

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

RICHARD, Sask., Can. SOM 2PO — Memorial 10 am; S.S. 12 noon; Lecture last Sun. of month 8 pm; Class Fri. 8 pm. Bro. Fred G. Jones, Route 1; phone (306) 246-4628.

LOVING Greetings to all those of like precious Faith.

Since our last report we have been pleased to welcome around the table of the Lord the following: bro. Alton Stuchlik (Houston); bro. & sis. Art. Bennett (Lethbridge); bro. Norman Blacker (Edmonton); bro. & sis. V. Gilbert (Buffalo); bro. & sis. R. Philip (Burlington); bro. Wayne Osborne (Denver); bro. & sis. Braden Edwards, bro. Harry Phillips, bro. John Phillips (Canton); bro. & sis. Wm. Sharp (Claremont); bro. & sis. Hodges (Esperance); bro. & sis. Wm. Pickford, bro. & sis. Jim Blacker (Lethbridge); bro. Gibson (Toronto); bro. & sis. J. Jackson (Winnipeg); bro. & sis. E. Sargent (Ashburnham); sis. Sargent Sr. (Sarasota); bro. & sis. David Sommerville and sisters Lois, Becky, Mary and Sharon Sommerville (Wanaque); and bro. Don Newcomer (Houston).

Most of the brethren named above ministered to our spiritual needs, and we wish to express our sincere thanks to them all for the cooperation and the spiritual refreshment and joy they brought us. We enjoyed others for their beneficial company during this year; also the children, and trust that they benefited as we did by our association together.

Our joy was somewhat offset by the passing of our beloved brother John Gordon, the oldest member of our ecclesia. He was baptized in 1916 at Richard, and was over 90 years of age when he went to rest. And he did so in full assurance of resurrection, so we sorrow not as those who have no hope. We feel the day is not far away before our Hope will become a reality. With this in view we should all strive earnestly to be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; and doing all we can to proclaim God's saving Truth to others. With love in the Truth to all our brethren and sisters from the Richard ecclesia,

—bro. Fred G. Jones

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

LOVING Greetings in the Truth as it is in Jesus, to all of like precious Faith.

Although we are now "city dwellers," we are still in isolation, and you have all been very much in our thoughts and conversation and prayers, especially during recent trying times, both in the Body and in our individual struggles, endeavouring to do those things which are right and well-pleasing to our heavenly Father, to keep ourselves unspotted and strictly separate from an ungodly world by which we are completely surrounded, and to do justly toward our fellow-brethren and sisters, for Jesus has certainly revealed the solemnity of this—

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

And is it not also written (Mic. 6:8)—

"And what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

We have had the pleasant company of brother and sister Ray Hodges, of Esperance, West Australia, for a few days commencing Sep. 28, on their way home from their very enjoyable sojourn among the brethren and sisters in US and Canada. It was very interesting and helpful to us to see the goodly collection of photographs of brethren and sisters which they had taken. It is a comfort to see the likenesses of earnest co-labourers whom we know by name but have never seen. What a pleasing sensation, what a wonderful uplift, we get when we view the photographs of bre. Thomas and Roberts! It is the recognition of the truly godly mind and heart that makes all the difference to us. This is not "idol worship" or "man worship" (as some unfairly charge), but a submission to the scriptural commendation to—

"Esteem such very highly in love for their works' sake" (1 Thess. 5:13).

We also had the very welcome company of bro. & sis. Griffin from the Whangarei ecclesia, along with bro. & sis. Hodges, for the memorial meeting. Bro. Hodges gave us the very necessary word of exhortation, which was much appreciated.

The reports in the Berean of Current World Events Fulfilling Prophecy are certainly very stirring and sobering. Surely our most earnest desire is not far from becoming an established fact: even the glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Surely that "time of world-wide trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time" cannot be far away. We may even be witnessing the commencement of it now, in the world-wide godlessness, corruption, and violence we behold today. We know what Jesus said about "as it was in the days of Noah."

The positioning, and angry hostile attitude of the nations throughout the world today, is certainly—in conjunction with many other sure signs—in complete agreement with God's sure prophetic Word, of what would be

concurrent with Jesus' return. The vast change in Egypt, and its more peaceful attitude toward Israel and the West, is certainly a very striking sign, in conjunction with more definite assurance of help and protection from US, placing Israel closer to the situation as expressed in Ezek. 38:14—

"In that day, when My people of Israel dwelleth safely (or confidently), shalt thou (Gog) not know it?"

When they shall say "Peace and safety," we all know the momentous time when that "sure Word of prophecy" will be fulfilled.

Another move of world-wide significance is Turkey coming into the news. Bro. Thomas, in Elpis Israel, speaking of the fulfilment of prophecy (now very near), believed Russia's foremost—if not first—move in her coming endeavour for world-wide possession is to take possession of Turkey with such suddenness that the allies will not have time to even try to prevent her, which is certainly in full agreement with the Word of God recorded in Dan. (11:40-45).

We both like the style of, and appreciate the help and uplift we get from, bro. Roberts' 2 books very aptly named "Seasons of Comfort." But beside comfort, there is a very necessary feature in exhortation which bro. Roberts certainly did not omit, namely, admonition: which brings to remembrance the right state of mind expressed by David when he said (Psa. 141:5)—

"Let the righteous smite me, it shall be a kindness. And let him reprove me, it shall be an excellent oil which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities."

It is written: *"Open rebuke is better than secret love"* (Prov. 27:5).

As we know, all this is in complete agreement with what our Heavenly Father has clearly revealed concerning the wisdom and necessity of chastisement: which reminds us, in contrast, concerning unfaithful Israel when they said—

"Prophecy not unto us right things; speak unto us smooth things; prophecy deceits" (Isa. 30:10).

Let us be among the wise class, with David. With love in the One Faith and One Hope in Jesus Christ from both sister Starr and myself,
—bro. A. J. Starr

EDITORIAL

Who is on the Lord's Side?

"I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel to teach and to seduce my servants "
—Rev. 2:20.

THE writer of the Acts informs us (11:26) that—

"In Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians."

That is, they were *followers of Christ*. This term had a practical application, because they believed what Christ taught, and lived in harmony with his teaching. They were not existing in name only, but they were real Christians after the apostolic type. In the writings of the apostles they were addressed as—

*"Called to be saints" . . . "Sanctified in Christ Jesus" . . .
"The ecclesia of God" . . . "The faithful in Christ Jesus."*

They were particularly addressed by Paul, saying—

"Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise"
(Gal. 3:26-29).

This is an exceedingly high and holy calling. Bro. Thomas said—

"From these premises, then, it is evident that an ecclesia is a community of men and women who have accepted an invitation to the Kingdom and Glory of the Deity; in believing the promises and testimonies concerning the Kingdom and Name of Jesus Anointed; and in being immersed into him. By faith and obedience they have been 'washed from their sins in his blood, and made kings and priests to Deity, even the Father'—and so separated from the body of mankind for the Age to Come."

These "called out ones" "walked after the Spirit," or as John expressed it, they "walked in the Truth." They were zealous for the—

"Faith once for all (RV) delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).
—and contended earnestly for it, "walking in the fear of the Lord." Giving heed to the commandment to "come out and *be separate*," these real Christians had no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reproved them. They had escaped from the corruption that is in the world through lust, and *devoted all their time and energy to "making their calling and election sure"* for they fully realized that they were (1 Peter 2:9)—

"A chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a purchased people; that they should show forth the praises of Him Who called them out of darkness into His marvellous Light."

But they were not all real Christians, even in the first century. The apostles were well aware of what was developing in the ecclesias, and continually *warned the faithful to be on guard and keep the Truth separate from Error*. Nowhere in the apostolic letters do we find such expressions or thoughts as—

"I know it is wrong, but I do not think it is serious enough to be concerned about". . . "I realize they are astray from the Truth but I do not think it is serious enough to affect our fellowship."

Is it possible that we can read the history of Israel without discerning the extraordinary prominence given to the absolute necessity of their keeping ALL of the statutes and judgments enjoined upon them? Paul, in Hebrews, makes a searching comparison of the life under the Law with the dispensation under Christ (2:1-3)—

"We ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a *just recompense of reward*, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken *by the Lord*, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?"

Why did he say that? Were some "neglecting" the obligations that belief of the Gospel had placed upon them? There is no question about it; And to Paul it was most serious (Acts 20:28-31)—

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church (ecclesia) of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch and remember that by the space of 3 years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

This was less than 30 years after the ascension of Jesus. Peter, likewise, warned them that there would be "false teachers" among them "which have forsaken the right way." And John said there were some teaching "that Jesus Christ had not come in the flesh."

The seriousness of departing from the Way of Truth could not be put in stronger words than those used by Jesus in his last message to the ecclesias. Here are some of his serious charges—

"Thou hast tried them which say they are apostles and are not, and hast found them liars."

"I have against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

"I have against *thee* [the angel-eldership] because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam."

"I have against *thee* [the angel-eldership] because *thou sufferest* that woman Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants."

"Because thou art lukewarm, I will spue thee out of my mouth: because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked."

The majority of Christians of the first century failed to observe these divine warnings. And because they would not endure sound doctrine, they turned away their ears from the Truth and turned unto fables. And the way of Truth was evil spoken of; and darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people.

This condition remained till the middle of the last century, when the Truth of God was revived by the tremendous labours of our bro. Thomas, as we all well know. Once again the real Christians (Christadelphians) began to walk in newness of life *and in fear of the Lord*.

Over 100 years have passed and, as we look abroad throughout the Christadelphian community, what desolations we behold! Apparently many have not learned the severe lessons of the past, for we are faced with the same problems and mistakes as the Christians of the first century. Brethren have arisen and are speaking perverse things with the result that some are turning aside from the saving institutions of the Gospel. If we were to follow the advice of others we would come to the conclusion that it does not matter much what we believe, or with whom we join in fellowship.

What is true Bible teaching? And at what period during the past 125 years can we point the finger and say, "Here it is"? It is our firm conviction that true Bible teaching was presented to the world in the writings of bro. John Thomas, and further elucidated in the writings of bro. Robert Roberts. It is that form of belief known as "The Truth." Their writings are not a substitute for the Bible, but a signpost which has directed our minds to the system of doctrine and practice established by the labours of the apostles in the first century. We have proven this to our own satisfaction after a careful and critical examination of their writings and the Bible.

The First Principle elements of this teaching have been condensed into a form known as our Statement of Faith, which forms the basis of our fellowship; and our bond of union is the *reception of the One Faith which it represents*. If we do not agree on the doctrines set forth in the Statement of Faith, we have no right to be in fellowship. One who left us to join another group writes—

"I cannot bring myself to believe that even the originators of the many heresies which have plagued the Christadelphian movement ' were, in themselves, 'lewd fellows of the baser sort' merely because of their difference in views, unless they really attempted to force their wrong teachings upon the Brotherhood with malice—thereby intending to disrupt instead of strengthen.

"Similarly, therefore, it seems to me the brethren in any other fellowship who honestly and sincerely believe, and even teach, a different interpretation of any of our basic doctrines, and do so without thought of personal aggrandisement or gain, are not to be despised and treated as criminals."

A teacher of heresy does not have to be a "lewd fellow of the baser sort" in order to be out of harmony with God. He can be—

"A false apostle, a deceitful worker, transforming himself into an apostle of Christ."

—as Paul said. Nor does such an one have to force his wrong teaching on the Brotherhood *with malice*, to be a "criminal" in God's sight. Even though he did it with the best of intentions, he would still be *guilty* of disruption and harm to the Body. We are troubled by the growing tendency to palliate false teaching and worldliness rather than to robustly and uncompromisingly denounce and oppose it. A "criminal" is one guilty of crime, and "crime" is any sin or wrongdoing. Is it possible that our friend has forgotten about such cases as that of Uzzah who, without doubt, had the best of intentions—but when he placed his hand on the ark, he committed a "crime" against God's law and was struck dead. Does our friend not realize that the leaders of the various churches of Christendom often honestly and sincerely believe the errors they teach?

It is the duty of Christadelphians to keep our lightstands well supplied with the oil of God's Word, and to shine that light uncompromisingly on any defections from the one "narrow way." If they fail to do so, they undergo progressive deterioration in faithfulness, and the light grows dim, flickers, and finally goes out. If their hold upon divine principles is relaxed, they become weak in the faith and lack that enterprise and force which is essential for their preservation in this evil world.

If a worldly and "charitable" spirit is developed in our midst, it will generate indifference toward error, and by this the sharpness and clearness of the Truth is destroyed. It is no true kindness to minimize in any way the vital seriousness of the issue between the True and the False—between the Way of Life and the way of death.

