

The Berean Christadelphian

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

Edited and Published by:
G. A. Gibson, 919 Dufferin St., Apt. 1505, Toronto, Ont., Canada M6H 4B3
(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

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

LOVING Greetings to our brethren and sisters in Christ Jesus.

We have an item of pleasure to report. Recently sis. Ada (my sister-wife) and I made a visit to sis. Hazel Quenby. It was most enjoyable to be in the company of our sister, particularly as we were able to share the spiritual refreshment of the Sunday morning memorial meeting together. We are separated by a distance of 400 miles, which makes frequent visits difficult.

We also visited sis. Tina Quenby at her place of work, approximately 150 miles further away. Our sisters have the testing trial of isolation to cope with. May they, with us all, be ever mindful that our days of probation and opportunity may soon pass away with the return of our Lord.

Sis. Ethel Hodges recently celebrated her 94th birthday, and is still able to do and enjoy her daily readings.
With love in the bonds of the Truth from the Esperance ecclesia, — bro. Ray Hodges

Questions	15. Sighed	25. Quaked	35. Stooped	45. Struggled
	16. Begged	26. Weaned	36. Seduced	46. Appealed
WHO? —	17. Outran	27. Blushed	37. Groaned	47. Pondered
1. Sod	18. Shaved	28. Mended	38. Laughed	48. Scrabbled
2. Lent	9. Polled	29. Sported	39. Wrestled	49. Meditated
3. Sank	10. Sewed	30. Rubbed	40. Despised	50. Whispered
4. Erred	11. Doted	31. Sheared	41. Knocked	51. Bewitched
5. Pilled	12. Prated	32. Gleaned	42. Threshed	52. Slumbered
6. Tilled	13. Mused	33. Sneezed	43. Muttered	53. Interpreted
7. Swept	14. Railed	24. Painted	34. Loathed	44. Vanished
				54. Supplanted

Answers:	Peter	Hannah	Joseph, Daniel	Hannah, Tahpenes
300	Ruth	Wizards	Gideon, Ornan	Jesus, Job, Ezekiel
Paul	Jacob	All men	David's servants	Rachel, Jacob, Paul
Paul	Jacob	Absalom	Nabal, thief	Michal, Hagar, Esau
Ezra	Jacob	Disciples	Sarah, Abraham	Jeremiah, Egyptians
Cain	David	Disciples	Adam & Eve, Job	Augustus, Jehoiakim
John	Elisha	Diotrephes	Aholibah, Aholah	Nabal, Laban, Judah
Mary	Moses	Joseph, Job	John, Mary, Jesus	Israel, Job, Egyptians
Isaac	Simon	Isaac, David	Jezebel, Manasseh	Hymeneus & Philetus
Jesus	Virgins	Jacob & Esau	Joseph, Bartimeus	Woman who lost coin
Jesus	Jezebel	James & John	Shunammite's son	John, David, lame man

June Answers Complete the expression—

1. Rise up early	19. Shake the earth terribly	37. The scribe answered discreetly
2. Contend earnestly	20. Swine ran down violently	38. Being caused to fly swiftly
3. I am made wonderfully	21. Waters prevailed exceedingly	39. Waters brought forth abundantly
4. Peter wept bitterly	22. Israel shall dwell safely	40. Wherefore look ye so sadly
5. Agag came delicately	23. I have done very foolishly	41. Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily
6. Go thou in merrily	24. Judah dealt treacherously	42. Let all things be done decently
7. He is a Jew inwardly	25. Many are weak & sickly	43. He forgave them both frankly
8. Jesus sighed deeply	26. Take water of life freely	44. Dividing to every man severally
9. Moses spake unadvisedly	27. Eateth, drinketh unworthily	45. Behaved not ourselves disorderly
10. Jehu driveth furiously	28. Word of God grew mightily	46. Be quiet & do nothing rashly
11. Comest thou peaceably	29. Entreated shamefully	47. Doth not behave itself unseemly
12. Rebuke them sharply	30. Now speakest thou plainly	48. I beseech thee hear me patiently
13. Be not yoked unequally	31. He triumphed gloriously	49. Love with pure heart fervently
14. I was wrought curiously	32. Disciples asked privately	50. Not handling Word deceitfully
15. Fables devised cunningly	33. Brought forth plentifully	51. Cause to be healed thoroughly
16. Behold I come quickly	34. Sought me out diligently	52. Glorified self & lived deliciously
17. Ye suffer fools gladly	35. Read in book distinctly	53. Enquire more perfectly
18. Spirit speaketh expressly	36. Sin doth beset us so easily	54. Wicked destroyed miserably
		55. Must come to pass shortly
		56. Ye took spoiling of goods joyfully

My Heart Rejoiceth in the Lord

"The Lord shall judge the ends of the earth; and He shall give strength unto His King, and exalt the horn of His Anointed."

FIRST SAMUEL CHAPTER TWO

THERE are many things in the work of brother Roberts that stir up a deep debt of gratitude within us. One of them is the *Bible Companion*, a time-honored plan for reading the Bible that guides us through the Old Testament once, and the New Testament twice, each year. By following this method, we become familiar with every part of the Bible.

The first sentence in his Preface expresses a profound truth, a statement that impressed my mind deeply and indelibly the first time I read it in the year 1918. It reads—

"Salvation depends upon the assimilation of the mind to the Divine ideas, principles, and affections exhibited in the Scriptures."

Beloved brethren and sisters, ponder that deeply. It expresses the whole and only purpose of our life. As bro. Roberts so truly says, our salvation—our eternal future—depends upon transforming our minds from natural to spiritual, by the Word. The first thing we must do is wrench our minds away from the present, and give ourselves time to think: meditate long and deeply on the goodness and love of God by constantly reviewing in our minds His wonderful acts of promise and mercy.

Truly we *know* these things, but they will not overwhelm us and transform us unless we keep deliberately turning our minds into these channels. But if we will faithfully do this—and it takes continual effort and remembering, for the flesh keeps pulling the other way—then we shall in time find that the love of God, our love for God, will grow stronger and stronger, and will force itself more & more to the forefront of our consciousness.

The more we come in contact with the beauties of the Word of God, the more we feel like exclaiming with Paul (Rom. 11:33-36)—

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been His counselor?

"Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to Whom be glory forever. Amen."

This expression of Paul's is well supported by our daily Bible readings at any time, but of course certain parts of the Word shine forth to us with even greater brilliance than others. One such portion is 1 Sam. 2, the beautiful and unusual prayer of Hannah. What glowing expressions, so full of warmth and ardor: thoughts that breathe with life, and words that glow with fire!

As we ponder it carefully, we soon discover that it is not the poetical beauty or the literary warmth that fascinates us, but the divine attributes and prophetic utterances that captivate our interests and hearts. Let us examine some of the highlights. In the opening phrase she said—

V. 1: "My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies."

And the reason is, "*Because I rejoice in Thy salvation!*" All things are possible, all things will work together for good, if we will steadfastly set ourselves by the eye of faith to rejoice in God's assured salvation—assured to those who *overcome*. In Psalms, David uses the word "rejoice" many times. It is the very spirit of the Psalms. But 5 times he repeats the very words of Hannah, saying—

"I will rejoice in Thy salvation!"

Paul, in Philippians, uses a closely related form of expression—

"What then? Notwithstanding, every way- whether in pretence or in truth, Christ is preached. And I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice, for I know that this shall turn to my salvation."

We remember the occasion. Paul was in prison and suffering at this time, both from the persecution of the authorities and from the activities of false brethren who were trying to thwart him and make his lot harder. But he rejoiced that God would thwart them, and turn their evil to serve a good end.

Hannah too had suffered for several years from the heartless cruelty and reproach of Peninnah, because of her barrenness. It appeared that God was blessing the fleshly Peninnah and afflicting the spiritual Hannah, but there was a wise divine purpose.

V. 1: "Mine horn is exalted in the Lord."

In Scripture, *horn* is a symbol of power and strength and exaltation, as the power of an animal was in its horn. In the natural, too, there is dignity and majesty in the horns of many animals. She could therefore say concerning the gift of Samuel to her, and then back to God, that her honor was exalted, her shame removed. In his psalm of Thanksgiving, David uses it in a similar manner—

"The God of my Rock: in Him will I trust. He is my Shield, and the Horn of my salvation" (2 Sam. 22:3).

The next phrase Hannah uses is unusual—

"My mouth is enlarged over mine enemies."

This is the only place where it appears in the Bible. The sense seems to be that she was now in a position to speak in confident rebuke of her enemies, because God had vindicated her in answering her prayer. The circumstances involved begin in ch. 1:2—

"Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children."

From the days of Jacob (Gen. 30:23) to New Testament times (Luke 1:25) it was considered a reproach among men for a wife not to have children. This comes out clearly in this case, for—

"Her adversary (rival) also provoked her sore, to make her fret (to irritate her), because the Lord had shut up her womb" (1 Sam. 1:6).

While in Shiloh, Hannah was in "bitterness of soul"—in deepest grief—as she prayed for a son. Her prayer was answered by the birth of Samuel, and therefore she could open her mouth wide as she came before God with the voice of thanksgiving, for her enemies could no longer provoke her. She says "enemies," so Peninnah was not alone in the taunting: possibly her children did so too.

Hannah said, "My mouth is enlarged *over mine enemies.*" Was it right for her to say this? Was it the right spirit? There are many aspects to the answer. It was a fact that she stated—a joyful, God-given fact. We need not—we must not—think Hannah's spirit was contrary to what God consistently taught in both the Old Testament and the New. She is speaking of great relief, by God's grace, from long persecution and humiliation. It was not personal vindictiveness, but thankfulness.

Furthermore, this triumphant song of praise is clearly inspired and prophetic. Hannah rises in it far beyond her own circumstances right up to the fulness of the fulfilment of the great purpose of God. Her statements as to the ultimate punishment of wickedness and blessing of faithfulness are very true, searching, and necessary.

Truly we, in faith, "rejoice in tribulation" because we know its purpose is to work patience within us and to prepare us for glory. But we do not rejoice for a moment in the prosperity of wickedness, but rather pray that it will be brought to a speedy end, and the wicked be abased, and the righteous exalted over them.

Because of our belief and obedience of the Gospel; because we have taken our stand on the side of God and of righteousness, we too—like Hannah—have abundant reason to rejoice: Jesus said—

"If ye loved me, ye would rejoice."

Paul puts our position clear and positive (Rom. 5:1-2)—

"Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

* * *

V. 2: "There is none holy as the Lord."

This seems to be an echo from the Song of Moses, for we read—

"Who is like unto Thee, O Lord, Among the mighty ones? Who is like Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

The perfect, glorious, incomparable holiness of God is a great and powerful and inspiring thought. Other "religions," ancient or modern, have no such conception, except as they may have faintly borrowed it from the Truth of God. Holiness—perfect righteousness and cleanliness and integrity and separation from any corruption or defilement or evil or unworthiness is the very opposite of the natural state of mankind. It is the highest ambition to which any man can aspire. To labor joyfully for it and toward it—to be like God—is life's greatest reward and satisfaction.

V. 2: "There is none beside Thee."

Hannah recognizes the unique and exclusive supremacy of God. This, too, is an echo from the words of Moses, who told Israel—

"Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that the Lord is God: there is none else beside Him"

(Deut. 4:35).

This attribute of God—of infinite supremacy and uniqueness is emphasized over and over throughout the Bible, but especially through Isaiah, by whom God declares (45:5-6)—

"I am the Lord, and there is none else. There is no God beside Me. I girded thee [O Cyrus], though thou hast not known Me; that they may know from the rising of the sun and from the west that there is none beside Me. I am the Lord, and there is none else."

This great fundamental truth of the supreme ever present majesty of God should be constantly uppermost in our minds, and be the guiding principle of our lives. God is One and indivisible—unchanging from everlasting to everlasting; but His eternal purpose is to manifest Himself in a multitudinous family of glorious holy ones, perfected unto Himself through trial and sorrow and struggle, even as Hannah was tried, and sorrowed, and struggled.

V. 2: "Neither is there any Rock like our God."

There are two principal words in the Old Testament for "rock": *tzur* and *sela*. They are used about the same number of times each, and are both used to figuratively represent God. The root idea in the symbol is strength, dependability, defence, shelter, security, permanence, durability, unchangeableness, etc.—and by extension, a fortress, a hiding place, a secure and impregnable refuge.

The root meaning of *tzur* seems to be strength and hardness and solidity: of *sela*, height, dominance and exaltation.

