

# The Berean Christadelphian

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

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

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

**CHRIST IS COMING SOON AND WILL REIGN ON EARTH**

## Ecclesial News

PAPAKURA, New Zealand—Bro. A. J. Starr, 78 Elliott St. (via Auckland).

LOVING Greetings to the Household of Faith,

May 15, 1975

Although we have not written for quite some time, you are all very often in our thoughts and conversation. Current events in the world are very stirring, helping us to realize the nearness of our greatest desire, the glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ "the second time without sin unto salvation.

O that we, individually, will be among those who will be approved by him, and receive the unspeakable gift of immortality, which our heavenly Father has promised through His dearly beloved Son.

In one of our daily readings for today (Deut. 28) we certainly have a very vivid illustration of the solemnity and reality of the truth expressed in the Word of God through the apostle Paul—

*"Be not deceived: God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."*

Present events throughout the world are certainly verifying the truth of God's holy Word, as it is written—

*"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."*

All the stirring occurrences among the nations these days are more or less in Russia's favor, which again is in full accord with the sure prophetic Word of God, verifying the very sound understanding of our dearly beloved pioneer brethren.

My sister-wife and I are expecting to leave what has been our very pleasant farm home for 38 years, for which we have indeed been very thankful to our heavenly Father. We expect, God willing, to be moving into a house close to the center of Papakura township about June 10 (See new address below).

It has indeed been a source of disappointment and sorrow that we have been unable to rouse any deep interest in the Truth among our various farmer neighbors or, so far, in the surrounding districts. We have used the newspapers to quite an extent over the years, but we know that we are not to be discouraged, but are exhorted to continue to proclaim the Word "whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear," for we know it is written that it is only God Who can "give the increase."

We hope, with our heavenly Father's help, as long as we are able, to continue to use the local paper to proclaim the joyful and precious Bible Truth. The general attitude throughout the world today is certainly in keeping with what Jesus said it would be at the time of his return, which is a very vivid sign, in conjunction with many, many others, of the nearness of that august event. With love to all in Christ Jesus from us both,

Bro. A. J. Starr, 78 Elliott St., Papakura via Auckland, New Zealand.

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WHANGAREI, New Zealand-YWCA Hall, Rust Ave.—Memorial 10:30 am; Lecture 7 pm—Bro. M. J. Griffin, PO Box 55, Whangarei.

LOVING Greetings in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All here are well, and the increase in our little meeting has been a big help and comfort in the work of the Truth. For 10 long years we managed with God's help to keep the weekly lectures going. At present we have an interested friend coming regularly and doing a lot of reading, so we are hopeful.

Unless the spirit of bitterness and contention is completely put away, no fellowship can prosper. Defections are sad, but surely they are only to be expected. Where the Truth is held and firmly defended, it is inevitable that there will be divisions, human nature being what it is—and can we really expect anything different at the time of the end, in the light of our Lord's words?

How little remains, in the fulfilment of the prophetic picture that will herald the Lord's return! Egypt is almost fully brought back to her destined role as King of the South. Ethiopia (Sudan) and Libya, aloof and frustrated, awaiting the call that will place them "at the steps" of the King of the North.

The Mideast headquarters of Gog's power have been forced back into its appointed place in the territory of the "Little Horn of the Goat" (Syria). How bro. Thomas' prophetic perception is vindicated today as we recall his words on Daniel 8—

*"The disappearance of the Northern Horn for a long series of ages, and the substitution of the Roman power in its place as the Little Horn of the Goat, is reversed at the time of the end when the Little Horn of the Goat again merges with the King of the North so that the fate of the one becomes the fate of the other."*

As we look back, even 3 or 4 years, at the apparent perplexity and confusion in the grouping of the nations of the Mideast contrary to the prophetic Word—and now witness them falling into their appointed places—surely we are led to exclaim—

*“Great and marvelous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty!”*

What little remains to be completed before Christ returns could surely be accomplished "overnight." When we contemplate the terribleness and import of the impending judgments of God, we tend to become weighed down by the great contrast between the awesome majesty and holiness of God and our own pitiful smallness and unprofitableness. How we need the beautiful assurances of the Spirit through Isaiah!—

*"Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not! Behold your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense: He will come and save you."*

And so we continually pray for an increase in faith, that we may indeed fully rejoice in the promises. And in the meanwhile, as we wait that time of blessing, it is for us to work out our salvation in fear and trembling, praying continually for God's guidance and for the wisdom to be rightly exercised by the trials that come upon us.

May God bless, guide and comfort all who are striving to uphold the Truth in these last days, and may we be granted that eternal blessing, even an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away.

With love in the Truth to all,

— bro. M. J. Griffin

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## EDITORIAL

### The Joy of Forgiveness

*"If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared"—Psa. 130:3-4.*

WHEN we come in contact with the Truth for the first time, and discover that we are not related to Christ in any way; that we are aliens from the commonwealth of Israel; that we are strangers from the covenants of promise; that we have no real hope; and are without God in the world—it becomes a startling revelation.

From then on we bend all of our energies in learning all we can and as fast as we can, in order to attain to a good knowledge of the things concerning the Kingdom of God and Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We do that eagerly and joyfully because we have come to realize that our only way of escape from our natural condition that leads only to death is through belief and obedience of the Gospel.

The time comes when we believe we have sufficient knowledge. Therefore we apply for examination. We cheerfully submit to an examination, for our intense desire is to be certain, so that our baptism will be valid, the answer of a good conscience, grounded in faith on a sound belief of the glorious promises of God. In Mark 16: 15-16, we read the words of Jesus when he instructed the apostles—

*"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."*

The first part of our joy was the announcement that the results of our examination were satisfactory, and a date for our baptism was announced. When that date arrived, we were immersed in water, in the presence of a number of witnesses; and as we rose from the water we realized that in the wonderful love and mercy of our heavenly Father our sins had been washed away (Acts 22:16), and we were now IN CHRIST, covered by his strength and perfection, and safe unto salvation as long as we continued to abide in him in faithfulness and obedience, and constant self-examination and striving toward the beauty and perfection of holiness.

We had become a new creature, a brother of Christ, a son of God, and we thought of the words of Paul in Gal. 3:27-29—

*"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."*

As we reflected upon the thrilling change that had come into our lives, the glowing words of Paul seemed to come alive with a new intensity of meaning and glory: "heirs according to the Promise"—no longer a mere empty, worldly creature, but related to the faithful of old and to the glorious eternal things of God! And we were filled with exulting joy or, as Peter said, "joy unspeakable"—

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

"And are built—safely, solidly established—upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the Chief Corner Stone"—Eph. 2:19-20.

What a wonderful new relationship! What a sure foundation of joyful hope and expectation! How filled we should be with constant gladness, regardless of what may happen! Upon further reflection, we thought how joyful it would be if we could express ourselves as David did in Psalm 51. These words are given us by the Spirit through the sweet Psalmist, to express our deepest longings—

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness! According unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out my transgression!

"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

"For Thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it. Thou delightest not in burnt offering.

*"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise"*

(vs. 1, 7, 16, 17).

One of the most beautiful and touching cases of godly forgiveness—for our guidance and instruction—is that of Joseph toward his cruel and wicked brethren. First, they disliked him. Then their dislike changed to hatred. Then their hatred became so intense that one day when they were all away from home—

"When they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

"Come now, therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit! And we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him. *And we shall see what will become of his dreams!*" —Gen. 37:18-20.

In God's over-ruling providence, a day was to come when, amid their bitter remorse and shame, they would "see what became of" his dreams. How evil to despise that which is good! How foolish to try to thwart the almighty hand of God!

On this occasion, Reuben saved him from death at the hands of his brethren. Finally they sold him to merchantmen who took him to Egypt. He prospered for a time, but was later put in prison under false and evil accusation, where his feet were hurt with fetters and he was laid in iron. In all this adversity, he remained steadfastly faithful to God, and after a period of dark suffering, God made him to prosper again, even in the prison. How clearly we now perceive the loving hand of God working through it all: but to Joseph at the time it was a sore and perplexing trial.

After some time, because of his interpreting Pharaoh's dreams, he was released and promoted to be ruler over the land of Egypt at the age of 30 years. 13 years have now passed since he was sold.

Approximately 9 years later, ten of Joseph's brethren came into Egypt to buy corn. Joseph recognized them, but held his peace. Doubtless long before this, he had begun to see the working out of God's marvelous purpose in the fulfilling of his dreams, and he patiently awaits the time of revelation. On their second trip, after severely (but lovingly) testing them, he made himself known to them. They were terrified at his presence, but he kindly said to them—

"Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life"—Gen. 45:4-5.

He continued his talk to the end of v. 15, and one can easily form a mental image of the tremendous relief and joy that came to the guilty brothers. But it was not permanent. Knowing the evil they had done, and the great power Joseph now had, they continued to fear that after the death of their father, Joseph would pay them back for all they had done to him. But Joseph reassured them and comforted them. Thus their fear and sorrow was turned to grateful joy. In Joseph we recognize the elements of a great and noble character: patience, gentleness, faith, understanding, and love.

There may be certain times when we offend a brother or sister. How weak and erring we all are—struggling against the fleshly impulses of sin! Let us hasten to correct our fault. If a satisfactory explanation is given, and they forgive us, we are not only relieved of our sorrow but we rejoice with radiant joy; for we then realize that the precious bond of brotherly love has not been broken. Let us ever endeavor to walk in the light of Paul's words in Eph. 4:32—

*"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you!"*  
—Editor

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## The Obedience of Faith

BY BROTHER JOHN THOMAS

*"They sewed fig-leaves together, and made themselves aprons."*—Genesis 3:7

THEY sought to cover their sin by a device of their own. The principles of all false religion are such as result from the thinking of the flesh when left to its own communings. Their shame was covered, indeed; but their consciences were not healed. But it was the best they could do in their ignorance. They were as yet unacquainted with the great principle that—

"Without the shedding of blood is no remission of sin" (Heb. 9:22).

They were not aware of this necessity, for it had not been revealed. Neither did they understand that as offenders *they would not be permitted to devise a covering for themselves*. They had everything to learn as to the ground of reconciliation with God. They had no idea of religion, for hitherto they had needed none. It yet remained to be revealed as the *divinely-appointed* means of healing the breach which sin had made between God and men.

Having then been made subject to evil, and consigned to the bondage of a perishing state, the Lord God repudiated their fig-leaf invention, and "appointed coats of skins" for their covering. In this testimony there is much expressed in few words. To *appoint* coats of skins implies a command for the sacrifice of animals whose skins were converted to this purpose. It also implies that Adam was the priest on the occasion, who presented himself before the Lord with the mediatorial blood.

When the sacrifice was accepted, the offence was *provisionally* remitted, for the Scripture saith that it is not possible for the blood of animals to take away sins (Heb. 10:4). It was impossible, for sin was to be condemned *in sinful flesh*. This required the death of a man, for the animals had not sinned; so that if the whole animal world except man had been made an offering for sin, sin would still have been uncondemned *in his nature*.

Besides the necessity of a human sacrifice, God deemed it equally necessary that the victim should be *free from personal transgression*; and that when he had suffered he should rise from the dead, so as to be "a living sacrifice."

If the death of a transgressor would have sufficed, then Adam and Eve might have been put to death at once, and raised to life again. But this was not according to the divine wisdom. The great principle to be compassed was *the condemnation of sin IN SINFUL FLESH innocent of actual transgression*. This principle necessitated the manifestation of one who should be born of a woman, but not of the *will* of man. Such an one would be the Seed of the Woman, made of her substance, with Him for his Father Who by His overshadowing spirit should cause her to conceive. He would be Son of God by origination; and Son of Man by descent, or birth of sinful flesh.