If we do not faithfully and unflinchingly maintain the standard of our baptismal covenant, walking in the fear of the Lord, and devoting all our time and energy to uphold and defend the glorious Name we are so privileged to bear, we cannot expect to meet the Lord's approval when he comes, as soon he will. —Editor

The Ten Horns Down Through History

"I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a Beast rise up out of the sea, having 7 heads and 10 horns, and upon his horns 10 crowns, and upon his heads the Name of Blasphemy"—Revelation 13:1.

By BROTHER JOHN THOMAS

Horns are the symbols of power exerted by strength of arms, because such beasts as have horns make use of them as their arms. As the symbols of strength they are used in Psa. 18:2. They are also used to denote *regal* power, and when they are distinguished by number, they signify so many monarchies. Thus "horn" signifies a monarchy in

Jer. 48:25. And in Zech. 1:18 the Four Horns are the 4 great monarchies which had each of them subdued the Jews. See also Dan. 8:20-22.

Horns upon a wild beast are not only expressive of powers, but also of such powers as are *tyrannical, ravenous and at enmity with God and His saints*, as in Dan. 8.

The Horns of the Sea Monster of Rev. 13:1 represent 10 Kingdoms established by the Barbarians of the Abyss upon all that Mediterranean territory conquered by them from the Roman Dragon. This appears from the testimony in v. 2 that—

"The Dragon yielded to him his power, and his throne, and an extensive jurisdiction."

In relinquishing them to the Beast, he yielded them to the Beast's appendages—the Horns and Mouth—as well.

In Rev. 17 John was told the 10 horns were symbolic of *kingdoms*:

"The 10 horns which thou sawest are 10 kings, which have received no kingdom as yet" (v. 12).

That is, they had received no kingdom at the time the interpreter was talking with John. Daniel (7:23) gives the same record. He had said that he wished to know the truth represented by the 10 horns upon the Fourth Beast's head, upon which it was stated to him that—

"The 10 horns out of this kingdom are 10 kings that shall arise."

—and those (in v. 9) are styled the "thrones" which are to be "cast down" when the Ancient of Days comes to sit in judgment upon them. And this judgment *John* indicates in the words—

"These (10 Horns) shall make war upon the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them; for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him (the Saints of the Holy City) are called, chosen and faithful" (Rev. 17:14).

The geographical extent of the Roman Habitable upon which the barbaric tribes of the abyss established themselves with feudal sovereignty, was the *Mediterranean West*. They have to be enumerated by the names they bore in the period when they were engaged in establishing themselves upon that territory.

The symbol requires at least 11 abyssal tribes—ten for the horns, and one or more for the Seventh Head. The following is the list that seems to me authorized by history: Visigoths, Vandals, Huns, Burgundians, Gepidae, Lombards, Franks, Suevi, Alans, Bavarians. These were the founders of the Horn-Kingdoms of the Beast.

This divided form of Mediterranean Europe has continued for ages, even to the present time; though the number of its divisions has not always been, nor is it now, ten. The prophecy does not require that the number of the kingdoms should be invariable. There were 10 in the period of their foundation, and from this fact they have acquired the symbolic designation of the "Ten Horns."

The emergence of the wild Beast of the Sea is not to be regarded as having been accomplished in a moment or a brief space, but as having occupied such a period as would naturally be required for the invasion of the empire of the Catholic Dragon by many separate tribes migrating from vast distances, engaging in numerous wars, and finally, after victory, establishing new and independent governments.

Nor are the chiefs who ruled them after the conquest of parts of the empire, to be considered as having assumed that relation in which they are symbolized by the *Horns* while they remained in subordination to Rome.

They emerged from the Sea as dynasties *when*, by concession or victory, *they became rulers of portions of the empire in independence of that power*. The institutions of the Horns, therefore, took place at different periods, and they were those that subsisted when the conquest of the Western Empire was completed and the imperial power extinguished—A. D. 476.

On the conquest of Italy and termination of imperial authority by the deposition of the last emperor Augustulus by Odoacer the Herulian Goth (A. D. 475), the barbarians of the apocalyptic abyss held possession of the whole western division of the Latin Sea (with the exception of a part of Gaul), and were distributed under 10 kingly governments.

1. The VISIGOTHS (West Goths), as the "Hail and Fire mingled with Blood" of the *First Wind Trumpet*, descended upon Greece under the leadership of ALARIC, and afterwards, having ravaged Illyria, Lombardy and Italy,

laid siege to Rome. In A. D. 408 they passed from Italy into the south of France, and maintained a kingdom there till 506 when, being driven by the Franks into Spain, they wrested a part of it, Gallicia, from the Suevi, and in 585 extended their sway over the whole Spanish peninsula.

2. The VANDALS entered Gaul A. D. 406. They soon passed into Spain, and after occupying a part of that Mediterranean province nearly 20 years, crossed into Roman Africa (A. D. 427), wrested it from the Catholic Dragon, set up an independent kingdom under GENSERIC, and ruled it until 533. The kingdom was founded under the sounding of the *Second* Wind Trumpet, when a Great Mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea.

3. The HUNS planted themselves in the vicinity of the Danube A.D. 370. Under ATTILA (A. D. 451) they descended into Thrace to within about 30 miles of Constantinople. Turning westward, they passed through Macedonia, Pannonia, Noricum (region of present Hungary and Austria), crossed the Danube and Rhine near their sources. He pursued his march through Belgium, then returned through France and Italy, and died at his seat of government near the Danube. This was the course of the great Blazing Star of the *Third* Wind Trumpet, the remains of whose dominion exists in present-day Hungary.

4. The BURGUNDIANS established themselves in Belgic Gaul A. D. 407. After a few years they obtained possession of Savoy, and subsequently of Gaul on the Rhone, and maintained a separate kingdom till 524, when they were conquered by the Franks. On the division of the Frank kingdom, it again became a separate state and continued such several centuries.

5. The GEPIDAE established themselves in Illyria (now styled Dalmatia) on the Adriatic bay of the Mediterranean, whence they exercised authority over the old country of Dacia. Their kingdom lasted to 566, till destroyed by the Lombards.

6. The LOMBARDS, on the dissolution of the empire of Attila (whose standard they followed) took possession of a portion of Pannonia (part of Hungary). Subsequently to their conquest of the Gepidae, they extended their possessions as far as Bavaria (568). They conquered Italy, where they maintained themselves till near the close of the eighth century, when they were "plucked up by the roots" (Dan. 7:8).

7. The FRANKS is a name assumed by a confederacy of German tribes. It signifies the *Freemen*. In their inaccessible morasses, redolent of mud, water, and *frogs*, they used to shake defiance at the Roman arms.

When the time arrived for the ascending of the Diademed Horns out of the sea, they instinctively obeyed the summons of the First Trumpet, and in A. D. 407 entered Gaul. Within a few years they established a kingdom upon the Rhine which they continued to maintain and advance until in the sixth century it extended over the whole territory of modern France.

8. The SUEVI filled the interior Germanian countries of the abyss. A short time before the sounding of the First Trumpet they united with the Allemani. They passed through Gaul, conquered Gallicia in Spain, and maintained themselves there as a Diademed Horn of the Sea till A. D. 585.

9. The ALANS crossed the Pyrenees into Spain, settling in Portugal. Another body of Alans settled in Gaul. They repulsed Attila on his invasion of Gaul A. D. 451, and were stationed in the centre of the army by which he was defeated in the great battle of Chalons. They continued to subsist as a separate people until conquered by the Franks about 510 A. D.

10. The BAVARIANS. The present Bavaria in the time of the Romans formed part of the Dragon empire. The Bavarian Horn is noticed by Gibbon as forming one of the boundaries of the Ostrogothic kingdom under Theodoric. And again he says, "The Lombard kingdom extended east, north, and west, as far as the confines of the Avars, the Bavarians, and the Franks."

* * *

Such then is my list of the ten notable abyssal *Horns of the Sea*. Though separate dynasties, they are very properly united in a single symbol, and exhibited as one great combination of tyrannical states, from the *identity of their origin in the abyss, the oneness of their policy*—Rev. 17:13, and the *similarity of these rulers*.

This European Commonwealth was composed of monarchies that were all feudatories of the Dragon, for Gibbon shows that they all adopted, in a great degree, the laws of the ancient empire as their common law. They all

came at length to submit themselves to the Papal Yoke—a power which was rising with them out of the Sea, whose system of falsehood they cooperated in imposing upon their subjects at all hazards.

They may truly be styled the Papal Horns for their history has proved them to have been, in all their past career, the blind instruments of the Name of Blasphemy upon the Seven Heads.

* * *

The Horns on the Dragon (Rev. 12:3) had no diadems upon them, because *the nations of the Abyss had not then issued forth to erect kingdoms upon the Roman Habitable*. But in chap. 13 the Dragon-Horns of the Sea are exhibited with diadems upon them (v. 1), indicating that they were not Republics, but states whose chief magistrates were enthroned and diademed, and who would figure in the unmeasured Court of the Gentiles (Rev. 11:2) as the 'Crowned Heads of Europe.' The diadems upon the 10 Horns is a symbolical rebuke of the foolish prediction of republican politicians and prophets that the kingdoms of Europe are to become republics. A horn with a diadem upon it is nowhere to be found, in sacred or profane heraldry, as a symbol of a republic. It always represents a kingly power or dominion. The Gothic nations of the Abyss acquiesced in the military leaders—who had led them to victory and founded States upon the Roman territory—being recognized as kings and decorated with diadems by the Dragon-power.

Hence they were kingdoms in their beginning, and will continue kingdoms # until the Ancient of Days shall come and—by their overthrow—transfer the many diadems of these Horns of the Sea to his own glorious and snowy head (Rev. 19:12; 1:14; 11:15.)

The very reverse of these republican prophecies is the real truth of the matter. Instead of the kingdoms of the world becoming republics, all the republics of the world will become kingdoms. This will be a great blessing to mankind, who have proved themselves incompetent for self-government upon wise and righteous principles, under any form of rule they may devise. It is the divine purpose to bless mankind in Abraham and his Seed. This is the great Gospel prophecy of the Word (Gal. 3:8-9). And when the nations rejoice in peace and security under their own vines and fig trees, they will be interested in nobler themes than the crude, unprofitable and lying vanities of those who now deceive them.

Bro. Thomas is not saying Europe must have an unbroken history of autocracy. He was well aware that in his own lifetime (and just before it) France had had 2 tries at "democracy"—the 1st and 2nd Republics. But with his deep scriptural perception, he knew European democracy was a vain, unworkable illusion. We clearly appear to be in its fading twilight today. Half of Europe is already under little kings, satraps of Moscow. W. Europe must follow them before long, under new Red Hitlers, Mussolinis, Francos, etc.

In reference to the "diadems" of the Horns, it is well known that the barbarian Gothic or German kings, after their first conquests, were almost all anxious to receive appointment from the Roman emperor as "Patricians" (equivalent to Viceroy). The appointment was most useful in legitimizing their government in the eyes of their Roman subjects (who in respect of number immensely exceeded the barbarian population that had conquered them. It was usually stipulated by the Roman emperors, and agreed to by the barbaric kings, that the diademed bust and name of the emperor should be stamped upon the barbaric coinage . . . illustrating the reservation of the diadem to the Dragon, it not being assumed by the horns in the beginning. I conceive that the apocalyptic reason of this is found in the Dragon symbol of Rev. 12:1. In this, *all the 7 Heads* are diademed, or sovereign; but the *Horns* are not. The idea, then, is this, that the Horns were not to be diademed in their own absolute right *until the 7th Head had passed away*, when the Romano-Gothic Sea Monster would stand before the world with 7 undiademed Heads and 10 diademed Horns.

* * *

"The Beast which thou sawest was, and is not; but is hereafter to ascend out of the Abyss, and to go away into perdition"(Rev.17:8).

This Beast of Rev. 17 is the Beast of the Sea with 7 Heads and 10 Horns—but with certain additional particulars. The Beast of the Sea in ch. 13 was the polity it represents, in its *origin*. The Beast of the Abyss of ch. 17 is the same polity *in the last 30years*—or "one hour"—of its existence, and previous to its arrival at the "perdition" into which it "goes away."

The Beast of the Sea in its origin could reckon up only 7 Heads upon the 7 mountains. But this Beast of the Abyss can count the same 7 *with an additional Head*, which is styled "THE EIGHTH"—

"The Beast that was, and is not, even *he is the 8th*, and is of the 7, and goeth away into perdition"

(Rev. 17:11).