It is very interesting, and doubtless significant, that *tzur* is used of the rock at Sinai (Horeb) that Moses smote at the beginning of the 40 years wandering, and *sela* is used of the rock he smote (but was supposed only to speak to) at the end of the 40 years. By its derivation, *tzur*, the former, is more particularly the deep foundation rock; while *sela*, the latter, is the high cliff or tower. Both of these water-giving rocks, we know, typify Christ, but in different aspects: the former smitten in his foundation-laying humility, the latter spoken to in his last day, returned exalted strength.

* * *

The thoughts of Hannah's exultant prayer are, first of all, rejoicing. Let us never forget that aspect. When we fail to rejoice, we fail to honor God, we fail to be thankful, we fail to maintain the spiritual outlook, we slip back down into the flesh.

Next, she celebrates the greatness, and power, and holiness of God: the one eternal, unchanging Reality among changing things.

Then the sureness of the ultimate victory of truth and righteousness, and punishment and destruction of wickedness—the great reversal from the present that will at last come for all who have faith to build on it and for it, when all that is now high will be brought down, and that which is low will be exalted. Then she concludes—

V. 10: "The Lord shall judge the ends of the earth; and He shall give strength unto His King, and exalt the horn of His Anointed."

Here is a clear, shining, unmistakable prophecy of the universal kingdom of Christ. This wonderful outburst of Hannah's inspired joy rings down through the ages, like the similar strange entranced exclamation that the wicked Balaam was forced to make regarding the final glory of purified Israel in and through the Star that must rise out of Jacob.

Hannah's prayer is the first time in Scripture that the term Anointed is used of Christ. And also, except for this same strange prophecy of Balaam, the first time that King is applied to him—although we have a previous foreshadowing in the Levitical High Priest who was anointed, and in Melchizedek who was king.

Hannah's prophecy comes at a remarkable time in Israel's history. An unworthy high priest is about to be told by Hannah's righteous, God-given son that he must be cast out. And an unworthy king is soon to be anointed by that same son as the first king of Israel. And still further: this same son must later give the divine word of rejection to this king, as he had done to the high priest. And he must, before his work is done, anoint a new and righteous king for the people of God, a man after God's Own heart, even David the Beloved, faithful type and forerunner of the King who is to be higher than Agag, and to whom in the fulness of time God has and shall give strength and dominion, and an eternally exalted horn of power and glory.

Brethren: a final word. Let us humbly study these wonderful Bible prayers. Let us try to pattern our prayers after them—full of meaning and feeling and life and devotion and understanding. Let our prayers be—not just words repeated—but fresh from the depths of our hearts. Let them, if they are public prayers, be right to the point and to the occasion, so that the minds of all who hear may be directed and deepened in the appropriate channels of thought, and may join with us at the close in a joyful and thankful and heart-filled Amen.

"The fervent effectual prayer of a righteous man availeth much!"

—Editor

FRATERNAL GATHERINGS

If the Lord will

RICHARD: Friday to Monday, July 18-21

Bro. Fred Jones, Rt. 1, Richard, Sask. S0M 2P0, ph. (306) 246-4628

HYE: Monday to Sunday, July 28 - August 3

Bro. Nick Mammone, 70 W. 34th, San Angelo, Tx. 76901, ph. (915) 653-5187

BUFFALO-HAMILTON-TORONTO: Sat. & Sun., Oct. 11-12

Br. Rbt. Philip, 799 Cranston Ct., Burlington, Ont., Can. L7T 2Y6, (416) 639-1750

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The Houston Tape Lending Library is converting its operations exclusively to cassettes. It now has new reproducing equipment, and is able to greatly expand its services. A large range of tapes is available: exhortations, lectures, addresses, etc. New ones are continually being added. Tapes are lent free, and may be retained for any reasonable period. If it is desired to keep a tape permanently, special arrangements can be made upon application. Write bro. John Packer, 210 East Third Street, Deer Park, Texas 77536.

NAME THE KING

Five hundred begins it, five hundred ends it, and five in the middle is seen

The first of all letters, the first of all numbers, have taken their stations between:

If you can right this medley spell, a very good king it will tell.

There Is a Spiritual Body

BY BROTHER JOHN THOMAS

"There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit"— 1 Cor. 15:44-5

THIS proposition of the apostle Paul is contained in his reply to some of the Corinthian disciples who, to their shame, had not the knowledge of God, and therefore foolishly enquired—

"How are the dead raised up? And with *what body* do they come?"

He showed them that the *animal body* had a similar relation to the *spiritual body* that naked grain has to the plant produced from it according to the law of its reproduction. He explained that before a plant could be reproduced from a seed, the seed must be put into the soil and die, or decay away. By the time the plant is established, all vestige of the seed is gone from the root. Yet the identity of the seed with the plant is not lost, inasmuch as the same kind of seed re-appears in the fruit of the plant. The plant is the secondary body of the seed-body, which is the first. There are different kinds of vegetable seed-bodies; and also of animal seed-bodies.

These classes of seeds are terrestrial bodies, and have their glory in the bodies produced from them. But there are also celestial bodies, whose glory is of a different character. It is a light blazing and sparkling in the vault of heaven, as may be seen by every eye. Such is the apostle's illustration of the resurrection of the dead; or of how they are raised and for what kind of body they spring forth—

"So also (says he) is the resurrection of the dead" (1 Cor. 15:42).

We are in this state of the naked grain. We die and are buried, and go to corruption, leaving only our characters behind us written in the book of God. When decayed, a little dust alone remains as the nucleus of our future selves. When the time comes for the righteous dead to rise, then—

"He that raised up Christ from the dead will also make alive their mortal bodies by His Spirit" (Rom. 8:11). —operating through Jesus upon their dust, and fashioning it into the image of the Lord from heaven (2 Cor. 4:14). Thus, as the Elohim made man out of the dust in their own image and likeness, so the Lord Jesus by the same Spirit will also re-fashion from the dust the righteous of the posterity of the first Adam into his own image and likeness. This is wonderful, that by a *man* should come the resurrection of the dead (1 Cor. 15:21). Truly may he be called the "Wonderful" (Isa. 9:6). Once a babe fondled at the breast, but then equal to the angels of God; and "sons of the resurrection," of which he is himself "the First Fruits."

Having shown "how," or upon what principles, the righteous dead are raised, the apostle gives us to understand that their 'glory' will consist in brightness, for he cites the splendor of the celestial bodies as illustrative of theirs. This reminds us of the testimony in Daniel that (12 : 3)—

"They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever."

This is repeated by the Lord Jesus, who says (Matt. 13:43)—

"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun *in the Kingdom* of their Father."

This assurance Paul also revives in his letter to the saints at Philippi, saying—

"Our commonwealth has a beginning in the heavens, out of which also we wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transfigure the body of our humiliation that it may become of like form with the body of his glory, by the power of that which enables him even to subdue all things to himself" (Phil. 3:20-21).

When we die we are buried, or "sown," like so many seeds in the earth. We are sown, says the apostle, "in corruption," "in dishonor," "in weakness," and with an animal nature. But when we are raised to inherit the Kingdom, we become incorruptible, glorious, powerful, and possessed of a spiritual nature, such as Jesus and the Elohim rejoice in.

Now, a spiritual body is as material—or substantial and tangible—a body as that which we now possess. It is a body purified from "the law of sin and death." Hence it is termed "holy" and "spiritual" because it is born of the Spirit from the dust, is incorruptible, and sustained by the *ruach*, or spirit, independently of the *neshemeh*, or atmospheric air. "That which is born of the flesh," in the ordinary way, "is flesh"—or an animal body. And "that which is born of the spirit," by a resurrection to life, "*is spirit*," or a spiritual body (John 3:6). Hence, in speaking of Jesus, Paul says—

"Born of David's seed according to the flesh; and constituted the Son of God in power, according to the spirit of holiness, through the resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1:3-4).

Thus, he was born of the Spirit, and therefore became "a spirit." And, because highly exalted and possessing a Name which is above every name (Phil. 2:9-11), he is styled "*the Lord* the Spirit."

The spiritual body is constituted of flesh and bones vitalized by the Spirit. This appears from the testimony concerning Jesus. On a certain occasion, he unexpectedly stood in the midst of his disciples, at which they were exceedingly alarmed, supposing they beheld a spirit, or phantasm, as at a former time. But, that they might be assured that it was really he himself, he invited them to handle him, and examine his hands and feet. "For," said he—

"a spirit hath not FLESH AND BONES, *as ye see me have*."

They being incredulous for joy, he gave them further proof by eating a piece of broiled fish and of a honeycomb (Luke 24:36-43). Thomas thrust his hand into his side, and was convinced that he was the same who had been crucified (John 20:27).

What stronger proof can we need of the substantial and tangible nature of the spiritual body? It is the animal body purified, not evaporated into gas or vapor. It is a bloodless body, for in the case of Jesus he had poured out his blood on the cross. The life of the animal body is in the blood; but not so that of the spiritual body. The life of *this* resides in that mighty power which suspends "the earth upon nothing," and is diffused through the immensity of space.

When the Lord Jesus said (Luke 24:39)—

"A SPIRIT hath not flesh and bones, as ye see ME HAVE."

—he did not mean to say that a *spiritual body* had not, but a spirit *such as they thought they saw*.

"They supposed that they had seen a spirit" (Luke 24:37).

In the received reading the same word *pneuma* is used here as in the text which speaks of Jesus as "the Lord the Spirit," but evidently not in the same sense. Indeed, the reading in Griesbach's edition of the original text is clearly the correct one. The word rendered "spirit" is properly *phantasma*, a phantom or mere optical illusion, and not *pneuma*, spirit. When Jesus walked upon the sea, both Matt. (14:26) and Mark (6:49) make use of the same phrase as Luke, and say that the disciples, when they saw him—

"Supposed they had seen a spirit, and they cried out for fear."

In both these places the word is *phantasma*, and not *pneuma*.

Having affirmed that man stands related to 2 kinds of body, the apostle gives us to understand that in the arrangements of God, the spiritual system of things is elaborated out of the animal, and not the animal out of the spiritual. The natural world is the raw material, as it were, of the spiritual; the bricks and mortar, so to speak, of the mansion which is to endure forever.

In relation to human nature, 2 men are presented as its types in the 2 phases it is to assume. These Paul calls "the First Adam" and "the Last Adam," or "the first man" and "the second man." The former he terms "earthy," because he came from the ground and goes thither again. And the latter he terms "the Lord from heaven," because—being "known no more after the flesh"—he is expected from heaven as the place of his final manifestation in "the body of his glory." *Then*, says John, "we shall be like him."

If, therefore, we have been successful in depicting the Lord as he now is, while seated at the right hand of God: namely, an incorruptible, honorable, powerful, living person, substantial and tangible, shining as the sun, and able to eat and drink and to display all mental and other phenomena in perfection—if the reader be able to comprehend such an "Image of the invisible God," he can understand what *they* are to be who are accounted worthy to inherit His Kingdom. Therefore, says Paul—

"As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly"—or, Lord from heaven (1 Cor. 15:49).

This corporeal change of those who have first been morally—

"renewed unto knowledge after the image of Him Who created them."

—from "sinful flesh" into spirit, is an absolute necessity before they can inherit the Kingdom of God. When we come to understand the nature of this Kingdom, we shall see that it is a necessity that cannot be dispensed with. The apostle says—

"That which is corruptible cannot inherit incorruptibility" (v. 50)

This is the reason why animal men must die or be transformed. Our animal nature is corruptible; but the Kingdom of God is indestructible, as the prophet testifies, saying (Dan. 2:44)—

"It shall never be destroyed nor left to other people, but shall stand for ever."

Because, therefore, of the nature of this Kingdom, "flesh and blood cannot inherit it" (1 Cor. 15:50); and hence the necessity of a man being "born of the Spirit," or "he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God" (John 3:5-6). He must be "changed into spirit"—put on incorruptibility and immortality of *body*—or he will be physically incapable of retaining the honor, glory and power of the Kingdom forever, or even for 1000 years.

But, before the apostle concludes his interesting exposition of "the kind of body for which the dead come," he makes known a secret which was previously concealed from the disciples at Corinth. It would probably have occurred to them that, if flesh and blood could not inherit the Kingdom of God, then those who were living at the epoch of its establishment, being men in the flesh, could have no part in it. But to remove this difficulty, the apostle wrote—

"Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep (that is, die), but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

"For it [the 7th Trumpet—Rev. 11:15-18; 15:8; 20:4] shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible [*isangeloi*, equal to the angels—Luke 20: 36], and we shall be changed [*eis pneuma*, into spirit—1 Cor. 15:45].

"For this corruptible [body] must put on incorruptibility, and this mortal [body] must put on immortality. Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" (51-54).

