

# 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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(PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS)

*“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

**HOUSTON, Tx.**—Christadelphian Hall, 8008 Junius St.—S.S. 10 am; Memorial 11 am; Lecture 7 pm on 3rd Sunday, Ezekiel studies other Suns. 7 pm; Nazareth Revisited Class Wed. 7 pm; Law of Moses Sun. am. Bro. John Packer, 210 E. 3rd St., Deer Park 77536. Phone (713) 479-4292.

LOVING GREETINGS to the Household of Faith.

We have held a special door-to-door campaign in a neighborhood not far distant from our hall, & handed out literature & a personal invitation to listen to our radio broadcast every Sunday morning, and we also invited them to 2 special lectures we were holding. We had no response to our lectures, but, God willing, we shall continue to try.

A special offer made on our radio program one morning brought three phone enquiries and requests for literature.

We are enjoying our classes on "The Law of Moses," "Nazareth Revisited" and the prophecy of Ezekiel, as we patiently await the Master's return to take us out of this age of turmoil and confusion.

Our visitors this past 3 months were: bro. & sis. Pat Cassidy, bro. & sis. Jack Stanaland, bro. Ronnie Wolfe, sis. Kay Wolfe, & sis. Carolyn Thompson. Bro. Cassidy gave us upbuilding words of comfort.

We are indeed happy that sis. Grace Frisbie has returned from Canton, & that sis. Kay Wolfe has decided to live now in Houston.

\* \* \*

**WANAQUE, N.J.**—Memorial 10:45 am—Home of bro. David Sommerville, 224 Conkintown Rd., Wanaque, N.J. 07465; Phone (201) 835-4751. Occasionally at home of sister Ella Smith, Blooming Grove, Pa.

GREETINGS to the Household of Faith.

Since mid-March 1974, the following visitors have strengthened and encouraged us in our journey to the Kingdom, some on 2 or 3 occasions: bro. & sis. Wm. Phillips, bro. H. Phillips (Canton); sis. Grace Frisbie (Houston); bro. & sis. D. Clubb (London); bro. & sis. A. Jones, sis. Phyllis Jones (Richard); bro. & sis. N. Mammone (San Angelo); bro. & sis. E. Sargent (Worcester).

All visiting brethren gave us upbuilding words of exhortation.

Sis. H. A. Sommerville has returned to Wanaque after a few weeks in Canton. The present world contempt for Israel, and their rivalry for Jerusalem & the rest of the Holy Land, impress us with the accuracy of God's Word and the dependability of His promises which involve the Hope of the Gospel.  
—bro. D. Sommerville

## Feb. Answers

### What did he (she, they) do when—

1. She opened it—she saw the child
2. She saw Isaac—lighted off camel
3. He saw Rachel—he rolled away stone
4. Sun waxed hot—it melted
5. He saw angels—said, This is God's host
6. He saw wagons—his spirit revived
7. Samuel was old—he made sons judges
8. Cloud taken up—people journeyed
9. Baasha reigned—smote Jeroboam house
10. Solomon old—wives turned away heart
11. Fowls came down—he drove them away
12. She pressed him—told her all his heart
13. Minstrel played—Elisha prophesied
14. He smote waters—they parted
15. He let down hand—Amalek prevailed
16. Trumpets sounded—walls fell flat
17. Jehoram saw Jehu—said, Is it peace?
18. They sought Saul—he hid himself
19. Goliath saw David—he cursed him
20. Their money failed—they brought cattle
21. Israel saw Goliath—they fled from him
22. She heard his fame—came to prove him
23. She had weaned him—took him to Shiloh
24. She saw his wisdom—no spirit in her

25. They came to Marah—could not drink
26. Jehoram read letter—rent his clothes
27. They saw him afar off—conspired to kill him
28. Saul enquired of God—He answered him not
29. They came to Samaria—he opened their eyes
30. He heard small voice—wrapped face in mantle
31. He saw Leah was hated—opened her womb
32. He saw city was taken—burnt house over him
33. She came to threshold—the child died
34. Jezebel slew prophets—Obadiah hid 100
35. They arose in morning—were all dead corpses
36. David came to Bahurim—Shimei cursed him
37. He heard ark taken—fell off seat backwards
38. They had eaten & drunk—sent them to master
39. He saw blood on lintel—he passed over
40. He saw he prevailed not—he touched thigh
41. Amnon's heart merry—servants slew him
42. He came down from mount—his face shone
43. Priests' feet lifted up—waters returned
44. He saw there was respite—hardened his heart
45. His counsel not followed—he hanged self
46. Athaliah heard noise—she cried, Treason
47. Angel stretched hand—the Lord repented
48. Stronger cattle conceived—laid rods before them
49. He touched Elisha's bones—he revived & stood
50. She saw she had conceived—despised mistress
51. He heard sound of her feet—he said, Come in

## A More Sure Word of Prophecy

*"If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead . . . If ye believe not Moses' writings, how shall ye believe my words?"—Luke 16:31; John 5:47*

IN this brief but very significant statement, Jesus plainly teaches that if men and women will not believe what Moses and the prophets wrote, neither would they believe what he said. The reason for this lies in the fact that the things concerning the Gospel that Jesus taught are first revealed in Moses and the prophets.

Even in the first century, after Jesus had departed, and the apostles were left on their own, and the New Testament had not yet been written, it was the custom of the apostles to use the writings of Moses and the prophets as a foundation when preaching the Gospel. A striking example of this is exhibited in the work of Paul. The writer of the Acts says of him (28:23)—

"And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the KINGDOM OF GOD, persuading them concerning Jesus, both *out of the Law of Moses and out of the prophets*, from morning till evening."

—a long day of instruction in the things of the Kingdom and concerning the Name of Jesus Christ, from Moses and the prophets. If any religious body does not have this sound apostolic foundation, *and hold fast to it*, what do they have of value?

When one considers the work of Moses, he is introduced to an era of divine manifestation which is unequalled in the history of the human race. Very few people today believe this, but are inclined to shallowly and thoughtlessly look upon the miraculous events recorded for our learning as exaggerated legends relating to mere natural events, or as myths designed to give so-called spiritual lessons but having no basis in historic fact. Over the past 100 years or so, the vast majority of the world's respected religious leaders have swung over to this "modern" view, considering themselves too enlightened for the simple testimony of the Word.

But the historical events of the Exodus from Egypt under Moses are so interwoven into all other parts of Scripture that we cannot for a moment entertain such a view. If we did, we would be logically forced to reject Jesus and the apostles, and we would be left with nothing tangible and solid upon which to base our faith and hope. We see such sad results in the churches around us.

There are many professing "Christians," and some of high rank, who reject the writings of Moses but assert that they are firm believers in the New Testament. This is an impossible situation, for there are approximately 50 different references in the New Testament to incidents recorded by Moses in connection with the Exodus alone. Here is one of them, which in itself is sufficient to establish the truth of the Mosaic record, if we believe the New Testament is of God. It is found in Stephen's defence as he stood before the Council at Jerusalem, charged with blasphemy—

"This Moses—whom they refused saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge—the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.

"He brought them out, after that he had showed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years" (Acts 7:35-36).

The wonders of the Exodus and the struggle between divine power and the power of Egypt, by which the Egyptians were plunged into a state of despair and Israel rose to a state of exaltation and freedom, have left an indelible impression on the pages of history which cannot be obliterated.

Among all the events recorded by Moses, there is one which stands out with great and especial impressiveness. It is the Lord's Passover, instituted on the 10th day of the month Abib, and eaten on the 14th day in the evening. They ate it in great haste, for at midnight all the firstborn in the land of Egypt were slain, and there was a great cry throughout the land, and the Egyptian people urged that Israel be sent out of the land in haste.

This great ordinance, observed by Israel from that day to this—nearly 3500 years—stands as a gigantic monument erected in memory of the Exodus. The purpose of this momentous historical event was not merely to save the nation of Israel, but rather, as David has said (Psa. 106:8)—

"He (God) saved them FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE, that He might make His mighty power to be known."

—so those who deny the reality of these miraculous events are working directly against the purposes of God to establish His Name and to bring men to the wisdom of reverence and obedience.

Passing from the wonders of the Exodus, we stop briefly to consider the prophets. They succeeded the work of Moses, and their mission was to endeavor to keep Israel in the path of the Law delivered by him, and to make known to them—for their comfort and faith—certain things pertaining to the future. Peter, referring to the divinely-inspired work of the prophets, says—

"We have also a *more sure word of prophecy*, whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place . . .

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God *spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*" (2 Peter 1:19-21).

Bear that well in mind: the Word of God is a light in a dark place—the dark ignorance of presumptuous natural man—and the prophets spoke according to the direction and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This is wholesome truth. Do not be so foolish as to let man's dark modern "wisdom" rob you of it.

The work of the prophets was one prolonged protest against Israel's disobedience and disbelief of the divine law and revelation, and because of this work, says Paul—

"They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented. They wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth" (Heb. 11:37-38).

The reaction of the generality of man to the authority and commands of God and His Word has always been the same: outright rejection, or lip-service, or twisting it to condone the desires of the flesh. Very few have ever had the wisdom to submit humbly and thankfully to the Word's full searching force and power.

The writings of the prophets are part of the Scripture of which Jesus says it "*CANNOT be broken*" (John 10:35), and they are included in Paul's statement that—

"*ALL SCRIPTURE* is given by inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3:16).

Among them are some of the most beautiful forms of speech found in any literature—animated and invigorating declarations of God's purpose concerning the time when Christ will reign in righteousness and glory on the earth, and all his faithful brethren and sisters will reign with him in joy and holiness: elevated and lofty in thought, and sublime in poetic beauty.

The expectation of the faithful in Israel was that the Messiah should appear in the earth and exert the power of a king. Jesus taught this, and the apostles held the same view, and we share it with them. That Christ is the future omnipotent king of the world is the central and most jubilant theme of the prophetic revelation, and the joyful apogee of the true Christian's hope. This sin-cursed world urgently needs him, for the Word of God is lightly esteemed and the One Faith is almost vanished from the earth.

But it shall not always be so! Some day, and apparently in the near future, a cry shall go forth—

"Behold, the Bridegroom cometh! Go ye out to meet him."

*Are we prepared to meet him? Shall we be READY?*

—Editor

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## **Probation Is a Refining Process**

*"We rejoice in our tribulations: knowing that tribulation worketh steadfastness; and steadfastness, approvedness; and approvedness, hope"—Rom. 5:3-4 Amer. Rev.*

**BY BROTHER JOHN THOMAS**

MAN in the first estate is "a little lower than the angels," but in the second or higher estate he is to be "crowned with glory and honor," and to take his stand in the universe upon an equality with them in nature and renown. Man's first estate is the natural and animal; his second, the spiritual or incorruptible.

To be exalted from the present to the future state and inheritance, he must be subjected to trial. From the examples recorded in the Scriptures, it is evident that God has established it as the rule of His grace—that is, the principle on which He bestows His honors and rewards—to prove men before He exalts them. Probation, then, is the

indispensible ordeal to which every man is subjected in the providence of God, before he is accepted as "fit for the Master's use" (2 Tim. 2:20-21).

By these examples, also, it appears that man's probation is made to bear upon the *trial of his faith* by testing his *obedience*. An untried faith is worth nothing. But a faith that stands the test of trial—

". . . is much more precious than gold which perisheth, though it be tried with fire,"  
—because the sustained trial will be (1 Peter 1:7)—

". . . found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearance of Jesus Christ."

*An untried faith is a DEAD faith*, being "alone." Faith without trial finds no scope for demonstration, or evidence of its existence. Thus it is written (Jam. 2:17-24)—

"Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

"Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.

"Thou believest that there is one God: thou doest well; the devils also believe, and tremble.

"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is DEAD? Was not Abraham our father justified BY WORKS, when he had offered his son upon the altar?

"Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and *by works was faith made perfect*. Ye see then how that by *works* a man is justified, and *NOT by faith ALONE*."

"Without faith," says Paul, "it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6), and it is also apparent from James' testimony just recited, that the faith with which He is pleased is a faith that is *made manifest BY WORKS*, of which Noah, Abraham, Job and Jesus are pre-eminent examples.

Now, this "precious faith" can only be educed by trial, for the trial elaborates the works. This is the use of persecution, or tribulation, to believers, which in the divine economy is appointed for their refinement. Peter styles the "manifold persecutions" to which his brethren were subjected, "the trial of their faith " And Paul testified to others of them that (Acts 14:22)—

"It is through much tribulation they must enter the Kingdom."