The Eighth Head is the "Holy Roman Empire" under "His Holiness" (the Pope) and "His Apostolic Majesty" (the Emperor), forming a conjoint dynasty, as symbolized by Daniel's Little Horn with Eyes of a man and Mouth of

blasphemy (7:8). This 8th Head, with its spiritual emperor in Rome and its secular emperor in Vienna, has ruled in the midst of the 10 Horns for many centuries; but the time has not yet quite come when these deliver their power and authority to the Beast's 8th Head for "one hour." When this event transpires, it will be consequent upon the operation of the Frog-Power causing the gathering of the "kings of the earth and of the whole habitable" against the Lamb and his forces. John says (19:19)—

"I saw the Beast and the Kings of the Earth and their armies gathered together to make war against him sitting upon the horse, and against his army."

This is the same hostile gathering referred to in ch. 17:14—

"These (the 10 Horns) shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they that are with him [*Jesus and his Brethren the Saints with the Spirit*—14:13] are called, chosen and faithful."

The conquest of the 8th Head and these Horns, which represent the Latin Catholic Europe, is the 3rd Angel judgment of the 7th Vial; and results in these island-kingdoms fleeing away, and their mountain-empires being found no more (Rev. 14:10-11; 16:20).

Thoughts on the Holy Spirit

FROM ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS
BY BROTHER ROBERT ROBERTS

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure"—Philippians 2.12-13.

THE OPERATIONS OF THE SPIRIT

THE difference between the gifts of the Spirit vouchsafed in the apostolic age, and the strength and guidance that God may now grant in response to faith and prayer, is the difference between *what God may enable a man to do, and what God does Himself*

A man who had the gift of healing could exercise that gift by his own volition, just as he could raise his arm or use his voice. It was not *God's* volition every time he exercised the gift (though it required God's volition to bestow it). This is shown by the disorderly use of the gifts rebuked by Paul, coupled with the remark that God was not the author of this disorder, and that the gifts were subject to *their* possession (1 Cor. 14:32-33).

But when God directs our steps or imparts strength for an emergency, the act is His Own. *It is outside our will or knowledge.* We know not when it is put forth. Therefore we must not presume upon it. We have to commit our way to Him in modesty. Not being able to trace Him, we simply trust Him, in the spirit that is prepared—like Job—to take even death at His hands.

The assurance of the help of God to His children is as available today as much as at any time (Phil. 4:13· Psa. 138:3). At the same time, *it would be a misleading description to call this a work of the Spirit.* Truly God works by the Spirit: but the danger of confounding the mere motions of the flesh with the operations of the Spirit is so great that it is best to *limit that description to what we can undoubtedly recognize and identify as such.*—1892.

GOD'S ACTION and MAN'S ACTION

WE must carefully separate God's action towards man, and man's action when God grants him the gift of His Spirit.

GOD'S ACTION TOWARDS MEN: This is all by Spirit; for God is Spirit, and everywhere present in the subtle, invisible and penetrating energy of the Spirit. When He creates, it is by His Spirit (Job 26:13; Psa. 104:30). When He speaks, it is by His Spirit (Neh.9:30; 2 Peter 1:21). When He upholds, or directs, or guides, it is by His Spirit (Psa. 17:5; 51:12). When He spoke, it was by the Spirit in the prophets and apostles. This was an impulse outside of human faculty. As Peter says, the message—

"came not by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

God thus spake to the fathers "at sundry times and divers manners," as Paul declares in Heb. 1:1. He has not so spoken for 1800 years. He certainly is not so speaking now, at least not in any case to which we have accessible

knowledge. The men who profess to be under the influence of the Holy Spirit speak in total contradiction to God's written message, which—on God's authority (Isa. 8:20)—is proof that it is not His speaking at all, but the utterance of mere human sentiments brewed under various pressures and processes that are perfectly natural, though the unhappy subjects consider them spiritual.

There was a time for God to speak, and He spoke. There is a time for Him to be silent, and He is silent: and our only access to His mind meanwhile is the diligent study of the records of His past wonderful works and words.

But is He, therefore, unregardful of those upon the earth who, in such a time of drought as this, are seeking to slake their parching thirst after Him at the fountain of living water which He has opened in the earth in the Oracles of His Truth? The Bible itself forbids such a thought as this. It is not of any particular generation that it is written—

“The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry” (Psa. 34:15).

Peter, ages afterwards, applied them in his day (1 Peter 3:10). So Paul gives the widest scope to words written 1000 years before his day—

"My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord; nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him" (Heb. 12:5).

At *all* times it is true (James 4:8)—

"Draw nigh to God, and *He will draw nigh to you.*"

—except that there come times when, as in the case of Israel, He hides His face and will no more be found of a perverse and heedless generation (Jer. 14:10-16; 15:1-9). Such a generation is upon the earth now, and if it were not for the express revelation which we have that a people at such a time as this will be found alive at the Lord's coming, we might well doubt if God would look to any in the midst of such great wickedness.

But having such a revelation, we may take courage, "coming out from amongst them and being separate," that God will still look to such as are of a humble and contrite heart—having such an High Priest, and come boldly to the throne, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16; 10:21-22).

In His response to these advances, *He will work by His Spirit*; but in what way we know not; we cannot know; we need not care to know. We know not what our present life is. No creature knows the essence or mode of its life. Yet all live it. How much more may we be content with *simple fact*, in this higher relation of being that Revelation reveals to us.

The *simple fact* is that God can cast down and lift up; He can prosper or hinder; He can comfort or afflict in a million ways, in which we shall not see His working hand, *though we shall feel His work*. The study of the ways of His providence as illustrated in Bible history alone will give us light and guidance here. All human story is unreliable.

But in all this, *God* is the Worker. Man is the subject, without possessing in himself the Spirit of God as it was in the apostles and those who received it by the laying on of their hands (Acts 8:18). From this we have to carefully discriminate the idea expressed in our second item: —

MAN'S ACTION WHEN GOD GRANTS HIM THE GIFT OF HIS SPIRIT:

The modern idea that believers have the Spirit now as believers had it then is a fruitful source of spiritual mischief. It leads men to look within, instead of looking to God. It leads them to *neglect the Bible* and follow their own spirits. It leads, in fact, to darkness and death, instead of light and life.

When God granted the gift of His Spirit, the Spirit was in the control of those who received it (1 Cor. 14:32) for the particular purpose for which it was bestowed. It was, in the various men who received it, a supernatural power of wisdom, or prophecy, or interpretation, or miracle—as the case may be (1 Cor. 12:8-10).

This dispensation of the Spirit was for a particular purpose: for the attestation of the apostolic testimony to the resurrection of Christ, and for the consolidation of the apostolic work in the development of a people for the Lord (Heb. 2:4; Eph. 4:11-13).

This manifestation has now lapsed. There is no reason to expect its revival until the Lord is actually here himself again. It would be an unspeakable source of comfort and strength to see the gift of the Spirit again restored. But it is only a weakness and a distress to suppose they exist when they do not; and to have offered in their place the weak, effusive, egotistical sentimentalism which mistakes the phosphorescent action of the human brain under "religious" excitement for "the power of the Spirit of God" (Rom. 15:19).—1893.

THE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8:16).

WHEN Paul says this, we are compelled to understand him as referring to the attestation or endorsement of their conviction by the Spirit in the midst of the first ecclesias, in the shape of the gifts of the Spirit. This is defined by both Jesus and the Apostles as the "witness" of the Spirit (Acts 5:32; Heb. 2:4; John 15:26-27). The sense of the statement requires this understanding of the phrase, for the Spirit could not be conceived as "bearing witness with" the spirits of the believers, except as a something extra and extraneous. If it merely referred to a feeling of joy in their minds, how could they separate the "witness" from their own feelings? How could they regard it as a "witness *with*"?

But referring to the visibly enacted evidences of God's co-operation and approval in their midst, they could naturally look to this as a something outside of themselves on which they could rely for assurance and comfort that they were right, in addition to the confidence arising from their belief in the testimony that their sins were forgiven.

—1892.

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit, which Peter said on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:39) was to Israel and their children, certainly involves the idea of continuance, even everlasting continuance. But it did not mean that there would be no break before the everlasting continuance set in. It could not mean that, otherwise the present generation of believers would have had the Spirit in their midst like the brethren of the first century.

The dispensation of the Spirit (its pouring out upon all flesh, as promised in Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Joel) was to have 2 stages in its fulfilment (as proved by the fact): the first, the effusion of the Spirit on the apostles on the day of Pentecost, with power to them to transfer it to others by the laying on of their hands (Acts 8:18): and the second, its pouring upon the whole house of Israel at their national reconstitution when they return from their present dispersion (Jer. 31:35; Ezek. 36:25-27).

The first effusion ceased with the death of those in the first century who had received it from the apostles. It accomplished the object of its bestowal in confirming the apostolic testimony to the resurrection of Christ (John 15:26-27; Acts 5:32; Heb.2:3), and in the development of the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-16).

The second effusion will be permanent. God will (Ezek. 39:29)—

"No more hide His face from the house of Israel."

The supposition that the Spirit has continued among believers since the apostolic age is hurtful—not only because it is in contradiction to the manifest fact, but because it would lead us to recognize a standard of truth *in our own feelings and notions*, instead of subjecting ourselves ABSOLUTELY to the mind of the Spirit in the Scriptures.

—1897.

TWO WOMEN

Two David knew: one once had been his bride; deserted, her another lord had cherished,
Till forced back 'gainst her will, she found his side blocked by new favourites.

By his order perished

That other woman's offspring—on a tree: her two fair sons were hung against the sky.
But night & day beside the dead watched she, & scared fowl birds, & kept her dear ones dry.

Last month's answer: Abner

January Answers	11. Golan—Bashan	23. Jezreel—Samaria	37. Antioch—Pisidia
Match places & area	12. Haran—Padan-aram	24. Gibeah—Benjamin	38. Ramoth—Gilead
1. Ur—Chaldea	13. Zorah—Dan	25. Puteoli—Italy	39. Ephesus—Asia
2. Kir—Moab	14. Melita— Mediterranean	26. Cyrene—Libya	40. Shushan—Persia
3. Sela—Edom	15. Horeb—Sinai	27. Gadara—Decapolis	41. Megiddo—Esdraelon
4. Tyre—Phoenicia	16. Ekron—Philistia	28. Patmos—Aegean Sea	42. Syracuse—Sicily
5. Cana—Galilee	17. Ararat—Armenia	29. Kedesh—Naphtali	43. Mars' hill—Athens
6. Myra—Lycia	18. Shiloh—Ephraim	30. Salamis—Cyprus	44. Memphis—Egypt
7. Perga—Pamphilia	19. Tarsus—Cilicia	31. Rabbah—Ammon	45. Damascus—Syria
8. Troas—Mysia	20. Lystra—Lycaonia	32. Corinth—Achaia	46. Achmetha—Media
9. Babel—Shinar	21. Riblah—Hamath	33. Philippi—Macedonia	47. Bethlehem—Judah
10. Tabor—among the mountains	22. Sodom—Vale of of Siddim	34. Tadmor—wilderness	48. Alexandria—Egypt
		35. Nineveh—Assyria	49. Mt. Carmel—by the sea
		36. Antioch—Syria	50. Fair Havens—Crete

Living the Truth in a Troubled World

"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ"—Jude 20-21

LIVING the Truth today is a difficult thing to accomplish, and no one can deny that we are indeed living in troublous times—times which remind us of the prophet's words (Zeph. 1:14-15)—

"The day is near, and hasteth greatly; even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, of darkness and gloominess, clouds and thick darkness."

It matters not if we look north, south, east or west: we see political, ecclesiastical, moral and economic disease and misery, causing mental and physical worry, apprehension and agony. Amongst all this trouble and woe, *we must look unto ourselves*. Everything in the world is designed to cater to the flesh—a weak flesh; a flesh we all possess; a flesh that rationalizes and encourages us to associate with its desires. It is so easy to become entangled—yet so very hard to cease from being involved.

There is a danger of us being able to predict weather (as it were) by the signs in the clouds at sunrise and sunset—just as the Pharisees practised in the days of Jesus—yet at the same time being unable to truly discern the Signs of the Times. There is a danger of being hypocritical, of being insincere and sanctimonious, like the custodians of the Law had become over 1900 years ago. Their adherence to, and protection of, the Law had become a mere formality. And by confusing and mixing up our priorities, we too can mouth in vain our praise and honour to Yahweh. We may see the Signs of the Times by having excellent knowledge of what must transpire—and yet fail to grasp and discern, fail to govern our lives accordingly.

We can be deeply concerned about tearing down barns to build larger ones, supposing gain is godliness. We can make long-range plans to increase our treasures on earth. We can become scoffers and, in effect, say "Where is the promise of his coming?" *by our actions*. We can fail to see, or to accept, the fact that tomorrow our life may be removed—and then what of the treasures and pleasures of earth? Have we built sufficient treasure in heaven? As we stand before the Judge, the King to whom we swore allegiance at baptism, it may just be revealed that we have failed miserably in adjusting our lives according to his will.