But, that the saints might not misapprehend the matter, especially those of them who may be contemporary with the 7th Trumpet period, he gives further particulars of the secret in another letter. The disciples at Thessalonica were deeply sorrowing for the loss of some of their body who had fallen asleep in death; probably victims to persecution. The apostle wrote to comfort them, and exhorted them—

"Not to sorrow as the others [the unbelievers] who have no hope. For if we [the disciples] believe that Jesus died and rose again . . ."

—and be not like those who, by saying "There is no resurrection of the dead," in effect deny it—

". . . even so [as he rose], them also who sleep in Jesus will God bring forth [lead out, produce] with him"
(1 Thess. 4:13-14).

He then proceeds to show the "order" (1 Cor. 15:23) in which the saints are changed into spirit, or immortalized, by the Son of Man (John 5:21-29). "For," says he—

"This we say unto you by the word of the Lord: that we, the living who remain at the Lord's coming, shall not anticipate them who are asleep. For the Lord himself shall come down from heaven with a shout, and with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the *dead in Christ shall rise FIRST*.

"After that, we, the living who remain, shall be snatched away together with them in clouds to a meeting of the Lord in the air.

"And thus we shall be with the Lord at all times. Wherefore comfort one another with these words"
(1 Thess. 4:15-18).

It will be seen from this that survivors of the dead were not consoled in the first age of Christianity for the loss of their friends as they are now by those who "improve the death" of the influential among them. In funeral sermons the "immortal souls" of the deceased are transported "on angels' wings to heaven/" and the living are consoled with the assurance that they are singing the praises of God around the throne, feasting with Abraham and the prophets, with the saints and martyrs, and with Jesus and his apostles in the Kingdom of God. And they are themselves persuaded that the souls of their relations, now become angels, are watching over them and praying for them; and that when they die their own souls will be re-united with them in the realms of bliss.

Need I say to the man enlightened in the Word that there is no such comfort or consolation as this in the Law and Testimony of God? Such traditions are purely mythological. No, the apostles did not point men to the day of their death, and its immediate consequents, for comfort. *Nor did they administer the consolations of the Gospel to any who had not obeyed it.* They offered comfort only to the disciples, for they only are the heirs with Jesus of the Kingdom of God. They taught these to look to the coming of Christ, and to the resurrection, as the time of a re-union with their brethren in the Faith. At death, they should (Rev. 14:13)—

"Rest from their labors, and their works should follow them"

And (Heb. 9:28)—

"And to them that LOOK FOR HIM shall he appear the second time without sin UNTO SALVATION."

Such were the practical and intelligible "words" with which the apostles comforted their brethren.

In conclusion, then, as far as *power* is concerned, God could have created all things upon a spiritual or incorruptible basis at once. The globe could have been filled with men and women equal to the angels in nature,

power, and intellect, on the sixth day. But the world would have been without a history, and its population characterless. This, however, would not have been according to the plan. The animal must precede the spiritual as the acorn goes before the oak. This will explain many difficulties which are created by systems, and which will forever remain inexplicable upon the hypotheses they invent.

The Bible has to do with things, not imaginations; with bodies, not phantasmata; with "living souls" of every species; with *corporeal* beings of other worlds; and with incorruptible and undying men.

But it is as mute as death, and as silent as the grave, having nothing at all to say, about such "souls" as men pretend to "cure"; except to repudiate them as a part of that "philosophy and vain deceit" which "some professing have erred concerning the Faith."

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The Promises to the Fathers

BY BROTHER ROBERT ROBERTS

"Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the Promises made unto the fathers"—Rom.15:8

IF Christ came to "confirm the Promises made unto the fathers," it is obviously of the first importance that we know about these promises. Paul declares that whatever they are, the promises belong to the Jews (Rom. 9:3-4)—

"My kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, *to whom pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the Law, and the service of God, *and the PROMISES.*"

Speaking more definitely on the subject, he says—

"Now to *Abraham and his Seed were the Promises made*. He (God) saith not, And to seeds (as of many), but as of *one*: And to thy Seed (which is Christ) . . . And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's Seed, and heirs according to the Promise" (Gal. 3:16,29).

From this it is evident that if we would know about the Promises we must refer to the history of Abraham, from which Paul derived his information. Most people know that Abraham emigrated from Chaldea by divine command and became a settler in Canaan; that God promised to greatly multiply his posterity and make them a great nation in the country where he was then a stranger. They believe that it was promised to him that Christ, the Savior of the world, should come in his line, and that in this way (through the preaching of the Gospel) all nations should ultimately be blessed through him. But they have no idea of any "Promises" which should form the groundwork of the Christian faith, or subject matter of the Gospel. They admit there *were* promises, but they consider them past and done with—applicable only to the now insignificant events of Jewish history.

They certainly have no idea of any "promises made unto the fathers" in which *they* themselves can hope to have any personal interest: or from which, indeed, *Abraham* himself can have any future benefit. The promises, in their estimation, are an affair of the past. The thing to be looked for, from their point of view, is going to heaven when death comes—if righteous. In their estimation, the promised land is heaven. They consider that the promises made to the faithful have been amply realized in this way.

It is evident there is a great mistake in this, for Paul says—

"These all died in faith, *not having received the Promises*, but having *seen them afar off*, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth"
(Heb. 11:13-35,39-40).

This affirms that the fathers died *without* receiving what had been promised—in direct opposition to orthodoxy, which says they died and thus received the promises. Paul repeats this statement at the end of the chapter (vs. 39-40)—

"These all, having received a good report through faith, received NOT the Promise, God having provided some better thing for us that they without us *should not be made perfect.*"

What then were the Promises made to the fathers, the substance of which they did not receive, and which Paul here declares they will not receive until the totality of the chosen ones is completed? In answer to this, we affirm that they relate to matters forming the very essence and foundation of the salvation offered through Christ. We do so on the strength of the following testimonies. To begin with:

"And now I (Paul) stand (before Agrippa's judgment seat) and am judged for the *hope of the Promise* made of God unto our fathers" (Acts 26:6).

"He (God) hath showed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He hath sent empty away. He hath helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy, *as He spake to our fathers, to Abraham and his Seed forever*" (Luke 1:51-55).

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and redeemed His people, and hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David (that is, Jesus—see context), as He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets which have been since the world began— that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us, *to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He sware to our father Abraham*" (Luke 1:68-73).

"Thou WILT PERFORM the truth to Jacob and the mercy to Abraham, *which Thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old*" (Micah 7:20).

These passages show that the promises made to the fathers were *unfulfilled* at so recent a date as the first century. And further: that they have reference to things *to be accomplished through Christ*, instead of having (as the generality of religious people suppose) been fulfilled in Jewish history.

But to come closer to the subject, let us look at the Promises themselves. In seeking them, we act under guidance of Paul who says:

"TO ABRAHAM and his seed were the Promises made" (Gal. 3:16).

This is an infallible clue. We go to the history of Abraham, and find the following promises recorded—

"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred . . . into a land that I will show thee. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee; and *in thee shall ALL FAMILIES OF THE EARTH be blessed*" (Gen. 12:1-3).

"And the Lord said unto Abraham after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes and look from the place where thou art, northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for *ALL THE LAND which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy Seed (Christ) FOR EVER*. Arise, walk through the land in the length & in the breadth of it, for I will give it UNTO THEE" (Gen. 13:14-17). See also 12:7; 15:8-18; 17:8.

"By Myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy Seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore, and *thy Seed shall possess the gate of his enemies*. And in thy Seed shall ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH be blessed" (Gen. 22:16-18).

Paul calls Isaac and Jacob "the heirs with him (Abraham) of the same Promise" (Heb. 11:9). It will therefore lay the foundation more securely to quote the promises made to them, which it will be seen are identical with those made to Abraham—

"And the Lord appeared unto him (Isaac) and said . . . Sojourn in THIS LAND, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee, *for unto thee and unto thy seed I will give ALL THESE COUNTRIES*" (Gen. 26:2-4).

"And God Almighty bless thee (Jacob) . . . and give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee and to thy seed with thee, *that thou mayest inherit THE LAND wherein thou art a stranger*" (Gen. 28:3-4).

"I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: *the LAND whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed* . . . and in thee and in thy seed shall all families of the earth be .blessed"

(Gen. 28:13-14).

Now in analyzing these "Promises made to the fathers" it will be found that they consist of several distinct items, which it will be well to enumerate for the sake of clearness. The consideration of each item separately will enable us to see that these Promises will only be fulfilled when Christ, having returned from heaven and raised his people from the dead, reigns in Palestine as universal ruler, to whom all nations will bow in blessed allegiance.

1st: That Abraham's posterity should become a great and mighty nation.

This has not been fulfilled *in the sense of the promise*. It is true that Abraham's descendants according to the flesh have multiplied and filled a large place in history; but this is not the only event contemplated in the promise, as is evident from Rom. 9:6-8—

"They are not all Israel which are of Israel; neither because they are the seed of Abraham are they all children. But 'In ISAAC shall thy seed be called': that is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God, but the children of the Promise are counted for the seed."

The natural Jews, from the day that they murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness till now when they reject the prophet like unto Moses, have ever been a stiff-necked, disobedient generation, walking after the ways of the heathen, and persecuting and slaying the servants of God sent to bring them to the right way.

This is not the "great nation multiplied above the stars of heaven" that was promised to Abraham. It is no 'blessing' to surround a man with such a race of flesh-born rebels. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob pleased God by their faith and obedience. Those of their descendants who were not of this disposition were not of Israel (though they inherited their flesh and blood), and therefore were not "counted for the seed." They were not reckoned as constituents of the great nation promised to Abraham.

Now the great majority of the Jews have been of this class, and therefore rejected. Whence then comes the promised race of children? The principle part of them will be furnished by the Jewish nation after the flesh, for in all their history there has been a remnant that were truly Abrahamic, not only in blood but in faith and obedience. These are the "children of the Promise," and will be raised at the coming of Christ. The other part will come from the Gentiles who, after ages of darkness, were visited in the apostolic era with an invitation to become adopted into the stock of Abraham. This fact is made known in the following words—

"God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to TAKE OUT OF THEM a people for His Name" (Acts 15:14)

"By revelation He (God) made known unto me (Paul) the mystery . . . which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men . . . that the Gentiles should be FELLOW-HEIRS, and of the SAME Body, and partakers of His PROMISE in Christ by the Gospel" (Eph. 3:5-6).

"And he (Abraham) received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had being yet uncircumcised, that he might be father of ALL them that believe, though they be not circumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also: and the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised" (Rom. 4:11-12).

Hence those who embrace the faith of Abraham, and become circumcised by putting on Christ in baptism (that partaking imputatively of the literal circumcision of which Christ was subject under the Law), become the children of Abraham and heirs of the Promises made to him. This is Paul's testimony—

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ . . . And if ye be Christ's, then are ye *Abraham's seed*, and HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE" (Gal. 3:27-29)

Of those in that position, Paul says (Gal. 4:28)—

"Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise."

This is the class contemplated in the promise made to Abraham. But the point of time at which they are contemplated is not the present time, when they are a weak and scattered family, and the great bulk of them in the dust. Rather it is the time referred to in John 11:52, when Christ will—

"Gather together IN ONE the children of God that are scattered abroad."

—and in 2 Thess. 2:1—

"The coming of the Lord Jesus and our *gathering together unto him*."

Speaking of this time, Jesus says—

"Many shall come from the east and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 8:11).

When this takes place, Abraham will behold the fulfilment of the promise that he should become a great and mighty nation, above the stars of heaven in multitude; for his children of the royal order, raised from the dead of all

ages, will be "a multitude that no man can number" (Rev. 7:9). And his descendants according to the flesh—disciplined and renovated as a nation by trial in the wilderness a second time—will be the mightiest people on the globe, all righteous, and inheriting the land (Isa. 60:21), and having—

"Praise & fame in every land where they are now put to shame" (Zeph. 3:19).

This will be when the Kingdom of God is established on earth.

(To be continued next month, if the Lord will)

As We Sow . . . So We Reap

"He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting"—Gal. 6:8

ONCE again we have been allowed to live nearly through another winter, and we know that spring cannot be far behind. This is the time of the year when our thoughts turn to laying of new plans, and taking up again established ones where we left off last.

Spring is a time of renewed activity and vigor. One of the things that many of us, as farmers, (The writer is a farming brother) will be considering is the sowing of our crops. We will have to decide what and how much to put in, when and where to put it. We realize and know that the kind of seed, its condition, its purity, and the way in which it is planted, and the amount, as well as the environment into which it is sown—all these factors together help to decide what the reaping will be.

And after it is planted there are again various circumstances affecting the outcome. All these things we know and accept as a matter of course, because experience has taught us that this is the way that God has made it.

But wait, listen on! Can we learn a lesson from this very practical annual experience? The Word of God speaks throughout of sowing and reaping. First then let us hear the testimony in Job 4:8, the words in this case of Eliphaz, yet none the less true—

"They that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same."

