

AMERICA'S Hope

MONTHLY

JANUARY 1991

Christian Love

By C.O. Stadsklev

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (I Corinthians 13:13) "Charity" means love and kindly acts. Speaking to the individual, Christ said the following in Luke 6:27-28: "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." Only the Holy Spirit can enable a Christian to do the above, and the Holy Spirit will enable the Christian to do as Christ commanded. Note, Christ said, "your enemies" and "them which hate you."

Are we as individual Christians to "love" the enemies of the Lord? Are we to "do good" and act kindly to those who hate our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ? In both the Old and the New Scriptures God states: "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." God in his foreknowledge knew that Jacob's descendants would become the nations of Christendom. They would be the people that the Christ would redeem by his blood atonement, and restore to God as God's kingdom people, therefore God loved them. God in his foreknowledge also knew that the descendants of Esau, the Edomites, would become the treacherous, cruel and wicked people of both Bible history and Bible prophecy, therefore God hated them.

When those involved in human government seek to manage the affairs of the nation in the same manner that a pastor and the elders would manage the affairs of a church, then that whole nation brings itself under the wrath and the judgement of God. There is an example for this in the reign of King Jehoshaphat. II Chronicles 19:1-2: "And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem. And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help

the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD."

The "wrath" of God came upon the whole nation because King Jehoshaphat, the leader of the nation, helped "the ungodly." He loved them that hated the Lord. Read chapter 18 in II Chronicles and see how King Jehoshaphat helped the ungodly, loved them that hated the Lord, and brought the "wrath" of God upon the whole nation.

The judgment and punishment that came upon King Jehoshaphat's nation is recorded in II Chronicles 20. Verses 1-2: "It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi."

This great multitude that came against Jehoshaphat and the Judah nation caused Jehoshaphat and the whole nation to humble itself, repent and pray. Read chapter 20 in II Chronicles. It is given as an example of what this nation will go through before the closing of this age.

Joel 3:2: "I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land." The valley of Jehoshaphat is used as an illustration or an example of what will happen to this great world wide conspiracy that is seeking the destruction of this new order of the ages. Joel's three chapters on prophecy are clearly an end time prophecy on the United States of America.

In Psalm 129 verses 4-7 the psalmist prayed: "The LORD is righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked. Let them all be confounded and turned back that hate Zion. Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which withereth afore it groweth up: Wherewith the mower filleth not his hand; nor he that bindeth sheaves his bosom."

This is a timely prayer, and it is the same as Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 28:9: "It shall even be as when an hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty: or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and, behold, he is faint, and his soul hath appetite: so shall the multitude of all the nations be, that fight against mount Zion.

Understandeth It Not

By C.O. Stadsklev

"When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side." (Matthew 13:19)

In order for a Christian to understand the gospel of the kingdom that person must have some knowledge and understanding of Bible history. The person who imagines that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were Jews will have great difficulty in understanding the gospel of the kingdom. Judah and Benjamin were brothers, they were two of the twelve sons of Jacob. Jacob was the son of Isaac, therefore Isaac was the grandfather of Judah. And Abraham was the great grandfather of Judah.

The person who imagines that Moses brought only the tribe of Judah, or the Jews, through the Red Sea will have great difficulty in understanding the gospel of the kingdom. Moses brought all of the twelve tribes of Israel through the Red Sea. Knowledge of what the scriptures teach concerning Jacob and Esau, and what the Lord told Rebekah the mother of these twin boys, is also necessary in order to have an understanding of the gospel of the kingdom.

Undoubtedly, the greatest hinderance to an

understanding of the gospel of the kingdom for Christian people is the notion that the only blood sacrifices Christ fulfilled were the blood sacrifices made for the individual. Bible history teaches that God established a special office, a special ministry and a special high priest. The ministry of the high priest was to enter the holiest of holies, once a year, with a blood sacrifice for all of the tribes of Israel, and not just for Judah. Whole chapters in the Old Scriptures are devoted to setting forth this truth and this provision for the nation of Israel.