Now, it is not to be supposed that Adam and Eve did not understand this. *God doubtless explained it to them*, for they had none to teach them but Him, and without His instruction they would not have known what they should believe. It was from them that Abel derived the knowledge which was the foundation of his faith, to which God testified in the acceptance of the firstling of his flock and the fat thereof.

Adam and his wife had faith, or God would not have accepted the sacrifices with whose skins they were clothed; for it was as true then as it is now, that—

"Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God" (Heb. 11:6).

Faith, then, in the Seed of the Woman, first as a sacrifice for sin, wounded to death by his enemies, and afterwards the destroyer of the sin-power—in connection with the sacrifice of animals as representative of the bruising of his heel—was the ground of their acceptance with the Lord God. It was the *Way of Life*. If they walked with God in

this Way, they would be as pleasing to Him as Enoch afterwards was, who was translated about 57 years after Adam's death.

It was the Way which was corrupted by the antediluvians. And although the sacrifices have been interrupted, the faith and hope which gained celebrity and commendation to Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses and a cloud of other witnesses comprehended substantially the same things, but less in detail than in that faith which was preached by the apostles as the Gospel of the Kingdom and Name of Christ, for the justification of all who should believe.

The things believed by Abel—as compared with the faith preached on Pentecost—were as the acorn to the oak. The Gospel of the Kingdom in the Name of Jesus was the revelation in full of the things communicated in the beginning; and afterwards more considerably amplified in the promises made to the fathers of the people Israel. *When the saints are all gathered into the Kingdom, they will not find themselves in an unexpected situation.* They will all be there by virtue of believing the SAME THINGS, though some (contemporary with the later history of the world) will have had the advantage of more abounding testimony. Their sins will have been covered upon the same principle—*by the raiment of righteousness derived from the sacrifice by faith in whose blood they had been cleansed.*

There is no true religion without faith; nor any true faith without the belief of *the Truth*. Now, although a scriptural faith is the scarcest thing among men, it is exceedingly simple, and by no means difficult to acquire when it is sought for aright. Paul gives the best definition of faith extant. He says—

"Faith is a confident anticipation of things hoped for, a full persuasion of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

This is the faith without which, he tells us afterwards (v. 6), God is not—and cannot by any possibility be—pleased. It is a faith which lays hold of the PAST and the FUTURE. The person who possesses it knows what is testified concerning Jesus by the apostles, and is fully persuaded of its truth. He also knows the exceeding great and precious promises which God has made concerning things to come, and he confidently anticipates the *literal* fulfilment of them.

Laying hold of these things with a firm faith, he acquires a mode of thinking and a disposition which are estimable in the sight of God. And being like Abraham in these particulars, he is prepared by induction into Christ to become a son of the father of the faithful, and of the friend of God.

This faith comes by *studying the Scriptures*; as it is written—

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

When this testimony is understood, and allowed to make its own impression in a "good and honest heart," faith establishes itself there. The ability to believe lies in a sound understanding, a candid disposition, and knowledge of the testimony of God. Where there is ignorance of this, there can be no faith. *It is impossible for a man ignorant of God's Word to have faith.*

But, one may say, there are multitudes who believe in Christ who are very ignorant of the Scriptures. Yes, they believe in Christ as Turks believe in Mohammed. But this is not the faith defined by Paul. The mere belief that Jesus is the Son of God is not believing in him. To believe in him is to believe what God testifies concerning him. The "faith" of the "religious world" is like a stool with only 1 leg. It *professes* to believe in Jesus; but it is ignorant—and therefore faithless—of the message he was sent to deliver to Israel.

His message had relation to the "things hoped for"—to the things of the Kingdom which the God of heaven will set up upon the ruins of the kingdoms which now exist. Men are invited to believe in the Messenger of the Covenant (Mal. 3:1), *and in the message* which unfolds the things of the Covenant. To believe the one and reject the other is stultification. The "religious world" has placed itself in this predicament, and unless it believes the *whole truth*, it will be cut off as was Israel in the days of old.

"Love is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10).

"He that hath my commandments and KEEPETH them, he it is that loveth me . . . If any man love me he will keep my words . . . He that loveth me not keepeth not my words" (John 14:21-24).

In the face of these sayings of Jesus, what is the love of "professors" for God and His Son worth? They profess to love Him, but give their affections to the world. From the ecclesiastical throne or pulpit to the humblest "layman," can they give a scriptural demonstration of obedience to the faith? Where is obedience to the Gospel of the Kingdom in the Name of Jesus? Whoever thinks of obeying this? Yet he comes to take vengeance on all who obey it not:

"The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ"(2Thess. 1: 7-8).

I cannot too earnestly commend the words of Samuel to the attention of the reader in this place. Saith he (1 Sam. 15:22-23)—

"Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt-offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to OBEY is better than sacrifice, and to HEARKEN than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness as iniquity & idolatry."

*A great principle is set forth in these words.* It is that which can alone place men in harmony with the religion of God. Without it a man may indeed *know* the Truth, but he must believe AND DO if he would inherit the Kingdom which has been preparing from the foundation of the world.

Religion is of 2 kinds: that which is invented by the thinking of sinful flesh; and that which is revealed of God. The former is superstition, and leads men to do a vast deal more than God requires of them, or less than He has appointed.

There is no fanaticism or pietism in God's religion. When in the exercise of it men are moved to action, they are acted upon by an intelligent and earnest conviction of the Truth. This is the instrumentality by which He rouses men to religious exercise — by the spirit which is the truth (1 John 5:6).

When, therefore, they are *really* "moved by the spirit," they are moved by the Truth, and do not talk nonsense. They speak according to "the Law and the Testimony"; and thus evince to all who understand the Scriptures that they have "*light within.*" Everything spoken not according to the Word is nonsense, and the spirit never moves men to speak nonsense. Nor doth the light of truth within ever teach men to undervalue the institutions of religion, or to live in neglect of them under pretence of a refined spirituality.

"By their FRUITS ye may know them" (Matt. 7:20).

This is an excellent rule by which to discern the "spirits." Men pray for the Holy Spirit; profess to preach under its guidance; and (often in a very bad spirit) protest that they received it when converted. *But the spirit dwells ONLY in those who understand, believe, and obey the Gospel of the Kingdom, and who walk according to its precepts.* No man—be he preacher or "layman"—has the spirit who does not preach and believe the Gospel Paul preached.

The obedience of faith is the sole criterion of love to God. All the Most High requires of men is just to believe what He has done, what He teaches, and what He promises; to obey the law of faith; to take care of the poor of His flock; and to keep themselves unspotted from the world. This is "pure and undefiled religion" (James 1:27). But, alas! Where is it to be found?

Religion being the divine remedy for sin, it is evident that when the sin of the world is taken away, religion will be abolished. So long as sin exists in the earth, so long will there be separation between God and men; for it is sin, and that only, which interrupts man's fellowship with God and His angels as it obtained before the Fall. When sin is eradicated from the world there will be no more death, for sin and death are boon companions, as it is written—

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

The abolition of death presupposes the extinction of sin in the flesh; and consequently, that the *animal nature* of man has been transformed (not evaporated, but changed) into the *spiritual nature* of the Elohim. Man will then be no longer subject to evil. His race will have passed through its 7000 years of probation, and all of its individuals who have been the faithful subjects of *God's* religion will become the incorruptible and perpetual inhabitants of the earth, emancipated from every curse.

God will then dwell in men by His Spirit as He now fills the Lord Jesus Christ. All distinction of church and world, saints and sinners, righteous and wicked, shall cease for ever; for there will be none of the Serpent's seed alive. They will have been utterly destroyed, for only—

"The meek shall inherit the earth, and delight themselves with abundance of peace" (Psa. 37:11).

Religion begins in Gen. 3, and finds the record of its end in the last 2 chapters of Revelation. Its abolition is expressed in these words—

"Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them. And they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them as their God. And He shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

"And there shall be NO MORE DEATH, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, *I make all things new*. And there shall be NO MORE CURSE" (Rev. 21:3-5; 22:3).

*Then will the victory be complete. The Sin-power and all its works will be finally abolished, and an eternal jubilee gladden the hearts of men, in whom God will be all and in all.*

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### **IF THE BEREAN IS UNWANTED—**

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

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## **The Promises to the Fathers**

**BY BROTHER ROBERT ROBERTS**

*"I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely . . . and they shall dwell in their own land"—Jer. 23:5-8.*

### **PART TWO**

2nd: That Abraham and his Seed should receive possession of THE LAND indicated in the Promise, namely, THE LAND from the river of Egypt unto the great river Euphrates," styled in the Promise to Abraham, THE LAND wherein thou art a stranger" (Gen. 17:8).

That this part of the promise is unfulfilled, requires but a feeble effort to see. First, Moses records that Abraham had to buy a field of the original possessors of the country, wherein to bury his dead, and said to them—

"I am a *stranger and a sojourner* with you" (Gen.23:4).

Secondly, Paul says (Heb. 11:9)—

"He *sojourned in the land of promise AS IN A STRANGE COUNTRY.*"

Thirdly, Stephen says (Acts 7:5)—

"God gave him *none inheritance in it*, no, NOT SO MUCH AS TO SET FOOT ON, yet He promised that he would give it to him for a possession" (Acts 7:5).

If Abraham was a stranger and a sojourner in the Land of Promise as in a strange country, and received none inheritance in it, not so much as a foot-breadth, *surely*, so far as he is concerned, the Promise is *unfulfilled*. If so, it remains to be fulfilled at a future time.

"Not so," says the orthodox objector, "the promise has been fulfilled in Abraham's descendants. The Jews possessed the country for many centuries, and this was the fulfilment of the promise." The answer to this is found in Gal. 3:16-18—

"Now to Abraham and his Seed were the Promises made. He (God) saith not, 'And to seeds<sup>1</sup> (as of many), but as of one, 'And to thy SEED'—which is Christ. And this I say, that the Covenant that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the Law which was 430 years after cannot disannul, that it should make the Promise of none effect.

"For if the inheritance be of the Law, *it is no more of promise: but GOD GAVE IT TO ABRAHAM BY PROMISE.*"

"The Promise that he should be the heir of the world was *not* to Abraham or to his Seed *through the Law*, but through the righteousness of faith, *for if they which are of the Law be heirs*, faith is made void, and the PROMISE MADE OF NONE EFFECT" (Rom. 4:13-14)

Now, let the reader observe that *the Jews occupied the land under the Law of Moses*, which stipulated in the most stringent terms that their occupation should depend upon their conformity to its requirements (Deut. 28:15-68). Their inheritance of the country was *altogether* "of the Law." It provided that if they kept the Law, they should dwell in the land in prosperity; and that if they broke it, they should be dispersed among the nations in suffering.

History records how *continually* they failed in the matter, and how repeatedly they were subject to foreign yoke and captivity in consequence; and how at last—when hopeless rebellion had established itself in the whole house of Israel, culminating in the rejection of "the prophet like unto Moses"—the Romans came and "took away their place and nation," scattering them in the wide dispersion of the present day.

It is *impossible* in the face of these facts to maintain that the Jewish occupation of Palestine was a fulfilment of the Promise to Abraham; for Paul says in the words quoted that the Promise was NOT to Abraham or his Seed *through the Law*, but through the righteousness of faith.

God gave it to Abraham by Promise—*free and unconditional*. Therefore, says Paul, if they which are of the Law be heirs, the Promise is made of NONE EFFECT (Rom. 4:14). It follows that the promise that Abraham and Christ should possess the land of Palestine is *wholly unfulfilled*, but will have its fulfilment when Abraham rises from the dead to enter the Kingdom of God, then and there to be established. A consideration of what Paul says in Heb. 11 will show this—

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should AFTER *receive for an inheritance*, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

"By faith he sojourned in the LAND OF PROMISE as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, *the heirs with him of the same Promise*. For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God . . .