Probation is a refining process. It purges out a man's dross, and brings out the image of Christ in his character, and prepares him for exaltation to his throne (Rev. 3:21)—

"To him that OVERCOMETH will I grant to sit with me in my throne."

We can only enter the Kingdom through the fire (1 Cor. 3:13-15), but if a man be courageous and—

"Hold fast the confidence and rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

—he will emerge from it unscorched; and be presented holy, unblamable, and unrebukable (Col. 1:22) before the King.

A man cannot "honor God" more than in BELIEVING *what He promises*, and DOING *what He commands*, even though to repudiate that belief, and to neglect or disobey those commands, should highly gratify all his senses, and place at his disposal the kingdoms of the world and all their glory.

Not to believe the promises of God is in effect to call God a liar; and no offence, even to men of integrity in the world, is so insulting and intolerable as this. "Let God be true," saith the scripture. His veracity must not be impeached in word or deed. If it be, then "judgment without mercy" is the "sorer punishment" that awaits the calumniator.

The unswerving obedience of faith is the "faith made perfect by works," tried by fire. God is pleased with *this* faith, because it honors Him. It is a *working* faith. There is life in it; and its exercise proves that the believer loves Him. Such a man it is God's delight to honor, and though like Jesus he be for the present—

"Despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."

—the time will certainly come when God will acknowledge him in the presence of the Elohim, and overwhelm his enemies with confusion of face.

Probation before exaltation, then, is upon the principle of a *faith in the promises of God, made precious by trial well sustained*. There is no exemption from this ordeal. Even Christ himself was subjected to it (Heb. 2:9-18)-

"By the grace of God he tasted death for every man. For it was fitting for God that . . . in bringing many sons to glory, He should make the Captain of their salvation *perfect through sufferings*.

"For in that he himself hath suffered, *being put to the proof*, he is able to succor them who are tried."

And (Heb. 5:8-9)—

"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience *by the things which he suffered*. And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation *unto all them that OBEY him*."

He was first morally perfected through suffering; and then corporeally by being "made into a spirit" by the spirit of holiness in his resurrection from the dead. I say "morally perfected," for although he was without transgression, his perfection of character is predicated upon his "obedience unto death."

The probation of the Lord Jesus is an interesting and important study, especially that part of it styled the Temptation of Satan. Paul, speaking of him as the High Priest under the New Constitution, says (Heb. 4:15)—

"He was put to the proof in all things according to our likeness, without transgression."

That is, "having taken hold of the seed of Abraham" and "being found in fashion as a man," the infirmities of human nature were thus laid upon him. He could sympathize with them experimentally, being—by the feelings excited within him when enticed—well acquainted with all its weak points.

By examining the narrative of his trial in the wilderness, we shall find that he was proved in all the assailable points of human nature. As soon as he was filled with the Spirit at his baptism in the Jordan, it immediately drove him into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. This was very remarkable. The Spirit led him there that he might be put to the proof, but not to tempt him; for, says the apostle (Jam. 1:13)—

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God. For God cannot be tempted with evil, *neither tempteth He any man*."

God, then, did not tempt Jesus, though His Spirit conducted him thither to be tempted, and that too "by the devil" or the enemy.

This enemy within the human nature is the mind of the flesh, which is enmity against God: it is not subject to His law, neither indeed can be (Rom. 8:7). The commandment of God, which is "holy, just and good"—being so restrictive of the propensities which in purely animal men display themselves with uncontrolled violence—makes them appear in their true colors. These turbulent propensities the apostles styles "sin in the flesh," of which it is full: hence he terms it "sinful flesh." This is human nature; and the evil in it—made so apparent by the law of God—he personifies as "*pre-eminently A SINNER*" (Rom. 7:12-18).

This is the accuser, adversary, and calumniator of God, whose stronghold is the flesh. It is the devil and satan within the human nature, so that (Jam. 1:14)—

"When a man is tempted, he is drawn away of *his own lust*, and enticed."

If a man examine himself, he will perceive within him something at work, craving after things which the law of God forbids. The best of men are conscious of this enemy within them. It troubled the apostle so much that he exclaimed (Rom. 7:24)—

"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"—or "this mortal body."

He thanked God that the Lord Jesus Christ would do it. That is, as he had himself been delivered from it—by God raising him from the dead by His Spirit (Rom. 8:11).

Human nature, or 'sinful flesh,' has 3 principal channels through which it displays its waywardness against the law of God. These are expressed by (1 John 2:16)—

"The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life."

All that is in the world stands related to these points of our nature, and there is no temptation that can be devised but what assails it in one or more of these 3 particulars. The world without is the seducer, which finds in all animal men unsubdued by the law and testimony of God, a sympathizing and friendly principle, ready at all times to eat its forbidden fruits.

This sinful nature we inherit. It is our misfortune, not our crime, that we possess it. We are only blameworthy when—*being supplied with the power of subduing it*—we permit it to reign over us. This power resides in "the testimony of God" *believed*; so that we—

"Are kept by the power of God *THROUGH FAITH* unto salvation."

This testimony ought to dwell in us as it dwelt in the Lord Jesus; so that—as with the shield of faith—the fiery assaults of the world maybe quenched by 'thus it is written' & 'thus saith the Lord.'

Jesus was prepared by the exhaustion of a long fast, for an appeal to the desire of his flesh for food. Hunger, it is said, will break through stone walls. "He was hungry." At this crisis, "the Tempter came to him." Who he was does not appear. Perhaps Paul refers to him saying (2 Cor. 11:14)—

"Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

Some one "came to him" who was his adversary, and who desired his ruin; or at least acted the part of one, on the same principle that the adversary was permitted to put the fidelity of Job to the proof. The trial of this eminent son of God was perhaps recorded as an illustration of the temptation of *the* Son of God, even Jesus, to whom—

"There was none like in the earth, a perfect and upright man, one that feared God, and eschewed evil"

(Job 1:8).

From his birth to his baptism in the Jordan, he was faultless. But in the words of Satan concerning Job—

"Did Jesus fear God for nought? Had not God made a hedge about him?"

Yes, God was his defence, and (Psa. 19:11)—

"In keeping His testimony there is great reward."

But the adversary calumniated Jesus in suggesting that his obedience to God had been prompted by mercenary motives.

He "feared" (Heb. 5:7), not simply for what he should get, but because of his love for his Father's character as revealed in the divine testimonies. The adversary affected to disbelieve this, and to suppose that, if God would just leave him in the position of any other man, he would distrust Him and eat of the world's forbidden fruit by embracing all it would afford him.

Thus, the adversary may be supposed to have moved the Lord to permit him to put the fidelity of Jesus to the test. God, therefore, allowed the experiment to be tried, and by His Spirit sent him into the wilderness for the purpose. So the adversary went forth from the presence of the Lord, and came to him there.

Having arrived at the crisis when Jesus was suffering from the keenest hunger, the adversary assumed the character of an angel, or messenger of light, to him. Being acquainted with "the law & the testimony," for which he knew Jesus had a profound regard, he adduced it in support of his suggestions. He invited him to gratify the *cravings of the flesh* by helping himself. He was God's Son; but then his Father seemed to have abandoned him. Why not therefore use the power he possessed, whose presence in him was of itself a proof of God's approval of its exercise, and—

"Command that the stones be made bread."

But Jesus disregarded the reasoning, and set it aside by—

"*It is written*, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"  
(Deut. 8:3).

Failing in this, the scene of the temptation was then removed to "the pinnacle of the Temple." And as Jesus fortified himself by the Word, the adversary determined to be even with him, and in appealing to *the pride of life* so strong in the nature laid upon him, to strengthen himself with the testimony likewise—

"*IF* thou be the Son of God (as thou proudly assumest to be), cast thyself down, for *it is written*, He shall give His angels charge concerning thee, and they shall bear thee up in their hands, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Psa. 91:11-12).

But Jesus met him with (Deut. 6:16)—

"Again *it is written*, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Lastly, the scene was shifted to a lofty mountain. From this position, by the power granted him, he showed Jesus "all the kingdoms of the world" visible from that elevation "and the glory of them." He knew that Jesus was destined to possess them all; but that he was also to obtain them through suffering. Jesus knew this too. Now, as the flesh dislikes suffering, the tempter proposed to gratify *the desire of his eyes* by giving him all he saw on the easy condition of doing homage to him as the god of the world.

"All this power (said he) will I give thee, and the glory of them; for that is delivered to me, and to whomsoever I will, I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine" (Luke 4:6-7).

But Jesus resisted the enticement, and said—

"Get thee hence, adversary, for *it is written*, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."

"Having ended all the temptation, he departed from him *for a season*." And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee.

In this manner, then, was he put to the proof in all things according to the likeness of his nature to ours, but without transgression. He believed not this angel of light and power, and would have none of his favors. He preferred the grace of God with suffering, to the gratification of his flesh with all the pomp and pageantry of this vain and transitory world. Its "glory" is indeed delivered to the adversary of God, of His people, and of His Truth; and to whomsoever he wills he gives it.

The knowledge of this truth ought to deter every righteous man from seeking after it; or even accepting it when offered upon conditions derogatory to the Truth of God. And if those who possess it—such as kings, priests, nobles, etc.—were what they pretend to be, they would follow Jesus' and Paul's examples, and renounce them all. Christianity in high place is Christ falling down before the adversary, and doing homage to him for the honor, riches and power of the world. What fellowship hath Christ with Belial? Certainly none.

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#### WHAT IS THE WORD?

A word Christ used, of plural number, foe to peace and tranquil slumber.

Nearly every word you take, adding s, you plural make;

But if you add an s to this, strange the metamorphosis—

Plural is plural then no more, and sweet what bitter was before.

(Answer on back cover next month).

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#### Mystery: Babylon the Great

"Behold, I come as a thief. . . and great Babylon came into remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath"—(Rev. 16:15-19).

BY BROTHER ROBERT ROBERTS

IN Apoc. 17 & 18 we find ourselves very closely face to face with the subject of ROME. It is a matter of surprise with some people that there is so much about Rome in the interpretation of the Apocalypse. It is really no matter of marvel when the relation of Rome to the history of the divine purpose is realized. We may fail to realize this if we live too closely in the narrow circle of our own affairs. Most people never get out of this circle.

Your knowledge of the Truth is a guarantee that in some measure you have ascended from their low-lying plane of life, and mounted to some height in the nobler life which consists, among other things, of a knowledge of the past in its relation to the present and future wellbeing of man in the highest sense.

In this position, you are able to realize why Rome occupies so large a place in John's prophetic vision of what was to occupy European history between the first and second advents of Christ. She fills so large a place in the vision because she was to fill so large a place in the history.

We cannot look back in the most cursory manner without seeing how large her place in the past has been. *She was the destroyer of Christ, the slayer of the apostles, the enemy of the faith, and then the professor and champion and corrupter of the faith.* She has been the leading influence in the European economy, and continues to affect the principles, and control the actions, of millions in every country. She is so large and powerful an institution to the present that—notwithstanding the fall of the temporal power, and the circumscription of the power and wealth of the Church in all countries—statesmen cannot leave the Vatican out of account in their combinations and calculations. No wonder then that Rome should be in sight, so to speak, in nearly all the scenes exhibited to John in forecast of European events.

Some have a difficulty in realizing that we are with Rome in chs. 17 & 18, because we read a deal about Babylon, and nothing about Rome. Rome, say they, is not Babylon, and Babylon is not Rome. Well, if we were dealing with a literal book, their remarks might have some force. But we are dealing with a book of figures and symbols—symbols confessedly such, yet symbols not wrapped up in utter obscurity—symbols whose significance is allowed to appear here and there in a manner that supplies clues and keys, putting it into our power to trace and unlock the hidden meanings.

Babylon is no exception to this. We read much about Babylon in chs. 17 & 18, and if we had nothing more than the name we should be at a loss. But we have more than the name. We have it in associations that guide us to its application. When we ask to what and to whom the term is applied, we find ourselves in the presence of the interpretation at once. For example—

1. There are rejoicings at the downfall of Babylon. Among others, we find the apostles commanded to rejoice (v. 20)—

"Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye *holy apostles* and prophets."