Leviticus 16:34: "And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses." This blood atonement, once a year, for all Israel is the one and only basis for the gospel of the kingdom, and for an understanding of the gospel of the kingdom.

Hebrews 9:6-7: "Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people." This blood atonement, once a year, "for the errors of the people" provided that they would not be destroyed because of their sin and wickedness. It did not provide personal regeneration for every Israelite.

Read chapter 29 in II Chronicles for an example of this blood sacrifice, once a year, "for all Israel." Verse 24: "And the priests killed them, and they made reconciliation with their blood upon the altar, to make an atonement for all Israel: for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel." King Hezekiah was familiar with the special blood covenant that God made with Israel.

When Christians understand and realize that Christ is not only our individual priest, but also that Christ is Christendom's High Priest, then the gospel of the kingdom becomes as simple as the gospel of personal salvation. Because the Christ not only fulfilled the blood sacrifices made for the individual, Christ as High Priest also fulfilled the blood sacrifices made for all Israel. Therefore the nations of Christendom who are now the Israel people will not be destroyed. They will be purged and

cleansed, and inherit the kingdom prepared for them before the foundation of the world. They are the sheep nations. "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left." (Matthew 25:32-33)

Ye Are My Witnesses

By C.O. Stadsklev

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me." (Isaiah 43:10)

Throughout Bible history in the Old Scripture God anointed people to teach and to administer the laws, the statutes, the judgments, the commandments, the precepts, and the principles that God gave to his special chosen kingdom people at Mount Sinai and at Horeb. Such men as Moses, Joshua, the Judges, Samuel, King Saul, King David and the many kings of Israel and Judah were anointed to administer these laws, statutes, judgments, commandments, precepts and principles for human government that God gave to Moses.

Ezra and Nehemiah were called and anointed by God to rebuild the nation of Judah, after the Babylonian captivity. And they state in their writings that they did this according to the law of Moses. All of these men were civil administrators.

The prophecy of the prophets was almost entirely a preaching and a prophesying to and about nations. In Jeremiah 1:5 God spoke the following to the prophet Jeremiah: "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

There is so much more prophecy by the prophets on the restitution, and the second coming of the Christ than there is on his first coming, that his followers thought that Christ would do at his first coming what will be accomplished at his second coming. When the

church age was ushered in on the day of Pentecost, God anointed individuals and groups of individuals that would be called the church for the one purpose of witnessing for Christ and preaching and teaching the doctrines of the Christian faith. The church age is the age of witnessing for Christ.

In Acts 1:8 Christ said the following to his disciples: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

There is one people who have done more witnessing for Christ than all other nations and people combined. Some estimate that they have had between 85% and 90% of all the Christian evangelists, Christian pastors and ministers and Christian churches. When God in Isaiah 43:10 said: "Ye are my witnesses" he was speaking to the Israel people. God also said these Israel people would know, believe and understand the Word of God more than any other people. Would not that be the people of Christendom?

When God fulfills his unconditional covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah we read the following in Hebrews 8:11: "And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest." In the kingdom age God's laws will be administered first among God's earthly kingdom people, and then throughout the entire earth.

To teach that the church is spiritual Israel is to teach that the everlasting covenant God made with the Israel people, and the wonderful prophecies God pronounced upon Israel and Judah, and the tremendous promises to these people have failed and the Word of God is not reliable and is not true. Scripture says, "Let God be true, and every man a liar."

"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him." (Lamentations 3:21-24)

All Noble Things Are Difficult

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:13-14)

If we are going to live as disciples of Jesus, we have to remember that all noble things are difficult. The Christian life is gloriously difficult, but the difficulty of it does not make us faint and cave in, it rouses us up to overcome. Do we so appreciate the marvelous salvation of Jesus Christ that we are our utmost for His highest?

God saves men by His sovereign grace through the Atonement of Jesus; He works in us to will and to do of His good pleasure; but we have to work out that salvation in practical living. If once we start on the basis of His Redemption to do what He commands, we find that we can do it. If we fail, it is because we have not practiced. The crisis will reveal whether we have been practicing or not. If we obey the Spirit of God and practice in our

physical life what God has put in us by His Spirit, then when the crisis comes, we shall find that our own nature as well as the grace of God will stand by us.