From the Scribes and Pharisees, we press back through several pages of history, and pause at a time when the earth was in difficulties, difficulties caused by the custodians of the Word who had allowed it to fall to the ground. Had it not been for faithful Noah, mankind would have perished. Noah, that great man of faith, so honourably mentioned by the apostle Paul (Heb. 11:7)—

"Who being warned of things not seen as yet, was moved to prepare an ark to the saving of his house."
—knowing—as did Abraham (Rom.4:21)—

". . . and being fully persuaded, that what Yahweh had promised He was able also to perform."

It was Noah that the Lord selected as an example of what we, the latter-day carriers of the Pearl of Great Price, should follow—

"As the days of Noah were, so would also be the days in the coming of the Son of man"

(Matt. 24:37; Luke 17:26).

Noah lived the Truth in a troubled world; and as each day passes we see the world filling the description of the troubled state prior to the Flood. The population of that day—

". . . ate, they drank, they married and were given in marriage."

—and the earth, we are told, was "filled with violence." There was, and is, nothing wrong with eating and drinking—both are God-provided blessings. There is nothing wrong with marriage, "Marriage is honourable," but these things had *taken priority* in the lives of those who at one time had been sons of God. The heritage was weakened because of *human* failure, gluttony and wickedness, until the sad state of affairs spoken of had materialized, and God's anger was manifest. Mankind had sunk to riotous living. It was a day of small things: toys, trinkets, baubles and gadgets that can, and do, drain from spiritual strength—pleasant to the eyes and, like the proverbial carrot dangling before the face of the wayward ass, prompting the ways of sin for a season to be followed. It was an age of affluence and idle time (so similar to the condition today).

It is no wonder that Jesus selected the wicked era of Noah's day as indicative of what the earth would be like in the last days. Mankind has invented all types of modern conveniences, labour-saving and time-saving devices which enable him to spend more time in the pleasures of the flesh. Hence we see a world devoted to eating, drinking and marrying in excess, and full to the brim with violence.

But so much for the condition of the world—a condition which like a flood strains at the dike of Truth, Righteousness, Faith and Hope. The question must be asked and answered, individually, ‘What is *our* condition?’ Has, and does, the world infiltrate our way of life, our behaviour, our conversation, and the thoughts of our heart?

Jesus warned, or rather exhorted, us that when these things come to pass, "*Take heed to yourselves*"—pay attention to and consider your own self. As the days of Noah redevelop, are we developing like a Noah? How do we compare to the example of this man of faith?

Very often we may feel far removed from the faithful of old—saying to ourselves that things were different in their day, that had they lived in our day they may not have been so outstanding. Or, if we had been able to live in their day it would have been much easier to live the Truth. What a sham, what self-justification! There is very little, if any, difference. Their day is only being repeated.

Picture Noah's trials and tribulations. Think of the ridicule he received and endured from fellow-men as he steadily and continuously built onward and upward, when as yet there was no water in sight. Think of the invitations, some no doubt issued in kindness and goodwill, that Noah must have received—

"Much study is a weariness of the flesh, Noah; much work will leave you exhausted."

Does such an invitation and expression sound familiar? Have we not heard similar enticements ourselves? What is our reaction: what was Noah's reaction? Did he forgo work on the ark, and join in the frivolities of men? No: Noah knew that friendship with the world is enmity with God. He chose rather to follow the necessary steps that lead to salvation as left on record by Jude for our instruction—

"BUILD up yourselves on your most holy faith;
PRAY in the Holy Spirit;
KEEP yourselves in the love of God;
LOOK for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ" (20-21).

Notice the first step: BUILD. Literally and figuratively Noah proceeded to *build, build, build*—hewing the trees and shaping the wood until it was fit to be nailed in a sure place. Can we miss the symbolism here? The trees being cut down speak to us of severing ourselves from the ugly, rough, perishing human characteristics of the flesh; of the necessity of reshaping our lives with the tools of the Spirit—tools which are able to cut, shape and bring out the carved beauty of Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness and Temperance. In effect, this is the chipping off the rough bark and fashioning each plank as fit for the Master's use. In Noah, as it should be in us, we see more clearly the meaning of Paul's statement about "bringing forth fruit" unto God.

There are many spiritual lessons which can be derived from the mathematical measurements of the ark. By using various equations we see history, man himself, and lessons of strength; but perhaps it is FIVE that figures most prominently. Five, a symbol of favour-grace: but why such emphasis on grace? Why does the Spirit bring this attribute to our attention so forcibly? The answer lay in the builder himself, in Noah; for amongst all the wickedness, violence, trials, temptations, and trivialities of life around him—

"Noah found GRACE in the eyes of the Lord" (Gen. 6:8).

Two words: "found grace." What a lot they convey! To *find* a thing one must *look* for it; must seek diligently. "Wherefore, beloved," is the exhortation to us (2 Peter 3:14)—

"Seeing that ye *look* for such things, be *diligent* that ye may be *found* of him in peace, without spot and blemish."

Obviously Noah looked. He searched for grace "with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength—for he found it. What a glorious commendation! In our life in the Truth in a troubled world, we too must seek for favour-grace as did Noah. David exclaimed (Ps. 84:11)—

"The Lord God is a Sun and a Shield: the Lord will give grace and glory. No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly."

Paul's message was—

"For by grace are ye saved through faith" (Eph. 2:8).

But Solomon the wise man left the formula or method for finding this grace. He said (Prov.3:3-4)—

"Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: *bind* them about thy neck and write them upon the table of thine heart: SO shalt thou find favour (grace) and good understanding in the sight of God and man."

There is the secret to our success (if we may use the expression): "good understanding." Solomon also instructed us to (Prov. 4:7)—

"Get wisdom, get understanding: wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting get understanding."

It is so easy—and much more rewarding to the Old Man of the flesh—when the day's chores are done, to turn a dial, fall into a chair, and watch flickering screens before us, rather than plunging into the words of mercy and truth. The Spirit's admonition to us is "Study": use our precious time, don't misuse it—

"STUDY to show thy self approved . .

"STUDY to be a workman that needeth not to be ashamed . .

"STUDY to rightly divide the Word of Truth."

We can go nowhere but up, when we study. Or as expressed by Peter in harmony with Jude's first step, "We be built UP." We must ELEVATE ourselves through reading and study, without which it is impossible to develop a faith like Noah's. Noah could have looked at blueprints for 120 years, he could have built only the shell or outward appearance of a ship; but the Spirit says one must grow from the surface milk of the Word to the deeper, more meaty portions, while *drinking* in the refreshing living Water of Life. Seeing blueprints is one thing: so also is attending meetings one thing. *Starting* to build is another: so too is doing daily readings. But *continuing* that which we started to build, "line upon line, precept on precept," brings salvation through wisdom, understanding, obedience.

Perhaps if we would follow Noah's example of *total* dedication, *persistent* preaching, and *complete* separation from the world's associations and ways, consecrating ourselves to the Word of the Lord, we could face our trials and tribulations like Noah faced his. If we were less conformed to the world, and more transformed by the *renewing* of our mind (which can be achieved *only* by reading, study, understanding, and action), we could confront our trials and temptations with characteristics like flint. It was Paul who said:

"Be not *conformed* to the world, but be ye *transformed*" (Rom. 12:2).

"Transformed" means completely changed, altered, converted: from the gruesome, inglorious characteristics of the creeping, crawling, fleshly, destructive caterpillar, to the glory, beauty and freedom of the harmless spirit-butterfly. As Paul elsewhere states—

"Put off the Old Man of the flesh [*the caterpillar*] . . . and put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof . . . Be ye renewed in the spirit of your mind . . . that ye put on the New Man [*the butterfly*], which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness"

(Eph.4:22-23; Rom. 13:14).

Once we *realize and accept* the necessity for "renewing"—for study and meditation—a good part of our battle against the flesh would be fulfilled. Our faith, like that of Noah, would be strengthened. If we would only build the Ark of safety in our hearts and minds, we could be assured that the flood of destruction will not inundate us, as it did the lax population of his day.

Building (by study), however, is not the only essentiality to true godliness. It is but the door. Jude continues:

"Pray in the Holy Spirit."

Pray. In this age of self-reliance, we may neglect the necessity of prayer, and refuse to acknowledge our *total* dependence on God. It could be we only call upon Him when we have exhausted all our own avenues; but can such prayers please Him? We need to ever pray to be delivered from temptation: yea, the Lord himself told us many times to pray for such deliverance. Remember Peter. We need to pray for His merciful forgiveness when we fail.

But communication with the Father is not limited to times of trouble and despair. Prayer is our altar incense, and as the incense had to be made according to specifications, so too must our prayers be in accordance with His requirements. To approach the throne of grace boldly, we must sacrifice and put to death that which was symbolized on the altar of burnt offering, from which coals were taken for the burning of the incense. If, then, our prayers are

offered according to His specifications, they are like the sweet odour that filled and purified the Tabernacle and Temple, morning and evening. Prayer can and does purify, for—

"If we draw nigh unto God, He will draw nigh unto us" (James 4:8).

To speak intelligently with Yahweh, as He speaks to us in the Word, means we must be familiar with that Word. Prayer is an oasis in the desert: His ears are always attentive to the prayers of faith in a troubled world—all types of prayer, in all places, at all times: prayers in the assembly, in the closet, on the highway, to or from work, at work, doing household chores, at the meal table. Prayers of praise He enjoys; prayers seeking help and guidance He answers; prayers seeking forgiveness He hearkens unto; and He rejoices in prayers of thanksgiving. *All* faithful prayers are listened to, but prayer must be offered acceptably and intelligently. Jeremiah exhorts—

"Let us lift up our *heart* with our hands unto Yahweh in the heavens."

The world spends many thousands of dollars on psychiatric treatment, unloading troubled minds on someone who is just as troubled. Saints on the other hand have free access through the Lord Jesus Christ to Omnipotence. Why need we the help of man when we can approach One Who promises, and is able, to fortify the weak and to help those in trouble, rendering to them their requests? As the world's pressures increase on us, we need to heed the invitation to "pour out our hearts before Him."

* * *

The third step of spiritual life mentioned by Jude, after building and prayer, is KEEPING—

"Keeping ourselves in the love of God."

—retaining and holding in ourselves the love of God. How? By allowing Faith, Hope and Charity (comparable to Noah's 3 sons) to walk & work beside us in building our spiritual ark as our 3 companions. If so done, then we are in the presence of the greatest help available.

"*Keeping* in the love of God". . . LOVE . . . that well-balanced divine characteristic of the Father, Who exercised it to our benefit by giving His Son as a way of approach unto Him—a *covering* that must be kept. Like Noah, we must use the covering specified. We must cover ourselves outwardly not with the trappings of Paris and London, but rather with godly apparel, and inwardly with the godly man.

What was the covering? And what did it represent? The record states that it was pitch (Gen. 6:14), and pitch was used for the purpose of preservation and protection from outside influences. Elsewhere this word "pitch" (*kopher*) is rendered "ransom," and in its plural form it is rendered "atonement"—the connecting thought being *a covering*. The covering then was an exponent of the Lord Jesus Christ, a covering that provides us with provision for the forgiveness of sins, and protects us from the raging seas around us.

All down through the ages, the faithful have applied the required covering to protect them from trouble: they have "kept themselves in the love of God." We cannot depend on our own puny improvisation like Adam and Eve. Our raw characteristics must be covered. We must "put on the Lord Jesus Christ"—not in name only, but filling and covering all crevices and weaknesses. This *must* be done, if we are to remain buoyant on troubled waters.

By living in a troubled world which extends to us persistent invitations, we know only too well our feebleness and weakness. By acknowledging our insufficiency, and by grasping the extended hand of help, love and strength, we keep the love of God in us—

"We love, because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

This is our defence and our protection. This is our covering. The Lord's advice, yes, instruction, is (John 14:21)—

"He that hath my commandments and KEEPETH them, he it is that loveth me, and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father."

Maintaining the high calling in Christ Jesus is difficult; very difficult for us to remain steadfast and *unspotted*: even impossible. All of us sin; all of us fall short. We are all sheep given to wandering, and if the crook of our Chief Shepherd is able, and does in godly love rescue those in danger, we too must extend loving help to the faltering; giving AND receiving help and guidance to and from one another.

Patience and forbearance—characteristics foreign to human nature must be cultivated. It is so easy to condemn a fellow-sojourner when he or she falls. How often we hear (or have said it ourselves)—

"I cannot UNDERSTAND them doing such a thing . . ."