"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.

"For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly if they had been mindful of the country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. *But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly*" (vs. 8-16).

Let the reader carefully peruse and re-peruse this quotation, and having done so, let him realize its import. Abraham, says Paul, was called to go into a country *which he should afterwards receive for an inheritance*. What country was this? Let the reader consult Gen. 12:4-5, and he will have an answer—

"So Abraham departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him . . . *and into the LAND OF CANAAN they came.*"

To make the matter certain beyond dispute, we will quote the words of Stephen (Acts 7:3-4)—

"Get thee (Abraham) out of thy country and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I (God) shall show thee. Then came he out of the land of the Chaldeans, and dwelt in Charran. And from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into THIS LAND WHEREIN YE NOW DWELL."

The land which Abraham was "after to receive for an inheritance" was the land inhabited by the Jews in the days of the apostles. He lived in it as a stranger, with Isaac and Jacob, to whom the Promise of possession was afterwards renewed. *This sojourn was the result of faith*. Except for this—on finding as years rolled on that he was not put in possession of the land, but left to wander without inheritance—he would have returned in disgust to his native country, and spent his days among his kindred.

Paul says he and his sons "had opportunity to have returned"; but they did not avail themselves of the opportunity, but steadfastly remained in the country to which they had been commanded to emigrate. Paul says the reason of this was that they were—

"Persuaded of the Promises, and embraced them."

Notwithstanding that appearances were against them, they believed that God would in time fulfil His words and give them the promised possession. And believing this, they were able to crucify the natural desire to go back to a country where they would have had both inheritance and friends, but in going back to which they would have forfeited the promises. They saw that the thing promised was more worthy than "the country from whence they came out." They looked for a city (polity) which had foundations, and desired a heavenly country. The country from which they came out was without foundations: being based upon the flesh, which is of earth earthy, it was ephemeral and passing away; as John says—

"*The world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God endureth for ever*"

(1 John 2:17)

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob saw in the Promises the guarantee of a heavenly order of things in which—God being the Founder—there would be the stability of 'foundations' that could never be removed.

Therefore they consented to live strangers in a foreign land, waiting in faith for the things promised. They saw that the promises were "afar off." They therefore, in faith, accepted exile, confessing themselves for the time strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Paul says:

*"They DIED without receiving the promises."*

What is it, then, but that they must rise to receive them? When? At the time described in Rev. 11:18 as—

*"The time of the dead that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets."*

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were prophets (Ps. 105:15). This time (the reader will perceive from the context in Rev.) is when—

*"The kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ" (v. 15).*

It is the epoch mentioned by Paul in these words (2 Tim. 4:1)—

*"Jesus Christ shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and kingdom."*

When Abraham, Isaac and Jacob come from their graves to judgment and reward, they will "receive the LAND for an inheritance," according to the Promise. On doing this, they will inherit the Kingdom of God, for the Kingdom of God is to be established there. Hence Jesus says to the Pharisees (Luke 13:28-29)—

*"Ye shall SEE Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east and from the west, and from the north and the south, and shall sit down IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD."*

If anyone doubt that this will be *in the very LAND promised to the fathers*, and in which they wandered as strangers, let him read the following testimonies from the prophets—

*"The Lord shall inherit Judah, His portion in the Holy Land, and shall choose JERUSALEM again"*

(Zech. 2:12).

*"But upon Mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions . . . And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath. And the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south."*

*"And saviors shall come up on Mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau, and THE KINGDOM SHALL BE THE LORD'S" (Obad. 17-21).*

*"In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out and her that I have afflicted. And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation. And THE LORD SHALL REIGN OVER THEM IN MOUNT ZION from henceforth even for ever."*

*"And thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the FIRST DOMINION: the Kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem" (Mic. 4:6-8).*

*"Then will I (God) remember My covenant with Jacob, and also My covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will REMEMBER THE LAND" (Lev. 26:42).*

*"Then will the Lord be jealous for His LAND, & pity His people. . . Fear not, O land; be glad & rejoice: the Lord will do great things" (Joel 2:18-21).*

*"A LAND which the Lord thy God careth for. The eyes of the Lord thy God ARE ALWAYS UPON IT"*

(Deut. 11:12).

*"The desolate LAND shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, THIS LAND that was desolate is become like the Garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced and are inhabited."*

*"THEN the nations that are left round about you shall KNOW that I the Lord build the ruined places and plant that that was desolate. I the Lord have spoken it, and I WILL DO IT" (Ezek. 36:34-36)*

*"For the Lord shall comfort Zion. He will comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the Garden of the Lord" (Isa. 51:3).*

"Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall THY LAND any more be termed Desolate. But thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy LAND Beulah. For the Lord delighteth in thee, and THY LAND shall be married" (Isa. 62:4).

"Whereas thou (Zion) hast been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations . . . Violence shall *no more* be heard IN THY LAND, wasting nor destruction within thy borders" (Isa 60:15-18).

When the state of things depicted in these testimonies passes out of the domain of prophecy into that of accomplished fact, the "city having foundations" and the "heavenly country," which were the objects of faith with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the subject of promise to them, will be realized. The *scriptural* meaning of these phrases will then be exemplified. Orthodox interpreters make them apply to "heaven above the skies." They overlook the fact that the Promises related to the LAND in which the fathers sojourned; and they forget the absurdity of calling heaven a "heavenly country." Palestine will be a heavenly *country* when Christ, having re-established the kingdom of David, rules in it as monarch of the whole earth. And his Kingdom will be "a city having *foundations*," for it will stand upon a Rock which no rude assault of rebellion—whether of democrats or kings—will be able to shake.

It will be observed that Abraham's "Seed" is joined with Abraham himself in the Promises. Paul says that this Seed is Christ (Gal. 3:16) and all who are Christ's (v. 29). In view of this, we are bound to give an application to the Promises which may be a little startling to those who have hitherto read the Bible with an orthodox bias; but which is the only application that a rational reading and a childlike belief in the Promises can admit, and that is that—

*Christ and the saints are destined, in conjunction with Abraham (who in fact will be one of them), to possess and occupy the "land of Israel."*

From this conclusion the orthodox mind will, doubtless, recoil with horror. This is owing to the perverted condition of the orthodox mind, and not to the nature of the conclusion itself. Is it not a beautiful and a fitting conclusion? If it is the purpose of God to rule mankind by Christ and his people, it is meet that they should have a center of operations and headquarters somewhere on the earth. And where could a more appropriate spot be found than the land promised to Abraham?

Palestine is situated at the conjunction of the 3 great continents, and it can be approached from any quarter on the great oceans. It is the natural center of universal government, both for commerce and law-giving. It stands in the finest situation there is on earth.

In addition to this, *it is the locality that has witnessed all God's operations in the past, down to the very crucifixion of His Son, & the sending forth of the Gospel.* What more fitting than it should be the place fixed upon for the resumption of His great and mighty acts? The scene of Christ's humiliation: what more befitting than that it should witness his exaltation as monarch of all the earth?

But these considerations pale before the strength of the Promise itself. Nothing is needed after the testimony—

"The law shall go forth of ZION, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Mic. 4:2).

"The redeemed of the Lord shall return and come with singing UNTO ZION, and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and mourning shall flee away" (Isa. 51:11).

"Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her. Rejoice with joy for her all ye that mourn for her, that ye may suck and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out and be delighted with the abundance of her glory . . . As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you—and ye shall be comforted IN JERUSALEM" (Isa. 66:10-13).

"Thine eyes shall see JERUSALEM a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down. Not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken . . .

"For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our King: He will save us . . . He will destroy IN THIS MOUNTAIN the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.

"He will swallow up death in victory, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces. In that day shall this song be sung IN THE LAND OF JUDAH" (Isa. 33:20; 25:7-8; 26:1).

"The Redeemer shall come to ZION, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob" (Isa. 59:20).

"At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord" (Jer. 3:17).

"Moreover, when ye shall divide by lots the land for inheritance, ye shall *offer an oblation to the Lord, AN HOLY PORTION IN THE LAND.* The length shall be 25,000 reeds, and the breadth shall be 10,000 [43 miles by 17]. This shall be holy in all the borders thereof round about . . . the SANCTUARY OF THE LORD shall be in the midst thereof" (Ezek. 45:1; 48:10).

"And they [the nations at the end of the 1000 years] went up on the breadth of the earth and compassed the CAMP OF THE SAINTS about, and the BELOVED CITY, and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them" (Rev. 20:9).

These quotations illustrate the fulfilment of the Promise to Abraham as regards his Seed—Christ and the saints. They show the sense in which the Promise is to be understood, and that is, the *obvious* sense, the *plain* sense, namely, that when the Kingdom of God is established and Abraham inherits the land, then his Seed (constituting the divine encampment) will be in the land with him, and in a particular part of it to be allotted for that purpose.

This allotment, which will include the territory of Judah and Jerusalem, will contain an area of about 1800 square miles, which will be ample enough for the pavilions of the King to be spread on a scale becoming the grandeur and majesty of the Kingdom. Abraham's Seed—the Bride, the Lamb's Wife, the totality of those who (being "called and chosen and faithful") are the "first-fruits unto God and unto the Lamb," and found worthy of reigning with Christ—will be a numerous progeny: but not too numerous for the country allotted:

"Many are called; but FEW ARE CHOSEN . . . Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and FEW there be that find it."

True, John describes this "few" as "a multitude that no man could number"; but this must be taken as expressing the aspect which a large assembly of people would present to the eye, and not as the statement of an arithmetic fact. The expression could never be true in the absolute sense (for numbers can be computed indefinitely); but in the sense of a crowd being so large and dense as that a man could not reckon them, it is quite appropriate.

How many people does the reader think could be accommodated with standing room in the section of country to be set apart, according to Ezekiel, for "an holy oblation"? Nearly half the present population of the globe, that is, about 500 million. The calculation is very simple. It is easy to ascertain how many people could stand in a square mile. Multiply that by the number of square miles, and you have the result stated.

We make these apparently unnecessary remarks on account of the objection raised to Bible teaching concerning the inheritance of the Holy Land by Jesus and the Saints, on the score of the impossibility of such a little place holding them all.

The objection arises from 2 mistakes: first, the place is not so little; 2nd, the number who will be with Christ is not so great as popular tradition presumes. At the end of the 1000 years there will be a great harvest to be reaped, as the result of the 1000 years' dispensation of light and knowledge. But at the beginning, the number to be associated with Christ as the Seed of Abraham, to co-operate with him in the blessing of the nations, will be on the limited scale of "first-fruits." They are styled the (Rev. 14:4)—

"The FIRSTFRUITS unto God and to the Lamb" (Rev. 14:4).

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

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## God Gave Them Up

*"The invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and divinity, so that they are without excuse"*—Rom. 1:20.

### ROMANS CHAPTERS 1 AND 2

PAUL'S letter to the brethren and sisters at Rome is very deeply doctrinal, but it is also very personal. He mentions nearly 40 specific individuals in ch. 16, beside several references to households.

We must always remember that the Truth is a *personal* thing—a matter of personal relationships to others—not a mathematical or technical or coldly individual thing. Paul says in ch. 1 that without ceasing he made mention of them always in his prayers. This is not exaggeration: this was Paul's whole heart and life.

First and above all, the whole meaning and power of the Truth is an intense personal relationship to God and Christ—

"This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent"  
(John 17).

Not just to know *of* them. Not even just to know *about* them: to know the truth concerning them (though that is truly vital in itself). But to *know them personally* as close and intimate companions: far more intimate and closer to us than anyone else can possibly be.