Why were they called upon to rejoice?—

"For God hath *avenged you on her.*"

From this it follows that the Babylon of the chapter was the murderer of the apostles. We have only to ask, "Who killed the apostles?" to find out what is meant by Babylon in the Apocalypse. It was not Babylon on the Euphrates, not the Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar and Evil-Merodach, that put the apostles to death. It was *Rome on the Tiber*—Babylon of the 7 hills. This identifies Babylon with Rome at once.

2. The result is reached in another way. There is a certain symbol labeled "Babylon." The label is this (Apoc. 17:5)—

"Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots & abominations of the earth."

To what is this label affixed? Not to a city, but to a woman. It is a writing on the woman's forehead—

"I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast . . . And *upon her forehead was a name written*, Mystery, Babylon, etc."

This shows the name is not used plainly. It is used in "mystery," with a hidden and not a plain meaning; and it is in the first instance applied to a woman, and not a city. But this woman stood for a city. So John was told (v. 18)—

"The WOMAN which thou sawest is that great CITY which reigneth over the kings of the earth."

What great city reigned over the kings of the earth *in the days of John*? When this is answered, *Babylon is identified*, and the woman's name becomes the name of the city. THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER: *one* city was "great," reigning over the kings of the earth, and that city was ROME.

3. When to these 2 simple and unquestionable modes of identification you add the fact that Rome, in her political and ecclesiastical relations has been the one eclipsing figure on the historic stage in *all the 18 centuries* that have elapsed since Christ's departure, the conclusion is established beyond the reach of objection or doubt. Babylon, apocalyptically, is Rome; just as France is the "street" of Sodom (11:8). It is impossible to go forward in the understanding of the Apocalypse without having that conclusion forced on conviction.

4. The woman named Babylon was seen "sitting upon many waters" (17:1). What is signified by the "many waters"?—

"The waters thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" (v. 15).

Literal Babylon has sustained no such relation to the population of the world since Christ went away. Literal Babylon has ceased to exist at all, in accordance with the prophecy of her downfall, which said—

"Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be dwelt in from generation to generation" (Isa. 13:19).

"It shall no more be inhabited from generation to generation" (Jer. 50:39)

But Rome has answered to the prophecy *exactly*. Her name (Catholic—*sitting upon all*) shows it, if it were not a matter of historic celebrity. She has brooded upon all nations: she has sat on the many waters.

5. But her seat had a *particular shape* (and here again Rome is forced upon our attention). She sat on—

"A scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having 7 heads and 10 horns" (v. 3).

What may be the meaning of this hideous piece of heraldry? The angel gave a word of explanation to John (v. 9), prefacing the words, "*Here is wisdom,*" which is an intimation that it required discernment to penetrate the meaning—

"The 7 heads are 7 mountains on which the woman sitteth. And (*in addition to that there is this further meaning*) there are 7 kings (or sovereignties—forms of government): 5 are fallen; ONE IS; and the other is not yet come."

Rome, as built on 7 hills, is notorious. But here is a further explanation which connects the 7-headed symbol with a form of government *actually existing in John's day*, and whose 5 predecessors had passed away: "Five are fallen: ONE IS."

Such was the fact concerning Rome. The city of the 7 hills had passed through 5 forms of government: Regal, Consular, Dictatorial, Decemviral, Tribunital. The 6th was the IMPERIAL, which was in the fulness of its power when the Apocalypse was angelically communicated to John. This was the political structure upholding the Babylon of the Apocalypse in her place in history. We look at history, and literal Babylon is nowhere to be seen; while Rome IS, in all the exact relations prefigured by the symbolism.

6. Furthermore, the Babylon of the Apocalypse is *contemporary with the Lord's re-appearance in the earth*. She meets her doom at his hands, as is evident from ch. 16. After the Lord had come as a thief (16:15) then (v. 19)—

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

It is further proved by the song of the redeemed when the triumphs effected by Christ are celebrated (19:1-2)—

"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and honor and power unto the Lord our God. For true and righteous are His judgments, for He hath judged the great whore which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of His servants at her hand."

This proves that the apocalyptic Babylon has a long career before the Lord's coming, and receives the retribution of that career *when he comes*. Its suitability to the case of Rome is complete.

7. Finally, the image-vision of Nebuchadnezzar, divinely interpreted by Daniel (ch.2), taken in connection with the vision of the 4 Beasts shown to Daniel himself (ch.7), shows that Babylon, the destroyer of the saints, corrupter of the earth, the queen of many waters, *must be Roman*, for by these visions it is shown that it is the Roman iron and clay that receives the shattering blow of the stone; and that it is the Roman, or 4th, Beast—with Papal little horn and companion kings—that is given to the burning flame by the Lord at his coming.

The apocalyptic Babylon *must* be in the feet of iron and clay, and in the Roman monster of the night visions.

We look at Europe as it is now, in the light of these symbols; and it requires no dogmatism to say that Babylon is there. The Roman habitable is sub-divided, as Daniel's visions require. It is cut up into a number of separate, yet

connected, sovereignties. And prominent among the elements constituting this 4th Beast dominion is to be seen an ecclesiastical Babylon—an ecclesiastical woman— MOTHER CHURCH—focused in the city of the 7 hills, *borne on the back of the political system* subsisting in all the kingdoms of Europe.

The evidence is complete, and the conclusion is very important; for Rome being Babylon, we are enabled, in the things said of Babylon, to see Rome as God sees her, and to gauge our relations to the present time accordingly  
—R.R.

\* \* \*

There is a growing trend to try to replace the sound expositions of our pioneer brethren (to whom we are indebted for our knowledge of the Truth) with strange new speculations—usually not really new but borrowed from orthodoxy, as the old Catholic theory that the Revelation is all either past or future, and its "Babylon" is Jerusalem. These "new" theories, saddening as they are, do have a negative value—they do make us more thankful for, and deeply appreciative of, the sound foundation of exposition laid by bre. Thomas and Roberts, to which we turn with great satisfaction and relief. To any with a sound and balanced understanding of the Truth, bro. Roberts proves conclusively that apocalyptic Babylon is Rome, soon to be utterly destroyed in the wrath of God. To apply the final and awful condemnations and judgments pronounced on the Roman Babylon to God's Holy City verges on blasphemy, and is sickening to read. Truly Jerusalem has deeply sinned, and has been terribly punished, but in all her condemnations there is divine love and mercy and sorrow, and a promise of eventual reconciliation and glory, when she has suffered and been purged enough. We are familiar with these sentiments from orthodoxy, but God's tone and spirit toward Jerusalem, even in her deepest sins, is so different from that to Romish Babylon that we marvel that anyone claiming to know the Truth could confuse them. What will not be done for something new and ear-tickling! Let us study more and more, and constantly deepen our foundations. These are sad and dangerous times.

*"And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it."*

*"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! How oft would I have gathered thy children! Ye shall not see me till ye say, Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord."*

*"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper that love thee."*

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#### **IF THE BEREAN IS UNWANTED—**

Please do not just throw it away. Please just take a moment to mark the envelope "Refused" and drop it in a mailbox. It will come back to us, and we shall know it is not desired. We shall not be offended. We respect sincerely differing points of view.

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#### **THE EDITOR HAS MOVED**

Please note new address:

**G. A. Gibson, 919 Dufferin St., Apt. 1505, Toronto, Ont., Canada M6H 4B3**

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#### **Our Statement of Faith**

*"O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called"—I Timothy 6:20*

CHRISTADELPHIANS have a "Statement of Faith," outlining what we believe to be the essential Gospel of Salvation—that which *must* be believed for salvation, as we read—

2 Thess. 2:13—"God hath chosen you to salvation through . . . belief of the truth."

Gal. 1:8—"If any preach any other Gospel, let him be accursed."

1 Cor. 15:1-2—"The Gospel by which ye are saved, if ye keep in memory."

The Bible is a large book. Many, many divergent views claim its support. Yet it emphasizes over and over that truth is vitally important, and that ignorance and error alienate from God. It is necessary, therefore, as John says (1 John 4:1) to—

"Try the spirits . . . because many false prophets are gone out."

It is necessary for sound and harmonious and profitable fellowship and mutual labor in the Truth to be agreed on what the Bible's basic message of salvation is. That glorious message of hope, briefly outlined in our Statement of Faith, is beautiful and inspiring. It is good, and it is important, for us all to keep ourselves constantly refreshed in it.

We believe that any who truly understand the Gospel, who desire it in its simplicity, and who do not have or desire their own pet crotchets—will *wholeheartedly and joyfully* concur with our Statement of Faith, and will recognize its value and necessity and importance. We believe any who do so are largely protected from errors and crotchets, and from the constant, dangerous, restless human quest for "some new thing" to tickle the ears. It has 30 clauses, with an introduction that is fundamental—

## THE FOUNDATION

**That the book, currently known as the Bible, consisting of the Scriptures of Moses, the Prophets, and the Apostles, is the only source of knowledge concerning God and His purposes at present extant or available in the earth, and that the same were wholly given by inspiration of God in the writers, and are consequently without error in all parts of them, except such as may be due to errors of transcription or translation.**

N.B. This foundation clause has been attacked in another group as "wrong" and "error." As recently as last year, a justification of this attack was circulated in this group, and the one who charged this clause with "wrong" and "error" was said to be giving us a "lesson in careful reading and analysis." The circulated justification asks, "Can anyone doubt the truth of bro.— 's example in citing the Foundation clause" (as containing "wrong" and "error"). Rather we marvel that ANY can justify it.

Two vital points: 1. We have no source of knowledge of God and His purpose other than the Bible. It is here that we must constantly search and study for the instruction of life eternal. 2. As originally given, by direct inspiration of God, the Bible is wholly and verbally—word for word—letter for letter—infallible and unerring.

This was the view of Christ and the apostles, who quoted it as absolutely final, with implicit trust and faith, basing whole arguments on a single word or even a single letter. Regardless of any specious arguments trying to break down this fact—and there have always been such—we must in simplicity stick right to it to avoid shipwreck of our faith. Jesus says, and it is conclusive—

"THE SCRIPTURES CANNOT BE BROKEN" (John 10:35)

He was reasoning, in argument with the Jews, from the use of one single word in the Psalms. Our Statement of Faith begins—

**1. That the only true God is He Who was revealed to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, by angelic visitation and vision, and to Moses at the flaming bush (unconsumed) and at Sinai, and Who manifested Himself in the Lord Jesus Christ, as the supreme self-existent Deity, the ONE FATHER, dwelling in unapproachable light, yet everywhere present by His Spirit, which is a unity with His person in heaven. He hath out of His Own underived energy created heaven and earth, and all that in them is.**

Isa. 45:5—"I am the Lord, and there is none else."

1 Tim. 2:5—"There is one God, AND one mediator between God and men, the MAN Christ Jesus." (Note Jesus Christ is a man, and is someone other than the one God: "One God—AND . . .")

1 Cor. 8:6—"There is one God . . . AND one Lord Jesus Christ."

Psa. 33:6—"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made."

Job 26:13—"By His Spirit He hath garnished the heavens."

Job 33:4—"The Spirit of God hath made me."

Psa. 139:7—"Whither shall I go from Thy presence? Whither shall I flee from Thy Spirit?"

**2. That Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God, begotten of the virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, without the intervention of man, and afterwards anointed with the same Spirit, without measure, at his baptism.**

Matt. 1:23—"A virgin shall be with child."

Luke 1:35—"The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee . . . therefore that holy thing that shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

**3. That the appearance of Jesus of Nazareth on the earth was necessitated by the position and state into which the human race had been brought by the circumstances connected with the first man.**

1 Cor. 15:21-22—"By man came death: by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive."

**4. That the first man was Adam, whom God created out of the dust of the ground as a living soul, or natural body of life, "very good" in kind and condition, and placed him under a law through which the continuance of life was contingent on obedience.**

Adam was the first man: not an evolved creature from animals or sub-men, but created directly by God out of the dust of the ground. The Scriptures are clear on that to the simple mind of true faith. Any degree of evolutionary speculation that Adam was not the first man is not sound scriptural or Christadelphian teaching. It is the first fatal step to shipwreck of faith.

Gen. 2:7—"The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul (nephesh— creature)."

—not an immortal soul (of which the Scriptures know nothing), but a natural, living creature. This same word nephesh, here translated "soul," is used 4 times of the animal creation in Gen. 1.

Note that when first made, Adam was "very good"—a striking contrast to man's present condition, as we shall see.