"I can't understand . . ."—because we don't *wish* to understand: that's the main and usual reason. He or she fell (as do we) because the love of God was not always in the fore. And because of weakness, sin—which lay crouched like a lion—overpowered. Can we condemn others? Have we never yielded to temptation? Our denunciation of others can only be truly beneficial when we ourselves can't be condemned. He that is without sin has license to cast the first stone. We all fall; we all come short of the glory of God.

The apostle Paul recommends that to avoid as many temptations as possible, we be—

"Always abounding in the work of the Lord."

It cannot be always abounding if the attractions and entertainments, the hobbies and sports, and the general conversation of the world take a portion of our time. Dare we suggest that Noah took time off to pursue some pleasure and relaxation?

Pleasure and relaxation for those walking in the Truth in a troubled world can take many forms, always keeping the love of God before us. True it is that we cannot study all of the time; we can't be reading all of the time; we can't be separated unto prayer every moment—but as a *flock* we can draw ourselves closer together. We can utilize our varying talents. We can visit; correspond; support the ecclesial magazines; make telephone calls. We can visit the aged and ill; open our homes to the young; talk to the depressed; comfort those under severe trial; correspond with those in isolation; make special efforts to visit ecclesias who are out of the mainstream of traffic. And yes, even a certain amount of physical activity, providing it is limited to the family in Christ.

Being closely knit together is good, it is excellent, it is obeying the Spirit's command: but this in itself is not the only requirement of us. Keeping the love of God in us is living the Truth and keeping the Truth alive. To keep the Truth alive means we must also proclaim that love to the world. Viewing Noah (one last time) we examine the standard he set. In addition to the strenuous effort of building the ark for the saving of his own house, he preached to *others* also.

Can we imagine Noah withdrawing his words of warning? Did he say, "What's the use, no one is listening"? Or, "I've too much to do on this ship to spend the time talking to deaf ears"? Can *we* say, "Why publicize the Truth today; strangers seldom listen"? Could it be we try at times to salve our conscience by saying, "We have all we can do to keep the Truth alive in the Household"? Is it a fair excuse; or *just* an excuse—and that a weak and feeble one?

Noah was motivated by a *compelling power within him*. His faith was so dynamic that for 120 years—autumn, winter, spring and summer—his candle stood high upon the candlestick, and not under a bushel. He built, he prayed, and he *kept*. Bro. Roberts, following his example, even preached to an empty hall. But empty or not, the light was there; deaf ears or not, the Word was spoken. Paul said—

"For though I preach the Gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the Gospel!" (1 Cor. 9:16).

Our priceless heritage, the Gospel message, should be a driving force in us. The message should lift us by our shoulders, drawing us out of any comfortable chair we maybe slouching in, making us to stand erect, unselfishly offering and sharing the Word to mankind. Look at what the Gospel offers to the troubled world—

PEACE among turmoil. .

JOY rather than sadness. . .

CONTENTMENT instead of dissatisfaction, and

LOVE replacing hate.

It matters not if we are alone or in an ecclesia: publication of the Good News of the Kingdom of God is a duty we cannot shirk—

"If we dare to keep it back, we the rich reward may lack."

Understanding should impress upon us the urgency of preaching, proclaiming and publicizing. It is a chain reaction in essence similar to that of Faith and Works. One is dependent on the other; one is stimulated and

complemented by the other. Both must be present, both must be alive in this troubled world: alone each perishes. Let us then, like the Psalmist (Psa. 26:7)—

"Publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all His wondrous works."

* * *

Returning to the steps mentioned by Jude, steps which lead to successful spiritual life, the last one mentioned is LOOKING—

"Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ."

"Looking for," desiring, hoping for: here is our 2nd companion of help, Hope. Paul said—

"For the Hope of Israel I am bound."

Are we "bound"? In answer to the question, "What is our Hope," Paul answers in his letter to Titus (2:13)—

"Looking for [*the same expression Jude used*] the blessed Hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

"Hope maketh not ashamed," and though we live in a troubled world, it enables us to surmount the trials, tribulations and problems that confront us daily. We must take for a helmet the Hope of Salvation, a Hope of being crowned as Kings, of being attired as Priests, of serving unencumbered by fleshly tendencies and weaknesses, of being a precious jewel in the crown of Jesus, glistening forth the radiant beauty of almighty, ever-living power.

In these last troublous days of the Gentile dispensation, the days of our opportunity and pilgrimage, let us remain healthy, active, and diligent; toiling on our ark, nailing each plank in its proper place, preaching to others, following as much as possible the pattern of Noah. BUILDING, PRAYING, KEEPING, and LOOKING for the commendation left on record of Noah, for—

"Noah walked with God."

—J.J.

Questions	Match word with meaning				
1. Ed	9. Sheol	17. Ruach	25. Messiah	35. Anatole	45. Parakletos
2. Ben	10. Bapto	18. Manna	26. Ekklesia	36. Didymus	46. Anathema
3. Beth	11. Christ	19. Psuche	27. Pneuma	37. Anastasis	47. Maranatha
4. Aion	12. Hades	20. Cephas	28. Kosmos	38. Golgotha	48. Phanerosis
5. Raca	13. Logos	21. Doulos	29. Parousia	39. Rhantizo	49. Ephphatha
6. Elpis	14. Phileo	22. Eureka	30. Rabboni	40. Koinonia	50. Evangelion
7. Abba	15. Agape	23. Corban	31. Nephesh	41. Adelphos	51. Presbuteros
8. Pistis	16. Berith	24. Shalom	32. Hosanna	42. Aceldama	52. Apokalupsis
			33. Diadema	43. Episkopos	53. Yom Kippur
			34. Diabolos	44. Stephanos	54. Talithacumi
Dip	Hope	Witness	Be opened	Resurrection	Crown (victory)
Son	Word	Brother	Comforter	Soul, life (H)	Our Lord comes
Gift	Peace	Sprinkle	Revelation	Soul, life (G)	Overseer, bishop
Twin	Stone	What is it	Fellowship	Damsel, arise	Coming, presence
Skull	House	Accursed	East, rising	Anointed (H)	Day of Atonement
Love	O save	Covenant	Vain fellow	Anointed (G)	Assembly, called out
Love	Father	Slanderer	Age, course	Crown (regal)	World, order of things
Slave	Master	Grave (H)	Faith, belief	Manifestation	Breath/wind/spirit (H)
Elder	Gospel	Grave (G)	I have found	Field of blood	Breath/wind/spirit (G)

How Much Is Enough?

"My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness" —2 Cor. 12:9.

THE chapters we have been reading over the last week carry in them different lessons and advice. In Job there is reproof for any of us who trust in our own righteousness. In the lesser prophets there are warnings and judgments pronounced against Israel and other nations who had departed from the fear of God. In Peter and John there are many exhortations to the virtues of obedience, grace and love, and many other qualities mentioned throughout their letters.

I think that we have been well exhorted in the past on the dangers of trusting in our own righteousness, of the application of God's warnings to Israel on disobedience, and on building up ourselves in the virtues mentioned in the epistles. And truly these exhortations are so necessary for us, with our porous vessels and cracking cisterns.

But I have often wondered: How much is enough? Is there *ever* enough? Is there ever *too much* in the application of these encouragements to strive to overcome? Perhaps we can attempt to answer these questions—at least to some degree. Quite often the answers to puzzles such as this are found in *examples* as recorded in God's Word. I think this is no exception.

So let us first take Job. He was, by God's Own admission, righteous—

"Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man?"
(Job 1:8).

Yet he was allowed to suffer all the evil which came upon him. If good works of righteousness had been enough, of what purpose was all the trial and temptation? God Himself again answers—

"Then answered the Lord unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

"Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto Me. Wilt thou also disannul My judgment? Wilt thou condemn Me, that thou mayest be righteous?"

"Hast thou an arm like God? Or canst thou thunder with a voice like Him? Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency; and array thyself with glory and beauty.

"Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one that is proud, and abase him. Look on every one that is proud, and tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together, and bind their faces in secret.

"Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee" (Job 40: 6-11).

Here Job is shown that of himself, man and all that he can do is nothing in God's sight. He is later blessed and commended for his good works—but only after he is shown that they are insufficient by themselves—that they are indeed both desirable and necessary; but unless coupled with fear or understanding of man's humble position in relation to God, they fall short. Therefore good works alone ought not to be our goal, but a part of it in the larger view of serving and pleasing God.

It is true that due to the weakness and blindness of the flesh, there seems to be no end to our mistakes and failings; consequently to the improvements that we should strive to make; and I suppose that in this sense there is never enough. However, good deeds to God and men have a limit of usefulness if they are an end in themselves.

So by this do I mean that we should do only so much and no more? No. We should *always* do more, because we all at best fall short of doing enough. But I mean that we must not, like Job, trust that what we do, when we *do* succeed, entitles us to God's or men's favour. When we realize the infinitely high standard that God has shown us in Christ, saying "Follow him," we are made to exclaim like Paul—

"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Job was brought to say much the same thing through his experiences. But notice! He had one trial on top of another *until* he came to this point. Then he was blessed more abundantly than before. He had had *enough*. God knew what was enough for Job. When he realized the thing that God intended him to realize, God's hand reversed his circumstances.

Here is a good and fitting example of when enough becomes enough. There is always more needed—as long as there is a need, but when the need is filled or vanishes—so does the demand. Jesus said—

"Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matt. 6:34).

God knows our frailties through the pleadings of Christ, and He will:

"Not tempt us above what we are able to bear" (1 Cor. 10:13).

This frailty does not, however, diminish our duty to Him—because we owe Him everything we are or can be. Therefore the need for us to serve Him is constantly there, as much as we mentally and physically can (Note: *can*, not *will*—there is all too often a big difference between what we're willing to do and what we really could do).

We pass on to the warnings of God to Israel and other nations for their disobedience. When we are reading through this part of the Bible, there seems to be book after book of reproach and woe laid upon Israel and Judah and others. Why was *so much* said over and over through the prophets to the people? Would not two or 3 stern rebukes have done just as well? Obviously not, or it would have been done that way. We know that Israel did not repent or turn. Therefore as long as the *need* for warning was there, so was the warning. God knew how much they needed.

Turning over to the epistles of Peter and John, the thought is equally applicable. Herein we are told to have faith. We need to develop faith or hope or trust in God that He will do for us as much as we need, and that He will do as He has promised to do. We need faith as long as the object of it is unfulfilled. But when that which we hope for is fulfilled, the need for faith in that direction vanishes—

"What a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?" (Rom. 8:24).

The same applies to compassion, diligence, kindness, knowledge, love, and grace—as well as to less desirable (but necessary) advice such as that given to Israel and to the brethren for dealing with the unfaithful and reprobate. As long as the need exists, we have a duty to supply. This is very important to realize, because it is just as wrong to apply not enough of anything as it is to apply too much. One important difference that is also necessary to discern, is that due to the nature and characteristics of mortal man, there is *always* a need for improved and increased godliness and virtue. Therefore there is not enough, unless the need is removed—and it never will be until Jesus comes and takes away the evil nature of man.

Perhaps our mistake is sometimes that we are unequal in our application of these things. One will emphasize this quality, while another will emphasize that quality. Yet each may be disregarding what the other is emphasizing. Here is a case of not enough and too much! So we see that we have to discern the need, and apply the correct medicine, as it were. In other words, we must make a judgment as to what, why, when, where, and how much. A misjudgment of any one of these 5 things can cause the rest of our careful endeavours to fall short; or at the worst, fall flat. And that is known as something of a failure. Is that enough to give God?

Jesus gave as much as was possible for him to give—his whole life, ending in death. He is still giving. He is our pattern. Is it asking too much of us to give enough of whatever, whenever, and wherever, it is needed? If so, God will know and understand. He says—

"My grace is sufficient for thee."

But that is only if we cannot give enough, *when we haven't got it to give*. But then, as with Job, God will know when enough is enough. It's only we who seem not to know as we should know, But we can always learn, can't we?
— G.J.

Salvation Conditional UPON OBEDIENT "ENDURANCE TO THE END"

"Saved Already" and "Once Saved, Always Saved" Not Scriptural

A humble meditation upon these passages should completely banish the dangerous self-delusion that once we think, or "feel" that we have been "saved" by "accepting Christ" it is impossible to lose salvation. The Scriptures give a very different picture. We may assume we have "accepted" Christ, but he has made it very clear and specific on what basis HE will accept US, and wisdom consists in learning and submitting to that basis.

"He that ENDURETH TO THE END shall be saved". (Matt. 10:22).

"He that shall ENDURE UNTO THE END, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13). (Mark 13:13).

"He that overcometh and KEEPETH MY WORKS UNTO THE END, to him will I give power over the nations . . . and I will give him the morning star" (Rev. 2:26-28).