It is quite possible—and if we observe ourselves we shall often catch ourselves falling into it—it is quite possible to work diligently all day long on the work of God, and not once think of Him as a personal, living Reality, as a Friend, as a Companion, in terms of closeness, and affection, and communion. Yet this is the very essence of the Truth. This is the central, heart-purpose for which all else is designed. We may feel we are "always abounding in the work of the Lord," but it is meaningless if it is not built upon this.

There is no point, no value, no life, in doing God's work if there is not an ever-conscious personal relationship at the heart of it. It is this personal, affectionate relationship to God and Christ that draws us from evil, and strengthens us in good. Nothing else can.

In our poor, so-brief little life-span, the basic purpose of *all* that we do must be the schooling and purifying and developing and transforming of our own character. Knowledge is good. Knowledge is essential. But knowledge is just a means to an end—not an end in itself. *Character* is the vital thing that knowledge must be creating—spirituality, holiness, integrity, purity, beauty. We are being put through exercises and experiences to create holiness. Even Jesus himself "learned obedience by the things that he suffered" and was "made perfect through suffering."

God does not actually *need* us to do anything for Him. All that we do for Him is training for ourselves. Now this needs qualifying to avoid misunderstanding. God does not need any particular one of us, but in His wise divine purpose there is work to be done by man, and the work itself is important. In the plan God has devised faithful servants are an essential part. It has pleased Him to condescend to make His beloved children co-workers with Himself.

And we must always be mindful that *all* we ever do of any good is God's working in us, and not of ourselves (Phil. 2:13)—

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

Our part is to yield, to submit, to conform, to put away other things that waste our time (*God's* time, for all belongs to Him) and distract our interest, to maintain our attention in the right direction, to discern and co-operate with the shaping and molding hand.

And further, character is not a self-centered operation. It is the very opposite. We cannot be holy in a selfish vacuum. We cannot turn inward and just work out our own salvation as if others did not exist, though that may be tempting to the flesh. It is so selfishly pleasant to get off into our own little corner of isolation.

Character is essentially a self-forgetting, outgoing relationship, primarily to God and Christ, but also to all members of the Body of Christ, and in a more general sense to the whole suffering world. Paul is our example, as Christ was his. He wrote similarly to other ecclesias as he does here to the believers in Rome—

1:9—"Without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers."

His concern was for every member (2 Cor. 11:29)—

"Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is offended, and I burn not?"

Paul's whole life was the love and fellowship and welfare of his brethren: intense empathy with and sympathy for them. About three years after writing this letter, as he approached Rome as a prisoner, this same group of brethren came out 35 miles to meet him—

"Whom, when Paul saw, he thanked God and took courage" (Rom. 28:15).

But, just about another 5 years later, in his final tribulation—on trial for his life, about to be offered—in this same city of Rome, he had to sadly say, like his Master before him (2 Tim. 4:16)—

"At my first answer no man stood with me, but all forsook me."

And he gave thanks to God for one lone, faithful brother in the whole city who diligently sought him out in his cell, and found him, and refreshed him, and "was not ashamed of his chain." In the conditions then prevailing, doubtless this loyal Onesiphorus risked his own life to succor Paul.

1:11— " I long to see you."

He had never visited the ecclesia at Rome, though from ch. 16 it is clear he knew many of the members. He longed to see them that he might impart to them some spiritual benefit, and—

1:12—"That I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me."

This is, and *must* be, the reason for our visiting and associating with one another, and this aspect must be constantly borne in mind. Any time of our association not spent for this purpose is time wasted, unfaithful stewardship, lost opportunity.

There are, of course, many different ways, direct and indirect, by which this purpose may be furthered, and therefore we must be slow and careful in judging others' activities, because we do not know their motives. But let us be sure that we ourselves bear this ever in mind, and that this is always *our* motive. Our constant goal must be to do *everything* we do to the glory of God and to spiritual upbuilding of both ourselves and others. All else is empty, animal folly, leading only to rejection and death.

1:13—"I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, but was hindered hitherto."

This is interesting. Paul had many times planned to visit Rome, but so far had not been able to do so. At the time he was writing, it had been about 7 years since he had first gotten as far as Corinth—the closest he had been to Rome. It was his practice, as is clear from the history in Acts and from what he says to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 10:13-16) to gradually work toward Rome, establishing ecclesias and fields of activity on the way.

We know too, of course, that he was guided by the Spirit, both directly and indirectly, as to where to carry the Gospel. He had recently spent 3 years in Ephesus, as headquarters for evangelizing Asia Minor—first detained there by the tremendous opportunities and also by the opposition the Truth was receiving; and then he was suddenly driven away from Ephesus by the great uproar and agitation created under the leadership of Demetrius the silversmith.

So we see how Paul's life was guided and laid out for him by the Spirit, often with great danger and violence and abruptness, and often in ways we would think strange, such as long periods in prison when he just ached and agonized to be out preaching the Gospel. But the enforced confinement, though a physical hardship, would be an opportunity for study and meditation, and for writing many needed letters of comfort and instruction that a busy outside active life would have prevented.

Certainly Paul never wasted his time, whether in prison or not, nor did he use his hardships and confinement as an excuse to neglect the service of his Lord, for he writes from prison (Phil. 1:12-14)—

"The things which happened unto me have fallen out unto the furtherance of the Gospel, so that *my bonds for Christ are manifest in all Caesar's court and in all other places,*

"And many of the brethren of the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the Word without fear."

*Such was the power of a fearless and faithful example.*

1:16—"I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

First of all, this is an important verse as to the vital necessity for salvation of believing the One True Gospel of the Kingdom. But why does Paul say, writing to *brethren*, that he was not *ashamed* of it? Why should there be any thought that he might be?

The Gospel is a simple, "unlearned," unworldly thing. It requires simple, unworldly people to believe it and value it. The Gospel, in its simple beauty was providentially unearthed for our benefit in these last days by the labors of brethren Thomas and Roberts.

There were those in Paul's day, and have been ever since, who—enamored of worldly learning—were not satisfied with the simple teaching of the Gospel. They were, in effect, ashamed of it. It did not appeal to the worldly wise, or the speculative-minded. They desired greater scope for worldly learning and philosophy and theory.

Why is the Gospel the "power of God unto salvation?—

1:17—"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

To Paul, this is a key Old Testament passage: "*The just shall live by faith.*" In these early chapters of Romans, Paul is establishing the truth of salvation *by faith*, as against salvation *by works*. He is contrasting a gracious *gift* of eternal life with legally *earned* life.

But he is certainly not contrasting faith with righteousness or with obedience or with holiness. Rather he is establishing faith as the only gateway to, and power of, righteousness—

"Therein is the *righteousness* of God revealed from faith to faith."

Instead of—

"The Just (or righteous) shall live by faith."

—the Diaglott and some other versions have it more clearly—

"The righteous by faith, shall live."

That is to say—

"He who becomes righteous through faith, shall live."

Faith is not an end in itself, but a means to an end, a power to accomplish an end: "*Faith without works is dead.*" Faith, if it does not lead to works, produce works, is dead. Faith is never a substitute for holiness. To the Hebrews, in very direct and decisive exhortation, Paul says plainly (12:14)—

"*WITHOUT HOLINESS SHALL NO MAN SEE GOD.*"

And the context clearly shows that he is not giving a soothing assurance of something that will flutter down from heaven upon us at the last day. Rather he is solemnly warning us of something that must be accomplished by the mighty power of faith and love *right now*. If we hope for salvation, we had better give far more attention to this matter of holiness, and what it involves of transformation of our lives, that most—in or out of the Truth—appear willing to give. Surely this is very clear from the next vs. in Romans—

1:18—"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against ALL ungodliness and unrighteousness of men."

We should note the "all," for it is essential to Paul's line of reasoning. In reading the stomach-turning description of natural human corruption that follows, we are apt to be put off the track by its very vileness. Paul gives as examples some of the worst forms of unrighteousness, but he is speaking of all unrighteousness, large and small. Often the only difference between big sins and little ones is that the little ones take less courage, and are more cowardly and despicable. This is not to belittle serious sins, but to illustrate the deadly seriousness of what we may consider "minor" sins. It is fatal to belittle any sin, however "small." If we can deliberately choose to sin—deliberately, knowingly choose to do anything displeasing to God and contrary to His law of holiness, then it does not matter how small or big it is, as it is always deadly, because the heart is wrong. Any heart that can choose to displease God in order to please the flesh is still dead in sin: it has not been reborn and transformed to the way of life and love—

"Whosoever is born of God *doth not commit sin* . . . he CANNOT SIN, because he is born of God"

(1 John 3:9).

Such may repeatedly stumble and fail, but they will be quick to cleanse themselves with repentance and tears, and renewed efforts to overcome.

Why is the wrath of God against all unrighteousness? Vs. 19-20 are very significant. They state very decisively God's view on a very important issue, especially important today, in the light of man's current learned foolishness—

1:19-20—"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them, for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are CLEARLY SEEN, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead (divinity), so that they are WITHOUT EXCUSE."

God considers that in His works of creation He has given unmistakable and overwhelming evidence of His power and His divinity: that is, His supreme nature and position. Observing the works of creation, both within himself and around him, man has absolutely no excuse for not clearly recognizing the existence and the hand of God, and seeking knowledge of God, and submitting to God.

*There is absolutely no excuse for the new, modern, man-centered superstition of "Evolution." It does not rate a moment's consideration, any more than the absurdities of "learned" Platonic mythology. It is a tissue of impossibilities woven to obscure the reality and authority of the holy, sin-hating God Who is everywhere obvious in His mighty works, staring man in the face. That is God's view, and it is conclusive, and we must thankfully recognize*

its truth and justice. On the strength of God's testimony here, we can be absolutely sure that anyone who is so abysmally blind as not to be able to see God in Creation has nothing of value to tell us about that Creation.

Daily, almost hourly, in this marvelous modern age of investigation, we are ever anew struck by the fantastic wonders of the infinite intricacies of created things. The deeper man probes into the construction of living things, the more wonderful are the things he finds in evidence of wisdom and power and design, and the more utterly impossible the superstition of evolution is shown to be.

1:20-22—"... so that they are without excuse because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools."

What a perfect description of modern, "learned" man! If this was true of the pagan Roman world, with their very limited knowledge of the details of the construction of all living things, what must be the stupidity and guilt of man today? No wonder Christ is to be revealed from heaven in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who refuse to face the reality and authority of God!

1:24-26—"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves. Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than [better, margin: rather than, instead of] the Creator. . . For this cause God gave them up to vile affections."

And verse 28—

"God gave them over to a reprobate mind [margin: mind void of judgment] to do those things which are not convenient."

Again, a perfect description of modern, "evolutionary" man. What time has ever been like today in this respect of moral uncleanness and "vile affections"? Not that these abominations are new. From the days of Sodom—and doubtless from before the Flood—this has been the nature and bent of the common, groveling, unclean human animal. Ancient Greece, the philosophical brains of the ancient world, with the marvelous, timeless beauty and splendor of its art and literature and architecture, is proverbial for vile abominations and immorality.

But with the rise of Christianity—even a corrupted Christianity—these vile things were relegated to darkness, and a veneer of respectability and religion was carefully laid over the "Christian" world. Men at least had a "form of godliness." Officially, these vile things of the flesh were condemned and proscribed. Laws were passed against them, as far as any public activity was concerned. And those laws have remained, and been enforced, up until very recently, well within memory.

But today, within the past 20 years or so, the holy laws of God against these abominations—long recognized and outwardly accepted, if not actually obeyed—have been cast aside. And foremost in the new Canaanitish trend are those so-called "Christian" religious bodies who claim the duty and privilege of teaching and upholding the pure and holy Word of God.