Here the natural law of like begetting like is shown to hold true on several different levels. When we plant peas, we do not get sunflowers; nor when we plant thistles do we get wheat. But, you say, we never plant thistle, nor would we expect wheat from it if we did. True! We don't sow weeds because we *know* we will only get weeds back. Weeds are weeds because they are unprofitable, unfruitful, and generally obnoxious. And they rob the *good* plants of sunshine, rain, room and food.

No, we never do anything as foolish as sow literal weeds. Why is it then that so many people, and even ourselves, should ever allow the seeds of envy, lust, pride, and so many more evil things, to be sown in ourselves?—let alone allow them to grow, and be nourished, and yield their increase! Why is it we cannot see the weeds in ourselves, and pluck them out? They are wholly unprofitable, and negative in value. Why is it that we sow these things, and expect something else at the harvest? This is utter self-deception!

* * *

Psa. 126:5-6—"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Here again the figure of sowing and reaping is used in the Scripture. We note it does not say we shall sow tears and reap joy, but sow in tears and reap in joy. The precious seed is what is being sown, and the sheaves are being reaped. There are often times when to sow the precious seed causes heartaches and grief, but we shall reap joyfully at last, if we faint not.

* * *

Prov. 11:18-19—"The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward. As righteousness tendeth to life, so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death."

King Solomon here verifies what his father David had said. If the evil man works deceitful works, it will be meted to him again in like measure. But a man who sows or lives righteously will reap the reward of the righteous. There is no such thing as a thorn tree bearing figs or peaches; just the same as no slothful, or unjust, or hypocrite will bear the fruits of the Spirit.

* * *

Prov. 22:8—"He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail."

Perhaps we may feel that sowing to the present is much more effective than sowing for the long term. This is probably because of the shortness of our lifespan, which we all seem to realize sooner or later. We feel that there is too much risk involved in putting our energies and trust in something which we cannot touch, nor taste, nor see.

Going again to the natural for a likeness, we know and accept that unless we keep seed to sow the next year's crops, and sow it at the proper time, we will get nothing. We have to look ahead and think about the long-term effects of our actions, more than the short-term. Let us do this in spiritual things.

* * *

Ecc. 11:1,6—"Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days. . . In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand; for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

The lesson seems to be that we ought to go on patiently sowing regardless of appearances of vanity or uselessness. We ought to always sow to God the very best we know how, both in preaching the Word and in the carrying out of its obligations in our lives, because in the end we will be rewarded according to our faithfulness.

God Himself sows seed, and reaps again. The big difference being that He knows where the ground is fertile: He knows the hearts, we can only surmise. He says (Isa. 55:10-11)—

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

"So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

* * *

Going over to the writings of Paul, we can see that the same idea is used in Gal. 6:7-10—

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

"And let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them of the household of faith."

Paul here warns us that none of us can deceive God by sowing bad seed, and expecting to reap good things at His hands again— rather we deceive ourselves. He also cautions us to *continue* in well-doing, in sowing precious seed—not just to be zealous for a while and then slow up or stop—because we will be rewarded only if we do *keep on patiently* right through to the end.

There is another lesson in this example. If a farmer should decide that he will plant a field of, say, 50 or 100 acres, he knows he will need so many bushels or pounds of seed. To seed less than the generally recommended amount would be foolish. No farmer with much wisdom would do this because the folly is so apparent. But in matters to do with God we might be tempted to try it, for the results are not as readily seen, although they are far more lasting and final.

There is little danger of us sowing *too much* seed, spiritually. Few of us are possessors of an overabundance of the precious seed. We tend rather to be unfruitful boughs. Nevertheless, let us go about scattering and sowing that which we do have with vigor, in the hope that we may have an increase in the yield. No grain is ever increased unless we do seed it; neither are the things of the Spirit multiplied without an application of them in our daily lives continually.

2 Cor. 9:6-11—"But this I say, *he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly*; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give: not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work; as it is written, He hath dispersed abroad, he hath given to the poor, his righteousness remaineth forever."

Let us be sure, in our lives, that we have the true precious seed: no counterfeit or slipshod resemblance, no inferior quality, nothing less than virile. *There is absolutely no justifiable reason for giving less than the very best we can.* The fruits we bear to God—our seed—must not be damp, or peeled or cracked, but must be of fine quality, not contaminated with the seeds of obnoxious plants—

"Thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed" (Lev. 19:19)

Anything less than pure is, without doubt, less than pleasing to God; and were it not for our atoning High Priest, we would be lost even with our very best efforts.

Lastly, the *way and care* with which we carry the precious seed, and sow it, is not to be forgotten. Let us never forget: it is more precious than gold or rubies, houses or land, cattle or grain—because the fruits of it are *eternal*, and for our everlasting good.

In conclusion then, we look for that day to soon come when the great harvest will be reaped, and the fruits will be made known both of man and of God—

Isa. 61:11 — *"For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."*

— G. J.

The Rich Man and Lazarus

"There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither thou goest"—Eccl. 9:10

LUKE CHAPTER SIXTEEN

LUKE, "the beloved physician" (Col. 4:14), like Matthew, Mark and John, wrote a biography of Jesus in which he gave Theophilus an account of the things which were most surely believed by the Christian Church, or—as it is more properly rendered—the Christian Ecclesia (Luke 1:1). He seemed to make reference to this biography in the book of Acts, where he wrote—

"The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach" (Acts 1:1).

Accordingly, the book of Luke deals with the life, works and words of Christ, and those things that relate to them. If the account of the Rich Man and Lazarus were given, say, in the events in the book of Chronicles or the Acts, we might expect them to be discussed independently of Jesus. But in the book of Luke all matters discussed would have to have some association with the life of Jesus and his method of teaching.

Immediately preceding this parable in Luke's record, Jesus gives numerous other parables and illustrations, including the prodigal son, the unjust steward, and the servant trying to serve 2 masters. Then, after a remark about the Pharisees' reaction to his words, Luke gives us Jesus' comments, including the parable under consideration. After it, beginning the next chapter (17), Luke says—

"Then said he unto his disciples . . ."

—although ch. 16 closed with the words of Lazarus. This shows that Jesus was the speaker all along. But one might ask, "Were the words of Jesus a parable, or was he relating a historical event?" As we proceed, we shall see that his words had to be parabolic.

First of all, we note that Mark records, after he had related the parable of the sower (Mark 4:33-34)—

"And with many such parables spake he the Word unto them, as they were able to hear it. But without a parable spake he not unto them. And when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples."

So it is evident from this that the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus is a parable, and it is even more evident when we consider the reason Jesus gave for speaking only in parables. The disciples asked him on one occasion—

"Why speakest thou unto them in parables?"

"He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given" (Matt. 13:10-11).

Why was it given to some to know, and not to others? Jesus goes on to explain (vs. 13-15)—

"Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not, and hearing they hear not . . . This people's heart is waxed gross."

To get the picture, let us recognize that Jesus is reproving the Pharisees without wanting to enlighten them in the Gospel, because their hearts were not in the right spirit to receive it. It would be like a missionary teaching a lesson

to Indians by a story about someone going to the "Happy Hunting Ground," and someone failing to do so, without explaining to them that the "Happy Hunting Ground" was a myth. For the Pharisees had departed from the Truth of the Scriptures and (according to Josephus, a Jewish historian of the first century AD) they believed in a place called "Abraham's Bosom," located in "Hades," where there was also a place of torment separated from it by a great gulf, and that people went there at death.

Perhaps they believed they went there *bodily*, as different parts of the body are mentioned in the parable (quite different from the orthodox idea of immortal *souls*). At any rate, they had wandered a long way from the original scriptural Hebrew belief regarding the state of the dead, as held by the patriarchs, Moses, and prophets; for the Old Testament writers regarded *sheol* (the Hebrew equivalent of the Greek *hades*) as merely the grave (Gen. 37:35), a place where there is no knowledge or consciousness (Psa. 6:5; Job 14:21; Isa. 63:16; Ecc. 9:4-10; Isa. 38:18).

The Old Testament writers made no distinction between good men and bad men in that state, or between man and beast (Job 3: 11-19; Ecc. 3:18-20). The Psalmist explained that when man 'returned to his earth,' his thoughts perished (146:3-4).

So even though the "Bosom" of Abraham and the place of torment were myths of the Pharisees, Jesus used them as the basis of his parable against them. The rich and powerful rulers of Israel, as Jesus said in his denunciation of the Pharisees (Matt. 23:14), lived off the fat of the land and oppressed the poor and "devoured widows' houses"; so, figuratively speaking, the poor had to get along on the crumbs that fell from the tables of the rich. The parable, which conformed to the Pharisees' belief, would warn them that eventually this matter would be reversed, and Jesus and his poor followers would be blessed instead of them.

While in the parable people spoke and acted while dead, the message that the parable teaches must of necessity conform to reality and all the plain statements of Scripture concerning the unconscious state of the dead.

The Bible was not written originally in English, and there is no punctuation in the original. Therefore the sentence division and punctuation had to be supplied by the translators who, while we do not call in question their sincerity, were fallible, and who on occasions reflected their own views in their translations.

A slightly different translation of vs. 22-23 has been made that may express the meaning more clearly—

"The rich man also died, and was buried in hell. And he lifted up his eyes, being in torments . . . etc."

The lifting up of his eyes would thus conform to the resurrection and time of judgment when "hell" (the grave: see margin) shall deliver up the dead that is in it, that they may be *then* judged and punished (Rev. 20:13). At that time those who exploited the poor will "see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of God and they themselves cast out" (Luke 13:28). At that time Abraham and his Seed, Christ (Gal. 3:16) will inherit the land of promise (Gen. 13:14-15), which they did not inherit during their first life on earth (Acts 7:5; Heb. 11:13; Matt. 8:20).

Lazarus, the poor beggar, would seem a very fitting symbol of Christ and his followers, who are the heirs of the land with Abraham (Gal. 3:29): for they were poor (2 Cor. 8:9; Luke 6:20), and received very little from the rich rulers and priests of Israel.

But in the time when they inherit the land (Isa. 60:21) jointly with Abraham (Gal. 3:9; Acts 3:25) they could very picturesquely be described as being in his "bosom." And since at that time they will have put on immortality (1 Cor. 15:53) and entered into the Kingdom of God, they could also be described as in *His* bosom; for Jesus, who has already received immortality and entered the Father's presence, is spoken of as being in His bosom (John 1:18).

When Jesus returns in the glory of the Father (Matt. 16:27) to establish the Kingdom of God and reign in his Father's Name, God's presence will be manifested in him from his throne in Jerusalem, and so God will, in that sense, be dwelling on the earth with His people (Ezek. 43:7; Rev. 21:3; Psa. 132:13-14; Zech. 2:10-12), and so His people will be in His bosom.

Even after the time when the righteous of this dispensation are rewarded, and the wicked punished, new generations will be rising some of whom will fail to listen even to those who "rose from the dead," and consequently they will reap destruction even as their forefathers did at the first judgment. The parable teaches that those who would not hear Moses and the prophets would not hear Jesus either.

Another reason we can be certain that the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus could not have been a literal, historical event is that the Scriptures teach that people are not naturally immortal—that they do not live on after death.

Death is to mortal man what it is to animals: cessation of being. Death is not another form of life but it is the opposite of life, and something from which we must be rescued to be saved. Paul wrote—

"The wages of sin is DEATH, but the *GIFT of God* is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23)

Eternal life is not a present possession of all, but a promised gift available only through Christ, and Jesus made it very clear that the gift of eternal life would not be given to everyone, but only to a few. In Luke 13:23-24 we read—

"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved?"

"And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait [note strait, meaning narrow—not straight] gate: for many, I say unto you, shall seek to enter in, and shall not be able."

In Matt. 7:14 he describes this strait gate as leading unto life—

"Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto LIFE, and FEW there be that find it."

Not until the resurrection at the "last day" will the dead have any part in anything done under the sun. The faithful mentioned throughout the Scriptures put their hopes in living again by resurrection from the dead, *even Christ himself*. The apostle Paul said—

"If the dead rise not . . . then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished" (1 Cor. 15:16-18).

In regard to himself he said (1 Cor. 15:32)—

"If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me if the dead rise not? Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die" (1 Cor. 15:32).

If the righteous dead were in a state of bliss, this argument would fall flat: for he could and would enjoy divine blessing without being resurrected. Likewise Jesus reasoned with the Sadducees that there *had* to be a resurrection because God is not the God of the dead, and yet He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—

"Now that the dead ARE raised, even Moses showed at the bush, when he called the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. For He is not a God of the dead but of the living" (Luke 20:37-38).

