsten & tin. US uses 30 pet. of world's mineral output. Since '40, US has used \$260 billion of materials—about equal to amount used by entire world in all history up to '40. In '47, US supplied 40 pet. of world's key minerals: now it depends on other countries for 22 of the 74 minerals essential for a modern industrial society. (USN 12:4)

NOTE: The wanton plundering & depletion of the Earth's divinely-provided riches is a sign both that man's evil rule is reaching an end, & that US's position of world power is very precarious.

"EUROPE SECURITY CONFERENCE" opened last week in Finland. May be most significant conference since WW II. Russia, who proposed it, bills it as a triumph of Soviet diplomacy. They want it to ratify present Europe borders, solidifying their hold on Central & E. Europe. They seek, too, a more relaxed atmosphere in Europe so they can put pressure on US to withdraw, leaving Russia dominant military power in Europe. (Tm 12:4).

NOTE: US fought this "Conference" for a long time, knowing the West had nothing to gain & everything to lose by it. It is a big step forward to Russia's domination of Europe. Russia is an iron-bound dictatorship, rigidly controlled for aggressive national interests. The Western nations are divided & floundering "democracies" with every individual seeking his own selfish & greedy ends. The final outcome therefore is inevitable.

HUMAN EVIL. The Ik tribe of north Uganda are all extreme example of human nastiness. It would be an insult to animals to call their habits bestiality. The Ik teach us that our much vaunted "human values" are not inherent in humanity at all. Creation of a game reserve a generation ago penned them in mountains, & forced them to farming. They were afflicted by drought, hunger, isolation, technical inadequacy, disease. Healthy men & women, given food in plenty, will gorge till they vomit rather than share even with their infants. If a man's wife falls by trailside, he'll leave her to die, then grumble if someone else robs the body first. The old, weak, or blind will be tripped, pushed over, & at last ignored as dead tho still alive. The Ik way of life is contagious. They have power to perpetuate their survival system. A theologian would recognize the source of the trouble—the Iks manifest the reality of evil. (Tm 11:20)

NOTE: The significance of this is that it is the direction that today's vile "permissiveness" & "self-expression" philosophies are leading mankind. Today's "wisdom" is not to discipline & subdue the flesh & build a character well-pleasing to God, but to "do your thing," regardless of anyone else's rights or welfare. An evil generation of Amorites is filling the earth, to be destroyed at the hands of a new and greater Joshua.

PLIGHT OF POOR COUNTRIES IS GRIM. "Have-nots" lag while "Haves" get richer. Widening gap between world's rich & poor nations. Foreseen are political upheavals, troubles for foreign investors, deterioration of trade.

In poor nations, children under 5 account for over 60 pet. of deaths: main cause is malnutrition: 2/3 of survivors stunted physically or mentally.

In 70, 25 pet. of labour force in poor countries was wholly or partially unemployed; by '80 it will be 30 pet. There are 800 million illiterates in world today—100 million more than in '50.

Brazil shows a typical trend: share of national income received by poorest 40 pet. dropped from 10 pet. in '60 to 8 pet. in 70, while share of richest 5 pet. of people grew from 29 pet. of the national income to 38 pet.

In India, 200 million—40 pet. of population—live below poverty level, the point at which serious malnutrition begins. (USN 10:16)

NOTE: How dreadful are the dark places of the earth! We happen to live in lands of insulated voluptuousness & greedy abundance, but more of mankind scratches out a joyless, sickly existence in grinding labour & poverty. There is much fine talk of "charity," but it is a poor veneer over inner selfishness; & furthermore, the magnitude of the task is far too great for man to cope with. Russia thinks if she can control the world she will correct all this in her Godless

Millennium, but she must beg her own food from the hated capitalists.

MOZAMBIQUE GUERRILLAS. A nasty guerrilla conflict, simmering in SE Africa for 8 yrs., in dangerous new phase. Primary target is massive \$450-million Cabora Bassa Dam on the Zambezi River which will dwarf Egypt's Aswan Dam. This insurgency threatens interests of White-ruled Rhodesia & S. Africa, raising spectre of escalating conflict that could engulf southern Africa. (Nwk 11:27)

NOTE: The Tower of Babel again. Race against race. People against people. Nation against nation. Man dreams of "peace," but only an evil, self-serving peace to indulge his lusts & pleasures. But God will not permit it. He must punish them for their disobedience & wickedness by turning them against each other.

WHY MAN CAN NEVER BRING PEACE OR JUSTICE. Escorted by 200 police, the little band of frightened Black & Puerto Rican 7th-graders last wk. walked slowly from bus to school door. "You ain't people, you're animals!" shouted someone in crowd of 1500 jeering, egg-throwing Whites massed behind police barricades. "Go back to the zoo." Thus integration came to Canarsie in Brooklyn. "These children will never be welcome here," vowed president of Parents' Assn. White parents organized a boycott that shut down the neighbourhood's 8 schools,

idling 9500 young people—many of whom spilled out on streets & threatened one another with bats & chains. Police escorted black children into school, but it was nearly empty. (Tm 11:13)

NOTE: The Tower of Babel set the pattern, & man's vileness has perpetuated it ever since. God sent strife & division among men because of their pride & wickedness, & that strife & division will continue as long as man is proud & wicked.