**5. That Adam broke this law, and was adjudged unworthy of immortality, and sentenced to return to the ground from whence he was taken—a sentence which defiled and became a physical law of his being, and was transmitted to all his posterity.**

—"a sentence which *defiled*, and became a *physical law* of his being, and was transmitted to *all* his posterity." A vital truth that many have stumbled at, even many claiming the name Christadelphian. *This truth is the key to the meaning of the sacrifice of Christ.*

Gen. 3:19—"Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

At his creation, Adam was "Very good"—completely free in every way from sin, and from its defiling and death-bringing effects—

Rom. 5:12—"BY MAN sin entered into the world, and death by sin."

There was no sin in the world or in man before Adam and Eve sinned. But in Rom. 7 Paul describes a very, very different condition, to which we can all agree by bitter and sorrowful experience—

V. 17—"Sin dwelleth in me."

V. 18—"In my flesh dwelleth NO good thing."

V. 20—"Sin dwelleth in me."

V. 23—"The law of sin in my members, warring against the law of my mind."

And David says of the same universal physical condition of the condemned and defiled race—

Psa. 51:5—"I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."

And Paul says again to the Galatians (5:17)—

"The flesh lusteth against the Spirit . . . these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

Because of the law of sin in our members, we *cannot* do to perfection what we *desire* to do in obedience to God.

**6. That God, in His kindness, conceived a plan of restoration which, without setting aside His just and necessary law of sin and death, should ultimately rescue the race from destruction, and people the earth with sinless immortals.**

God's "just and necessary law of sin and death" here referred to is that sin must end in death. Sin has *no place* in God's universal presence. It cannot be allowed to continue. God does not set aside that vital law of holiness and purity. In His love and wisdom He provided a man who conformed perfectly to it, and He invites us to die completely to ourselves, and to enter completely into that man, and be saved—

Rom. 6:23—"The wages of sin is death."

22—"Being made free from sin, ye have your fruit unto holiness."

Heb. 9:26—"He put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Rev. 21:4—"There shall be no more death."

**7. That He inaugurated this plan by making promises to Adam, Abraham, and David, and afterwards elaborated it in greater detail through the prophets.**

To Adam: Gen. 3:15—"The woman's Seed shall bruise the serpent's head."

To Abraham; Gen. 22:18—"In thy Seed shall all nations be blessed."

To David: Psa. 89—"Thy Seed will I establish for ever.

"I will make him My Firstborn.

"My mercy will I keep for him for evermore."

The prophets: Hos. 13:14—"I will redeem them from death; O grave, I will be thy destruction."

**8. That these promises had reference to Jesus Christ, who was to be raised up in the condemned line of Abraham and David, and who, though wearing their condemned nature, was to obtain a title to resurrection by perfect obedience, and, by dying, abrogate the law of condemnation for himself and all who should believe and obey him.**

One of the condemned race had to escape from death in a perfectly righteous way, without any violation or ignoring or setting aside of the righteous law of sin and death. *Life had to be achieved within the framework of God's law of holiness.*

Christ DIED in harmony with the law of God because he partook by birth of the condemnation of death that had come upon the race through Adam.

Christ ROSE in harmony with the law of God because being perfect in character it was not righteous that death should hold and possess him. Once the body of sin had died, death had no claim on him. To leave him dead would have been unrighteous. To raise him to life manifested God's justice and righteousness.

Heb. 2:14 "He partook of flesh & blood that through death he might destroy him that hath the power of death" (*devil, diabolos, sin in the flesh*).

Gal.4:4-5 -"Made of a woman, made under the Law, to redeem them that were under the Law."

He had to be "made under the Law" of Moses to be able to redeem those under that Law. Note the significance of this as applied to the law of condemnation on the race through Adam.

Rom. 8:3—"God, sending His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, condemned sin in the flesh."

Heb. 5:9—"Being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him."

To raise Christ to life manifested God's righteousness and justice. To raise those who are in Christ and obey him manifests God's mercy and forgiveness for Christ's sake; on the foundation of Christ's perfection; because of what he accomplished; within the covering of his holiness. He is the holy ark of salvation.

**9. That it was this mission that necessitated the miraculous begetting of Christ of a human mother, enabling him to bear our condemnation, and, at the same time, to be a sinless bearer thereof, and, therefore, one who could rise after suffering the death required by the righteousness of God.**

Two things were necessary:

1. He had to be of the human race, descended from Adam; bearing the same defiled, condemned nature; having the same "law of sin" in his members as Paul describes.

2. He had to be perfectly obedient, never once allowing the law of sin to control him in any thought, word or action.

An ordinary man, born of the will of the flesh, could never accomplish this, so God created a specially prepared and strengthened man, but still a real man descended from Adam, of the same sin-and-death stricken race. So the salvation wrought was by the will and power of God, *through man*, in harmony with the law of holiness.

**10. That being so begotten of God and inhabited and used by God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was Immanuel, God with us, God manifest in the flesh—yet was, during his natural life, of**

**like nature with mortal man, being made of a woman, of the house and lineage of David, and therefore a sufferer, in the days of his flesh, from all the effects that came by Adam's transgression, including the death that passed upon all men, which he shared by partaking of their physical nature.**

God dwelt in Christ; manifested Himself *through* Christ—and Christ completely and joyfully submitted to God's use, never for a moment asserting his own will against God Who was working in him for the salvation of the race. Paul says (Phil. 2:13)—

"It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

Christ was this—in absolute completion and perfection—

1 Tim. 3:16—"God was manifest in the flesh."

2 Cor. 5:19—"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself."

John 14:10—"I speak not of myself: the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works."

**11. That the message he delivered from God to his kinsmen, the Jews, was a call to repentance from every evil work; the assertion of his divine sonship and Jewish kingship; and the proclamation of the glad tidings that God would restore their kingdom through him, and accomplish all things written in the prophets.**

*A call to repentance:*

Mark. 1:15—"Repent, and believe the Gospel."

*Assert divine sonship:*

John 10:36—"I am the Son of God."

*Jewish kingship:*

John 19:21—"He said, I am the King of the Jews."

*Restore kingdom:*

Matt. 19:28—"In the regeneration, ye (disciples) shall sit on 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel."

*Accomplish all things in prophets:*

Luke 24:44—"All things written in Moses, the prophets, and psalms, concerning me, must be fulfilled."

**12. That for delivering this message, he was put to death by the Jews and Romans, who were, however, but instruments in the hands of God, for the doing of that which He had determined before to be done—namely, the condemnation of sin in the flesh, through the offering of the body of Jesus once for all, as a propitiation to declare the righteousness of God, as a basis for the remission of sins. All who approach God through this crucified, but risen, representative of Adam's disobedient race, are forgiven. Therefore, by a figure, his blood cleanseth from sin.**

—a "propitiation"—a mercy-seat, a place of mercy—a provision that God's love has made so that He can righteously extend mercy. Sin had to be openly condemned. The voluntary sacrifice of the life of a perfect man who bore the sin defiled, condemned nature, must be made—to condemn and repudiate sin before all the world, and to show its deadliness in God's sight. God's holiness, and holy requirements, and sentence of death on sin, must be manifested, and upheld, and vindicated, and acknowledged as righteous and just and necessary.

Christ recognized and acknowledged the deadly sin-principle in his flesh, all his life he kept it perfectly and completely under control, he vanquished it in himself, and he nailed it to the cross in repudiation and destruction.

**13. That on the third day, God raised him from the dead, and exalted him to the heavens as priestly mediator between God and man, in the process of gathering from among them a people who should be saved by the belief and obedience of the Truth.**

**14. That he is a priest over his own house only, and does not intercede for the world, or for professors who are abandoned to disobedience. That he makes intercession for his erring brethren, if they confess and forsake their sins.**

Christ is priest and mediator for his own people *only*. He does not pray or intercede for the people of the world, nor for wilfully disobedient "believers." He makes intercession for us to God *if* sin is confessed and forsaken.

John 17:9—"I pray not for the world, but for those whom Thou hast given me."

1 John 2:1; 1:9—"We have an Advocate with the Father:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful to forgive us."

**15. That he sent forth his apostles to proclaim salvation through him, as the only name given under heaven whereby men may be saved.**

Christ is the *only* way of access to God and eternal life. This is fundamental. There are no hazy ifs or buts or maybes that any can be saved outside of *faithful submission to Christ*—

1 John 5:12— “He that hath the Son hath life: he that hath NOT the Son hath NOT life.”  
John 14:6—“NO man cometh unto the Father *but by me.*”

**16. That the way to obtain this salvation is to believe the Gospel they preached, and to take on the name and service of Christ, by being thereupon immersed in water, and continuing patiently in the observance of all things he has commanded, none being recognized as his friends except those who do what he has commanded.**

1. We must believe the Gospel—the Gospel of the Kingdom.
2. We must be baptized *into* Christ—the *ONLY* way to get into him, and be part of him, and get life through him. We *must* get inside Christ—within him. Outside of him, the one perfect and divinely acceptable man, we shall inevitably be destroyed by God's righteous and necessary law of sin and death. Inside of him—covered by him—we are safe.
3. None are his friends—none are truly in him—who do not devote their whole life to knowing and obeying him.

Mark 16:16—“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”  
John 15:14—“Ye are my friends, IF ye do whatsoever I command you.”

**17. That the Gospel consists of "the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ."**

Acts 8:12—“When they believed Philip preaching (*literally: gospelizing, preaching the Gospel of*) the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized.”

**18. That the Things of the Kingdom of God are the facts testified concerning the Kingdom of God in the writings of the Prophets and Apostles, and definable as in the next twelve paragraphs.**

*These 12 paragraphs begin with No. 19—*

**19. That God will set up a Kingdom in the earth, which will overthrow all others, and change them into "the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ."**

Dan. 2:44—“The God of heaven shall set up a Kingdom that shall break in pieces all these kingdoms (*the present kingdoms of the world —see context*), and it shall stand FOREVER.”  
Matt. 5:5—“The meek shall inherit the earth.”  
Rev. 5:10—“Thou hast made us kings & priests, and we shall reign on the earth.”

**20. That for this purpose God will send Jesus Christ personally to the earth at the close of the Times of the Gentiles.**

Acts 3:20-21—“ God shall send Jesus Christ at the time of the restitution of all things.”  
2 Thess. 1:7—“The Lord Jesus shall descend from heaven in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God.”  
Acts 1:11—“This same Jesus shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

**21. That the Kingdom which he will establish will be the Kingdom of Israel restored, in the territory it formerly occupied, namely, the land bequeathed for an everlasting possession to Abraham and his seed (the Christ) by covenant.**

Mic. 4:7-8—“The Lord shall reign over them in Mount Zion; the Kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.”  
Amos 9:11—“I will raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen.”

Ezek.37:21-25—"I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, and they shall dwell forever in the land where your fathers dwelt."

Heb. 11:8-9—"Abraham sojourned in a land which he should afterwards receive as an inheritance."

Isa. 61:4—"They shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations."

**22. That this restoration of the kingdom again to Israel will involve the ingathering of God's chosen but scattered nation, the Jews; their reinstatement in the land of their fathers, when it shall have been reclaimed from "the desolation of many generations"; the building again of Jerusalem to become "the throne of the Lord" and the metropolis of the whole earth.**

Mic. 4:2—"The law shall go forth from Zion."

Jer. 31:10—"He that scattered Israel shall gather him . . .

40—"It shall not be plucked up or thrown down anymore forever."

Jer. 3:17—"They shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord: All nations shall be gathered unto it."

Isa. 11:12,9—"He shall assemble the outcasts of Israel . . . The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord."

**23. That the governing body of the Kingdom so established will be the brethren of Christ, of all generations, developed by resurrection and change, and constituting, with Christ as their head, the collective "seed of Abraham," in whom all nations will be blessed, and comprising "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets," and all in their age of like faithfulness.**

*That the brethren of Christ shall govern the world—*

Rev. 2:26-27—"To him that overcometh will I give power over the nations, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron."

Matt. 25:34—"Come ye blessed of my Father: inherit the Kingdom."

Dan. 7:27—"The Kingdom under the whole heaven shall be given to the saints of the Most High."

*That they shall be raised from the sleep of death at the last day—*

Dan. 12:1-2—"At that time (*the 'time of the end'*) . . . many that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake . . . to everlasting life."

1 Thess. 4:16—"The Lord shall descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ shall rise."

John 6:40—"Every one that believeth in the Son, I will raise him up at the last day."

John 11:24—"He shall rise in the resurrection at the last day."