The question arises: If Abraham were living in bliss in death (if such a thing were possible) and holding Lazarus in his bosom, why would not God be his God? How does Jesus' argument prove that there must be a resurrection, if Abraham is alive now? But when we understand that God is Abraham's God without being the God of the dead *because* He purposes to raise Abraham from the sleep of death to eternal life, we see the conclusive force of Jesus' words. With the understanding that the dead know not anything (Ecc. 9:5), and that unless they rise again they have perished (1 Cor. 15:16-8), the words of Jesus in his dispute with the Sadducees positively prove that there must be a resurrection for God to be their God.

It is clear that Lazarus could not have been inheriting the blessing with Abraham, as Abraham was still dead: the time of reward or punishment will be when Christ returns (Matt. 25:31-34; Rev. 22: 12; 2 Tim. 4:8).

Before these rewards are meted out, there will first be a resurrection (1 Cor.15; 1 Thess. 4:16; Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29), so that the rewards will be meted out to both good and bad in their bodies (2 Cor. 5:10) *

The Scriptures do not teach the idea that people will be rewarded or punished in a state of disembodiment, but the very opposite. Paul spoke of waiting 'for the redemption of our *body*' (Rom.8:23), and of the bodies of the believers being 'quickened by the Spirit' (Rom. 8:11). All in the past who were resurrected had a *physical body*, as Lazarus, Jesus, etc. Jesus spoke of the resurrection of his "body" before he died (Jn. 2:19-21), and demonstrated that he had "*flesh and bones*" after he rose (Luke 24:39).

* Omitting italicized words in AV, as they are not in the original.

There are a few passages "hard to be understood" which on the surface could give the impression of eternal torment. Let us look at them. Rev. 20:10 speaks of a place where the Beast and False Prophet *are*, but you will notice the word "are" is in italics, which means it was added by the translators. The RSV uses "were," and we believe this is more accurate. The verse is—

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the Beast and the False Prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever."

The message without the "are" conveys the thought that the devil (adversary) that deceived the revolters at the end of the millennium would be cast where the Beast and False Prophet were cast previously. The Beast and False Prophet are to be destroyed by Christ at his coming (2 Thess. 2:8; Rev. 17:14; 19:19-20), before the millennium. The "lake of fire" is the symbol of the second death (Rev. 20:14)—a very fitting symbol since fire, like death, consumes and takes things out of existence.

The expression "forever and ever" is a translation of the Greek "aions of aions." This word means age, or period, so we could read "for a period of periods." That is, for the periods meted out for judgment. That it does not mean "forever" in the unlimited sense we use the expression is clear from the fact that after the last and final revolt is overthrown and the conspirators punished, there is to ensue an endless period of perfection in which—

"There shall be no more death (no more dying), neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

The wicked will have been all destroyed by unquenchable fire. Not that the fire would burn forever, but that it would burn unstopably until it had done its judicial work and had consumed its fuel—the wicked. There are scriptural examples in the past of "unquenchable" divine judgment fires that could not be stopped till their work was done (Jer. 7:20; 17:27), but they are not still burning. God Himself, Who consumes the wicked, is described as "devouring fire" and "everlasting burning" (Isa. 33:14).

Then, when all evil, sin, pain and suffering has been removed from the earth, when all the inhabitants remaining on the earth shall be at one with God—with spiritual bodies as well as minds—

"The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14)
—D.S.

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Current Events Fulfilling Prophecy

NO REAL PEACE. 30 yrs. after WWII, hostile armies still stand guard in divided Europe. As in '45, US & Russia are backbone of opposing forces. West's armies so sapped by poor morale & public indifference they couldn't meet Russian attack without US aid. France withdrawn from NATO: no NATO bases in France since expelled by De Gaulle in '66. Poor morale, uneven weapons system, political infighting make French Army most troubled force on Continent. NATO forces (except Germany) show glaring soft spots in manpower, weapons, commitment: demands in many countries for even further reductions. But Russia & E. Europe keep upgrading their armies which already far outnumber West. W. Europe defence depends on strong US Army.(USN 5:12)

Wide concern about US reliability as ally: Europe newspapers sounded as if Washington, not Saigon, had fallen. General Europe mood: bias against bourgeois society &: in favor of spartan regimes of E. Europe: democratic West seen as political corruption, economic crisis, bad US tastes & values; Red regimes seen as social justice, economic security, cultural integrity, bracing discipline. NATO in embarrassing disarray: at odds, & cutting defence budgets. (Tm 5:19)

US firms finding Europe no longer promising big profits: pulling out of many ventures. Among those pulling back or closing out: Gulf, Exxon, Reynolds, Bendix, Singer, Litton, Hoover, Chrysler, Dow, DuPont, etc. (USN 5:5)

Kissinger says privately, "All Europe will go Marxist in 10 yrs. (USN 5:5)

EVENTS are moving fast & well. Europe militarily weak & divided, disillusioned with & distrustful of US, floundering in economic slump, appalled at the corruption, impotence, & leaderlessness of "democracy," & lured by the siren-song of a godless, regimented Communist "paradise." Europe is old & tired, & has lost the

fire & spirit by which it dominated the world for 2000 years, & in its dotage seeks the docile shackles of a mindless rest home for the aged. Russia is ready, willing & able to oblige.

ISRAEL: Ford exerting tough, public squeeze on Israel for concessions: Israel mounting energetic US campaign for public & Congressional support to resist. None of parties—US, Israel, Egypt—want to go to Geneva. Sadat confounded radical Arabs with Canal opening: enraged Syria & PLO who realize open Canal will reduce chance of Egypt starting—or even joining—new war. Harris poll shows US support of Israel all time high: 52% for Israel, 7% Arabs. (Nwk4:14)

In Congress, little inclination to blame Israel for talks' failure: leaders see little evidence of loss of support for Israel. (Nwk 4:7)

Growing debate in Israel: some seek Egypt compromise; some think Israel should yield almost nothing. They're far apart. (Tm 4:21)

Last wk., 2 Soviet emissaries turned up in Jerusalem, told Israel leaders Kissinger approach bankrupt, Geneva Conference only alternative to war, & if Israel pulls back to '67 borders, Russia will guarantee those borders. (Nwk 4:21)

New Israel-made fighter-plane unveiled: outperforms MIG-23, better weapons. (Tm4:28) Israel now makes over 30% of war needs: impressive arsenal of weapons, especially missiles: capacity to make nuclear bombs. (Nwk 4:28)

US still stands firmly with Israel. This is clearly the over-riding hand of God, as it was with Britain a century ago. Sadat's decision to open the Canal seems a big step in the direction of continued peace on Sinai front. Egypt has massive economic problems that peace & the canal can begin to alleviate, but war would infinitely aggravate.

WORLD COOLING: dramatic weather pattern changes: may portend drastic food decline in 10 yrs. Great wheat lands of Canada, Russia periled. Evidences accumulating massively. Since '50, England's growing season declined 2 weeks.

If change bad as expected, famines could be catastrophic. Average temperature in great Ice Ages only 7° lower than earth's warmest periods: present decline already 1/6 of way to Ice Age temperatures. World population growth & many new national boundaries (as in Africa) make impossible for starving people to migrate as in past. Little hope politicians will take action. (Nwk 4:28)

WE must take some theories & guesses with grain of salt, but basic picture is clear. A few degrees can make all difference between famine & plenty. How precarious is man's existence! How easily God can change it! Famine is to be a factor of the last days.

WORLD OF WOE FOR US. Faisal assassinated; Communist juggernaut rolled over Vietnam; Mideast peace shuttle crashed. US position in peril. Kissinger said, "US can't pursue policy of selective reliability: can't abandon friends in 1 part of world without jeopardizing security of friends everywhere."

Postwar W. Europe's most radical leftist govt. in Portugal, sending shock waves thru NATO. Turks resisting pressure for Cyprus accord. Thais threaten to close US bases. Kissinger sees "massive shift in foreign policies of many countries, & fundamental threat to US security." White House hinted reduction of Israel aid: Congress leaders quickly revealed Israel still had plenty of friends there who'd see it got all money & supplies it needed. (Nwk 4:7)

At WWII end, US had near omnipotence. Alone among major combatants, it emerged vastly strengthened, with nuclear monopoly & industrial dominance. In '50, US produced 50% of all world's goods & services. But world has changed. By late '60s, US intervention in Vietnam had turned into bloody, bitterly learned lesson about limits of US power. US goal had always been to oppose Communism everywhere, but now baffling inconsistency arose: US people asked to support & applaud detente with Red superpowers while fighting Red insurgencies round world. US too long ignored changing world. In many cases, Communism is seen by people as means to social & economic justice, or as expression of nationalism—US can't ignore this. (Tm 4:7)

US losing in world. Almost everywhere: turmoil, upheaval, US setbacks, uneasy stirring among allies. Why are things suddenly unraveling?—Mideast, Indochina, Mediterranean? Cambodia & Vietnam on brink of disaster; Thailand & Philippines reviewing US relations; Portugal lurching toward left-wing dictatorship; US Med bases threatened by Greek-Turk quarrel; Britain pulling back from Cyprus & Malta bases in region where Russia already strong. (USN 4:7)

For 2nd time in generation, Reds running roughshod over US ally in Asia: first China, now Indochina. Russia could see events as growing erosion of US power at home & abroad, & be tempted to take new risks in future policies: Russia has already strengthened Indian Ocean Navy—far more serious threat to US than Soviet Med Fleet: for first time, Russia will have military & naval power astride oil lifeline to Europe, Japan & US. And in facing this new

danger, US may lose important bases in Thailand & Philippines. Shock waves of Indochina blitzkrieg being felt in Korea & Japan: they're doubting value of US defence promises. S. Vietnam: optimism to chagrin to complete disaster in 3 weeks. Defeat following calamitous defeat: everything unraveling. Viets feel betrayed by lack of US follow-through on aid promises. (USN 4:14)

Ford says Congress inaction encouraged N. Viets to violate peace pact; contributed to S. Viet collapse by refusing aid to nation struggling for life. (USN 4:21)

All around world, people wondering what's wrong with US. Congress revolt against President has caused diplomatic paralysis. Over-selling of detente is another factor in current foreign-policy crisis: support for vigorous policy dwindling because of false sense of security. Congress has disrupted US foreign policy & led to major setbacks: collapse of Vietnam, alienation of Turks, one of US's staunchest allies. No one knows what Congress has in mind for foreign policy, not even Congress itself.

Erosion of US power base & decline of world influence because US lacks will for commitment. US promises & credibility seriously questioned. Korea & Taiwan will feel can't depend on US; even China will doubt value of US as counterweight to Russia. Most US can now hope for in Asia, from Iran to Japan, is lukewarm allies. Thai leaders feel that since US couldn't save Cambodia & S. Viets, it probably wouldn't protect Thailand, so want US out. Thais think US abandoned Cambodia to Reds: warn others not to trust US promises. S. Viets see selves as victims of US betrayal & indifference.

Russia sees US reaping "inevitable outcome of struggle of everything new & progressive in world against everything reactionary." New flow of Arab leaders to Moscow; new stream of Russians to Mideast. (USN 4:28)

Vietnam, with 42 million & powerful army, will be major force in SE Asia. Cambodia & Laos will be satellites; Thailand, Malaysia & Indonesia will align with Hanoi. Real danger is what Russia will do: if decides US is vulnerable, then could be nasty incidents. Mideast is powderkeg.

Gen. Westmoreland says, "It's sad day in our history. We failed. We let an ally down. It was inevitable after Congress pulled rug out from under President. Other SE Asia countries must be lonely & frightened."

For SE Asia nations, most prudent step seems to be to loosen ties with US. Marcos of Philippines says closer ties with Communists are "only way to assure our survival." He asks sarcastically "whether commitments by US Presidents are binding." (Tm 5:12)

In Europe, US allies fear Viet misadventure marks end of activist US foreign policy; they're reviewing own position. US global role clearly shrinking. S. Viet official released Nixon letters of '72-73 promising "swift & severe retaliatory action" with "full force" if Hanoi violated Paris cease-fire. Events in SE Asia have shaken confidence of many countries in US power & steadfastness. Greece & Thailand have ordered US to reduce military presence; Philippines considering ending defence treaty with US.

What really worries many in SE Asia is possibility of trouble in Korea, where US still supports a repressive regime. Many Asians fear N. Korea will launch war against S Korea that will suck US in. "US never learns," says one diplomat, "They could be caught again in classic dilemma: to abandon an ally they've sworn to defend, or to support regime hardly anyone—even right-wingers—has any sympathy for."