Fornication, divorce and homosexuality—the very abominations specified as against which God's wrath is revealed from heaven—are now openly embraced and condoned and defended, yea, glorified, by the large and once-respectable religious denominations.

Surely this is both a wonderful sign of the time of the end—"as it was in the days of Lot"—and a wonderful testimony to the timelessness of the pure and holy Word of Him Who changeth not!

But there is a great and sobering lesson for us in these things, as we see the great churches of the world oozing and dripping with the leprosy of Canaanite immorality. There is a deep underlying principle that explains this phenomenon, and that comes much closer home. It is in that 3-fold knell of hopeless doom of verses 24, 26 and 28: "God gave them up." Terrible words!—

"God gave them up to uncleanness . . .

"God gave them up to vile affections . . .

"God gave them up to a mind void of judgment."

Let us ponder those words, and tremble. Where much is given, much is required, and we have been given very, very much of the goodness and revelation and condescension of God in these last days. Because they chose the *first steps* in a certain path, God gave them up to go all the way—to uncleanness, to vile affection, and finally, to a mind void of judgment: hopeless of return. And these vile things are now lapping at the doors of the ecclesias. It seems clear that many who bear the name Christadelphian are very shallowly rooted. Their thinking (or rather, feeling)

flows with the vicissitudes of the world: they sway with the world's fashions, they sway with the world's morals. Things unknown and abhorred among us a generation ago now press at the doors, simply because the world's morals and manner have changed.

There is no safety except in complete, wholehearted dedication and allegiance and service to God. Come ye out from among them and be ye separate, *separate*, SEPARATE! What does it mean? Does it mean anything to us? Do we *tremble* at the Word? Has it all become so commonplace and thoughtless?

God *may* give us till tomorrow to repent, to put away the thick clogging clay of worldly interests and lusts and pleasures and pursuits. He *may* give us till tomorrow to decide to give all our heart and soul and mind and spirit to Him. He may, and we fervently hope and pray that He will: *but we have no assurance that He will*. We dare not presume on it. He may "give us UP." He is infinitely longsuffering when His wisdom so dictates, and He sees reason so to be; but He will not be mocked, and He is also a consuming fire.

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CHAPTER 1 was about the Gentile. Ch. 2 is directed toward the Jew. The message is different, but the underlying principle is the same. The Jew—and rightly so—condemned the vile abominations and superstitions of the learned and "modern" Gentile: the so-capable Roman, the scientific and philosophic Greek. But the Jew did not see the true picture. It is easy to see the faults of others. They (v.17) rested in the Law of Moses, and made their boast of God.

Naturally speaking, the Jew had reason to boast. They had a holy, just and good national law, direct from the hand of God, that is still today—3500 years after it was given—not only unsurpassed but *completely unapproached* by any of man's tinkering, ever-changing, jigsaw of special interest legislation. Israel was given a pure and beautiful religion and national form of joyful, ennobling worship; a rigid code of cleanliness and morality, wisely and necessarily enforced with the death penalty to prevent festering corruption; no permanent ownership of the land; no interest charges (the root of all social injustice and oppression); no jails (tax-supported crime factories); debts worked out by honest labor with a 6-year limit and a guaranteed generously-underwritten new start; one year in every 7 a complete rest and rejoicing in worship of God; every 50 years an entire new national beginning for everyone on a fair and equal basis, wiping the whole slate of accumulated inequality.

Man has never dreamed of anything like this, and he could not make it work if he did. But this glorious national law was underwritten by God Himself, and *guaranteed* to work: no disease, no poverty, no fear or insecurity—IF they would do their part.

And the Jew had a wonderful 2000 year history of the Almighty God of heaven manifesting Himself to and working with their ancestors as His special people above all others on earth.

No wonder the Jew despised the Gentile, with their hodge-podge legislation all in favor of the powerful, just like today; and their hobgoblin pagan Platonic superstition, just like today.

But the Jew forgot that where much is given, much is required, and as Paul reminded them in v. 11 —

"There is no respect of persons with God."

And the Jews never realized that their wonderful, God-given Law was not to glorify them but to humble and condemn them so that they would look tremblingly to the mercy of God; not to give them pride but humility; not to make them confident of their righteousness, but to make them keenly conscious of the hopelessness of their weakness and sinfulness, apart from the love of God.

What Paul is leading up to, and what comes out more clearly in ch. 3, is that all mankind—Gentile and Jew—are sinners without exception, and have no hope of escape from death except in Christ.

Truly there are different degrees of sinfulness. Open rebellion is a far different thing from helpless human failure and weakness, sincerely striven against and repented of. But both are sin, and both are fatal, apart from the way of redemption in Christ. This the Jew could not see, and cannot see today. As Paul says in 3:19 —

"Now we know that what things so ever the Law saith, it saith to them who are under the Law, that every mouth may be stopped, and *all the world may become guilty before God*."

Similarly in 5:20—

"The Law entered *that the offence might abound*."

Sin is a disease. We have, as Paul says in 7:23—

"The law of sin in our members, warring against the law of our mind."

Offences, transgressions, are the symptoms of that disease. The Law of Moses was given so that the symptoms would become obvious and identifiable, so that man may recognize his diseased condition, and seek unto the Great Physician.

We are not under the Law of Moses, but still it serves the same purpose for us as for them. We know we could not perfectly keep that holy Law any more than they could. There were many great and godly men of the Jewish race, but none of them—except Jesus himself—could obey that Law of God to perfection. This is the message of Paul to the Jews in ch. 2—

2:1—"Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself, for thou that judgest doest the same things."

Here is where we are all in danger. It is so easy for us to say, and even more easy to think complacently within ourselves—

"*WE* are the chosen people of God: all the outside world are sinners."

We know the latter part is true, and hopefully the former part is true, but the attitude is wrong: it is the old Jewish blindness. We are *all* sinners, and we shall *perish as sinners* if we judge others rather than ourselves.

There are certain rigid divine laws of separation from the world and from error. There are certain rigid laws of fellowship. In faithfulness they must be obeyed. They are God's laws. We did not make them; we are under them. And in obeying these fellowship laws, there must be a discerning of facts, as to who has the Gospel of Truth, and who are faithful to it.

But it is especially important at such times to make sure that our attitude is in harmony with Paul's warning here; and that we are always vividly conscious that at our very best and even when we are trying our hardest, we still have that ever-present law of sin in our members, and never fully do what we should, and are always ourselves in need of the mercy of God. It is when we are judging others that we must most carefully and searchingly judge ourselves—as to our attitude, our motive, our spirit, our consistency, and our constant remembrance of our own inherent sinfulness and need for mercy.

And it is at this solemn time especially, as we partake of these memorials of the body and blood of him who lovingly gave his life on our account, that we must examine *ourselves*—

"*Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat...*"

The flesh is evil; the heart is deceitful. But the love of God is infinitely stronger than either, and it CAN purify and transform us in holiness by the Word. In the end, a vast, glorious, rejoicing multitude will have overcome the flesh. Every one of us can be among them—but only if we resolutely cast aside everything in our lives that does not contribute to this one purpose—

*"Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside EVERY WEIGHT, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."* —G.V.G.

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## Current Events Fulfilling Prophecy

**RUSSIA'S BIG TRADE TURNAROUND.** Oil crisis that's playing havoc with West economies is giving strong lift to Russia. Russia is now world's No. 1 oil producer, with surplus being peddled in world markets at high OPEC prices. Russia's chronic trade deficit has turned dramatically into surplus. Exports jumped from \$4.8 billion in '73 to \$7.5 billion in '74. At current trend, expect \$9.3 billion in '75; \$18 bin. in '80; \$25 bin. in '85—with prices rising dramatically for its oil, gold, natural gas & other raw materials.

Russian leaders taking stiffer attitude toward trade with West, especially US. While US oil production has been steadily declining, Russia's has been rising. A no-nonsense program of energy conservation is enforced to make every possible barrel available for export. As one of world's major gold producers, Russia gained enormously from 5-fold increase in world gold price. (USN 5:26)

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E. Europe nations have managed normal economic growth despite global recession & inflation. Communist planners shooting for '75 expansion of 7%. Retail prices have shown virtually no change in Communist bloc. (USN 6:16)

**DICTATORSHIP has great advantage in today's world. Truly it means an end to man's dream of individual freedom, especially religious freedom. Dictators have never been able to tolerate independent religious thought—faith in anything other than or above themselves, though they find it useful to tolerate & even encourage subservient religion. But in today's nuclear, jungle world, dictatorship is much more decisive & efficient than bumbling democracy. Freedom is an abused & wasted & expensive luxury that nations can less & less afford. "No-nonsense" in the above extract is the key to Russia's growing might—"no-nonsense" from the point of view of anything that stands in the way of Russia's march to world power. Contrast this approach to the energy problem with that of the many-headed, many-purposed, squabbling, impotent US Congress. Russia can make national decisions overnight, and enforce them immediately. Congress labors for months & gets nowhere. Russia is now No. 1 in oil, steel & coal production—the heart of industrial and military might.**

**BIG RUSSIAN GAINS** on NATO's south flank. Portuguese Azores are tremendously important in anti-sub warfare: will play key role in any future battle of Atlantic. If Azores denied to NATO in war, US would have difficulty in supplying Med forces. Suez opening puts Russian Navy only 2000 mi. from Indian Ocean, instead of 11,000: a great strategic gain. Greece has announced intent to withdraw from NATO: will make Med defence far more difficult. Substantial British reductions in Med: most serious consequences will be in anti-sub warfare & great psychological effect.

In Europe, Russia has 2-to-1 edge in land forces, plus far more armor and mobility. In air, they have better than 2-to-1 edge. Balance of naval power in Med changing in Russian favor. They maintain about 55 ships there, & can build strength at short notice: in '73 War they had 100 warships in Med. Russia makes extensive use of Syrian ports, which she has enlarged. (USN 6:2)

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Russians building major seaport & air facilities in Somalia (at S. end of Red Sea). They're constructing barracks & missile facilities: clearly interested in building military power astride West's lifeline to Persian Gulf. (USN 5:26)

**EVERY point in this summary is in the right prophetic direction. We should be greatly stimulated in our faith & in our walk. The day of the Lord draws very near. Only one thing in life matters—preparing for that day. In the light of today's conditions, waste of time on anything else is incredible folly, & will soon be exposed as such.**

**SUNSET FOR WHITE AFRICANS.** From Ethiopia to Zambia, ½-million Whites have left in recent years; remaining ¼-million plan to follow. At moment, White exodus is at floodtide in Angola & Mozambique, Portuguese territories soon due for independence. Exodus is because of: vicious fighting among rival Black groups, guerrilla raids on Whites, & restrictions of many Black regimes which deny Whites citizenship & even work permits. Last year Zaire (formerly Congo) expelled 30,000 Whites, some 4th generation native born, for "exploiting" Blacks. (Nwk 6:2)

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After 300 yrs. of Portuguese rule, Mozambique becomes independent June 25. In past yr. 100s have died in race clashes. 25% of the Whites have fled; all planes & boats fully booked till independence day. New law permits regime to jail anyone for up to 8 yrs. for vague crime of "sabotaging decolonization."