"Be thou faithful UNTO DEATH and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

"God will render to every man according to his deeds: to them who by PATIENT CONTINUANCE in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality—eternal life" (Rom. 2:6-7).

"Be not deceived: God is not mocked: for whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us NOT BE WEARY IN WELL-DOING, for in due season we shall reap, IF we faint not" (Gal. 6:7-9).

"The Gospel . . . by which ye are saved, IF ye keep in memory (RV: hold fast) what I preached unto you" (1 Cor. 15:1-2).

"Christ . . . whose house are we, IF we hold fast . . . FIRM UNTO THE END" (Heb. 3:6).

"Our fathers were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and did all eat the same spiritual meat, and did all drink the same spiritual drink . . . but with many of them God was not well-pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness. . . These things were written for our admonition . . . Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth, TAKE HEED LEST HE FALL" (1 Cor. 10:1-12).

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12).

"You . . . now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in his sight: IF we CONTINUE in the faith grounded and settled, and BE NOT MOVED AWAY from the hope of the Gospel" (Col. 1:21-23).

"Jesus said, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and LOOKING BACK, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).

"They returned again to Lystra . . . confirming the souls of the disciples and exhorting them to CONTINUE in the faith"
(Acts 14:21-22).

"If some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in (baptized believers) . . . be not high-minded, but fear: for if God spared not the natural branches, TAKE HEED lest He also SPARE NOT THEE. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them that fell, severity; but towards thee, goodness, IF thou CONTINUE in His goodness: otherwise THOU ALSO SHALT BE CUT OFF" (Rom. 11:17-22).

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering . . . For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the Truth, there remaineth NO MORE SACRIFICE FOR SINS, but a certain fearful looking-for of judgment and fiery indignation" (Heb. 10:23-27).

"For it is IMPOSSIBLE for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and tasted of the good word of God and the powers of the world to come, IF THEY SHALL FALL AWAY, to renew them again unto repentance" (Heb. 6:4-6).

"I (Paul) keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should BE A CASTAWAY" (1 Cor. 9:27).

"IF by any means I (Paul) MAY attain unto the resurrection of the dead. NOT THAT I HAVE ALREADY ATTAINED, or am already made perfect; but I press on, IF so be that I MAY lay hold on that for which I also was laid on by Christ Jesus. I count NOT myself YET to have laid hold: but one thing I do, I press on TOWARD THE GOAL unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:11-14, RV).

"If ye (baptized believers—see 1:7, 6:2-3) live after the flesh, ye shall die: but IF ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live" (Rom 8:13).

"I know thy works, and thy labour, and patience . . . Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast LEFT thy first love. Remember therefore from whence THOU ART FALLEN, and repent and do the first works, or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will REMOVE THY CANDLESTICK OUT OF HIS PLACE, except thou repent"
(Rev. 2:1-5).

"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, BEWARE lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, FALL from your own steadfastness" (2 Pet. 3:17).

"For, IF after they HAVE ESCAPED the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are AGAIN ENTANGLED therein, the latter end is WORSE WITH THEM THAN THE BEGINNING. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." (2 Pet. 2:20-21).

"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and KEEPETH his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame" (Rev. 16:15).

"Thou hast a FEW names even in Sardis which have NOT DEFILED their garments: and THEY shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy" (Rev. 3:4).

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the Husbandman. Every branch IN ME that beareth not fruit He TAKETH AWAY . . . Abide in me . . . IF a man abide not in me, he is CAST FORTH as a branch. IF ye abide in me, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done . . . Continue ye in my love. IF ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love"
(John 15: 1-10).

"Then we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, LEST at any time we should LET THEM SLIP . . . How shall we escape IF WE NEGLECT so great salvation?" (Heb. 2: 1- 3).

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord, looking diligently LEST ANY MAN FAIL of (margin: FALL FROM) THE GRACE OF GOD, lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; lest there be any fornicator or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterwards, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he SOUGHT IT CAREFULLY WITH TEARS" (Heb. 12:14-17).

"When the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, shall he live? ALL HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT HE HATH DONE SHALL NOT BE MENTIONED: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die" (Ezek. 18:24).

"A sower went out to sow. Some fell upon a rock, and as soon as it was sprung up, it WITHERED AWAY; some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and CHOKED IT; others fell on good ground, and bare fruit. They on the rock are they which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which FOR A WHILE BELIEVE, and in time of temptation FALL AWAY. And that which fell among thorns are they which, when they have heard, go forth and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and BRING NO FRUIT to perfection; But that on the good ground are they which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, KEEP IT, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Luke 8:5-15).

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and BE NOT ENTANGLED again with the yoke of bondage. Behold I Paul say unto you that if ye be circumcised, CHRIST SHALL PROFIT YOU NOTHING . . . Christ is BECOME OF NO EFFECT unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; YE ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE"
(Gal. 5:1-4).

"Of your OWN SELVES (baptised believers) shall men arise speaking perverse things to DRAW AWAY disciples"
(Acts 20:30).

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? SO RUN, that ye MAY OBTAIN"
(1 Cor. 9:24).

"God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love . . . and we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope UNTO THE END: that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and PATIENCE inherit the promises" (Heb 6:10-12).

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ. IF we hold the beginning of our confidence STEDFAST UNTO THE END" (Heb. 3: 12-14).

"Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing (RV margin: "by the birth of the child"—see Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4), IF they CONTINUE in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety" (1 Tim. 2:15).

"IF that which ye have heard from the beginning shall REMAIN in you, ye also shall continue in the Son and in the Father . . . And now, little children ABIDE IN HIM that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and NOT BE ASHAMED before him at his coming" (1 John 2:24-28).

"If they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall we not escape, IF WE TURN AWAY from Him that speaketh from heaven . . . Wherefore we, receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear; for our God is a consuming fire" (Heb. 12:25-29).

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have LOST HIS SAVOR, wherewith shall it be salted? It is henceforth good for nothing but to be CAST OUT" (Matt. 5:13).

"For now we live, IF ye STAND FAST in the Lord" (1 Thess. 3:8).

"Having faith and a good conscience, which some having PUT AWAY concerning faith have MADE SHIPWRECK" (1 Tim. 1:19).

"If these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall be neither barren nor unfruitful . . . But he that lacketh these things is blind, and hath forgotten that he WAS PURGED from his old sins. Wherefore GIVE DILIGENCE TO MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE; for IF ye do these things ye shall never fall" (2 Pet. 1:8-10).

Current Events Fulfilling Prophecy

EUROPE'S REDS: GAINING STRENGTH, promising democracy. Public alliance of Italian & French Communist parties, largest in Western world: pledge to support multiparty politics, right to vote, democratic institutions, freedom of press & expression, of travel, religion & opinion. But remember: Of all the world's constitutions, few give stronger guarantees of individual liberty than Russia's—but rulers ignore it. Red policy: promise anything to get power. (USN12:1)

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A Communist spectre is haunting Europe. Many Communist parties in West Europe—France, Italy, Spain—displaying new face & style. Dealing with them is major problem. Southern Europe Socialists view alliances with Reds as a necessity. "There is a new situation in South Europe," says Secretary of French Socialist Party. "There is a dynamism on the Left, but we can't reach power without alliance with Communists. Unless US wants to deal only with likes of Franco & Greek colonels, it must admit the reality of Southern Europe, including large Communist parties" (Tm 2:9)

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Major political drama unfolding in W. Europe: Communists' attempt to get power by asserting they're a benign reformist force quite unrelated to Moscow. May well be most serious challenge to democratic values & security in Europe since Cold War. (Tm 2:16)

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French Communists, at February Congress, call Lenin's "Dictatorship of the Proletariat" outmoded: say French Reds should seek "socialism in colours of France" thru free votes. Big change? Probably just opportunism. (USN 2:23)

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A French businessman says, "Almost everyone in Europe is worried about the future, for political & military reasons. US will probably pull out, & we'll sooner or later come under growing Soviet influence & domination. Nor are Europeans prepared to defend themselves. At same time, ideas of the Left are gaining ground." Many Europeans say that what happened in Angola could happen in Europe tomorrow. Many see a demoralized Europe coming under Soviet domination in next 10yrs. Some don't rule out possibility of a Russian blitzkrieg. Few believe US would risk world war to defend Europe. (USN 3:1)

TO dedicated Communists, the struggle for world power is real war, & any subterfuge or expedient is fully justified. "Promise anything to get power" is basic doctrine. We know Russia must rule Europe. We are thrilled to see it gradually (but now with increasing rapidity) coming about "naturally." The overshadowing of the Red Colossus is oppressive & benumbing to Europe, which sees the debacle of US confusion, & is losing the will to resist.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

(From the "Signs of the Times," Christadelphian Magazine, February, 1876)

THE Turkish insurrection & insolvency have resulted in negotiations between the leading European powers & Turkey. Their ostensible object is to induce Turkey to accept reforms which the Powers profess to think will satisfy the Christian subjects in the revolted provinces. Russia, Austria & Germany have invited Britain to approve of the reforms they are pressing on Turkey. The *Liverpool Mercury* says: "Next year can scarcely fail to witness either the complete prostration of the Turkish Empire, or the advance of Russia & Austria towards Constantinople & the Dardanelles."

As the *Daily News* truly observes: "However much the Powers may desire to limit their efforts, they're beginning an intervention to which it will not be in their power to set bounds, and the effects of which will certainly not be the regeneration of the Turkish power."

The *Glasgow Herald* says: "It is becoming plainer every day that we are gradually being plunged deeper and deeper into a policy of which the visible consequence seems to be the ultimate occupation of Egypt."

IT was a very exciting time. Russia & Britain seemed to be on the verge of taking up their respective required positions in Turkey & Egypt as Kings of the North & South. But the scene was not quite ready. Palestine was still a desolate province of the Turkish Empire, & there was no returned Jewish colony as an "ensign upon a hill." And Britain was too strong, & Russia was too weak. A German newspaper could say—

"England has now one foot in the stirrup at Suez, and the other at Mohammerah [*at the mouth of the Euphrates in the Persian Gulf*]. Russia will have to lower her flag: she has neither the material power nor the spirit to beat England out of the field . . . Was it to be expected that while Russia was advancing towards India, the statesmen of the richest and most cultivated nation of the world should look on with folded arms? The truth is that England is now as strong, and her policy as great as ever, as in the time of William III or Wellington. A country which has so much money & resources, whose people are inspired with so grand a patriotism, and whose government acts with such masterly policy, does not meet with the difficulties of Continental nations in raising an army."

WHAT a contrast the present presents: England prostrate, a poor puny voice in world councils, & Russia a mighty Colossus casting a fearful & lengthening shadow over the entire globe. England truly has a part to play, but not as the invincible giant of 100 years ago, before whom the world trembled. Russia will (& CAN) sweep all before her.

LEBANON: BIG WIN FOR SYRIA. Battle for Beirut has turned Lebanon's glittering capital into shattered city strewn with rubble & bodies. Another "official" truce—11th since Sept. Muslims now hold upper hand militarily: decisive factor in their success was participation of Palestinians, apparently given green light by Arafat & Syrian Pres. Assad. Libya gave Muslims \$40 million for arms: Syria & Iraq keeping steady flow of guns & ammunition. (Nwk 11:10)

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Collapse of ceasefire No. 12. Estimated 2/3 of national production has been lost during past 8 mos. fighting: most foreign businesses gone. (Tm 12:8)

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Duel to death between Moslems & Christians. Right-wing Christians, who control great wealth & political power, refuse to meet Leftist Moslem demand for reforms. Moslems now are 60% of population. Highly trained & heavily armed Palestinians have given Moslem side the military backing it needs to enforce its demands. In '58, quick intervention by US ended civil war. (USN 11:10)

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Moslems want to Arabize Lebanon, then turn country against Israel. . . Russia pouring in millions in arms to support radical Moslems. (USN 12:22-29)

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Civil war took sudden & risky turn for worse: Army intervened on side of Christians. This may bring in Palestinians in major way in defence of Moslems—also Syria, which could lead to Israel entry, & general war. (Tm 1:26)

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Showdown in Lebanon. After mid-January ceasefire, Christians attacked & levelled 2 Moslem areas. Infuriated, Moslems struck at Christian communities throughout country. Christian leaders called for total mobilization of Christian community. Then PLO troops poured in from neighbouring Syria. (Tm 2:2)

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With local Muslim allies, invading PLO troops swiftly seized control of most of Lebanon & drove Christians to shore of Mediterranean. Victory boosts stature of Palestinians & other Arab militants. It also turned once-neutral Lebanon into a potential confrontation state on Israel's north border. An "all-embracing political settlement" drafted by Syria promises to give Muslims new political power. Result was clear-cut victory for Palestinians & Syria's Pres. Assad. In a single stroke, Arafat & PLO had enhanced prestige & political power, gaining strongest foothold ever in Lebanon. Till midweek, Christians had seemed well on way to victory.