Thank God He does give us difficult things to do. His salvation is a glad thing, but it is also a heroic, holy thing. It tests us for all we are worth. Jesus is bringing many "sons" unto glory, and God will not shield us from the requirements of a son. God's grace turns out men and women with a strong family likeness to Jesus Christ, not milksops. It takes a tremendous amount of discipline to live the noble life of a disciple of Jesus in actual things. It is always necessary to make an effort to be noble.

Selected

Comment From the Mail

From California:

"I enjoy your broadcasts very much and find them comforting as we are headed into dark days ahead. For people with no knowledge of God's Word, it is indeed a time of doom and gloom."

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Grace and Peace

By C.O. Stadslev

The apostle Paul opened most of his letters to the various churches with these words, "Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 1:2) Grace and peace come to the Christian in a knowledge, understanding and faith in the Word of God.

There are two basic Bible doctrines taught in both the Old and the New Scriptures that would give Christians grace and peace today, in spite of everything we see and hear.

One of these doctrines is the fact that the Israel people, now the nations of Christendom, are a redeemed people. Today these people are the nations and the people of Christendom. Isaiah 44:21,22: "Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me. I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions; and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee."

In Galatians 4:5 the Apostle Paul wrote: "To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." The only people "that were under the law" were the Israel people, now the nations of Christendom. Chapter 1 in Luke states what being redeemed provides. It provides that these Israel people, now the nations of Christendom, will be saved from their enemy nations and the hands of all that hate them. Believing the above scriptures would bring both grace and peace to every Christian in spite of the terrible things that we both see and hear.

Another basic Bible doctrine taught in both the Old and the New Scriptures that would give Christians grace and peace, even today, in spite of the deplorable condition every aspect of our nation is in. It is the New Covenant stated in Jeremiah 31 and Hebrews 8:6-13.

This New Covenant promises and provides that the Almighty will bring forth the kingdom of God on earth and that God will make the enemies of Christ his footstool.

The breakup of communism in nation after nation which has taken the West and the whole earth by surprise could be the beginning of God pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh as prophesied in Joel 2:28: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions." That which these people demand is what the gospel of the kingdom provides.

This is a dangerous period for The United States and the West. Will the Reds see their empire crumble and do nothing or will they in desperation strike with their tremendous military force? Are we to believe those that say, peace and safety which will bring sudden destruction upon them or should we believe that which God inspired Ezekiel to prophesy in chapters 38 and 39 in Ezekiel? The prophets, Joel and Zephaniah, prophesied the same as Ezekiel did in chapters 38 and 39 concerning the Reds in the end of this age.

Christ's earthly reign which is the next world wide reign will bring grace and peace to the entire creation. It is already evident that God is beginning to make the enemies of Christ, Christ's footstool. Psalms 92:5-8: "O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep. A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this. When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever: But thou, LORD, art most high for evermore."

"The wicked spring" "forth as the grass" in our nation today and "the workers of iniquity"

certainly "do flourish." But remember God's purpose in permitting this is that the wicked and the workers of iniquity might expose and identify themselves and be "destroyed for ever." The Lord will be "the most high for evermore."

Wrest The Scriptures

By C.O. Stadsklev

In II Peter 3:16 the Apostle Peter wrote the following concerning the writings of the Apostle Paul. "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." To "wrest" the "scriptures" means to twist scripture and make it teach something it does not teach.

In Matthew 6:33 Christ said: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." This scripture has been twisted and made Christ appear to teach - seek personal salvation, then all these things will be added unto you. If that is what Christ meant, and if that is what Christ said, it is not true. Throughout church history, people have become Christians and consequently they have had every thing they possess taken from them, even their physical lives.

Christ in this scripture said, seek first the kingdom of God, and its righteousness; and all these things will be added unto you. In other words, seek the righteous economic statutes in the kingdom and all of these things will be added unto you. And that is true! After giving one of God's economic statutes Moses was inspired to write in Deuteronomy 15:4: "Save when there shall be no poor among you..."