In Angola, 3 Black groups fighting over who'll get power. In past 3 wks. at least 500 killed, 1000s wounded, in murderous vendetta. Prospects for elections remote: could degenerate into civil war. Those who have fled tell tales of murder, pillage & rape by rampaging Blacks. What complicates situation is Angola's enormous wealth. In addition to potential oil reserves rivaling Kuwait, are huge US, Belgian, German & S. African investments. (Tm 5:26)

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One after another, last bastions of White supremacy in Africa collapsing: Mozambique & Angola becoming independent, Rhodesia Whites in increasingly precarious position. Change also coming to SW Africa (Namibia), ruled by S. Africa for 55 yrs. (since WWI). Black Africa has long demanded its independence; so has UN; World Court at Hague in '72 voided S. Africa's claim to it. Has rich mineral resources; produces 14% of world's diamonds. S. Africa has over \$-billion invested there. Territory's Black leaders (armed by Communist countries) demand immediate independence. (Tm 6:16)

**THINGS are moving rapidly & violently in southern Africa, as all Black Africa concentrates its attention & pressure on the diminishing & embattled White enclave. For centuries, arrogant & greedy White Europe treated Black Africa as a plundering ground. The wheel has turned. It could have been so different, if the colonizing motive had been goodness & love for people, & not greed & lust for power. We read with a**

**shudder of "rampaging Blacks." How much have we shuddered over the years at the "rampaging Whites" who have treated these Blacks as beasts of burden & worse. How thoroughly evil, biased, & self-centered is man—White & Black! God can teach us a better way, but it is a lifetime lesson. Are we giving it all our heart & effort?**

**THAILAND STUNNED** by fall of non-Communist govts. in Cambodia, Vietnam & Laos. Thailand sent soldiers to fight in Vietnam, & 25,000 US troops are still based there. Thais, who share 1800 mi. of border with Cambodia & Laos, suddenly find selves surrounded by hostile forces. They're moving swiftly toward neutrality: have announced full diplomatic relations with N. Korea. Relations with China could come soon. So far, overtures to Hanoi haven't been well received: US military presence is at heart of Thais' dilemma. (Tm 5:26)

**IT would appear US has sealed Thailand's doom by forcing it into the Indochina war, & setting it at enmity with the now-victorious Communists. It is the next logical frontier for the expanding Red Empire, & the Communists have scores to settle. It may soon mean more handy US-built ports for Russia's ever-growing world navy,**

**DECLINE OF WEST** Defence Sec. Schlesinger says:"There's tendency among our fashionable classes to raise questions about whether it is appropriate to fight for West's values—whether those values are even defensible. Our basic problem is reviving moral stamina & internal fiber of US & other free world nations." (USN 5:26)

**EMPIRES come & go, both in natural course & by the over-ruling hand of God as His purpose requires. When a people begins to doubt itself & its cause, it is lost.**

**EUROPE SLIDING?** Many of W. Europe's policy planners convinced US no longer reliable ally. In wake of chaotic & humiliating US withdrawal from Indochina, Europe increasingly doubtful about US's will to play activist role in world. Coming at time when neutralist wind already stirring in Europe, that perception may profoundly alter course of European history. Europe has subconsciously decided it cannot or will not make tremendous effort required to stand on its own. End result maybe accommodation with Russia—on her terms.

Europe first began to fret in '73 when Congress passed war-powers act giving it power to end any US military action in 60 days. Congress' subsequent insistence on denying President his traditional power to conduct foreign policy has made Europe fear the worst. As they see it, US has given in to belief that nothing can be done to stop countries like Portugal—& perhaps even Greece & Italy—from falling to Communists. Many contend US no longer sees its security tied to survival of democracy in Europe.

While US military might has been shrinking, Russia's has been steadily growing. Russia is increasing its military capacity 5 to 10% a year in Europe & on seas. W. Europe feels powerless. Europe's inflation has affected its military preparedness & made it all but impossible to create a credible deterrent to Communist aggression. Europe leaders increasingly tilting toward neutrality.

Pacifism is spreading, especially among young. Dutch Labor Party urged NATO be blocked from improving its military capacity: demand that Dutch pull out of NATO unless it pledges never to be first to use nuclear weapons, even if Russia attacks. Anti-capitalism is very "in" & Marxism has been revived as a religion. Britain is awash with domestic crises. Little being done, as ruling Labor Party is riddled at every level with Marxists. In various degrees, same is true of social democratic parties on Continent. Marxists have penetrated W. Europe's universities, press, TV and other forums.

West naively assumed detente means end to Cold War. To Russia, however, it's just a vehicle for intensification of struggle against West social system, & for access to technology that will strengthen Russia. Drift within NATO is accelerating. US & Europe public opinions increasingly indifferent to one another. Europe economically troubled, militarily weak, lacks will to create viable entity. Possible NATO could wither, Europe slip into Russian orbit. (Nwk 5:26)

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Divided NATO: its 15 nations sharply divided over complex issues that weaken its common front. Interest in common defence at all-time low. Sense of danger, so apparent in Cold War period, has evaporated with detente. (USN 6:2)

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NATO: sick man of Europe. Italy, like Portugal, may soon bring Reds into govt. Greece & Turkey, locked in conflict over Cyprus, have threatened to quit NATO. NATO faces a command-&-logistical nightmare if major war comes. Worldwide recession & detente have produced growing popular resistance to big arms budgets. NATO being challenged by generation that takes peace for granted, forgetting that it was NATO that kept the peace. (Nwk 6:9)

**THE picture is just as it must be, & is moving rapidly in the right direction. Europe has no unified will & purpose. Its empires are gone; its colonists are streaming home in fear. It is over-shadowed by ever-increasing Russian might, & it knows it. Its naive faith in US as a wise & all-powerful & dependable Santa**

**Claus & guardian White Knight has been shattered by US's follies, corruptions, defeats, & callous abandonment of its little allies. The oil crisis laid bare to all the world Europe's utter & humiliating vulnerability, both economically, as to price; & strategically, as to supply. Its antiquated, crazy-quilt social systems are creaking under the weight of inequality & old age. If Russia is wise & careful, as she gives ample evidence of being, she will be able to ease Europe painlessly & somewhat imperceptibly into her orbit & control with a judicious mixture of enticement, implied threat, pressure, & economic dependence.**

**BRITAIN SAYS "YES" TO EUROPE.** Britons voted massively to remain in Europe. Only 2 of 68 regions showed a No majority. Overall Yes majority more than 2 to 1. (Nwk 6:16)

**THIS is somewhat of a discouraging setback, & a reversal of the national mood not long ago, but it is small compared to the overall favorable developments of the prophetic purpose, & can be changed when the proper time comes. Sunken as she is, we cannot picture Britain remaining part of a Europe subservient to Russia.**

**POSITION OF U.S. AGED** has grown hazardous. Couple of decades ago, most could look forward to spending last yrs. in peace & security, respected & cared for by family & friends. No longer. For increasing number, years after 65 are time of growing uncertainty & isolation. Cut off from family, beset by illness, impoverished by inflation—they struggle to survive. US as society has yet to develop a practical, human policy for dealing with woes of old age in modern world. For those who can't take care of selves, end of life can be agony. About million already in nursing homes: grim warrens for the unwanted. Tragically, the population of nursing homes is growing.

In earlier times, when most lived on farms, aged simply stayed home, working less but expecting & getting more &: more care from families. Industrialization, urbanization, & auto have ended all that. Modern family not equipped to care for aged. More aged than ever to care for: in 1900, 1 in 25 over 65; now 1 in 10. Third of all US aged are in poverty: 5 million exist on under \$2000/yr., far below poverty line. Some can't afford even smallest apartment: for them, "independence" is a clammy rented room & a hot plate.

Many Americans simply don't have room for an elderly parent. Others say their presence strains marital relations & puts tremendous pressure on children. Each yr., more & more face problem of what to do when aged parent needs more care than they can—or are willing to—give. Answer: nursing home. Decision often devastating for parents & children alike: rips families apart.

One who spent 10 yrs. studying nursing homes concludes they're national scandal: "widespread neglect: excessive profits at expense of patients." The best deprive patients of some independence; the worst, of their resources, rights, & ultimately their humanity. They are killer institutions.

In '66, Govt. began to pay for nursing-home care thru Medicaid; last year spent \$4½-billion. That sudden gush of cash set loose nursing home boom, many interested only in big profits. Medicaid pays homes up to \$49 a patient per day: one owner admitted he was feeding his patients for 54¢ a day. Some homes yield over 40% per yr. profit on investment. Tragedy of old age is not that each must grow old & die, but that process has been made unnecessarily painful, humiliating, debilitating, & isolating. (Tm 6:2)

**WHAT a sordid picture of tragic failure in world's 'smartest' & richest country! Taxpayers pay enough to keep aged in luxury, but it is wickedly siphoned off into private profits. On every govt. move to do someone some good, some middleman must make a large profit. Here is where the system is hopeless. So often we see where govt. funds are dissipated before they reach the intended recipient. Children in this mad & selfish age do not want their aged parents any more. It doesn't fit into the current modern pattern. They can't afford them: they're too much in debt for lust & luxury.**

**"HUMAN KINDNESS" DAY.** 125,000 people turned out at Washington Monument for what was intended as Black-White show of harmony. Nearly 600 of the relatively few Whites were assaulted, robbed, or both, by roving bands of Black youngsters. One man blinded by stabbing; another clubbed unconscious; 2 teenage girls beaten & kicked; 300 required treatment. All this in broad daylight with 300 Park Police on hand. Only 18 arrests made. Most shocking was fact that few Blacks made any effort to help Whites, or control rampaging youths. "We were jeered, & I heard a yell, 'Kill the Whites,'" said one woman when she & her mother were robbed.

This 'Kindness Day' display of race hate has started some soul searching among Black leaders in Washington, where over 70% of population is Black. The District's Black Delegate to Congress told a TV audience it's time Black adults started asking selves why their children are so full of race hate. Washington Post Black columnist writes, "They learned race hate from us."(USN 6:2)

**VERY little was made of this dreadful event, but it is one of the most ominous news items of recent years. This was in Washington—the nation's capital—in broad daylight. US's "wise" modern folly is raising a generation of undisciplined wild beasts. Black & White, filled with uncontrolled lust & hate. Daily & increasingly, we are bombarded with local news of vicious teenage murder: 2 dreadful cases in past 2 days,**

**committed by 14 & 16-yr.-old boys. With the folly of permissiveness, & TV, & Black-White hate, what else can be expected in these closing days of human evil?**

**CRIME IN MANY FORMS.** In a criminal career that has spanned 20 years, Gary Taylor has brought mayhem to at least a dozen women: several murders linked to him. Incredibly, courts & psychiatrists time & again have refused to keep him confined. Under Michigan law, a person acquitted of a crime by reason of insanity can't be held indefinitely in a mental institution. The tragedies could have been averted if he had been locked up yrs. ago, but last yr. Mich. Supreme Court upheld the law, & he was released again. Problem comes in defining mental illness. In several Michigan homicide cases, psychiatrists have disagreed on whether killers should be confined. One man, who had killed 7 persons for hire, was freed: a month later he killed his wife. (Tm 6:9)

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It built week by week, name by name: a govt. fell; a top executive killed himself; foreign leaders were disgraced. And still the disclosures came, as more & more big US corporations confessed they'd spent millions abroad on bribes & political payoffs. Yet all the revelations paled last wk. beside latest story of \$30-million seeping thru dozen countries, of contracts peddled by statesmen & princes to promote sale of Northrop's fighter-planes. (Nwk 6:16)

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Soaring rate of crime against business: shoplifting, employee theft, cargo highjacking, etc. cost well over \$20-billion yr., up 30% from '71. In survey, 500 shoppers trailed in NY dept. store: 1 in every 12 stole. (USN 6:16)

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Great Medicare scandal: large number of doctors, dentists, druggists, clinics & nursing homes bilking taxpayers of millions yrly. Medical men have taken advantage of lax administration: take in some cases tremendous. Many 'Medicaid mills' set up to handle poor in ghettos reap enormous profits. (Tm 5:26)

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Real threat to "free enterprise system" does not come from "radicals, extremists, Marxists." Real danger to capitalism is capitalism itself. This concerns more than the recent revelations about way business often does business. US firms abroad have engaged in widespread bribery of govt. officials, At home, it's hard to keep up with number of major firms that have confessed or been convicted of illegal political contributions. Chairman of Northrup Corp. actually arranged a complex system of "laundering" money for White House thru foreign channels; lied about it; then engaged his colleagues in cover-up. We're kidding selves if we think capitalism can long survive such corruption.