TENSE SITUATION IN MOROCCO. US has a large stake: has given \$700 million to Morocco since '47. Important communications base at Kenitra links US forces in Mediterranean with US mainland.

There have been 2 bloody efforts by the military to overthrow king Hassan, the last by his most trusted adviser. "Have-nots" form overwhelming bulk of population, & there's vast force of restless unemployed. (USN 10:30)

MOST SIGNIFICANT ELECTION IN POST-WAR GERMANY. Brandt resoundingly re-elected, confirming his position as most powerful man in W. Europe. (Tm 12:4)

THE OIL SQUEEZE. US oil output stagnating. Big supplies are in Africa & Mideast. US will be increasing its imports from there by \$1 billion a year, perhaps twice that as prices rise. By '80, US may be importing \$20 billion annually in oil. Where is that kind of money coming from? And do we want to make ourselves so heavily dependent on countries of doubtful stability & uncertain ability to defend themselves? Europe & Japan in even worse fix than US. By '80, accumulated oil-earned assets of Arabs will be \$100 billion, growing at \$20 billion a year. By shifting it around, they could play havoc with international monetary system. And US could be denied a vital resource, not only by supplier countries, but by any power capable of interfering with channels of supply. (Nwk 12:11)

NOTE: Clearly the vast, wasteful, lust-&-pleasure oriented US economy is headed for a crisis. So large a proportion of the national economy is devoted to the satisfying of greed & the production of rubbish! The huge & growing US world trade deficit is already keeping the world's money structure in constant & increasing turmoil. Now US is to pour out more & more spiralling billions to buy oil to feed its follies.

ANOTHER WAR ROUND IN MIDEAST? In long run, another war inevitable. Russia is sensitive to charges in Arab world that they've become soft on Israel & a poor ally. They want to do something to counter this.

Goal of Palestinians is to raise level of hostility between Arabs & Israel so no settlement possible. Palestinians fear Egypt & Jordan are only interested in getting their own lost lands, & after that would drop Palestine cause.

Basic positions of Arabs & Israel are irreconcilable. Israel convinced it's vital for their national security to hold lands captured during '67 War. Arabs feel it's essential to their national honour to get them back. Both really mean it; something has got to give. (USN 10:23)

NOTE: ' Truly, war IS inevitable. And this time it could well be the final one. How wonderfully the age-old prophecies are fulfilling! "I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle." Israel must be isolated & alone, with only an enfeebled Tarshish as her friend. All things are moving beautifully that way.

RUSSIAN FOOD CRISIS. In Moscow, basic foods in ominously short supply. Potatoes have vanished from govt. stores; are 50 cents lb. in 'free' markets. Shortages outside Moscow even more severe.

Worst food shortage since '63, as recently admitted. Such admissions are rare. Shortages of feed have forced slaughter of precious livestock herds that are insufficient in best of times.

Currency sorely needed to buy Western industrial equipment is going for food. In 72, food purchases from West exceeded value of all Russian imports of Western technology during previous 5 years. (Tm 10:30)

December Answers

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. John left—Perga | 17. Joseph, Elisha—Dothan | 33. Taught men—Succoth |
| 2. Baalzebub—Ekron | 18. Deliver up—Keilah | 34. Joshua burned—Hazor |
| 3. Place—Casiphia | 19. 2nd city taken—Ai | 35. Jezebel—Thyatira |
| 4. First love—Ephesus | 20. Nathanael home—Cana | 36. Saul capital—Gibeath |
| 5. Stone Paul—Lystra | 21. Trophimus sick—Miletus | 37. Shorn head—Cenchrea |
| 6. Uriah died—Rabbah | 22. Lord roar—Zion | 38. Strength—Philadelphia |
| 7. Terah died—Haran | 23. Pharpar, Abana—Damascus | 39. Pleased not—Cabul |
| 8. On foot to—Assos | 24. Lord make room—Rehoboth | 40. Philip found—Azotus |
| 9. Righteyes—Jabeshgilead | 25. Vineyards of—Engedi | 41. Desert—Gaza |
| 10. Satan seat—Pergamos | 26. Wound Ahab—Ramothgilead | 42. Kill 85 priests—Nob |
| 11. Omri built—Samaria | 27. Work Wilily—Gibeon | 43. Friends home—Bethany |

12. Jacob well—Sychar
13. Village called—Emmaus
14. Tell not in—Gath
15. Sing as harlot—Tyre
16. Blind Zedekiah—Riblah

28. Wilderness—Tadmor
29. Mede palace—Achmetha
30. Spies—Kadeshbarnea
31. Dyed garments—Bozrah
32. Treasure city—Pithom

44. Avenge blood—Jezreel
45. In Sicily—Syracuse
46. Fetch compass—Rhegium
47. Macedonia man—Troas
48. N. of Tyre—Sidon

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