Spectacle of Americans sprinting for exits in Saigon last wk. sent chill thru W. Europe. US defeat in SE Asia followed series of setbacks in Greece, Turkey, Portugal, Cyprus & Mideast. Prospect of "Finlandization" of Europe: individual nations drifting apart & falling more & more under Russia. (Nwk 5:12)

WHAT stirring events in this past period! How fast the final prophetic picture is now developing! 30 yrs. ago mighty US had the world at her feet: she was everyone's champion, & all wanted to be her friends. Backward Russia—with its laughed-at boast of overtaking US & leading world in science—had been devastated by the Nazi hordes & its own massive, forced scorched-earth retreat, with 20 million war dead. US had most of world's gold in Fort Knox, & its wealth & resources & energy seemed boundless. It scattered bountiful billions rebuilding a shattered & grateful world. It seemed that Russia's revolution would always be a bumbling joke, trailing farther & farther behind US, whose success would roll triumphantly on till it transformed most of the globe into its own marvelous, rich, democratic image—while communism's slaves stared enviously thru the Iron Curtain. What faded dreams! What lost opportunities! But God had determined the course of history. As US has abandoned Cambodia & Vietnam, so it will experience increasing abandonment as the world rallies to Russia's rising banners.

FAISAL MURDERED: shows anew instability of oil states: backward lands awash with money; power often held by 1 man or family. Faisal was major factor in weaning Sadat from Russia. Was son of Ibn Saud. As teenager, commanded army that in 10 yrs. (1920-30) established family rule over area size of US east of Mississippi. In '53 Ibn Saud died; succeeded by elder son Saud who squandered oil income faster than came in. In '64, on verge of national bankruptcy, Saud ousted, Faisal took over. He didn't move into front ranks of Arab politics till '73 War, when he turned battlefield defeat into global victory with oil embargo. Five-yr., \$150-billion development plan in works at his death: if implemented, at least 150,000 West technicians will descend on Arabia in next few yrs. New ruler Fahd even

more pro-US than Faisal: as wary of Russia & Reds as Faisal. Saudi Arabia is family affair. Ibn Saud had 300 wives. Royal family of 3000 princes runs every aspect of life: live in air-conditioned palaces, delight in West cars. Many educated in West's best schools; more at home in New York and Paris than in Cairo & Damascus. (Nwk 4:7)

New king is Khalid, 62, full brother of Faisal; but actual ruler is Fahd, 1 of "7 Sudeiris"—sons of Ibn Saud's favorite wife—who are the real power in the govt. Fahd's 3 sons educated in US; he's staunch US friend. (USN 4:7)

New Saudi leaders indicate they'll continue Faisal's moderate, pro-West policy; imply more conciliatory attitude to Israel: Faisal was anti-Jewish (Tm 4:14)

THIS seems to be development in right direction: new rulers even more pro-West & less anti-Jewish than Faisal. But could very easily have been other way. We cannot build our judgments of prophetic fulfilment on merely immediate events.

INDOCHINA DUNKIRK. Reeling, stunned, confused, S. Viet Army in disorderly retreat in face of Communist onslaught: positions abandoned without fight: leaderless, demoralized troops dropped weapons & joined panicky rout. Most stunning Communist victory in over 20 yrs. S. Vietnam collapsed with astonishing speed: lost will to resist: defences melted away. People didn't blame govt., but US: felt bitterly betrayed. (Tm 4:7)

Misery became way of life in Indochina long ago, but tide of human suffering that suddenly engulfed S. Vietnam last wk. swept forward with unprecedented cruelty. Exhausted & terrified refugees died by 100s in desperate forced marches to escape Reds: toughest generals abandoned posts: soldiers turned to banditry. After 20 yrs. Of entanglement, US hardly innocent bystander in ugly spectacle. US losing first foreign war. US-equipped & trained S. Viet army disintegrated overnight. S. Viet Ambassador to US said, "It's safer to be ally of Communists: it seems fatal to be ally of US."

One of greatest military routs in recent history. 100,000 marauding govt. troops roamed cities robbing & shooting wildly. For most refugees, horror was in vain; for cities collapsed before Red drive, & refugees found selves back in Communist hands. Incredibly, most of S. Vietnam given up without shot fired: debacle not matched since France's collapse in '40. N. Viet losses virtually nil. Relentless Red drive split countless families: major cities crowded with under teen beggars & waifs. (Nwk 4:14)

Bloodbath: when Reds briefly took Hue in '68, they came with long blacklists. In midst of exceedingly hard-fought battle, they took time to roundup, execute, & dump in mass graves 2000 civilians. When they took some provinces last spring, they killed 100s of civil servants.

World baffled at swift S. Viet Army collapse, with almost no resistance. Did not even stand ground & fight, but dissolved into panic & flight in historic military debacle. What went wrong? S. Viets relied heavily on assurances from every level of US diplomats & army officers that aid would definitely not diminish. Compounding problem was leadership failure: Thieu promoted relatives & cronies to high govt. & military posts, suppressed opponents, closed eyes to widespread corruption. In ordering abandonment of ½ country, he gave officers only 6 hrs. notice: not enough even to refuel vehicles. 100s of fighter jets left behind, masses of valuable equipment abandoned. (Tm 4:14)

US Ambassador to S. Viets says, "US encouraged them to resist, & gave them precise assurances. We reneged on every one of our agreements." (Tm 4:21)

First time since WWII, Japs broke rank with US on major foreign policy: will recognize new Red Viet govt. Europe views US aid promises with new cynicism. "If Berlin were attacked tomorrow," said Sec-Gen, of German Christian Democrat Party, "I'm not sure US would intervene."

For 1000s of Viets, sudden time of reckoning. "Seems we backed wrong horse." Little to cheer them in way US has treated Viet employees to date. In evacuation of Nha Trang Consulate, after promising evacuation, US guards held off Viet employees with rifles as Americans boarded last plane. Growing feeling among Viets that US is letting them down sent morale plunging last wk. "It's so unbelievably cynical," said US embassy officer, "They helped us for a decade but they're no longer important—so we desert them." (Nwk 4:21)

In '74 Nixon wrote Cambodia Pres. Lon Nol, "US remains fully determined to provide maximum possible assistance to your heroic self-defence, & will continue to stand side-by-side with you." Ford said, "China & Russia maintained their commitment: unfortunately US didn't carry out its commitment: if we'd kept our promises, I think whole tragedy could have been eliminated." Long agony of US involvement seems ending in final act of deception. (Tm 4:28)

Thieu said, in farewell speech, "US promised to react violently & immediately to stop N. Viet cease-fire violation, & to promptly provide abundant military & economic aid. When N. Viets renewed aggression, US stayed silent. US didn't dare react. This inevitably encouraged aggressors. US let our troops die under hail of shells: inhumane act by inhumane ally, breach of promise, shirking of responsibility on part of a great power."

Ford said, "There were public commitments in '72-3 to keep S. Viet military strength high enough to hold off North, & that US would try to enforce Paris pact. Congress removed latter possibility. I can understand Thieu's observations. Lack of US help certainly had impact." (USN 5:5)

Viet adventure diluted confidence of US in its ability to influence events abroad—& faith in self to cope at home; undermined US economy; triggered inflation spiral; strained ties with Europe allies; antagonized 3rd World. World has different view of US because of Vietnam. Saddest chapter in past century of US history. People's faith in leadership practically destroyed. (Nwk 5:5)

Century's longest war over in ignominious US evacuation. Over 56,000 US dead, 300,000 wounded, over million Viet dead, \$141-billion cost, 7 million tons of bombs dropped—all for nothing. Exorbitant cost in hatred & alienation. Massive, 20-yr. US struggle to build stable non-Communist govt. in Vietnam finally & definitely over. Took bare 7 weeks for S. Viet collapse.

For first time since French boats steamed into Danang in 1858, the proud & nationalistic Vietnamese, creators of splendid past civilizations, were rid of any foreign presence. For first time since Jap conquest 34 yrs. ago, there was peace. New rulers announced: "Anyone acting like Americans, or participating in such American-style activities as brothels, will be punished." (Tm 5:12)

THE END. Last Americans fled Saigon in disarray—just step ahead of victorious Reds. Dramatic contrast for all world to see: US's first defeat in war, set against formation of yet another Communist govt. People around world witnessed in near disbelief the disturbing spectacle of Americans scrambling frantically into helicopters designed to fly US fighting men into battle. Round world, serious questions about impact the humiliation would have on US morale & steadfastness in face of future challenges. Less than 3 hrs. after last American fled, S. Vietnam surrendered unconditionally. Communists inherited tremendous arsenal—about \$5-billion worth—from small arms to modern jets: plus US-made roads, airfields, ports, etc., worth \$25-billion. (USN 5:12)

"DUNKIRK" is hardly right word: Waterloo would be better, for those who fled at Dunkirk kept their will & courage & honor, & came back to fight & win. It would seem undeniable that it was US's abandonment that destroyed these countries' will to resist. It was apparent that, unlike US, Russia & China would faithfully & liberally back the attackers to the end with everything they needed, so resistance was obviously useless. This bodes well to be a major turning point in current history, & not to US's benefit or glory. It's hard to get the true perspective of importance when we're right on top of the events, but this first US war loss appears to be more part of a world trend than an exception or an isolated event. US was utterly defeated, not by N. Viets, but by Russia, who throughout outwitted US, & played her cards very economically & effectively, while US thrashed & floundered in her own billions of waste & misdirection, fatally blinded by childish overconfidence & pride. Never again can US boast or pride herself on her untarnished invincibility. Never again can an ally be sure US will honor her word.

FLEET WITHOUT FRIENDS: US Med Fleet locked out of 1 of most important bases last week: Greece—angry that US supported previous dictators & did not stop Turk seizure of Cyprus—ordered US out of Elefsis, near Athens, home port of 6 ships & 3000 crew & dependents. Athens airbase also ordered shut. To decide fate of 5 other bases in June. Because Turkey also angry over US Cyprus policy, Fleet can't use Turk ports. Russian Med Fleet has made remarkable strides in 10 yrs: outnumbers US 60-50. US naval experts have high regard for Russian design & firepower. (Tm 5:12)

MORE & more, Russia is welcome, & US is not, in Med ports. This is an ominous trend. US must have ports to operate efficiently. We hope it will work out that she'll get them in Egypt. Italy & Greece & Turkey must be with the Beast, but Egypt is King of South.

THAILAND NEXT DOMINO? 2-Cambodia& Vietnam-already down: to all practical purposes, so's Laos. Now Thailand, once staunch US ally, feeling heat: already Red insurgencies in 3 areas, supported with weapons & training by China & Hanoi. Bitterness at US failure to save Cambodia & Vietnam. Defence Minister says, "US can't be trusted: can't fill promises, even if wants to."(USN 5:12)

THAILAND seems destined to be next victim of having unwisely believed US word. Under US arm-twisting, Thais sent troops to fight Reds in Indochina. Now US has fled, & Reds are victorious everywhere, & Thailand awaits the day of Red retribution.

US CRIME rising faster than ever: serious offences (murder, rape, assault, etc.) up 17% in '74—biggest jump ever. Criminals not being jailed: if found guilty, right out on probation. Repeaters commit most major crime. In Los Angeles, ½ of robbers caught in act are freed on probation. People convinced they can get away with murder: commit most vicious crimes; interviewed; short time later back on street. Largest group of criminals is 15-20 yrs. old; 2nd largest, 10-15. Children don't go to church anymore; more & more are from broken homes; they're subjected to steady diet of stabbing, maiming, strangling, shooting, burning & boiling on TV—can see why young don't care or know about law & order. Too much protection of criminal; too little of society. (USN 4:7)

School crime: 8500 sex crimes, 11,000 armed robberies, 250,000 burglaries, 190,000 major assaults reported in schools last yr.--& only 1 case in 20 is reported. NY City teachers set afire, raped, robbed: work in state of fear.

Unruliness begins at home. Growing number of drunks in schools: over 1/3 of 12th graders get drunk at least 4 times yr.: 10% are potential alcoholics. (USN 4:14)

Criminal violence striking at churches as never before: robberies, rape, even murder—all across US. 40 of 113 Miami Baptist churches lost insurance coverage because of high crime rate. Violence now so indigenous to our society, no aspect doesn't touch. Most members of Miami's First Methodist Church carry defensive weapons, as icepicks, Mace. Gary Metropolitan Baptist Church has several armed men at every service. Kansas City Presbyterian Church had 24 robberies in 22 yrs. Dallas 1st Baptist spends \$50,000 yr. on guards. (USN 4:21)

Alarming arson rise: fastest growing & 1 of most costly crimes in US: over 100,000 known cases last yr. (4 times 10 yrs. ago). Only 5% reach court; only 1% that do are convicted. Experienced arsonist can make \$300,000 yr. tax free on just 4 or 5 jobs. (USN 5:12)

Over \$2-million in illegal corporation payments to Nixon proved, but that's petty cash compared to 10s of millions in "commissions," bribes, fixes US cos. pay corrupt officials in foreign countries. Govt. says Northrup paid over \$30 million secretly to foreigners without proper records. Scores of other prominent cos. may run foul of similar investigations. (Nwk)

A vicious, hopeless, worsening picture of a society that has lost both its moral fiber & its common sense. What chance have the TV-drugged young when schools are discipline less jungles and homes are godless & moral less battlegrounds?