**24. That at the appearing of Christ prior to the establishment of the Kingdom, the responsible (namely those who know the revealed will of God, and have been called upon to submit to it), dead and living—obedient and disobedient—will be summoned before his Judgment Seat "to be judged according to their works"; and "receive in body according to what they have done, whether it be good or bad."**

2 Cor. 5:10—"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ."

John 12:48—"He that rejecteth me, the Word shall judge him in the last day."

Rom. 2:12-16—"As many as have sinned under law shall be judged by law . . . in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus."

Matt. 25:34-41—"Come ye blessed, inherit the Kingdom: Depart ye cursed, into everlasting fire."

**25. That the unfaithful will be consigned to shame and "the second death," and the faithful invested with immortality, and exalted to reign with Jesus as joint heirs of the Kingdom, co-possessors of the earth, and joint administrators of God's authority among men in everything.**

Dan. 12:2—"Many that sleep in the dust shall arise: some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

Rev. 21:7-8—"He that overcometh shall inherit all things, but the unbelieving shall have their part in the second death."

Psa. 37:9-11—"The meek shall inherit the earth, but the wicked shall not be."

Rom. 4:13—"Abraham was promised that he should inherit the world."

Gal. 3:29—"If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Luke 22:29—"I appoint unto you a Kingdom, as my Father hath appointed me."

**26. That the Kingdom of God, thus constituted, will continue a thousand years, during which sin and death will continue among the earth's subject inhabitants, though in a much milder degree than now.**

Rev. 20:4—"They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

Rev. 11:15—"The kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdom of our Lord and His Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever."

Isa. 65:20—"The child shall die an hundred years old."

**27. That a law will be established which shall go forth to the nations for their "instruction in righteousness," resulting in the abolition of war to the ends of the earth, and the "filling of the earth with the knowledge of the glory of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea."**

Mic. 4:2-4—"The law shall go forth from Zion . . . nation shall not lift up sword against nation . . . They shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, none shall make them afraid."

These quotations are even stronger and more impressive and conclusive concerning Christ's reign of peace on earth when their whole context is studied, which we urge all to do.

Isa. 11:4-9— "With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. He shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth. The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

Here is a striking and beautiful picture of universal peace and justice and safety and prosperity ON EARTH, linked with righteousness and the knowledge of God. How different from man's present rule of sin and injustice and insecurity and fear!

**28. That the mission of the Kingdom will be to subdue all enemies, and finally death itself, by opening up the way of life to the nations, which they will enter by faith during the thousand years, and (in reality) at their close.**

1 Cor. 15:25-26—"He (Jesus) must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

For 1000 years the nations of the earth will be ruled with an iron rod, and taught the way of truth and righteousness and well-being. Evil will be rigidly restrained: rebels will be put to death.

Zech. 14:16—"Every one that is left of the nations (*after the worldwide judgments of Christ's return—see context*) shall go up from year to year to worship the Lord and keep the Feast of Tabernacles."

This will be enforced with penalties for disobedience (v. 17-19).

V. 9—"In that day there shall be one Lord, and His Name one."

—that is, His rule will be openly manifested and enforced, and all will be compelled to submit and obey. No rival rulers or religions will be permitted to exist, as in today's terrible Babel.

Isa. 11: 6-8—"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb. The lion shall eat straw like the ox. The child shall play on the hole of the asp."

Due to man's sin, the earth and its produce, animal and vegetable, were cursed. Nature was set at war. But in the millennial reign of Christ, the curse will be lifted: all nature in peace and harmony.

**29. That at the close of the thousand years, there will be a general resurrection and judgment, resulting in the final extinction of the wicked, and the immortalization of those who shall have established their title (under the grace of God) to eternal life during the thousand years.**

Christ's 1000 year reign on earth is a transition period leading to the final abolition of sin, mortality and death.

Rev. 20:7-8—"And when the 1000 years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations."

Sin, human nature, the diabolos—bound and restrained during the 1000 years—is briefly allowed free reign to test faith, and to bring issues to a head for the final resurrection and judgment. To judge a man, he must be given opportunity to manifest openly what he really is, what side he is on.

V. 12—"The dead stand before God, and the books are opened."

V. 13—"The sea and grave give up the dead."

There is a general resurrection of those who have died during the Millennium, and they are judged.

V. 14—"Death and hell (the grave) are cast into the lake of fire."

As a result of the last judgment, death and the grave are abolished. There is thereafter no more dying, no more burying, for all the wicked among mankind have been destroyed, and all the righteous have been given everlasting life.

**30. That the Government will then be delivered up by Jesus to the Father, Who will manifest Himself as the "All-in-All"; sin and death having been taken out of the way, and the race completely restored to the friendship of the Deity.**

This is the final completion of the working out of the purpose of God with mankind—

1 Cor. 15:28—"And when all things shall be subdued unto him (Christ), then shall the Son also be subject unto Him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."

Rev. 21:3-7—"The tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, for the former things are passed away."

Beyond this lies the endless ages of divine strength and joy for the people of God—equal unto the angels, neither can they die any more—partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

V. 7—"He that overcometh—HE THAT OVERCOMETH—shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be My son."

*Let us, in this our so brief moment of the passing present, have the simple, basic commonsense and wisdom to cast away everything else, and devote all our efforts and attention to the very limit of our ability to laying hold on the glories of eternity. What unbelievable folly to do anything short of this!*

—G.V.G.

## **Current Events Fulfilling Prophecy**

**This section will probably somewhat larger than usual for a month or so.  
We are striving to get it up to date, & then kept current month by month.**

**WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE** in Rome produced more food for thought than for starving millions whose survival chances diminished with every wasted day at Rome. Delegates sidestepped problems, did little to help millions who may not survive till next harvest. (Tm 11:25)

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For 700 million near starvation around globe, much talk, little help at World Food Conference. Need 10 million tons of grain to meet this year's emergency. Picture remains bleak. Poor countries this yr. short 2 million tons of fertilizer: means loss of 20 million tons of grain, enough to feed 100 million for year. US uses 3 million tons of fertilizer a yr. on golf courses, lawns, cemeteries, gardens. India's "green revolution" is withering. Prime cause: high oil cost. (USN 11:25)

*The food crisis is clearly insoluble by man, regardless of talk or conferences. Till recently, US had huge surpluses. But time & population have caught up with them. No other country has a sizable surplus: most have deficits. But the population explosion constantly increases momentum.*

**ISRAEL IN LIFE-&-DEATH CRISIS.** Pilloried at UN, racked by worst economic crisis ever, faced with painful prospect of 5th war. Mideast peace perilously tattered again: war seems inevitable. Israel has seen PLO's Arafat

greeted at UN as wave of Mideast future. Economic crackdown last wk. staggered Israelis: move was unavoidable—Israel faced bankruptcy by spring.

Arafat triumphs at Rabat & UN have rekindled deepest hostilities & bolstered most intractable positions: "How do you compromise on your own death?" asks Golda Meir.

Next time, US may not be able to come to Israel's aid as quickly or completely. In '73 War, US planes refueled in Azores & Greece: may not be allowed to by new govts. War would almost certainly bring instant oil embargo, putting severe pressure on US to modify support of Israel. (Nwk 11:25)

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Israel suddenly, alarmingly poorer. Govt. last wk. imposed stiffest austerity program almost any nation has ever seen. Money devalued 43%: 8th devaluation in 26 years. Prices up 35 to 200%. Choice was austerity or collapse. '73 War cost \$7-billion—Israel's annual gross product (US equivalent: \$1.3 trillion). Half of national budget goes for defense. (Tm 11:25)

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Year since '73 War period of frustration & despair. Pressure from all sides. Growing sense that time no longer on their side: that however valiantly they fight, can't forever hold off vastly larger Arab force armed by Russia & subsidized by world's new capitalists, the oil barons. Sense of diplomatic isolation as one friendly nation after another succumbs to Arab oil diplomacy. Worst rioting in W. Bank & E. Jerusalem since Israel seized area in '67.

"Feels like we're back where we began: small weak country facing much stronger power with odds against us. Worse off than in '48. We're back to Square One as Israelis & Jews. Pro-Jewish sentiment of WW II has disappeared. Arafat at UN awakened memories of Hitler's speeches. We feel totally alone: a return to the historic Jewish predicament." (Tm 12:2)

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Israel's wagons in a circle. War of nerves deadlier every day. At UN, PLO gained ground, leaving Israel ever more isolated in world community. First time in years, normally placid W. Bank Arabs erupted into violence.

UN affirmed Palestinian rights to "return to homes & property"—that equals dismantling Israel. In Paris, UNESCO ejected Israel. For yrs. Israel clung to myth that W. Bankers were resigned to Israel occupation: riots last wk. proved they're no longer docile group they were. Once again last wk. Israel adamantly refused to negotiate anything with PLO. (Nwk 12:2)

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Israel faces 5th war: fewer friends than ever: no formal allies. Israel claims know-how, hardware & materials to make atom bomb. Many W. Europe nations have turned from Israel & court Arabs. Many W. Europe firms no longer do business with Israel, so they can enter lucrative new Persian Gulf markets.

Arafat's call for "modern secular state" in Palestine confirmed that PLO won't settle for less than Israel destruction. Israel sees little reason for further withdrawals, since there is no promise such withdrawals will gain Arab recognition of Israel. (USN 12:23)

*It is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it—by the Messiah whom he rejected (& still rejects), & in the process he will learn humility, wisdom & righteousness. In an increasingly hostile world, & surrounded by the growing power & wealth of 100 million Arabs thirsting for blood, Israel does not—naturally speaking—stand a chance. Only God can save them.*

**GREEKS PICK CARAMANLIS.** Swept to victory with 54% of vote, 220 of 300 seats in Parliament. He says a principal aim will be to make Greece full partner in Common Mkt., to "save Greece from need of seeking special patrons" (meaning US). Whether Greece will resume NATO ties not clear. He feels Greeks want leadership based on own interests, not US's. (Tm 12:2)

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Greece votes against monarchy by overwhelming vote. Britain, France & Russia imposed monarchy (under a Danish prince) after it won independence from Turkey in 1862. (Tm 12:23)

*US worked with & supported the hated military dictatorship, & received favors from it. The newly-elected regime reflects the resentment of the oppressed Greek people for US's alliance with the ousted junta. Greece is US's last foothold for Mediterranean naval bases, but she may have to leave. Greece belongs with Gog. US bases in Egypt would be a heart-warming sign.*

**US-RUSSIAN TRADE.** Russians amazingly adept at playing one US firm against another. Many in US worry that US could become dependent on its Russian adversary for vital raw materials. Moscow's massive grain purchases have already proved they're capable of making deals that dislocate US's internal supply & price structure. (Nwk 12:2)

*Russian-US trade is strictly what benefits Russia as a nation in her national purpose. They buy & sell, not for private profit as in US, but to further national aims & strengthen national resources. They have made cross-purposed US look very silly, & will doubtless do so more & more as their power grows.*

**DESTROYING THE EARTH.** Human race at last putting mark on most remote, untraveled parts of open ocean. Find styro-foam, plastics, oil, tar, debris 1000 miles from land or shipping lanes. Less visible, but far more ominous: pesticides, radioactive material, aerosols, degreasers, etc. (USN 11:18)

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The more scientists learn about manmade chemicals in environment, greater the dangers to public health seen. Believed 85% of all cancer caused by substances in air & water: tobacco, auto emissions, asbestos, vinyl, pesticides, tetrachloride, chloroform, etc. New threat: chlorine in water reacts with industrial wastes to produce cancer-causing compounds. (Tm 11:25)

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First 3 mos. of '74: 326 oil tanker accidents. Up to 5 million tons of oil a yr. spilled in sea. Sea life could be extinguished in 30 years. (Nwk 12:9)

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In next 25 years US will create 60 million gallons of highly dangerous wastes—radioactive for 1000s of years. Disposal problem evermore maddeningly insoluble. 30 years research haven't found foolproof way to dispose of nuclear garbage. Now Atomic Energy Comm. proposes temporary solution for few decades till experts can hopefully work out permanent disposal. May be Achilles' heel of whole nuclear program. (Nwk 11:18)

*Surely this must be the last generation of human folly & mismanagement, or there will be no earth for the meek to inherit! Man has always been criminally destructive, but now he has infinitely expanded his destructive power.*

**OIL & THE NEW WORLD ORDER.** Oil, in every tank & plane; behind every giant industrial plant or little workshop, computer, moon rocket, TV signal. Behind fertilizers, drugs, chemicals, textiles, 1000s of products. Till recently taken for granted as inexhaustible. Now all that's changed. Result: major world economic & political dislocation.