In Matthew 11:29 Christ said: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." The word "yoke" throughout the Scripture is used as a symbol of Satan's economic system. Christ said: "I am meek and lowly" and that is significant because those that manipulate the mammon money system are high and exalted. The "soul" is a person's physical life. God breathed into the nostrils of Adam and he became a living soul.

We have heard it said that it was a Roman soldier who had his ear cut off when Christ was arrested. Some will say, what difference does it make who had his ear cut off when Christ was arrested? It makes a lot of difference, because the Gospels relate that it was the servant of the high priest who had his ear cut off when Christ was arrested. If it was a Roman soldier who had his ear cut off when Christ was arrested, then it must have been the Romans who arrested the Christ.

But according to the Gospels it was the scribes and the Pharisees who arrested the Christ. They paid Judas money to lead them to the place where they would find the Christ. Scriptures state that after arresting the Christ, they brought Christ before their religious authorities and condemned Him to death, before they brought Him before Pilate. Did the Gospels falsify the record pertaining to the arrest and trial of the Christ? See chapters 18 & 19 in the Gospel of John

We have heard it said that while on the cross the Christ prayed that God would forgive them that cried, "Crucify him, crucify him," "for they know not what they do." In Matthew 21:38 Christ said that the scribes and the Pharisees knew who He was and therefore they said: "...This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance." It was the Romans who did not know what they were doing.

To call the Old Scriptures the Old Testament is a very unfortunate wresting of the Scriptures. The late Dr. James McGaw, a renown Presbyterian minister, showed in one of his books that there were more than a dozen testaments or covenants in the Old Scripture, and that just one of these testaments was called the Old Testament or the Old Covenant. If the entire Old Scripture with its history and prophecy, including the Psalms and Proverbs, are the Old Testament then the Old Scriptures decayeth, waxeth old and is ready to vanish away in the time that the New Scriptures were written. See Hebrews 8:13

Making the Lord's kingdom parables church parables is a very destructive wresting of the Scriptures. This wresting of the Scriptures not only destroys the Gospel of the Kingdom, it also causes the church to use these kingdom parables to teach things that Christ never taught.

To limit the word "saved" in the Scriptures

to personal salvation is to teach universal salvation for every Israelite, which is heresy. Luke 1:67-68: "And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people." The Israel people were God's people in the New Scripture as well as in the Old Scripture. And these people were "redeemed."

Verse 69: "And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David. The "horn of salvation" is the Lord Jesus Christ, Israel's Redeemer. The holy prophets support and substantiate these teachings for verse 70 states: "As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began."

Verses 71-72 state what this redemption and salvation in the above scriptures provide. "That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us. To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant."

The proof that the Israel people were to be saved from their enemies and from the hand of all that hate us was promised the fathers, such as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and it was in the covenant that God made with the Israel people. This was not only a promise and a covenant, this was also an oath by God.

Verse 73: "The oath which he swore to our father Abraham." This oath by God to Abraham is stated in Genesis 22:16-18. Has there been one such people throughout history, and is there one such people today? Yes, there is one such people. They are the nations of Christendom.

Since the Scriptures were wrested in the time of the Apostles we should not think it strange that they are wrested and twisted today after 1900 years. It is a miracle that there is so much sound scripture preaching today as there is.

Most of the wresting of the Scriptures is due to a lack of knowledge of the Old Scriptures therefore God inspired Hosea to write: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee...(Hosea 4:6) And that of course meant a knowledge of the Old Scriptures.

Forgiveness Free

A great many people resent the fact that they can do absolutely nothing to reconcile themselves to God, however hard they try. Human pride is intensely hostile to the fact that God himself has effected the reconciliation of the world to himself through Christ. People hate to think that no amount of good works or even self-sacrifice can win or deserve God's favour. Forgiveness, acceptance, restoration (whatever we call it) is a gift. To some that is hard to take.