2nd & greater threat that should be worrying capitalism's friends is waste, ruin, & neglect we continue to tolerate in our society. Our system is inherently tilted to favor small percentage of population. From defence to housing, public resources are constantly exploited for benefit of profit-takers. Poor & working class pay disproportionate price for housing because private lenders, profiting at public expense, take advantage of govt. programs which benefit private market. And wealthy get subsidies increasing their wealth.(Nwk 6:16)

**A SORDID picture of crime & corruption over the whole spectrum of US society. The Word of God gives a true morality, a true, clean, holy Way of Life. Cast this aside, and there is NO morality, whatever the bemused & benighted philosophers & psychologists may say. All that is left is a free-for-all animal jungle, & that's what we increasingly see.**

**WOMEN PREACHERS.** Across broad range of US religion, a women's-rights movement is stepping up drive for equality in pulpit. At core of struggle is the question: Can women be ordained to the clergy? Issue could split Episcopal Church right down middle. Even religious groups that have let women into clergy for 20 yrs., as Methodists & Presbyterians, show signs of renewed strife that could lead to schism. Even huge & conservative Southern Baptist Convention under assault by liberationists seeking 20% female quota on boards.

Potentially the greatest struggle is brewing for the 49 million US Catholics. Despite chilly reaction by Pope, Catholic activists have scheduled nationwide conference on issue in Detroit in November. Nor does ferment stop with Christianity. Reform Judaism authorized female rabbis 3 yrs. ago. Now signs of support among leaders of Conservative Judaism as well. (USN 6:16)

**IN ALL the sound & fury of this controversy, there's never any mention (or apparent consideration) of what GOD may desire, or what His Word requires. This is purely an animal argument, on animal grounds, & as such it is quite meaningless & immaterial as to who performs the mummery.**

**WILL SPAIN FOLLOW PORTUGAL INTO COMMUNISM?** Franco has made it clear that if US wants to keep its bases, it must guarantee Spain's security. US officials see such a guarantee as insurance that Franco-style dictatorship will continue even after aging Franco is gone. It would probably block chance of Spain moving away from dictatorship toward freedom. (USN 6:2)

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At last week's NATO summit, US effort to tie Spain to NATO was rejected by Europe leaders, who harbor bitter memories of Franco's WWII support of Hitler and Mussolini. Dim-eyed, wizened, racked with illness, 82-yr.-old Franco still very much in command: shows no signs of resigning: He's certain God put him in charge of Spain. Recently began new repressive crackdown on dissent. Police break up political meetings & close down publications that offend him. Priests who speak out are fined. Right-wing extremists, by contrast, are virtually immune from prosecution. Free rein enjoyed by "Warriors of Christ the King," a group specializing in physical attacks on Franco's critics.

The most successful opposition organizer is underground Communist Party who claim 10 to 15% of adult population. Whether Communists do indeed end up running Spain may well be determined by Franco himself. If he survives much longer, Spain may well become so polarized that a working anti-Red govt. will be impossible. (Nwk 6:9)

**IN Spain, US is caught in same dilemma as in many other places around world: supporting the status quo of repressive dictatorship because that is where the power & the profit is. US supported the Greek dictators, & thus lost the friendship of the Greek people who threw out the dictators & now want US to leave. US supported dictator Selassie in Ethiopia & the military dictatorship in Thailand, which were both overthrown. It is supporting dictator Park in S. Korea, & helped bring into power the harsh & bloody new regime in Chile-& Portugal's dictatorship, until it was overthrown, & Thieu in Vietnam, & Lon Nol in Cambodia. Russia always supports forces seeking to overthrow established regimes, unless they are Communist dictatorships. Spain, deeply divided & seeking violent change, could easily follow the Portuguese path to Communism.**

**"GREAT SOCIETY."** Over last 11 yrs., \$860-billions have been spent in hope of creating the "Great Society." Now, many of its programs being judged harshly. Poverty is still rampant. Disadvantaged children, despite billions poured into education, have shown little progress in learning. And cities are beset by crime & decaying services. A look at record of past decade leaves lingering uncertainty of whether planning in Washington, even if supported by billions & billions of \$\$, can ever cure US's social ills. (USN 6:9)

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US has shrunken view of self & prospects. People have feeling of failure; of having paid too much for too little; mistrust of govt.; doubt approaching despair that US problems can be solved at all. Inflation has eroded average family income to less than 10 yrs. ago, with progressive income tax taking ever-increasing bites of what's left. It's very disturbing when you can't walk street safely & your money is going for nothing. (Nwk 6:9)

**AS A youth in the carefree "never-any-more-war" 1920s, we were a little uneasy about the convincingness of lecturing brethren's ominous pronouncements of greater & more terrible wars to come. In the euphoric heyday of Lyndon Johnson's florid "Great Society" rhetoric, it seemed that perhaps Christ (Mt. 26:11) & Solomon (Eccl. 7:14) would have to be updated. We were assured with great persuasiveness that a guaranteed man made Millennium was just around the next corner. Since then \$860-billion has gone from the taxpayers into some pockets (& US people will be paying at least \$30-billion interest yrly. for ever to the rich on the consequently increased national debt), but conditions seem worse than ever. Recent scandals have shown where much of the money has gone.**

**SCHOOL SCIENCE SCORES DOWN.** After 15 yrs. of trying to raise quality of US science education, tests show science knowledge declined 2% in past 3 yrs.—drop equals ½yr's learning, so educators more anxious than ever about US science' future. Russia produces twice as many engineers as US. (USN 6:9)

**RUSSIA is not only producing more oil, steel & coal than any other country in world, but also more scientists, & these are feverishly laboring—not to cater to public comfort & lust—but to make Russia militarily invincible, so they can take what they want, anywhere in the world.**

**SUEZ REOPENS:** idle 8 yrs. Sadat sees opening as signal Egypt prefers negotiation to fighting: points to rebuilding of cities & locating of industries there as proof Egypt wants no more war. He hopes to turn Suez area into major industrial center of Mideast. By '80, plans to spend \$11-billion in area. Canal can now take ships up to 50,000 tons; by '81 will be able to handle all but very largest ships.

Of all major nations, US gains least, militarily & economically, from Canal. Russia is biggest winner: its vessels will be able to move easier & faster to Red Sea & Indian Ocean; will have faster access to client states in East Africa, Red Sea & Persian Gulf area. Russian development of bases & ports in Somalia, Yemen, Iraq, etc., is evidence of long-range drive to push deeper into Indian Ocean. (USN 6:9)

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With Israeli forces 10 mi. from Canal and strong enough to close it virtually at will, Sadat is offering canal as hostage to peace. He hopes it will be kind of winding down of belligerency Israel asks. Sadat taking some venturesome steps when Mideast's other powers hesitant about taking any steps at all.

Though vast in area, Egypt is mostly desert: 96% of population jammed in narrow belt along Nile, 7 miles wide, 500 long. Population growing million a yr. Further burdened by huge \$6-billion Russian debt: they're pressing him. (Tm6:9)

**THE Canal re-opening adds to the focus of world attention & interest on Mideast. The greatest beneficiary is Russia, who is in the midst of building her power & influence at the south end of the Red Sea, in S. Yemen & Somalia. To be so entrenched on BOTH sides of a vital narrow waterway clearly adds immensely to the strength of the position. An open canal adds greatly to the incentive of Russia's coming lightning move to seize the "precious things of Egypt" (Dan. 11:43), and to deny them to the West.**

**CONGRESS FAILS TO FACE OIL CRISIS.** Congress reluctant to take even small step toward reducing US dependence on foreign oil. US failure to come up with sound policy simply gives OPEC added power. Shah says OPEC will raise price when self-imposed freeze ends in Sep.; few doubt OPEC has ability to make raise stick. Instead of crumbling in face of present oil glut, oil cartel has gained unity & maintained prices. (Nwk 6:2)

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Rep. Ullman spent months trying to produce energy policy that would make US less vulnerable to Arab boycott or price hike. His bill never stood a chance in Congress. Problem is convincing people there is a problem: yet US remains perilously dependent on Arabs. (Tm 6:2)

**CONGRESS seems determined to demonstrate the impotence of democracy to deal with problems that involve hard & politically unpopular choices. A politician's overriding concern is re-election. All agree something must be done: none want to risk unpopularity in doing it. Meanwhile US grows weaker, & Russia grows stronger.**

**N.Y. CITY \$13 BILLION IN DEBT.** Desperate search for ways to avoid financial disaster; bankruptcy being talked of. New Yorkers face higher taxes, deep new cuts in services, increasing turmoil. Staggering cost of helping poor to survive. Influx of poor & flight of middle class has pushed up expenditures and eroded tax base. \$2/3-billion deficit this year: nearly \$2-billion a yr. interest on debt. (USN 6:2) Staggering proportion (1 in 8) in NY on welfare.(Tm 6:16)

**IN reading the background history of NY's plight, it is clear that it is an epitome of US's fiscal follies: more & more debt, more & more unaffordable luxuries, more & more demands, more & more taxes, more & more parasites, more & more benefits demanded, less & less overburdened producers at the base of the pyramid. This is wonderful politics, but it must inevitably end in disaster. The richest, most inventive, most productive nation the world has ever known just can't discipline its lust & greed within the bounds of ordinary, common-sense, simple self-preservation.**

**U.S. & ISRAEL.** On eve of Ford's meeting with Sadat, 76 of US's 100 Senators staunchly sided with Israel, sending Ford open letter urging strong military & economic aid. They asked Ford to adhere to US policy that conflict be settled on basis of secure, recognized & defensible boundaries, & direct negotiations between the nations involved. (Tm 6:2)

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Every Pres. from Truman to Ford has firmly committed US to Israel survival; & Congress has backed that pledge with \$5-billion in arms. (USN 6:19)

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World Health Organization (WHO) voted 63-5 to condemn Israel's treatment of people in occupied lands. Only US & 3 small countries joined Israel in opposition. Israel denied accusation as politically motivated: claims health in occupied lands has improved under Israelis. Last wk., 6 US Senators & 45 Representatives warned WHO that strong anti-Israel move could bring loss of US aid. Congress has already suspended contributions to UNESCO for anti-Israel moves, & is delaying its \$30-million contribution to WHO. (DtJwNw 5:30)

**IT IS unprecedented for ¾ of Senate to voluntarily speak out unitedly to Pres. in favor of another country. And this at a time when practically the whole world, without exception, is against that country. In face of Arab oil & money intimidation, not even Holland, not even Canada (we don't mention Britain), had the courage to vote against WHO's blatantly biased & political condemnation of Israel. In all the world, only little Uruguay, Costa Rica & Bolivia voted with US to defend Israel. "He that blesseth thee, I will bless." For all its wickedness & corruption, God will remember US for this.**

**FLOUNDERING BRITAIN.** Desperately sick, without purpose, lacking leadership. No longer an island of tolerant, generous people, steadfast in its dealings. Some of changes defy belief. People in general greedy. Sacrifice, self-discipline, respect for others & for law—all the virtues that were once so important—no longer fashionable. Noticeable loss of faith in institutions—Parliament, unions, political parties, church, law, press. Patriotism is something people laugh at. It's fashionable to boo when national anthem is played. Little serious attention paid to anything outside this small island.