'74 was pivotal year: decline of old powers, alliances, philosophies: rise of new. Marked erosion in wealth, might & cohesiveness of N. America, Europe, Japan. Handful of resource-rich nations challenged vital interests of rest of world with a most potent weapon: oil.

Greatest & swiftest transfer of wealth in all history: 13 oil countries took \$112-billion from rest of world in '74. Shook whole fragile structure of international finance; severely weakened already troubled economies of oil-importing nations; gave great new political strength to exporters.

Saudi Arabia by far world's greatest seller & reservoir of oil, & Faisal is its undisputed ruler. He's ended era when international oil cos. controlled world oil. In '74, S. Arabia earned \$29-billion, & was primary bankroller of Egypt, Syria, Jordan & PLO. S. Arabia is new financial giant of world, accumulating \$23-billion unspent surplus in '74—unsettling force in global finance.

At present accumulation, oil countries could buy out all companies on all world's stock exchanges in 15½ years; all companies on NY stock exchange in 9 years; all central banks, gold (at \$170 oz.) in 3 years; all companies on British, French & German stock exchanges in under 2 years; all of IBM in 143 days; all of Exxon in 79 days.

Faisal is also spiritual leader of world's 600 million Moslems, because his kingdom has Islam's 2 holiest cities, Mecca & Medina. He's determined to pray in 3rd most holy city, Jerusalem, without setting foot on Israeli-held territory. He hates Zionism with a cold passion.

West too long underestimated will & power of oil nations. Cries for higher prices rose for 15 years. Faisal, longtime US friend, at first resisted, but US support of Israel changed his mind. In '73 War, Arabs cut production, doubled price, cut off US entirely. When West made no response, they saw their strength, & kept raising prices thru '74.

Suddenly Arabs courted by people who'd long condescended to them. Europe & Japan, dependent on Mideast for 70-80% of their oil, not only pressed their most modern technology on Arabs, but gave them strong diplomatic support. French were especially obsequious. Oil changed entire balance of Arab-Israel conflict. In UN, an Arab-African-Latin American-Communist bloc banded into new majority, pushing thru resolutions isolating Israel & antagonizing US. UN invited PLO—with long record of terrorism—to join Palestine debate, & welcomed guerrilla Arafat as conquering hero.

After Faisal, ruler who gained most from oil in 74 was Iran's Shah. World's 2nd largest oil exporter, Iran's 74 oil income was \$21-billion. Iran's gross national product is expanding at astounding 50% a year. Several other countries rose on oil. Nigeria became Black Africa's richest nation (\$9-billion earnings) & strongest political force. Indonesia (a Moslem country) beginning to show its potential as SE Asia economic leader, thanks to oil.

Oil producers' goal: new world order, economic revolution & radical redistribution of world wealth & political power. Sudden sharp oil price rise inflamed all sorts of problems, periling free economies' future, gripping people with

fear. Sober men spoke of extreme solutions: debt repudiation, massive devaluation, suspension of democratic govt., military intervention.

US import oil bill jumped from \$4 to \$24-billion in 74. Others fared worse: Italy had to borrow \$13-billion, incurring \$1-billion a yr. interest. Poor countries of Africa, Asia, S. America were worst victims: their oil bill \$10-billion. Hunger increased: couldn't buy oil to raise food. India suffered most.

In past, industrial countries grossly exploited oil-producers: ever inflated prices for machines, medicines, food, while they built own industrial booms on cheap oil. The 13 oil countries will charge world another \$600-billion in next 5 years. To pay, other 137 nations will have to deliver ¼ of their total exports to elite 13. By '80, oil countries will have \$300-billion surplus: rest of world that much in debt. Surpluses create power; debts cause decline.

By '80, oil countries could be earning as much from loans & investments as from oil. Then they can reduce or stop oil production to punish importers. Even now, S. Arabia could stop production for 2 or 3 yrs. & still have all the money it could possibly use. Israel can't win last round against 120 million Arabs armed with oil money. World of West dominance is dead. (Tm 1:6)

*Surely the Arabs have as much right to exploit & destroy the Western countries as the latter had to exploit & destroy them. God uses wicked men to punish each other. We must be careful not to take sides among the earths squabbling, cut-throat potsherd. We must stand back in awe & thankfulness, marveling at the hand of God as it shapes events for the final climax. Europe is in an increasingly tightening Russian-Arab stranglehold, and they must bow to the bidding of their new masters.*

**WORLD GRAIN SHORTAGE:** 134 million tons below safe carryover; no reserve. Deficit in S. America, Asia, Africa, Europe, Russia. Only N. America & Australia have surpluses. Two US buffers gone: crop land reserve, huge stored surpluses. (BsWk 11:2)

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700 million face starvation: US is only hope. No matter how much shipped, will be far short. Gap between poor countries' production & need will rise from 25 million tons today to 85 million by '85. Oil price rise is major factor: India in '71 spent \$½-billion on oil, fertilizer, food; today same costs over \$3 billion. Malnutrition spreading fast thru poor nations: death rising.(USN 11:18)

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Unless more US aid comes quickly, at least 2 million will starve in next 9 months; millions more die of malnutrition diseases; still more suffer permanent physical or mental damage. Since '55, US has given away \$55-billion in food: has given 84% of all world food aid in past 8 years. Just 2 yrs. ago, US alone was routinely providing enough food aid to cover present world shortfall, but poor weather & growing demand have exhausted reserves. In '65 US gave 18 million tons, in 74 only 3.3 million. Much of world hunger due to inefficient distribution, bottlenecks, waste. (USN 12:16).

*The Arabs amass billions they cannot use, & the poor countries starve. Much of the world faced imminent famine without the oil price gouge, but that gouge has brought the day of famine much closer. This is man's evil way—to exploit his neighbor, even to the point of death.*

**ARAFAT CONQUERS UN.** Biggest UN spectacular since '60 Khrushchev- Castro doubleheader. Arafat made clear PLO would continue struggle to dismantle Israel, replace it with Palestinian nation. Arabs have retreated from earlier indications they were at last prepared to concede Israel's right to exist. Feeling strong in Israel that war just months away: expect quick victory.

Russia has poured \$2-billion in arms into Syria: took new step to curry Arab favor last wk. by for first time calling for Palestinian state. Growing feeling in Washington that it's time for tougher stand: rumblings that military action to solve oil crisis not out of question.

Arabs developing own notion for Mideast settlement. Thanks to huge oil revenues, they see selves as new world power in 5 or 6 years, with Israel like a Belgium surrounded by Arab equivalents of France, Germany & Britain. Mideast is back to Square One: Arabs talking of dismantling Israel; Israel talking of pre-emptive strike. (Nwk 11:18)

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As Arafat stood before UN, Third World delegates who now dominate UN gave him standing ovation. At conclusion, he stood basking in applause. Till last wk., he was mere guerrilla chieftain. His UN debut ranks in symbolic importance with those of Khrushchev & Castro in '60; China in '71.

Decision to receive Arafat as a head of state made by this year's UN Pres. Bouteflika of Algeria. He also suspended S. Africa from Gen. Assembly, & curtailed Israel's participation in UN debate, abandoning previous unbroken tradition that UN Pres. is evenhanded & impartial. He was overwhelmingly upheld by Third World majority. Arafat affair shows how far UN has moved from early days when US & other great powers set its tone. (Nwk 11:25)

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Unprecedented UN appearance of Arafat sparked new Arab-Israel tension. PLO is amalgam of guerrilla bands dedicated to Israel destruction. (USN 11:25)

*What a vile spectacle! What a mocking travesty of international decency & justice! This squalid & blood-stained circus that calls itself United Nations reveals man for the animal he is. How much more dreadfully real and realizable has that dark vision become in these past few months: "All nations gathered against Jerusalem to battle." But we rest & rejoice in the glorious sequel.*

**SOUTH AFRICA:** most segregated land on earth, viewed as outcast by virtually every member of international community. US, Britain & France vetoed move to oust it from UN, but only to avoid dangerous precedent of expelling an unpopular govt. at whim of UN majority, & (perhaps more important) out of concern for their \$4½-billion investment in SA, & strategic position it occupies on sea lanes between Atlantic & Pacific. (Nwk 11:18)

*S. Africa is ruled by deeply religious Dutch, obsessed with the conviction they have a divine destiny to rule & herd the Blacks like cattle. A Black man will be let die in the street before an ambulance for Whites would pick him up. What a creature is man! May God give us self-examination & self-insight. Left to our own natural mind we are helpless.*

**BREZHNEV'S DIPLOMATIC "ILLNESS."** Last wk. it appeared Sadat preferred to talk peace. After flurry of Egypt-Russia diplomatic activity, Brezhnev indefinitely postponed Mideast visit because of "illness." Clear setback for Moscow. Since '73 War, Russia has poured massive arms supplies into Syria. US has more than replaced Israel's losses. But Egypt left without replacements. As price, Russia demands return of advisers to Egypt, & transfer of peace talks to Geneva, where Russia would have say. Sadat balked. (Tm 1:13)

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Brezhnev irked by Sadat's support of Kissinger peace approach. Even more galling was Sadat's restoration of private enterprise, & welcome to foreign investors: Kremlin favors Arab socialism. (USN 1:13)

*Another instructive example of how things can so quickly change. It seemed a Russian-Egypt reconciliation was looming, with massive rearming of Egypt. Doubtless great inducements were offered, but Egypt has now cast the die for a US peace rather than a Russian war.*

**HIGH OIL PRICES** threaten to knock world off axis; greatly fuel rocketing inflation; stunt economic growth; compound national deficits (Italy totters on brink of bankruptcy); & throttle international trade, world's lifeblood. They reduce food production: hungriest nations can't pay for fertilizers & foods because they must spend so much for oil. Yet oil cartel unperturbed.

Not many years ago, solution would have been brisk despatch of gunboats to Persian Gulf. For few militarily insignificant states to wreak economic havoc on most of world's major powers would have been unthinkable. Today gunboats are unthinkable from fear Russia would not stand for it. (Tm 11:18)

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Another oil price hike. Finally killed US hopes that oil producers could be persuaded to lower prices for good of world's economy. Latest Arab action crystalized US's new tough attitude. (Nwk 11:25)

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\$40-billion deficit this year in industrial nations' balance of payments: largest in history, due to oil price. (Tm 11:25)

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Oil is power, & Arabs have it. In past year, handful of Arab nations took long step toward breaking economies of US & allies. Largest shift of wealth in modern history. Tens of billions have flowed from US, Europe & Japan to Arab coffers. US & allies have done nothing but talk. Meanwhile, Arabs are buying big chunks of industrialized world. (USN 12:16)

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Last wk. sheiks gave Christmas present to world: another price hike. For over year industrialized nations have sought by threats & please to break oil cartel that threatens to drive them bankrupt. Worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Two actions last wk. showed oil countries' newfound power. S. Arabia ordered that no sterling be accepted in payment for oil—driving £ to lowest price in history. Then came price hike: now 5 times higher than in Oct. '73. Europe fears catastrophic depression. (Nwk 12:23)

*In just over a year, Arabs have brought West to brink of disaster. With wisdom & self-restraint (which it has not yet given evidence of) US could transform its economy to independence of the Arabs, but what hope has Europe? Not only is it at the abject mercy of the Arabs & Russia for its energy needs, but even if the latter condescend to continue to supply it, how can Europe pay for it & stay solvent? No wonder its leaders talk gloomily of doomsday.*

**US GREED & WASTE.** With only 5% of world population, US uses 40% of all energy & minerals produced globally. International resentment, especially among poor but ore-rich nations who feel they're sacrificing their future to keep US in luxury. US uses 42,500 lbs. of new mineral materials annually for each citizen: much of it from abroad. To convert these materials for use takes 8300 lbs. of petroleum, 5300 lbs. of coal, 5000 lbs. of gas per American per year. In past 30 years, US used more minerals & fossil fuels than all people in all history used previously. World's known reserves of copper, lead, tin, zinc down to 15-25 yr. supply; mercury, silver 10-15 yr. supply. (USN 12:9)

*US's brief post-WW II image as a world-saving knight in white armor is badly tarnished. Now it is increasingly seen as a selfish, plundering & decadent giant. And truly the picture of callously & hoggishly devouring the irreplaceable riches of the earth is an unlovely one that can end only in global disaster. The US population is debauched with the assumption of an unalienable right to thoughtless, wasteful, snobbish luxury. At the right time, the world will happily follow Russia's siren call.*

**REAPING WHIRLWIND.** 78% of teenagers consider selves wasteful, but doesn't bother them; 64% don't think conservation or thrift important; 83% think US resources inexhaustible. The young justify wastefulness: say it causes greater consumption & thus benefits the economy. (USN 11:18)

*This is the pitiful stupidity the current generation has been raised on. We see it everywhere—in food wickedly left on plates, while much of the world cries in hunger. Terrible judgment will soon teach this selfish, foolish world wisdom, and care for the earth and for others.*

**DRAMATIC NEW RUSSIAN ARMS BUILDUP**—while US slows down in defense, due to budget cuts, inflation & manpower shortages—surefire formula for disaster. Switch to all-voluntary force means manpower barely adequate & extremely costly. Russia, unaffected by public opinion, increasing defense budget yr. after yr., & expanding forces: massive new missile buildup with aim of seizing superiority over US: beefing up Europe armies.