Sometimes, through the sheer painful experiences of life, men and women come to realize that they need the love and forgiveness of God and that there is nothing they can do to earn it. Sometimes at the end of years of painful fruitless searching after truth, they have to drop all their pretenses and accept the simple Gospel message of God's forgiveness. There are famous people who have put it on record that the one thing they could not accept about Christianity was its starting-point, the acceptance of God's forgiveness. In the end, however, each man or woman has to reach the same conclusion. We are all sinners who need the grace and restoration of God's free forgiveness.

Selected

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. (Romans 3:20-27)

Comments From the Mail

From Texas:

"We want to thank you again for your ministry. It is a real blessing and we are so fortunate to have it. We look forward to each cassette and news letter (Monthly) and enjoy your books over and over. We also pray for you and your ministry almost every night. It is a marvelous message and we are anxious to see the Lord open it up to everyone. May God bless you more and more."

From Montana:

"We really enjoy your publication. Keep up the good work and straight forward talk."

From Illinois:

"You make the Bible so clear and easy to understand. God bless you. I want to help with the printing."

From Washington:

"I turned on my radio Saturday afternoon, and happened upon a most wonderful message."

I loved his sermon and I am wondering if it would be possible to have a cassette tape of that message? I heard it on KBLE, Seattle, WA. Thank you and God bless you."

Spiritual Life

The majority of Christians seem to regard the whole of the Spirit's work as confined to conviction and conversion; they hardly know that he came to dwell in our hearts, and there reveal God in us.

Unbelief is the mother of disobedience and all other sins and shortcomings - my temper, my pride, my unlovingness, my worldliness. Though these differ in nature and form, yet they all come from one root, namely, that we do not believe in the freedom and fulness of the Divine gift of the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and strengthen us, and fill us with the life and grace of God all day long.

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Born Again

By C.O. Stadskev

I Peter 1:23: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." We are "born again" "by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

In the two next verses the Apostle Peter contrasts the life and power that is in the flesh with the life and power that is in the word of God. The word of God has the same spirit and the same power to bring about the new birth in the individual as it had when Peter wrote this scripture.

1 Peter 1:24,25: "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." In order for the spirit and the power of God that is in the word of God to cause an individual to be born again, that individual must make the word of God personal.

Therefore we read the following in II Peter 1:4: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." We are made "partakers of the divine nature" or "born again" by the "exceeding great and precious promises" in the word of God. In order for an individual to be "born again" that individual must receive and believe at least one of these great and precious promises.

The Apostle James also states how we are "born again." "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." (James 1:18) We are "born again" by "the word of truth" or by the "word of God."

One of these exceeding great and precious

promises" is Romans 10:9-11: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

The scripture does not say, whosoever believeth about the Christ shall not be ashamed, it states: "Whosoever believeth on" the Christ "shall not be ashamed." Our Christian confession must be based on the word of God which never changeth, it lives and abides for ever.

As we consider the basic doctrine of the Christian Faith, that which we read in 1 John 5 should be very helpful. "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

We know that we "have eternal life" or that we have been "born again" by that which is written in the scriptures. The power and spirit of God are in the scriptures. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..."

Rule Thou

By C.O. Stadskev

"A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies."

(Psalm 110:1-2)

Zion is the rod of God's strength. According to Micah 4:13 God will use this daughter of Zion, this nation to: "Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth." And that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

A similar prophecy is Isaiah 60:12: "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted." This verse is generally spiritualized and made to refer to the Christ. Certainly the Christ will reign throughout the earth, but chapter 60 in Isaiah is exclusively a prophecy upon Zion as are chapters 61 and 62 in Isaiah. The antichrist forces and the heathen people that will not honor the Gospel of the Kingdom as it will go forth from this Zion nation, after our cleansing, that people or nation shall perish.

Psalms 110:3: "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth." "Thy people" are of course the people of Christendom. God's Power or God's Spirit will make these people of Christendom "willing" that the enemies of Christ should be made Christ's footstool. "The dew of thy youth" is another way of saying that there will be a great outpouring of the kingdom spirit upon God's earthly kingdom people. It is the beginning of the outpouring of the kingdom spirit upon all flesh that is breaking up the Red empire.