Already confronted on east & south by hostile neighbours, Israel must now—for first time—face a new militant neighbour on its north border. Almost inevitably, the victory of the radical Muslims & the PLO will make Israel less willing to make either military or political compromises with Arabs. With Israel more suspicious than ever, & with Arab radicals riding high, prospect for Mideast peace negotiations look distinctly grim. (Nwk 2:2)

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With the self-assurance of an imperial proconsul, Syria's Foreign Minister Khaddam last wk. presided over a ceasefire in Lebanon that Syria had not just proposed, but had imposed. Syria has emerged, for the moment at least, as most effective Arab power in Mideast.

At week's end, truce violations were limited to a few isolated outbursts of gunfire. Civil servants were ordered back to their offices, & schools & banks prepared to re-open. Damascus' imposition of ceasefire was personal triumph for Syrian Pres. Assad. By using PLO to stop the fighting, he avoided direct Syrian military intervention which might have triggered an Israel invasion.

It was just the latest step in Syrian campaign to undercut Sadat as spokesman of Arab world. Assad outmanoeuvred Sadat last summer when he refused a Golan agreement after Sadat had signed Sinai accord. Then in fall he balked at renewing UN team on Golan unless PLO was invited to UN Mideast debate. Last week US vetoed a strong pro-PLO resolution requiring Israel to leave all occupied territories & recognizing Palestinians' right to an independent state in Palestine. No nation went along with US in opposing resolution. France & Japan voted for it; Britain, Sweden & Italy abstained. (Tm 2:9)

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As Lebanon's weary inhabitants emerged from the darkness of their civil war last week, they found themselves confronted with a bitter reality: "We're ruled now from Damascus." There was no mistaking that the Muslims were winners & Christians the losers. People emerging from their homes were staggered by the devastation. In Beirut business district, hardly a building escaped. Even if ceasefire holds, many doubt that Beirut will ever be the same.

The other cloud hanging over the future was Syria's intentions. Authoritative sources say Syria plans to rebuild Lebanon's army from 18,000 to around 40,000, and bring Lebanon into a coordinated front against Israel. (Nwk 2:9)

SYRIA is the literal, geographical King of the North, as Egypt is the similar King of the South. As indicated in another item of these signs (pg. 63), since Russia's expulsion from Egypt, Syria has become more & more Russia's Mideast beachhead & arms depot. With the defection of Egypt to the West, Syria is determined, with Russian help, to be the Mid-east leader of the Arabs in the campaign to destroy Israel. In taking over previously weak & neutral Lebanon, & putting the Moslems there into power, she has made a giant stride. No longer is the short Golan Heights line Israel's only threat from Syria. Now Israel's whole north border is exposed. A dangerous situation has now become a precarious one.

"LAND BRIDGE" ACROSS RUSSIA. Soviets jolting Western rivals for Japan- Europe shipping business with trans-Siberian, Leningrad to Vladivostok "land bridge," which is cheaper and often faster than anything now offered by capitalistic firms. To Moscow's delight, it advances the Communist economic role in world trade, creams off the choicest traffic between W. Germany & Japan, & helps Russia catch up with West in containerized shipping capability—in turn an advantage in reaching for bigger chunk of global commerce.

Fees are up to 40% below rate-fixed Western rivals on sea routes. It's growing rapidly: 4300 containers in '72; 56,000 in '74. Jap shipments jumped 80% last yr. alone. Half of Jap trade with Scandinavia & E. Europe goes by it. Hong Kong is also major user. It's real threat to conventional shipping. (USN 12:15)

ANOTHER way in which Russia is building its dominance and undermining the West, weaving a net and creating gradually a fatal dependence. The so-called "Free" World, with its "Free" enterprise, is just not organized to cope with the rigid Russian monopoly & manipulation of every aspect of commerce & industry to one deadly single-minded end.

MUSHROOMING RUSSIAN MILITARY POWER. In missiles, ships, planes, nearly all weapons, Russian power growing faster than US's. Majority in Congress has repeatedly called for cuts in military spending. By summer, Russia will have 1500 land-based missiles to US's 1050; 850 sub-based missiles to US's 650. Moscow replacing old land-based missiles with 4 new models; arming subs with new missile that has twice range of top US model.

Russia's total military strength 4.4 million, PLUS border guards, internal security forces, reserves. Since '68, tactical aircraft up 1300 to over 5000. Soviet Navy is world's largest: 225 major ships, over 300 subs. In Europe, Red forces exceed NATO by 150,000 troops & 10,000 tanks. (USN 2:9)

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As result of Congress decision to cut defence spending, US forces will be smaller, train less & wait longer for equipment repairs in '76. Total forces will drop 42,000; ships will decline from 502 to 491; planes by 100. (USN 12:22).

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Russian troops up 1.2 million in past 10 yrs; US down 1.5 million. In ground forces, Russia out-producing US 7 to 1; in ships & subs, 3½ to 1. Russia spends 45% more than US on arms. Consequences could be other countries' accommodation with Russia. Nations not interested in association with losers.

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Russia can build more subs in 1 yard than total US capacity. (USN 1:26).

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At relentless pace, propulsion of Soviet geopolitical power to superpower status. This has been primarily an outgrowth of sheer military power. We see this more clearly every day—Angola being the latest manifestation. (Nwk 2:9)

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Almost everywhere, things looking up for Russia. Now even with US in the superpower sweepstakes. Moscow's great leap forward in prestige ample proof that power can grow out of barrel of a gun. In Indochina & Angola, Russia has achieved proxy victories & damaged US prestige without firing a shot of its own. In Europe, where NATO nations are busy slashing defence budgets, Russia has deployed awesome military power. Russia's assertive new posture in world raises grave questions about its ultimate objectives, & the risks it will take to attain them. They're more confident than ever—& why not? Russia exceeds US in: armed forces 4.4 million to 2; tanks 42,000 to 10,000; strategic missiles 2400 to 1700; missile power 10,000 megatons to 4,000; major combat ships 226 to 182; missile subs 73 to 41; attack subs 253 to 73.

Russia's military power enables it to cast a giant shadow all over the world. Such power may be employed directly, but it is more likely to be exploited indirectly to extract political, economic or military concessions. Till recently, Kremlin leaders probably thought foreign adventures unwise, but in view of US's post-Vietnam mood, things look more promising for Russia; they've been taken by surprise by rapid decline of US willingness to act. Soviet system enables leaders to pay almost any price for superpower status. Russia feels that in past 5 years US has proven itself so inept in Vietnam, Angola, Cyprus, and SALT talks that there are major openings for them. (Nwk 3:1)

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NATO's worries: Russia growing more adventurous, more dangerously aggressive; stressing military power at time NATO weakened by political & economic setbacks. Massive expansion of Red military power, especially in Navy. Communist political gains in W. Europe: a Communist in Portugal's Cabinet. Instability in Yugoslavia: when 83-yr-old Tito dies, Russian meddling could take over, putting Russia on Adriatic & splitting NATO Med defences. (USN 3:1)

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Russia's prime resources have been concentrated in the military-industrial sector. Russia has created a permanent militarization of the economy to an unprecedented degree in peacetime, spectacularly effective & dangerous for whole world. Recent Soviet weaponry & forces build-up so great that defence experts round world unanimous that US is losing its edge. (Tm 3:1)

IT would be a terrible picture if we did not have the assurance that all is in the hand of God for a good and divine purpose, & that Russia's world triumph will be brief, her end dreadful, & the outcome glorious for God's people & for the whole earth. Surely it is of God that US is so blind & self-destructive. She has a far greater potential than Russia, but while all Russia's strength & labour goes into sinews of steel, US's is dissipated in luxury & folly. It's the old story of decadent, voluptuous Rome & the fresh, virile, disciplined barbarians. Greed is the order of the day: billions spent on utter rubbish.

ISRAEL: DEFICIT, FRUSTRATION, ANXIETY. Biggest budget in its history, & more hardship for Israel taxpayers. Israel's financial position has been more precarious than its military position. Not once in its 28-yr. history has it had favourable trade balance. Burden of mass immigration, state-building, defence spending, & womb-to-tomb social welfare, have made Israelis some of most heavily taxed people in world. Living costs up 70% since '73. World's highest per capita national debt: \$2206.

West Bank Arabs only warily accept Israeli pounds, but not for political reasons. Worth \$4 when nation founded in '48, successively devalued to paltry 14c; black market rate 9c.

Arabs plan to spend 14 billion oil dollars on arms this year. (Tm 1:5)

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In stunning election victory last wk., Tawfiq Zayad, a lifelong Communist agitator, became mayor of Nazareth, Israel's largest all-Arab city. He has been arrested a dozen times for anti-govt. activity. He is a member of the Moscow leaning Israeli Communist party. (Tm 12:22)

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Reverse exodus: about 300,000 Israeli Jews (nearly 1 in 10) now live abroad. The exodus figures loom even larger because of sudden 50% immigration drop. Only 8500 Jews allowed to leave Russia in '75, compared to 16,800 in '74, and 33,500 in '73. Last yr. 19,000 Jews left Israel, only 19,700 arrived. (Tm 1:12)

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For Israel, it's hostile world of many enemies, few friends. Israel today is an insecure & bewildered nation. Israel sees new danger as Syria's influence in Lebanon & over Palestinians expands. Most distressing of all is

widespread conviction that neither Israel nor US is in control of events. US's step-by-step diplomacy is at dead end. More & more Israelis feel Rabin Govt. is paralysed, with parties & politicians unable to agree on what to do for survival.

Economy is in terrible shape. Foreign trade balance hit staggering \$4 billion deficit in '75. Standing ready to wage war at any time is costly business. Defence cost \$4½ billion in '75. But despite their woes & the constant threat of war hanging over it, Israel shows no sign of panic, or of giving up. (USN 2:9)

THERE must be—in the final days—a "Time of Jacob's Trouble" before his everlasting deliverance, & it could well have begun, tho it must before the end become far more sore—even to the point that "2/3 therein shall be cut off & die" (Zech.13:8). Little of hope or peace appears to lie ahead for Israel for the remainder of the dark Gentile night, tho in the very last phase there must be a self-deceptive "dwelling safely (confidently), without walls, & having neither bars nor gates." It will be intensely interesting to see how this aspect finds its fulfilment, in the day when Russia "descends like a cloud to take a spoil."

RUSSIA'S BOLD GAMBLE FOR AFRICA. Newly independent Angola, mineral-rich & strategically important, is suddenly centre of world attention. Russia's adventure in Angola is its boldest overseas move in years, planned as challenge to US. Russia's intent is clear. It has a foothold in Somalia, on east side of Africa; a client state in Angola would give it an equally valuable position on the S. Atlantic side. Its ports & air bases would fit neatly into Soviet plans to match or exceed US ability to deploy tactical military power around world. Angola is a test of US will. Design is to create wedge of Soviet bases across heart of Africa: footholds already in Somalia, Guinea & Congo, where bombers & fighter planes are based. But Angola is real prize. Warships using its deepwater ports could exert power in S. Atlantic; its Portuguese-built airfields swiftly expanded for long-range planes.

Russia has military advisers in Guinea-Bissau; port and airfield use in Guinea; advisers & arms in Equatorial Guinea; supply base in Congo for Angola forces, communication centres, missile storage, air & naval bases in Somalia. It backs rebels in Namibia against S. Africa rule. (USN12:15)

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Guinea has been faithful Russian ally since '59. Red fleet regularly uses ports of Equatorial Guinea & Congo. Angola victory would enable Russia to complete its network of African bases, patrol S. Atlantic, intercept tankers from Persian Gulf.

Recent Africa successes are far cry from Russian experiences in early '60s. Now they're shrewder, keep lower profile, use swarthy Algerians & Cubans as stand-ins wherever possible. There are at least 7 African states ripe for increased Soviet influence. Russia has built oil refinery & poly technical institute in Ethiopia. Nigeria has turned to Russia for warplanes; sends students to Soviet universities. Zambia & Sierra Leone have gone to Russia for arms. Russia is arming Rhodesia Blacks training in Tanzania & Mozambique. (Tm 1:5)

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In Angola, Russia using Soviet arms & Cuban troops to carve out Cuba-like satellite in S. Atlantic, while US runs about wringing its hands, looking weak. In W. Europe, US encourages allies to lower guard by going along with Soviet style, one-sided arms & troop-reduction talks. In S. Europe, US has alienated both Greece & Turkey. Russia's Kosygin has paid friendly visit to Turkey, anti-Soviet for years. Russia is moving new power into the Atlantic, threatening to isolate W. Europe behind a salt-water curtain.