10 yrs. ago, US had overwhelming superiority in every category of nuclear might: today Russians at parity. In '80s, Russia could be in position to knock out all US land missiles in single blow. In '45 US literally ruled the waves. Since '65 US no longer able to control seas: US sea-power monopoly ended. Drift to political disintegration among NATO allies: Communist power greatly increasing in Portugal, Italy, Greece. As for Britain, hard to watch decay without tears. (USN 11:4)

*NOTE: The pattern, as we in these final Gentile days are privileged to see it, is certainly a "surefire formula for disaster." We cannot help being reminded of Hitler's steady, systematic & stupendous buildup for war, as he crooned of peace & goodwill to the simple & utterly unprepared leaders of Britain & France. But Russia's buildup is on a far broader & deeper & more universal scale, & backed by vast land area, frightful nuclear might, limitless resources.*

**SAUDI ARABIAN INDUSTRIALIZATION.** Oil money flowing in \$½-billion a week. New \$70-billion development plan designed to catapult nation into 20th century. New Jidda Airport (over \$500-million) one of most modern in world. 12 other airports planned. Massive irrigation to open up barren interior. New steel industry by '79; chemical industry by '80. (Nwk 10:28)

*NOTE: Are we aware of—and can we possibly realize—the magnitude & the significance of these developments? Nothing in all history has ever happened like it before. Suddenly, just this past year, the Mideast—the very heart center of all history & prophecy—is afloat with unlimited wealth & fantastic plans for instant industrialization: \$70-billion plan for Saudi Arabia alone!*

**AIRBORNE ICBM: MESSAGE TO RUSSIA.** US has successfully launched full-size ICBM from plane: getting ready to develop whole new family of mobile missiles if arms talks fail. 43-ton missile pulled by parachute from plane's hatch at 20,000-ft.; let drop in upright position to 8000-ft.; then its engines fired & it soared upward, to be guided to target. (USN 11:11)

*NOTE: Another move in the deadly international nuclear chess game that will be up when one side at last can say, "Checkmate!" Game is to maintain a balance of mutual nuclear blackmail while seeking a sudden & decisive advantage. Airborne missiles are a new & expensive ploy to escape a "sitting duck" vulnerability. Has any previous age been less civilized?*

**CHICAGO MURDER BLITZ.** 26 murders in 1 recent weekend. Public has 1½ million guns. In '65, 396 murders; in '73, 864. (Tm 11:4)

*NOTE: It's the same in Detroit, & in all US's big (& not-so-big) cities. More & more, guns are children's playthings. We see it in our own neighborhood.*

**BEE SHORTAGE.** In Germany, apple crop down 41%; in Burma, no sunflower seeds for 2nd yr. in row; in Tunisia, honey production slump. Major reason: steady & continuing decline in world bee population. In past ten years, man-tended bee colonies have decreased by 200 billion bees: it's seen as imminent threat to world food supplies.

Basic cause: technological progress. Bees are succumbing to impact of pesticides. Two years ago, insecticides wiped out 1/3 of cultivated bees in Guatemala & Nicaragua. (Nwk 11:11)

*NOTE: This could be a new & very major catastrophe for the world—perhaps the worst & deadliest result yet of man's floundering, out-of-its-depth "wisdom." But thankfully, we know that God will allow man to go just so far with his "destroying of the earth"—foreseen, foretold, fore-provided-for.*

**POPE PUTS BRAKE ON CHANGE.** Catholic Church back on increasingly conservative path after era of broad updating. At 30-day Rome Synod, world's bishops aired desires & discontents, but in end, Pope's views prevailed. He made it clear Church must keep in mind the absolute primacy of the Pope. Some prelates want local autonomy: Pope said to weaken papal authority would threaten end of 2000 years of Catholicism. (USN 11:11)

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Pope asserts authority. For 4 wks., while Synod met, Pope sat silent, as bishops from round world frequently criticized Church. In final session, he made it clear who still was boss. He was (he reminded bishops) "successor of St. Peter, to whom Lord entrusted serious & enduring role of tending his lambs & sheep, of confirming his brethren, & of being foundation & sign of unity of Church, with full, supreme, universal power in Church." (Tm 11:11)

*NOTE: The Pope holds the line, & imperiously asserts his absolute authority, & we can see the episcopal ferment running its course, & the people at last turning again to the comfortable security of this great & "infallible" spiritual father. With immorality running rampant, & the Protestant churches running mindlessly with it, the more thoughtful & decent-minded of mankind may gravitate to Pope as (supposed) haven of morality in a mad world.*

**WORLD WAR III UNAVOIDABLE,** says China's Prime Minister. China convinced Russian belligerence against her is feint; that real plan is attack on Europe. Says Russia believes Europe lacks will & power to resist. (USN 11:4)

*NOTE: He may well be right It would fit the prophetic picture. Certainly divided, crowded, effete & oil-dependent Europe would be an easier prey & more useful vassal than 800 million militant Chinese far beyond Siberia.*

**ITALY: TOWARD COMMUNISM?** Italian economy sinks further toward disaster every day. Any day, any place, there's evidence of breakdown. Foreign debt now \$17-billion, & more loans are needed to stave off bankruptcy & pay for oil. Strong govt. almost impossible under present conditions.

Many moderate politicians reluctantly coming to conclusion that Italy's woes can't be solved without help of Communists, who control biggest unions. If compromise with Communists will get them out of their seemingly insoluble dilemma, many Italians would probably accept risk. In '40, US mounted intense & successful campaign to keep Communists out of Italy's govt. No such effort being made now. (Tm 11:11)

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Can Italy pull thru? National bankruptcy —or Communist takeover? What went wrong with economic "miracle" of '60s? Italy paying price for lopsided development. Postwar industrial revolution brought over 6 million from countryside to big cities. Many farm areas empty: must import \$6-billion annually in food. In big cities, luxuries came rolling off assembly lines, but at same time instant slums sprang up & multiplied. Has few resources: must import iron ore, oil, etc., at high prices.

Communists well organized & financed: already control key political areas: have major influence on organized labor. Recent union demands go beyond anything seen in Europe. Communists control, or share control of, 1112 local govts. Bologna (600,000) is showcase of Italian Communism: has had Communist mayors since WW II. Even many non-Communists call it 1 of country's best-run cities. (USN 11:11)

*NOTE: Italy, the Seat of the Beast, is the central anchor of NATO's Mediterranean defenses, as tottery Portugal & Greece are its flanks. Officially, most Italians are Catholics: Catholicism is the state religion. Yet Italy has the free world's largest & most powerful Communist Party, very strong in both Parliament & local govts., & which—by all the rules of politics—should long since have been in the national govt. They are so large & strong a force that it is becoming increasingly clear that no Italian govt. can function without them. Once Communists get into govts., they seize key posts—police, defense, etc. & then take over permanently, & there are no more open elections. What a pitiful shambles NATO is in!*

**WORLD FOOD CRISIS:** After WW II, seemed man at long last winning battle against hunger. Bumper harvests in many nations, notably US, created food surpluses in West, while development of "miracle" seeds brought hope densely-populated poor countries would soon attain self-sufficiency.

Then, in past 2 yrs., optimism turned to despair as hunger & famine began to ravage 100s of millions in over 40 nations. Experts now doubt whether man can prevent widespread starvation. World grain reserves down to 22-day

supply (95 days in '71). India alone needs 10 million tons of food this year from outside, or up to 30 million may starve. Foods riot common in vast sections of India & Bangladesh.

In '72, bad weather started to plague so much of world's cropland that many experts believe climate itself is changing. In '73, new problems: fertilizer short; devastating impact of oil price hike—critically undermining the Green Revolution. This year, disappointing harvests in US, Canada, Russia, & much of Asia thru poor weather.

World population rises 75 million a yr.; poor nations can't, or won't, restrain growth. Latin America, India, China (fastest growers) claim overpopulation is myth invented by rich nations to exploit poor.

Industrial world's way of eating is extremely inefficient. For every lb. of beef, steer has gobbled 20 lbs. of grain. Same food that feeds 210 million Americans would feed 1½-billion Chinese on average Chinese diet.

Much of world's growing demand has been satisfied in past 25 yrs. by surpluses in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Argentina & US. US is principal world grain supplier: place all countries come to when short. This year, US will export over 40% of its crop: sufficient to give ¼ of world's 4 billions at least 1 meal a day. US has given away \$25-billion worth of food in past 20 years. But US no longer bottomless cornucopia it once was.

Experts say we'll see increasing famine, pestilence, extermination of increasing nos. of people. Morals aside, food-surfeited citizens of developed world, out of sheer self-interest, must ponder whether world's hungry will allow them to peacefully enjoy abundance. Even hungry, poor states may soon get nuclear arms with which to terrorize wealthy countries.

With starvation threatening world's poor, unparalleled acts of international cooperation needed. But prospects aren't encouraging: this year 3 much ballyhooed international gatherings—Raw Materials, Law of Seas, & World Population—degenerated into forums for political posturing, & ended without any significant action. Russia & China treat food supply as state secret.

In US, 600,000 acres of fertile land are lost each yr. to highways, shopping centers & housing developments. World demand for water will expand 240% in next 25 yrs., yet easiest big dam-&-irrigation projects already built. In terms of water, lb. of beef is 2500% more expensive than lb. of bread.

World spends \$200-billion a yr. on arms: that could finance developments that could feed world, but not likely nations will start disarming. Oil producers could give & lend much more, but they have shared little of wealth with poor, weak & hungry. US spreads 1.3 million tons of fertilizer on lawns & golf courses & cemeteries each year: that would produce grain to feed 65 million of world's hungry people.

Roster of recent natural disasters: floods, droughts, early cold. More & more scientists raising storm warnings for future: earth appears to be entering one of its chilly phases. Since '40s, world temperature down 1 degree. Even this small drop has trimmed 10 days from growing season in middle latitudes that are world's breadbasket. Continued cooling could bring agricultural disaster. Been gradual expansion in recent years of "circumpolar vortex"—great icy winds that whip around top & bottom of world.

Some blame earth's cooling on increasing dust in atmosphere—from land clearing, deforestation, increased farming & fuel-burning. Only thing weather experts generally agree on is that world's prolonged streak of exceptionally good climate has probably ended—meaning mankind will find it harder to grow food. (Tm 11:11)

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World running out of food. Not so long since US's grain elevators were stuffed to bursting, & govt. paid farmers not to plant. "Green Revolution," it was said, was taking care of rest of world. No more. Suddenly, mass starvation on scale never seen before is nightmarish possibility. Unless mankind is wise enough & compassionate enough to design a better food-security system, we may be seeing beginning of end of our civilization. By most conservative estimates, at least 460 million people are threatened with starvation today. Ten million will die this year: mostly children under 5.

In past 2 yrs., almost everything that could go wrong, did. Floods, storm, drought ravaged crops worldwide. Energy crisis, caused by Arab oil politics, created disastrous shortage of fertilizer, & drove up cost of planting, harvesting & transporting grain. And world population continued to spiral dizzily upward. "Within 25 years," said one worried analyst, "the lid blows off." Experts predict that by next spring, world will have only 8 day grain supply.

In underdeveloped countries, about 400 lbs. of grain per yr. makes its way to average man, woman & child. Virtually all this meager fare is cooked & eaten to meet barest of human needs. By contrast, average North American wolfs down a ton of grain products each year, directly, or indirectly thru meat products. In Asia & Africa, nearly ¼ of the 2.7 billion population subsists on diet far below the 1000 calories a day needed for anything more than just staying alive. In 25 years, at present population growth, there'll be so much economic chaos that there'll be no incentive whatever for birth control. By 25 more yrs. at same rate, there'll be million child deaths a month.