MUDDLING TO COLLAPSE? Worst crisis ever: inflation still rising in Britain, though subsiding elsewhere. Unions still demand & get increases up to 40%. Pound lowest ever. Nation that once ran empire on which sun never set now depends on foreign loans. Govt. spends \$2320 yr. on social & health benefits for every member of work force (per capita income only \$3000 yr.): high taxes needed for this have drained funds from modernization of Britain's decrepit plants industrial production increase in Britain far behind rest of industrial world.

Strikes cost 3½ times as many man hours as France, 17 times W. Germany. Jap auto worker produces 6 times as much as British one. Unions have blocked all efforts to make Britain competitive with world. Labor Govt. using present crisis to accelerate state control of industry. Nationalized steel industry losing \$6-million a week. (Tm 5:19) 60% of Britons consider nationalization a flop. Private industry 50% more productive. Nationalized industries will lose over \$3½-billion in '75-same as in '74. (USN 5:5)

A SAD picture! Where is Britain going? Where does she fit into the final picture—after doing such a great & necessary prophetic work in the past? Truly she has long been smug & proud, & God hates pride. And now she is disgustingly licentious & corrupt & godless. It's sad to see a once strong & noble friend of Israel in such social & economic debauchery.

S. KOREA: repression with a vengeance: crackdown began with public hanging of 8 convicted of being Communists. Same time, Park bore down on universities & churches: 3 prominent clergy jailed on vague charges; 24 colleges closed, 200 students arrested for anti-govt. statements. (Tm 4:28)

THIS is another repressive dictatorship US is trapped into supporting. And this could be next crisis point. US has declared again S. Korea is vital, & will be defended. Now they have all Indochina, Reds bound to start pressure on Korea.

RUSSIA GAINS EVERYWHERE. Russia has grasped central fact that detente requires infinitely more sophistication, subtlety & skill than cold war. Throughout West, they've successfully nurtured relaxed atmosphere & feeling that military strength & alliances are secondary in importance. At same time, they've carefully insulated own people from detente; increased military spending; show not slightest hint of loosening grip on E. Europe empire.

US, by comparison, shows no aptitude in detente strategy. US at distinct disadvantage: there's no obvious threat: US people & allies more & more reluctant to carry heavy defense burden. Developments in one area after another moving against US, for Russia. Indochina Communist takeover imminent. Portugal, a NATO stronghold, sliding under Communist control. Two once stalwart NATO allies, Greece & Turkey, drifting away. Kissinger Mideast effort failed, opening way for expansion of Soviet influence. In Europe, seal of approval soon to be placed on Russian control of E. Europe at conference Russia has sought for 20 years. (USN 4:14)

West economic disarray offers Kremlin many chances to seize advantage. More confident Soviet estimation of its place in world: Suslov says, "World position of Socialist community never been stronger. That's true. (Tm 5:12)

Russian exports to West finally topped imports: possibly by \$1-billion, after years of deficits. High prices of gold, oil, diamonds, gas, etc., coupled with rapid expansion in amount, should quickly increase surplus. (USN 4:21)

Russia says, "If Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Portugal seek aid, we'll give it."

As Suez opens, Russia is dominant power at lower end of Red Sea. In Somalia, 4000 Russians advise govt., run schools, control Secret Service. In S. Yemen (once British Aden) 2000 Russians guide Communist govt. In both,

Russia has full naval, air rights: Aden's home port for Indian Ocean Fleet. (USN 5:5) Russia produces more steel, oil & coal than US: '74 growth 5%. (USN 4:28)

Russian historian Sobolov says (to Russians), "'Peaceful coexistence' is new stage in development of world antagonism between socialism & capitalism . . . 'Peaceful coexistence' is specific & important part of world revolutionary process." Russian arms powered assault on S. Vietnam in blatant disregard of Paris cease-fire agreement. (USN 5:19)

In recent Russian war games, they began simulated attack on West by blanketing Denmark with gas that makes victims unconscious for 48 hrs. (Nwk 5:12)

THINGS have been going very well indeed for Russia lately. Their confidence & ambitions are increasing as their star rises. They know not it is the hand of God leading them onward to be dashed to pieces for their godless presumption on the immutable rocks of His eternal purpose with Israel.

DOWNWARD SLIDE of US CITIES accelerating: frightening crime rise. Some of biggest near bankruptcy (including NY). Chicago lost over 211,000 jobs in 10 yrs: over ½ population Black or Spanish-speaking. Few yrs. ago, thought aging cities could be saved: now decline gone too far. Jobs, houses, cultural institutions, increasingly in suburbs. Society has decided it's cheaper to abandon cities to poor, & buy them off with welfare. Unemployment 10½% in big cities; 8% for nation as whole. (USN 4:7)

GREAT cities have always been a symbol of animal man's pride, power & corruption: "Go to, let us build us a city" has always been the godless cry. Cain built the first city mentioned. Mighty Nimrod was a great city builder. The decay of US's great cities has many causes, but chief ones are crime & the color conflict. The Reds' first act in Cambodia was to empty the capital city & whip its 2 million into hectic, hounded flight into the bare countryside: a callous, barbaric act in which multitudes must suffer & perish, but very thought-provoking. Great cities make life comfortable & prosperous & exciting for the fortunate, but they are festering evils, teeming with poverty & suffering.

2nd NUCLEAR-POWERED CARRIER launched by US (7th nuclear warship). Has 100 aircraft. Can run full speed for 13 yrs. without refueling: equals 11 million barrels of oil. Russia recognizes importance of becoming world's first sea power. In response, US must build most powerful ships possible. (USN 5:12)

A MAD, endless, destructive, impoverishing race: preparing the kings of the whole world for the battle of the great day of God Almighty (Joel 3:9-12; Rev. 16:14-16).

CHIANG KAI-SHEK dies at 87, last survivor of WW II Big Four. In last 25 yrs. he lost China to Reds; lived to see US, Japan, other post-war friends turn from him to Peking, & UN eject his govt. to seat Reds. After death in '25 of Sun Yat Sen (revolutionary who wrested China from Manchu emperors in 1911), Chiang took control of revolution. In series of triumphant campaigns, he routed warlords & established control of most of China, giving it strongest govt. in 100 yrs. Economy prospered; Communists seemed on run. But in '37 Japs seized large chunks of China & Chiang's plans washed away in tides of war. With '45 Jap defeat, desperate struggle broke out between Chiang & Mao's Reds. Chiang's army, US-trained & equipped, was 5 times Mao's, but by '48 Mao held Manchuria: when he swept south, Chiang's army fell apart & he fled to Taiwan. (Nwk 4:14)

During Chiang rule, China beset by outside aggression, internal division, corruption & inefficiency. Reds succeeded where he failed. He never freed himself of militarists & feudal landlords who blocked reform. Reds swept all past away, but at incalculable social & personal loss. At WW II end, Reds had under million poorly armed troops; Chiang had 3 million, & ready access to US ships & planes. Yet in 3 yrs. Reds controlled China & Chiang fled to Taiwan. Basically Chiang failed to face essential problems: poverty, illiteracy, unjust taxation, usury, excessive land rents. Mao's Reds, promising land reform & total upheaval of old system, attracted millions. (Tm4:14)

Inevitable showdown between Taiwan & China almost sure to put US squarely in middle: abandon Taiwan friendship & defence treaty, or risk deterioration of new ties with powerful Chinese Red govt.; losses big either way. US is only major country that still recognizes Taiwan govt. (USN 4:21)

VAST changes in 25 yrs. Then huge China was on side of West. But Communism fed on corruption, injustice & oppression of old regime. Chiang's 'revolution' dared not go deep enough to break power of privilege & relieve oppressed, hungry masses. Japan, by its aggression, laid the foundation for a Red China, though its purpose was very opposite—just as US had to crush Germany & lay Europe open to eventual Russian control. God rules in the kingdom of men. US, fighting Viet Communists, gave world Communism great boost.

NIGHTMARE: Uncontrolled A-bombs: 6 nations have Bomb; by '85, probably over 20—some not only unstable but who harbor hijackers & terrorists. 40 nations will have nuclear plants by '85: 1000s of tons of nuclear fuel will

routinely be shipped around world thru busy harbors & airports. Even greater target of theft: 7000 nuclear warheads that US keeps in Europe.

US allies that turn against US can become 'instant' nuclear powers by seizing US atom weapons in their lands: Greek-Turk crisis highlighted that possibility. Hijacking of nuclear material is major threat. Building crude bomb far simpler than many believed: information's available to all.

Growing spread of nuclear weapons will change US security problem drastically: no way to defend against nuclear bombs from many sources. Terrorists could explode bomb in NY or Chicago without fear of retaliation: how respond when don't know who responsible; nowhere to retaliate against? (USN 5:12)

PROLIFERATION of nuclear power—with such a deadly, ever-menacing potential for accidental or deliberate catastrophe—seems to be the 1 thing above all others indicating God must soon step in "lest all flesh perish." Such a power in the hands of foolish, ignorant, animal man is a constant, growing threat to world survival.

RUSSIA'S GLOBAL FLEET MANEUVERS: over 200 warships, 100 subs, long-range aircraft in massive worldwide exercise. Now an impressive global fleet. What they've done in 10 yrs. is absolutely fantastic: first rate navy from scratch, & it's an imposing threat. Most significant was communications network: using satellites, they achieved near-instant communication, even including submerged subs. That's major asset in Russia's "first salvo" concept in which whole naval force round world to attack within 90 seconds. (Tm 5:5)

RED Navy, in itself, is tremendously impressive: a modern, instant, unexpected "miracle"—but the organization is even more impressive. Russia clearly plans to strike massively with everything at once when she decides the time has come. 'Many ships' (Dan. 11:40) are part of that final whirlwind attack. Like Hitler's 'Mein Kampf,' Russia is plainly revealing her plan of world conquest but—as then—the world is blind.

CAMBODIA FALLS TO REDS. Cambodian leaders made no secret of belief US had thrown them to wolves. Sense of abandonment heightened when US announced suspension of airlift—last remaining supply link to besieged capital. President said, "US led us into this war, but when war became difficult, US pulled out." Conflict was over issues most Cambodians never understood; left ½ nation homeless, starving, dead or maimed. Also left deep resentment against US for having plunged Cambodia into unwanted civil war. (Nwk 4:21)

Cambodia war ended last week: 5 yrs. of fratricidal fighting took million casualties, leveled cities, scorched countryside—left 1 of Asia's most beautiful lands in ruins. Less than wk. after US abandoned it, govt. gave up. (Nwk 4:28)

Nearly unbelievable tale of terror, cruelty, forced evacuation of millions from cities to countryside. Communists ordered everyone out of Pnompehn at moment's notice. In 5 days, was dead city—streets lined with abandoned autos & closed shops, all looted & vandalized by Reds. (USN 5:19)

New Communist masters far more ruthless, if not more cruel & sadistic, than anyone expected. Pnompehn quickly & forcibly emptied of 2 million inhabitants—in desperate, mindless haste. Even hospitals evacuated, doctors stopped in mid-surgery, patients limping & crawling in the exodus. (Tm 5:19)

"We're turning our society upside down," Red officer told newsman, "people of Pnompehn will grow rice: they'll never be allowed back." Clearly any govt. that would send millions of city dwellers on such short notice to uncertain fate in ravaged countryside doesn't place much value on life." (Nwk5:19)

A TERRIBLE tragedy that US should lure this gentle, peaceful country into such dreadful suffering & destruction, & then callously abandon it to the tender mercies of cruel revolutionary fanatics thrown up in the process. Prince Sihanouk was walking a tightrope & maintaining a precarious peace for his people until US hounded him out with a coup. It all seemed so clever & successful at the time, but what a senseless, useless trail of misery it brought, & US is far worse off for having set it in motion.

ENERGY CRISIS worse than ever: US more vulnerable than time of Arab oil embargo. Now 38% from abroad, soon will be 40% (22% at time of embargo). Beyond that, we're price-hostage to oil nations who upped US oil bill from \$3-billion in '70 to \$25-billion in '75: drive to conserve slowing to crawl. (USN 4:28)

Govt. leaders despair of ever passing energy law tough enough to reduce US dependence on foreign oil. Congressmen are politicians first, statesmen 2nd: don't want program that will inconvenience voters. Domestic production down 10% in yr. See 1000% cost jump for import oil in '77 over '70. (Nwk 5:19)

In Paris last wk. oil users met oil producers for first time since embargo: immediately clear producers had upper hand. Conference showed depth of differences, but no solutions. Producers formed united front with raw material producing nations. Talks broke down because oil nations insisted on discussion of all raw material prices, & whole new world economic order: not just oil.