Standard of living falling daily. Just 15 yrs. ago, Britain's output was above France & Germany, more than double Italy's. Today, less than ½ Germany's; ⅔ France's; just slightly ahead of Italy. In '74, Britain borrowed over \$17-billion to pay its trade bill. During present year, may have to borrow \$25-billion more. Pound lowest ever: expect to sink to \$2; was \$4.80 after WWII (USN 6:2)

**POOR Britain! What a comedown in our lifetime! Will they ever awake & realize their self-destructive folly in abandoning & betraying God's people who had been committed to their care—and after such mighty works on their behalf? In '47, they sold them out to the Arabs, & callously turned them over to apparent certain massacre & annihilation, but God overruled. What has Britain gained from it but shame & decline?**

**U.S. LOSING SEA CONTROL.** Former US Naval Chief Zumwalt says Govt. is withholding from US people facts about US weakness vs. Russia. He called for immediate release of a secret survey made nearly 2 yrs. ago which found US "beyond peril point" in losing control of seas to Russia. (DtJwNw 6:6)

\* \* \*

In past 6 yrs., US Fleet dwindled from 976 ships to under 500—least since '39. This is 100 short of what Navy considers absolute needed minimum. (USN 5:26)

**"MAKE the heart of this people fat, & make their ears heavy, & shut their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes, & hear with their ears." Surely God's hand is only explanation.**

**FOOD AS WEAPON?** This yr., as never before, world food hopes pinned on US. Only with bumper US crops can nearly-empty world grain bins be replenished. With US as predominant supplier of food to world, question is asked: Why can't US gain same leverage as oil countries? US provides ¾ of world export grain, same proportion as OPEC controls of world oil. Many experts see cooling trend underway that will cut food production, but less in US. (USN 6:2)

**FOOD seems likely to become more & more a world issue. Russia, with hordes of forced labor, can't feed her own people, but she is building a war machine for plunder, & she will soon "think an evil thought" & go forth "to take a prey."**

**CANADA FACES BLEAK** economic prospects. Production growth at zero; expect unemployment to go to 10%. In vicious circle, workers have been demanding & getting huge wage settlements that further fuel inflation. In '74, Canada lost over 9 million man-days in strikes: only Italy has poorer record—this yr. likely to be worse. National postal system so badly weakened by work stoppages last yr. that some mail sent last Nov. only now being delivered. Montreal sorters still wild-cattling to get 71% raise & halt automation. Govt. has set poor example: last mo. both houses of Parliament gave selves 33% raise. (Tm 6:2)

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Canada-Russia trade due for real growth. Ottawa has given Moscow \$½-billion credit, Canada's largest ever. Deal is step toward reducing Canada's dependence on US which buys 70% of exports. Moscow wants machinery; mining, oil & gas equipment; fertilizer technology, building knowhow. (USN 6:16)

**RUSSIA is getting more & more into a position of being able to play cat & mouse with the gullible nations of the West. She does not want real trade, but equipment & help to build up her own power potential. Little Canada, in economic troubles, feels it must bribe big, rich Russia with huge credits, in effort to escape US domination. How blind! Rather US & Canada should draw closer to strengthen one another against the growing menace of Russia. But God blinds them so His purpose may prevail.**

**ISRAEL & BLACK AFRICA.** From beginning of African independence after WWII till '73, Israel maintained warm & special relationship with Black Africa. Helped Ghana set up navy, Ivory Coast build tourist hotels, Tanzania establish collective villages. Worked in agricultural programs in almost every Black African country. 100s of Africans brought to Israel for training.

Black Africa repudiated that friendship under increasingly intense Arab pressure & oil embargo. One by one, every Black African country broke diplomatic relations with Israel. In UN & other forums, Black Africans have faithfully followed Arabs' anti-Israel line. But Arabs have shown scarcely any interest in Black Africa's struggles & problems. (DtJwNw 5:30)

**WORLD politics deals with the realities of power & advantage, not idealism & fairness. UN is a perfect demonstration & illustration of the absolute impossibility of a human world govt. ever being fair & just. UN is naked human evil & greed & callous injustice personified.**

**MIDEAST MOVING RIGHT WAY.** Most of news heartening. With burst of fanfare, Egypt opened Canal, closed 8 yrs. Israel made peaceful gesture: pullback of ½ Sinai forces several miles. Indications both sides may agree to another US bargaining effort. (Nwk 6:16).

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Mideast peace hinges once more on US—now Russia has admitted failure in brief effort as mediator. For 2 mo. Russia tried to get Arabs & Israel to go to Geneva, but failed. Series of early June developments set stage for new US try: Egypt opened canal, Israel pulled back, Syria extended UN Golan patrol 6 mos., Saudis announced willingness to recognize Israel within its pre-'67 borders, Russia dropped demand for quick Geneva talks. (USN 6:16)

**THE preponderance of the world scene these days is very much in the prophetic direction, though there are—and probably always will be—temporary stumbling blocks, like Britain's pro-Market vote, & the Syria-Jordan military accord.**

**BLACK TEENAGE UNEMPLOYMENT** in US is 40%; would be 65% if youths too discouraged to look for work are included. (Tm 6:16)

**THIS is terribly sad, & largely self-perpetuating, for these frustrated young men are schooled in violence & hatred, & in little else, & their experience with the White world intensifies & hardens that hatred & frustration.**

**VIETNAM FOOTNOTE.** Reports that Russia has already asked for use of the vast US-built naval base complex at Cam Ranh Bay. (Tm 5:26)

**LITTLE did Johnson dream of this possibility, when he so confidently poured billions into this project, as base for humbling Hanoi. Puny man! God over-rules.**

**TAX-DEPENDENTS** in US now outnumber workers. 80½ million govt. employees, military, disabled, unemployed, retired, welfare: 71½ mil. workers. (Nwk 6:9)

**LEBANON** sliding deeper & deeper into crisis &: chaos. Heavy street fighting. Govt. fell; pro-Palestinian leftists called general strike; right-wing merchants closed shops in protest. Fear nation becoming ungovernable; in throes of communal war. Violence has escalated into open warfare between Christians & Moslems. Large sections of capital are free-fire zones. Businesses & buildings frequently put to torch or bombed. Beirut streets heaped with 10,000 tons of garbage; 150 ships in harbor waiting to unload; businessmen leaving. (Nwk 6:9)

**WHAT will happen if there is civil war in Lebanon? Syria is almost bound to step in to support the Moslems. Israel dare not let them. There are 300,000 Palestinians in camps in Lebanon: many heavily armed & guerrilla trained—a state within a state.**

**U.S. DOUBLES NUCLEAR MISSILE POWER** in past 5 yrs. by arming 550 Minutemen with multiple warheads. Project now complete. More to come: developing new missile with double the explosive power & greater accuracy: will go 15,000 mph, spitting out warheads with 1/5-mi. accuracy 8000 mi. away. Present US land arsenal aimed at Russia equals 40,000 Hiroshimas. (USN 6:2)

**AND this does not include the Army's vast arsenal of "tactical" weapons, nor the huge missile capability of the nuclear sub fleet that prowls the world's oceans targeted on Russia. Where will this insane race end? Yet neither side dares to slack its pace. At astronomical cost, US doubles its nuclear strike power in 5 yrs., & is feverishly working on doubling it again. Other nations are fast scrambling into the nuclear scene.**

## **Bible Questions**

<b>Bible Questions</b>	<b>What did they have in common?</b>	
1. Huz, Buz	14. Saul, Goliath	27. Gideon, Oman
2. Saul, Judas	15. Shebna, Ezra	28. Isaiah, Malachi
3. Jehu, Zimri	16. Hoglah, Noah	29. John, Ahimaaz
4. Luz, Bethel	17. Esau, Reuben	30. Naboth, Achan
5. Abib, Nisan	18. Balaam, Peter	31. Necho, Hophra
6. Esau, Elijah	19. Miriam, Anna	32. Stacte, Onycha
7. Cush, Peter	20. Jacob, Pharez	33. Lysanias, Philip
8. Noah, Nabal	21. Job, Hezekiah	34. Herod, Pharaoh
9. Moses, Felix	22. Clauda, Melita	35. Goliath, Shimei
		40. Uzziah, Naaman
		41. Samuel, Samson
		42. Pygarg, Chamois
		43. Sapphira, Gehazi
		44. Antipas, Stephen
		45. Abigail, Ahinoam
		46. Tamar, Bathsheba
		47. Hezekiah, Lazarus
		48. Jonathan, Samson
		49. Abimelech, Achish
		50. Abiathar, Caiaphas

10. Jubal, David	23. Daniel, Joseph	36. Blastus, Erastus	51. Thaddeus, Lebbeus
11. Jachin, Boaz	24. Jairus, Crispus	37. Nicanor, Timon	52. Matthew, Zaccheus
12. Jacob, David	25. Kishon, Abana	38. Lazarus, Dorcas	53. Chemosh, Remphan
13. Mary, Daniel	26. Paul, Jonathan	39. Candace, Vashti	54. Ossifrage, Seraphim

Tall	Pillars	Stoned	Deacons	Trembled	Slew master
Sick	Spices	Scribes	Tetrarchs	Philistines	Same person
Boils	Rivers	Outran	Brothers	Shepherds	Prophetesses
Twins	Sisters	Outrun	Drunken	Benjamites	Cursed David
Liars	Honey	Queens	Pharaohs	Gold chain	Chamberlains
Gods	Raised	Months	Threshed	Same place	Foretold John
Hairy	Lepers	Widows	Nazarites	David wives	Synagogue rulers
Clean	Islands	Martyrs	Publicans	High Priests	Lost birthright
Wings	Trance	Suicides	Birthdays	Gabriel visit	Music Instruments

### July Answers

#### WHO?—

1. Sod—Jacob	17. Outran—John	36. Seduced—Jezebel, Manasseh
2. Lent—Hannah	18. Shaved—Joseph, Job	37. Groaned—Jesus
3. Sank—Jeremiah, Egyptians	19. Rowed—Disciples	38. Laughed—Sarah, Abraham
4. Erred—Hymeneus, Philetus	20. Plowed—Elisha	39. Wrestled—Jacob, Rachel, Paul
5. Pilled—Jacob	21. Leaped—John, David,	40. Despised—Michal, Hagar, Esau
6. Tilled—Cain	22. Lapped—300 lame man	41. Knocked—Peter
7. Swept—Woman who lost coin	23. Landed—Paul	42. Threshed—Gideon, Oman
8. Taxed—Augustus Jehoiakim	24. Painted—Jezebel	43. Muttered—Wizards
9. Polled—Absalom	25. Quaked—Moses	44. Vanished—Jesus
10. Sewed—Adam & Eve, Job	26. Weaned—Hannah, Tahpenes	45. Struggled—Jacob & Esau
11. Doted—Aholibah, Aholah	27. Blushed—Ezra	46. Appealed—Paul
12. Prated—Diotrephes	28. Mended—James & John	47. Pondered—Mary
13. Mused—All men	29. Sported—Isaac	48. Scrabbled—David
14. Railed—Nabal, thief	30. Rubbed—Disciples	49. Meditated—Isaac, David
15. Sighed—Jesus, Job, Ezekiel	31. Sheared—Nabal, Laban Judah	50. Whispered—David's servants
16. Begged—Joseph, Bartimeus	32. Gleaned—Ruth	51. Bewitched—Simon
	33. Sneezed—Shunammite's son	52. Slumbered—Virgins
	34. Loathed—Israel, Job, Egyptians	53. Interpreted—Joseph, Daniel
	35. Stooped—John, Mary, Jesus	54. Supplanted—Jacob

## FRATERNAL GATHERINGS

If the Lord will

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### Who?

A Bible character without a name, Whose body never to corruption came:

Who died a death none ever died before, Whose shroud is found in every household store.

**Last month's answer: Name the King — DAVID**

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