Most of world's land that's tillable at feasible prices is already being farmed. Would take \$4-billion a year to add a mere 20-million acres to world's farmland by '85. (Nwk 11:11)

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Yearly US grain carryover dropping fast: '72, 2 billion bushels; '73, just over billion; '74 (est.), ⅔ billion; '75 (est.), ½ billion. Some of most effective anti-pest-&-disease chemicals now banned as dangerous. But US problems

pale compared with starvation facing Asia & Africa. Experts see hunger in poor nations leading to revolution & open break with richer powers. Communists would jump to exploit that situation. Food issue will grow increasingly important—and dangerous. (USN 10:21)

*NOTE: These MUST be the last days! All man can see ahead is disaster, & that in the very near future. Increasingly he sees the shadow approaching of a planet gone mad—of the thin veneer of "civilization" torn to shreds as men like jungle animals fight over dwindling supplies of food. He sees no way out, & that is exactly how we are told it must be at the end. All thru this gloomy, fateful, doomsday food picture we see the spreading stain of evil, greed & selfishness. Man himself perceives this, but is helpless to do anything about it. \$200-billion a yr. on war & destruction, while millions starve. With greed & selfishness eliminated, & all working in love for the common good, that \$200-billion, plus the countless other billions spent on police & courts & lawyers & crime, could bring all the world's now-waste land into production, & raise production everywhere, & feed many times the present population. Less food, cooling climate, exploding population: the sands are running out very quickly.*

**RUSSIAN ADVANTAGE.** Russians can go to almost any newsstand in US, get technical aviation or space magazine, & learn vast amount about US weapon systems. US spends 100s of millions for same Russian info. (USN 12:2)

**GETTING OLD.** What sort of world will it be when huge stockpiles of man-made parts—hearts, lungs, livers—crowd hospital shelves?—when healthy half of population spend their days keeping other half—the weak & sick - alive? People over 65 were 4% of population in 1900; now 10%; soon be 15%. We worship youth: prefer old people out of sight & out of mind.

Mental health of elderly is a gloomy, uncharted sea. Depression & anxiety are commonplace. People over 65 account for more suicides than any other group. Continuing loss of loved ones, grief, increasing isolation, fear & anxiety about doctors, disease, financial worry, & seeing life savings dissipated on one's own prolonged demise—are realistic reasons to despair. Average woman can expect to spend last 10 yrs. of life alone & in decline. A 1/3 of all elderly live in inner city, where old women especially are very vulnerable to crime. (Nwk 11:11)

*NOTE: This is the best that faces natural man. This is what bright youth is heedlessly laboring toward, in all its gay present excitement. Terribly sad now, dreadful for future. This is what all life's struggles leads to. Increasingly they are keeping the elderly artificially alive; increasingly they're dooming them to loneliness & despair & cruelly-long-prolonged death. But we rejoice that it is not so for those who truly love & have God, & serve Him in their days of strength & opportunity. For them the present vale of tears is but a brief & joyful preparation & disciplining for eternity, and their path shines more & more unto perfect day. Thank God for His light & love!*

**RUSSIAN SCIENCE.** Deputy Chairman of Russian State Science Committee challenges view that US is giving Russia valuable technology & getting nothing comparable in return. He says—

"Thermo-nuclear fusion: we all believe this will provide answer to energy problem. Russia is far ahead of US in this field.

"Nuclear power breeder reactors: we're already constructing them. Prominent US scientists acknowledge that Russia is ahead.

"Proton accelerators for basic research: till US recently completed a new one, we had biggest in world, & we didn't keep it to ourselves. US scientists came to it to work.

"Magneto-hydrodynamic generators for converting heat directly to power: 15 yrs. ago US & Russia were at same level. US stopped; Russia continued. We've had pilot installations operating for 12 years. Now we plan to start production on commercial scale.

"It's ridiculous to say either US or Russia can be ahead in any field for long. It's merely matter of concentration of effort & resources. After all, Russia has 1.2 million scientists." (USN 10:28)

*NOTE: 1.2 million scientists, schooled & trained & regimented like worker-ants to create the world's greatest military machine. It is a fearful spectacle, though glorious to the understanding eye of faith. Long-past, though well remembered, is the time when Russia's bumpkin boasts brought world laughs—but not since Sputnik I shook the world & opened up new age of space.*

**EUROPE IS FINISHED.** French Pres. d'Estaing says: "All the graphic curves of present trends lead to catastrophe for Europe. During next few years we shall see a decline of Europe, while other countries will be on upswing. It is their revenge against 19th Century Europe & its colonial dominance." (Tm 11:4)

*NOTE: A remarkable statement from such a source. Certainly it is true, but we wonder why he was so impolitically frank. We are reminded of Caiaphas, who was moved to speak far deeper truth than he realized.*

**US's MOST PROFITABLE BUSINESS** isn't on Stock Exchange: it's crime -\$83-billion a year. (USN 11:11)

*NOTE: A dreadful indictment of modern civilization—war & crime are its two biggest & most successful businesses.*

**A LIVING CELL** is so tiny it can be seen only under a microscope; yet it's an extraordinarily intricate chemical plant. In its nucleus alone have been identified over 100 distinct chemical reactions, as the cell takes food, grows, & reproduces. (Tm 10:7)

*NOTE: How, in the very face of these infinitely intricate marvels, can the besotted world keep babbling about its ridiculous "evolution" superstition? In any other field of learning, such impossible absurdities would be laughed to scorn. All the endless, numberless marvels of life & design, we're solemnly assured, just happened out of nothing. The simplest work of God is so infinitely & inescapably & obviously more wonderful than the greatest achievement of men-yet they say there is no design or wisdom behind it! What utter rubbish men will believe to escape responsibility to God!*

**RHYTHMS OF THE MIND.** Few years ago, scientists said there were 2 distinct sorts of body activity: voluntary & involuntary. Brainwave patterns, gastric secretions, blood pressure, skin temperature, etc., didn't seem to fall within conscious control.

Today, sharp distinction no longer exists. By Biofeedback Training (BFT), migraine sufferers have cured headaches by diverting blood to other parts of body; cerebral palsy victims have controlled muscle spasms; people have modified dangerously irregular heart rhythms. A good hypnotic subject, told that a cool 5c piece placed against his skin is red-hot, will blister at exact point coin is. Rats can be taught to stop hearts beating, & die. (Nwk 10:14)

*NOTE: This is passingly interesting as another of those countless cases where "science" confidently says today the very opposite of what it equally confidently said yesterday. But the interest is much deeper. The Scriptures say, "A merry heart doeth good like medicine." (RV is even more striking: "A cheerful heart causeth good healing.") Again, "Fear the Lord: it shall be health to thy navel, & marrow to thy bones." The mind & the body are one. A God-filled mind is the only healthy mind; & a God-filled mind is a continual, undisturbable, joyous mind. If the world could learn this simple lesson,*

*¾ of its money-hungry doctors would be digging ditches, & % of its hospitals would be empty.*

**ARABS & WEST.** Western colonial powers subjugated Arab world in 19th & 20th centuries, bribing & bullying Arab ruling class into collaboration, as people remained poor & oppressed. Arabs just haven't been able to forget that. Today, by using oil as weapon, Arabs have finally found way to redress many past humiliations. (Nwk 10:28)

*NOTE: Truly the Arabs are doing nothing as bad as the Western nations did for centuries to them & others. What could be worse than crowding men & women into the filthy holds of ships under such conditions that all the weak ones died on the way then selling the survivors into cruel, lifelong bondage? 50% died in the process between capture & final sale. All the good Christian nations of Europe joined in that enterprise—the British being foremost, & crowding out the others by force. The vaunted US Constitution - which a very prominent US politician recently said was "divinely inspired" —does not even recognize Blacks as human beings with any rights at all.*

**ARAB LEADERS ELATED** at UN victory: overwhelming vote (105-4) to have PLO participate. Arabs say: "Israel in almost complete siege, surrounded by Arab economic & military power, & world support for Arabs." Buoyed by rocketing oil prices, Arab economic power impressive. (Tm 11:4)

*NOTE: The terrorist PLO has been suddenly transformed from world pariah to an invited & honored UN guest. Clearly Arab oil money & power has bought the transformation. UN, being an institution of man, has no morality or decency or principles: it is merely an aggregate of selfish & hypocritical Sin Powers -the political embodiment & manifestation of the power of sin the diabolos. Unhappily, the Arabs are correct: Israel is increasingly in almost total siege. For oil, world ready to let Israel be destroyed.*

**US No. 1 WORLD ARMS PEDDLER.** Sales doubled in past yr. to over \$8-billion annually. US Govt, working hard with industry salesmen around world to boost sales even further: every billion in sales makes 90,000 US jobs. Uncertain conditions in Mideast, S. America & other potential hotspots point to continued high level of arms sales in years ahead. (USN 1:13)

*For profit or for politics, the big bully nations are in a frantic, competitive drive to put guns & bombs into the hands of the little nations, like setting gamecocks against each other in a ring. Each excuses it by saying (quite truly) that if they did not do it, the others would. But what chance does world peace have under such conditions? Local wars would be far shorter & less destructive if the big arms peddlers did not keep them well fueled, to the impoverishment & decimation of the participants.*

**US WORLD LEAD SLIPPING?** In past 10 years, Japan, Russia & Common Mkt. have grown in productive power faster than US. At same rate, Japan would pass US in mid-90s; Russia & W. Europe would pass US early in next century. But Japan & Common Mkt.—both heavily dependent on Mideast oil—are being slowed by soaring oil prices. To lesser extent, US in same fix.

Russia, however, has assured oil supplies, & by importing vast amounts of Western technology it may be able to boost production ever faster than present rate. (USN 1:13)

*Europe & Japan have already slowed up tremendously, as has US itself. But Russia drives on relentlessly, with no depression, energy crisis or raw material shortage—and no many-headed, vote-dependent, cross purposed legislature to argue endlessly & settle nothing.*

**RUSSIAN NAVY** has enough missiles to sink every vessel in US Navy. Many argue US should shift from large aircraft carriers to smaller missile-firing ships. (USN 12:30)

*Each war has its major surprises. US's lumbering carriers, on which her whole sea-power is built, could be the next war's Maginot Line. Guided missiles could revolutionize sea warfare.*

**Questions**

	IDENTIFY	27. Beginnings	42. Power of tongue
	THE BOOK	28. Tabernacle	43. Thou Bethlehem
1. Saul	14. Rejoice!	29. Nicodemus	44. Suffering servant
2. Walls	15. Patience	30. Wanderings	45. Wounds in hands
3. Crete	16. Herdman	31. Night visions	46. Right in own eyes
4. Gaius	17. Sacrifices	32. Ready scribe	47. Without the camp
5. David	18. Onesimus	33. Armageddon	48. Reign of Solomon
6. Praise	19. Elect lady	34. Thorn in flesh	49. Sermon on mount
7. Purim	20. Man of sin	35. My messenger	50. Man of contention
8. Vanity	21. Law of sin	36. Armor of God	51. Judgment of Edom
9. Sorrow	22. Love (OT)	37. Spare Nineveh	52. Beloved physician
10. Temple	23. Love (NT)	38. Judge Nineveh	53. More excellent way
11. Locusts	24. Possession	39. Plains of Moab	54. Suffer as a Christian
12. Wisdom	25. Shipwreck	40. This 2nd epistle	55. Sorrow not as others
13. Moabite	26. Bewitched	41. Paul's last words	56. Keep that committed

Isa.	Mic.	Jam.	2 Pet.	Josh.	Matt.	Amos	1 Thess.
Job	Mal.	Neh.	Heb.	Prov.	Rom.	Obad.	2 Thess.
Jer.	Lev.	Dan.	John	Ruth	Num.	Jonah	1 Tim.
Psa.	Ezek.	Exo.	1 John.	Lam.	Deut.	Song Sol.	2 Tim.
Joel	Rev.	Eph.	2 John	Esth.	Zech.	1 Kings	1 Sam.
Jdg.	Acts	Gen.	3 John	Titus	Phlpn.	1 Cor.	2 Sam.
Gal.	Ezra	1 Pet.	Eccl.	Luke	Philm.	2 Cor.	Nahum

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