W. Europe sales to Mideast rose to over \$16-billion in '74, much higher still in '75. US so far hasn't expanded Mideast trade as fast as could. Europe's big problem in selling to Arabs: may be exporting own industrial growth: to

pay for oil, they're selling Arabs new plants & equipment they'd otherwise build for selves. They're building up Mideast to compete directly with selves, with benefit of cheaper labor. (Tm 5:5)

SO MANY great swelling words about the vital necessity for "energy independence," yet so little action as things get worse & worse. All agree it must be done: wisdom points in one clear direction; but greed, selfishness, politics & special interests all point the other way. All indications are that, when Russia strikes for Mideast, will be world's jugular vein.

PLO PROBLEM. US being dragged into stormiest Mideast issue: Arafat's part in Israel-Arab negotiations. Russia recognizes PLO, urges Arafat to form provisional Palestine govt. Growing worry in Israel over increased support for PLO among million Palestinians in Israel-occupied areas. (USN 5:5)

FAMINE: 2 yrs. ago, ¼-million died in Africa: has moved steadily east. Much of E. Africa now threatened: over ½-million face starvation: 800,000 in Somalia in "starvation condition." (Tm4:21)

US PETS get not only more nutritious meals but better medical care than great majority of world's people. \$2½-billion a yr. on pet food—more than enough to nourish the hungry ⅓ of world. At least another \$2½-billion for pet services & products. (Tm 12:23)

There is certainly something wrong with the world when pets in one country fare better in food & medical care than most of world's people. It doesn't necessarily imply individual blame, but surely it vividly shows that mankind as a whole has completely missed the boat as to mutual love & care & fellowship upon this potentially bountiful earth. What is the lesson for us? Do our pets fare better than people? We cannot change the world, but we can live in harmony with divine principles, & that is to share generously & eschew selfishness & luxury & self-indulgence as long as hunger & misery stalk the earth (Luke 3:11). What decent person could do less, & still live with themselves—let alone face Christ at the judgment seat?

CATHOLIC "HOLY YEAR" began in 1300 AD, & has been held at 25-yr. intervals since. Could well exacerbate feuds already raging between conservatives like Pope & liberals who argue that ancient tradition of granting pilgrims remission of sins runs counter to spirit of Vatican II which renounced such practices as archaic. In past, pilgrims seeking indulgences (remission of purgatorial punishment) had to visit all 4 Rome basilicas in Rome: this yr. they need visit only one. (Nwk 1:6)

A reminder that, for all its external face-lifting, Catholicism is still unscriptural superstition, and Purgatory is still alive and well, & the people love it so.

ATOM BOMBS FOR IRAN? Shah is buying share of French uranium plant for \$1.2-billion. Why should oil-rich nation want uranium? By-product is plutonium, used for bombs. Deal includes French building of atom-research center in Iran. Remember India joined nuclear club with 'peaceful' blast. (Nk 1:20)

Clearly the Shah, who wants to be THE industrial & military giant of the Mideast, has his heart set on the atom bomb. He'll be a valuable Russian ally.

TOUGHER RUSSIAN MIDEAST STANCE. Propaganda & advice to Arabs much shriller, urging Palestinian state, complete oil nationalization, higher oil prices. Fomenting Arab fears of armed US intervention. (USN 12:30)

The Mideast picture is crystallizing beautifully into 2 camps. Russia, distrusted by Jordan & Saudi Arabia, & squeezed out by Egypt, is toughening her stand behind Syria, Iraq & the Palestinians.

TIGHTENING ECONOMIC LINKS between E. & W. Europe: trade growing fast. W. Germany leads, thanks to easy credit, open door to Communist goods. W. Europe helping E. Europe in steel, copper, chemicals, tractors. (USN 11:25)

Russia is cleverly weaving W. Europe into an economic net, making it increasingly dependent, especially for vital fuel.

OLDEST UNDERGROUND MINE ever found-in Israel Negev: dates to 1400 BC. Shows far more skill than believed then possible: multilevel network of 200 shafts & galleries; ventilation tubes, support pillars. 13 furnaces nearby. Miners produced copper 98% pure: not exceeded till modern times. (Tm 1:13)

One more very interesting confirmation of the Bible picture.

OIL FOR ISRAEL. Persia supplies 40% of Israel's oil. Shah says he'll increase it to make up loss of Sinai oil, if wells returned to Egypt. (Nwk 1:20)

If Israel gets dependent on Persia for oil, her position will be even more precarious, for Persia is a prophetic foe, & an associate of Gog when he attacks.

DEADLY ACCURACY. Current US missiles can hit within 500 feet of target 7800 miles away. New guidance system will improve accuracy to 10ft (Nk 2:3)

US MARINE CORPS fading as elite fighting force: unrest, desertions, courts martial climbing; rampant barracks crime; many fed up & getting out. Recruit quality down: digging deeper into school dropouts for quotas. (USN 5:12)

MARINES have always exemplified the cream & razor edge of US military power. US shows all the classic symptoms of a decadent, declining empire.

ARAB TANKERS. New threat that could make next oil embargo even more painful: oil countries going all-out to buy tankers idled by recession. (Nwk 5:5)

SUDDEN glut of idle tankers West can't afford, for oil-rich Arabs to buy up at bargain prices, to control not only oil but distribution also. Last time, US foiled selective embargo by diverting tankers. New Arab move would checkmate that.

GLOBAL SLIDE WORSENS. Recession deepening in non-Communist world. 3 yrs. ago, all industrial nations booming; then Arabs quintupled oil prices—caused huge trade deficits, sending global inflation rocketing. (Tm 4:14)

MIDEAST BRIGHT SPOT: unexpectedly, despite Kissinger failure, Sadat says he'll open Suez Canal June 5; extend UN peace force till July. Could lead to progress between Israel & Egypt. (Tm 4:14)

RELIGION & SCIENCE. Push among religious leaders to interest churches in science. Jesuit priest Fritsch says, "I'm doing as much good telling people about harm in aerosol sprays as I am preaching a sermon in church." Jesuit priest Brungs says, "Humans are increasingly the subjects of scientific experiments. With such developments as test-tube babies, man will be shaping his own evolution." (USN 3:17)

THIS is both pitiful, & ominous. When supposedly religious men begin talking of man shaping his own evolution in the test-tube, we can look for God to soon put a stop to his potentially catastrophic nonsense. We are struck by the prominence of those shadowy papal shock troops, the Jesuits, in this activity.

BRITAIN'S QUEEN asking 50%, \$1-million-a-yr. raise. She got 50% raise in '72. Thanks to unique tax exempt status, she's already Britain's wealthiest woman. From one of her many estates, she gets \$750,000 yrly. income tax free. Any other Briton would have to earn \$35-million a yr. to keep that much after taxes. (Tm 3:10)

THIS seems rather an unjust situation, as truly are all the ways of man. It is a sign of the times—how they are woefully out of joint. There is a true, meaningful, legitimate royalty of mankind being prepared by God—soon to be revealed in glory, power & righteousness.

RICH MIDEAST MARKETS: world rushing to cash in. Businessmen streaming into Mideast. Recent US-Iran deal for \$15-billion non-oil trade in next 5 years, \$7 billion more beyond that: includes 8 nuclear plants. Europe getting 43% of business; US 20%. Considerable Russia trade with Mideast: just signed \$3-billion deal with Iran. US sold \$5-billion to Mideast in '74: expects \$10-billion a year by '80 (USN 3:17)

WELL can we remember when it was said, in derision of Ezek. 38:12-13, that there was nothing in the whole, barren, desolate Mideast to justify the absurd notion of an invader coming "to take a spoil, to carry away silver & gold." We can safely trust the word of God.

BRITAIN'S NORTH SEA OIL HOPES jarred again. Unless London modifies plans for high taxes & nationalization, operations will slow; new searches end. '75 production plans already down 50%. Active drill rigs down from 60 to 42. Oil cos. slowing, halting, or abandoning operation till govt. makes firm commitment on amount of nationalization & tax. Inflation, bad weather & labor problems adding to woes. (USN 3:3)

IN ANY human endeavor, greed spurs with greed. Govts. are capricious & irresponsible, big business grasping & monopolistic, labor greedy & lazy. Sinful flesh is at root of all.

TANKER GLUT. Dozens of super-tankers idle, others laid up daily. Sharp drop in oil consumption since 4-fold price increase. For past 8 weeks, 20 super-tankers sitting idle in Persian Gulf waiting orders. Owners nervously wondering what to do about 373 uncompleted but already surplus super-tankers on order: cancellations have stiff penalty clauses. Prime beneficiary may be oil countries: long desirous of fleets of super-tankers. May soon be able to get them on the cheap. (Tm3:10)

THE Arabs can afford to wait, & pick up the world's tanker fleets by default. They alone have the money & means to profit by the present situation.

PORTUGAL SLIDING LEFT. In wake of bungled rightist coup, junta swore in new Cabinet loaded with leftist radicals: moderates lost ground. Russia is pumping up to \$40 million a month into Communist Party. (Nwk 4:7)

Portugal being dragged rapidly into Red dictatorship: Reds run everything. Whole "basic economy" to be nationalized. Coming election is meaningless charade: all 3 conservative parties banned. Czechoslovakia went down drain by same methods 27 yrs. ago. US & NATO worry about possible Russian air, sea bases in Portugal, Madeira, Azores. (USN 4:7)

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Portugal says US can't use Azores for Israel airlift. Russians in close relations with key ministries: labor, finance, agriculture, fishing. E. Europe & Russia giving economic aid, trade agreements, generous credit. Loss of Portugal to NATO would be serious. (Tm 4:21)

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NATO leaders dread thought of Russian subs using Portugal ports: would force major readjustment of NATO naval strategic system in both Atlantic & Med. "Workers' committees" have seized factories, offices, farms, etc: owners accused of "economic sabotage," jailed. National labor federation completely Red-controlled. Newspapers, TV, radio govt.-controlled: dare not criticize Reds.

Most backward, undeveloped nation in W. Europe: over 34% illiterate: poverty widespread. Dozen wealthy families control economy: called "land of Europe's 60 richest & 6 million poorest." Anger against old economic dictatorship exploited to hilt by Communists. (USN 4:28)

Elections made clear Portuguese want parliamentary democracy. Despite vigorous campaign, Communists got under 13%; Socialists & moderates 72%. But little real meaning: no softening of junta's revolutionary line expected. Seems probable military—with willing help of Communists—may now dismantle political parties. Military junta out of step with people: ignoring Socialists, junta gave complete control of labor unions to Communists. (Nwk 5:12)

Portuguese did best to reject Communists, who ran poor third with only 12 ½ %. But left-wing officers still run govt. (USN 5:12)

IF Communists seize Portugal, as seems likely now they've been so roundly defeated in an open election, it would be a tremendous strategic leap forward for Russia, in both sea & land power. Portugal ports could double the value of Russia's Atlantic ships & subs, & neutralize US's Spain bases. In '73 War, only Portugal in all Europe allowed US to use bases to help Israel. New Red regime says that will never happen again.

CRIPPLED CIA: Seldom US more in need of efficient spy service; never has CIA been in such disarray: shaken to foundations by current crisis. Three govt. probes underway: fear witch hunt that could destroy US spy system. Almost hysterical excitement surrounds any story about CIA. Foreigners who worked with CIA being frightened away: many veterans quitting; recruitment falling off; friendly countries fearful of exposures in current govt. probes—feel CIA no longer to be trusted with secrets. (USN 4:7)

Europe countries in 40s to 60s gravely endangered by hostile forces bankrolled by Russia spy system: nations were dominated, threatened, overthrown; whole peoples thrust into form of political society they detested. People today tend to forget way Communism was established in E. Europe: murder, kidnappings, 100s of other acts of violence & terror. CIA must exist to carry out certain tasks. As long as US exists as free nation, Russia sees it as threat. It's tragic some want to weaken or abolish CIA. History has way of making people pay for errors; usually does not offer 2nd chance. (Nwk 4:28)

REPEATEDLY we are impressed that no nation could be as foolish & self-destructive in so many ways unless God is sending them strong delusion. In this ugly, jungle world, espionage is vital to survival; yet US seems determined, for political reasons, to humiliate, endanger & alienate all who have served her in this dangerous and thankless work.

Last month's answer — The whale

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