In US, President & Congress feud over foreign policy; cripple CIA as Russia beefs up its spy system; talk of trimming US defence budget as Russia devotes its energies to arms production. US leadership increasingly confused. (USN 1:12)

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Cuban regular troops now are deployed in 10 countries—operating more in the interests of Moscow than Havana. They are definitely Soviet cat's-paws. Cuba owes Russia \$4½ billion, & piling up at \$350 million a yr. (USN 12:8)

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Cubans: the Gurkhas of the Russian Empire. Cuban menace extends well beyond Latin America. Over 2000 Cubans on loan to African nations other than Angola: supervise govt. in both Equatorial Guinea and Somalia; training Rhodesia guerrillas in Tanzania; active in number of Arab states. One disturbing aspect of Cuban presence is vast amount of military hardware Russia sending to Syria—far more than Syria could use in another war with Israel. Syria apparently is stockpile from which planes, tanks & guns can be drawn for trouble spots like Angola: Cubans go along to man equipment. Where next? (Tm 2:23)

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Djibouti: next African hotspot? Dominates Gulf of Aden, linking Suez Canal & Indian Ocean. Somalia & Ethiopia both claim it. US is Ethiopia's main arms supplier; Somalia forces trained & equipped by Russia & Cuba. Russia already based at Berbera in Somalia. Adding Djibouti would give Moscow powerful springboard for control of

vital waterways in entire Mideast. If linked with bases in Angola on Atlantic, Russia would be pre-eminent non-African power on continent. Somalis claim both Djibouti & eastern Ethiopia. The Issas, biggest tribe in Djibouti, favour union with Somalia. (USN 2:23)

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Next: South Africa race war? Following Russian-backed victory in Angola, beleaguered Whites of southern Africa bracing for early conflict with Blacks who surround them in overwhelming numbers. Radical Africans believe they can look to Moscow for decisive help in drive to destroy last remaining White regimes. Russia & new Angola rulers pledged to support Namibia freedom fight. In Rhodesia, 240,000 Whites trying to preserve rule over 6 million Blacks. In Mozambique & Tanzania, 12,000 Rhodesian Blacks training; modern Russian weapons flowing to them in growing numbers. South Africa ignored UN vote to free Namibia from S. Africa rule. S. Africa jolted by defeat of their troops in Angola, by sudden emergence of Russia as force in southern Africa, and—most of all—by failure of US to respond to Russian challenge. (USN 3:1)

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Mozambique most likely source of new trouble for Rhodesia. Steady stream of Russian technicians & arms, & Cuban soldiers, arriving in Mozambique, which has openly pledged support to Rhodesia Blacks. (Nwk 3:1)

CLEARLY the US defeat in Vietnam was the great turning point, compounded by the impotence & division & disillusionment that flowed from the Watergate corruption. And Angola is the touchstone & testing point. While US fumed & sputtered, Russia acted massively & decisively. The shrewd chess-players in the Kremlin had concluded correctly that US no longer had the will to react to a Russian challenge. With Russia firmly entrenched in Angola & Mozambique, landlocked Zambia & Rhodesia are boxed in helplessly, largely dependent on the enemy for a practical route to the sea. And obviously the steamroller has no intention of stopping now it has the advantage of victorious momentum. The plan now is to build up and arm and support the Black forces that are determined to destroy the hated White minority regimes of Rhodesia & South Africa who have so long & arrogantly held the vastly more numerous Blacks in humiliating & abject bondage. But we must be careful not to take sides with the striving potsherds of the earth. All are evil.

PLO COMING ON STRONG. At UN, stunning diplomatic victory for PLO which Security Council virtually recognized as govt. in exile of a potential state equal in standing with Israel: a sharp defeat for increasingly isolated & friendless Israel. Vote 9-3. Was result of Syrian ultimatum concerning continuance of UN observers on Golan Hgts. Privately, Egypt was furious at Syrians for undermining Egyptian efforts to ease tensions in Mideast. (Tm 12:15)

30 Israel jets attacked Palestinians camps in Lebanon, killing at least 109: biggest raid to date. Attack set off storm of international protest, & handed PLO another big diplomatic boost. When it gathered to discuss the attacks, UN Security Council gave PLO same status as member nation—an honour never before given a national liberation movement. Admission of PLO produced Israeli boycott of session, leaving embattled Israel more isolated than ever. PLO triumph—& US failure to veto it—left Israel embittered & divided.

Israel's Prime Minister Rabin says: "If we agreed to political negotiations with a Palestinian element, it means accepting a 3rd state between Israel & Jordan. It would be run by extremists whose dream would be the annihilation of Israel. The first foreigners to come there would be the Russians. Such a state would be 10 miles from Tel Aviv. Even short-range rockets could reach all our population centres. If Russia put SAM missiles there, they could interdict all our civilian & military flights. Terrorism would spread all over Israel. Israel—unless it decides to commit suicide—cannot accept the creation of an independent Palestinian state between us & Jordan." (Nwk 12:15)

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Kaddoumi, PLO's Foreign Minister, says: "As far as we are concerned, the final settlement is a secular, democratic state of Palestine. This means there is no tolerance on our part for Israel: they have a racist, theocratic ideology; we have an open, democratic ideology. Any Arab state is more democratic than Israel. The other Arab peoples, with billions in oil, support us. The Chinese support us with arms & material support; they do not recognize Israel. Russia offers us material, political & moral support. We grow stronger every day. The future is ours. This Zionist ghetto of Israel must be destroyed. We will unite the whole region in one state, not just Palestine." (Nwk 1:15)

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Ever since PLO was recognized as 'sole legitimate representative' of Palestinians by Arab Summit Meeting in Oct.'74—followed month later by triumphant UN appearance of Arafat—PLO has scored impressive diplomatic successes. Its representatives are accepted as de facto 'ambassadors' by 100 countries & international organizations. In '75, PLO obtained observer status at UN Food session in Rome, & was admitted as full member to nonaligned nations' meeting in Peru. At UN session just ended, PLO was authorized to take part in all UN Mideast discussions. To Arafat's dismay, Egypt signed the 2nd Sinai accord with Israel, even tho it made no reference to the Palestinian problem. And relations with Jordan remain icy. Egypt's Al Ahram recently urged Palestinians to have a "realistic concept" of their rights, saying, "The call for the elimination of Israel will be to no avail." (Tm 1:19)

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New & dramatic dimension to Arab-Israel conflict emerged in mid-January from UN Security Council debate. This was clear: There's no longer any question about international recognition of PLO; 3 million Palestinians have gained importance as one of major keys to Mideast settlement; neither US nor Israel appears to have concrete plans to deal with PLO. Once notorious for skyjacking & international terror, PLO now has world stature.

After 9 yrs. of mostly peaceful Israeli rule, a defiant nationalism is coming alive among West Bank Arabs, their spirit buoyed by international recognition given their cause. They're using more radical methods to get international attention & harass Israel occupation forces.

More than ever, US finds self virtually alone. Russia lined up with Arabs to give PLO seat at Mideast peace talks; US's allies straddled fence. Help from allies? Not as long as they depend on Arab oil. (USN 1:26)

PLO is openly & defiantly dedicated to the destruction of Israel, & they are riding very high. And as the last note above indicates, oil is the great persuader. It is quite obvious that any consideration of justice or decency, or even simple, elementary reason, has no place in the dark councils of the UN. The wild beast Sin-Powers of this present jungle earth have, in the ultimate, but one motive: self-interest.

HUGE GROWTH OF RUSSIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING. Russia now succeeding where Peter the Great failed. In past 10 yrs. merchant fleet has doubled: now first in world in conventional cargo vessels; 6th in total tonnage; muscling into world's shipping routes with cut-throat competitive spirit. They're gaining economic strength & political influence: trade warfare has always been most successful warfare in history. Has 17 shipyards; adds 70 to 80 ships a yr. Serves 905 ports in 105 countries. Vigorous rate-cutting has raised its share of 64 world shipping by over 1/3 since '70.

US merchant fleet has fallen from first in world to 7th. Challenge posed by Russia is its military potential. Russia has no need to make profits or even cover costs: they can charge anything to get the business: are undercutting rates by up to 50%. Seem aiming at old-fashioned capitalistic monopoly: run competition out of business; then jack up rates. Subsidies for US ships are costly, inefficient, politically unpopular. Capitalist nations not united. (Nwk 12:1)

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Moscow threatening survival of Western shipping with deliberate rate-slashing attack. Expanding services out of British ports to Africa & Far East; charges up to 40% lower. Men switched between merchant ships & navy. Strategic spectre: Red merchant armada dominating free world commerce. (USN 1:26).

RUSSIA has the tremendous advantage of total control and authority in the hands of a small, tight-knit group of rulers who know exactly what they want to accomplish. They can make instant decisions affecting the lives of millions, uncluttered by any haggling or backtalk or opposition. If in their overall plan of world conquest they choose to build a lot of ships, & cut rates, & destroy the West's shipping industry, they can do so, without any concern for costs & consequences. In the face of a ruthless, lockstep, slave state the size of Russia (1/6 of the earth) with vast resources, bumbling, squabbling, fragmented "democracy" does not stand a chance.

UN CONDEMNS ZIONISM: orders 'democratic secular state' in place of Israel. Vote was 72-35 with 32 abstentions. Both houses of US Congress denounced action & promised immediate reappraisal of US support of UN. Blatant cynicism of vote corrodes moral authority of UN. (Tm 11:24)

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Never before had the debate over Zionism been joined so openly or in such a prestigious forum. The UN vote made it more respectful for all of Israel's enemies to question the very foundations of the Jewish state. It conferred respectability on call by Arab extremists for destruction of Israel. (Nwk 11:24)

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Footnote: UN adopted, 108 to 3, a report that US maintains military bases in Virgin Islands as threat against South American & Caribbean nations. US military power in Virgins: 14 Coast Guardsmen, 1 rescue vessel. The 3 voting against the resolution were US, Nicaragua & Israel. (USN 12:22)

HOW strikingly we see unfolding the fulfilment of "All nations against Jerusalem"! There was much sympathy for Israel at the beginning, & one wondered at that time how all nations could be persuaded to unite against such a valiant little people, rebuilding the Gentile-made desert after centuries of homeless wandering. But more & more evil men are coming to dictatorial power in the proliferating little new "nations" of the earth. Vicious little tin-pot Hitlers are springing up everywhere. Evil times lie ahead.

ARMS PACT LOOPHOLES. Full consequence of US errors in SALT I negotiations now coming to light. Russia has been able to carry on massive arms build-up, even tho Kissinger assured Congress 3 yrs. ago this couldn't happen. Moscow is replacing its SS-11 missiles with new one that's 3 times more powerful & armed with multiple warheads. Russians aren't cheating: just taking advantage of loopholes. Pact said light missiles may not be replaced by heavy ones, but Russian adamantly refused to define either. Rather than risk breakdown, Kissinger accepted agreement, & then issued unilateral US definition. New Russian SS-19 replacing much lighter SS-11 is wholly inconsistent with US

definition. Russians also using ambiguity in pact to enlarge missile silos much more than US understood agreement to mean. (USN 10:6)

US's ever-changing political scene has many discordant views & voices, pulling in every direction. Russia's entrenched leaders have one single-minded purpose: build a mighty war machine that will enable them to rule the earth. Not a single voice of protest is allowed to be raised. US has powerful noisy segments always trying to limit defence.

BARBED-WIRE PARADISE. East Germany has 16,000 shrapnel-spraying devices along its West border, designed to hit would-be escapees from 2 sides in head, abdomen & legs. (USN 9:1)

AND this is "civilized" 20th century! What a confession of police-state dictatorship!

TWILIGHT OF DEMOCRACY. More & more new nations adopt autocratic forms of government. As result, there are no more than 2 dozen genuine democracies remaining in the world. Liberal democracy in the 20th century may be the kind of vanishing phenomenon that monarchy was in the 19th. As a consequence, UN has become a locus of general assault on the principles of liberal democracy. (Tm 1:26)

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Year just ended was disastrous one for people striving for freedom. At start of '76, only 1 in 5 individuals in world's 158 nations & 51 territories enjoyed full political and civil rights. (USN 1:19)

"DEMOCRACY" presupposes in man wisdom, justice, decency & self-control. These the Scriptures reveal natural man does not have. "In me, that is in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing" (Rom.7:18). Autocracy or dictatorship presupposes the imposition of the will of the strong upon the weak. This has always been the human pattern, even under the deceptive guise of "democracy." Dictatorship & oppression is man's natural state.

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