Psalms 110:4: "The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek." Melchizedek was a priest of the most high God who met Abraham after he had slaughtered some cruel and aggressive kings. Melchizedek met Abraham and served him bread and wine, in

other words communion. Melchizedek was the priest for the kingdom people. Christ is now our Melchizedek.

Psalms 110:5 indicates that there will be kings or rulers in various parts of the earth who will object to the Gospel of the Kingdom and the earthly reign of Christ. Such rulers God will strike "in the day of his wrath."

Verse 6 needs no comment. "He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries."

Verse 7: "He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head." Christ shall be victorious over all his enemies and so will all those who believe and trust in the Christ.

God's purpose was that He should rule over his earthly kingdom people through the laws in the Gospel of the Kingdom. When the people during the time of Samuel rejected the Gospel of the Kingdom with its laws for the nation, God told Samuel, "...they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them." When people reject the Gospel of the Kingdom they are rejecting the reign of God over the nation.

Genesis 18:18-19: "Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."

The patriarchs and the prophets prophesied that this great and mighty nation would come forth in the last days. God knew that Abraham's children, the nations of Christendom, would "keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment." These people were to be an example and a light to all other nations and peoples showing forth God's better and higher way of life. If demonstrating and teaching did not bring about the desired results in these heathen nations, God commanded his kingdom people to use military force. This they did again and again.

God in His Sovereign might and power is rapidly bringing this great and mighty nation into a place where they have only one option, and that is to use their great military force against the enemies of this nation and the

enemies of the Christ. In fairness to all, the enemies of Christ should be made aware of what Christ the Sovereign King said in Luke 19:27.

A Voice From Heaven

By C.O. Stadskev

"And ye said, Behold, the LORD our God hath showed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth. Now therefore why should we die? for this great fire will consume us: if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, then we shall die." (Deuteronomy 5:24,25) When the people heard the voice of God from heaven, it was like a fire that would consume them, and they would die."

God spoke in an audible voice from heaven when he made the ten tribes of Israel into a nation, and chose them to be his special earthly servant kingdom people. Will God again speak with an audible voice when he restores again the kingdom to Israel, now the nations of Christendom? Read verses 27-28 in chapter 30 in Isaiah and note what God will do to enemy nations.

Isaiah 30:29: "Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel." Note the contrast between the enemy nations and Israel, now the nations of Christendom. Verse 30: "And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall show the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones."

Again, note the contrast in verse 31: "For through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod." It was the Assyrians who took ten tribes of Israel into captivity, and ruled over them. Therefore the word Assyrian is used as a name for the enemies of the Israel people. It is the blood atonement for the redemption of Israel that will cause God to deal so differently with Israel and the nations of heathendom and communism.

Joel 2:10: "The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and

the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:" This gives us the time when verse 11 will be fulfilled. "And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" King David called the armies of the Israel people, the armies of the Lord. It will soon be evident to the entire earth that the armies of Christendom are the army of the Lord.

Verses 12-14 in Joel 2 are addressed to this Zion nation for in verse 15 it states: "Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly." Verse 17: "Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them."

Read the balance of Joel chapter 2, and if Alaska is not the land in verse 20, where is there such a land?

Primacy of Faith

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." (Psalm 14:1)

Though a man keep all the precepts of God except the first, he cannot be commended, for the first is the most important of all. Likewise is that man a failure who lacks faith in God, however energetic he is in living by a strict code of right and wrong. As the first precept is intended to the standard, rule, and power of the other precepts, so is faith the head, life, and power of all good works. No human activity is blessed unless it arises from faith, nay, unless it is wholly anointed by faith.

But only that faith is genuine which gives one the conviction that he has been accepted by God, that his sins have been forgiven and that God is gracious to him. Of what value is faith if there is not such a serene confidence? See how the evangelists point to our Lord's emphasis upon faith. Jesus could perform no miracles in the region of his nativity because of the unbelief of its people. He warned the disciples that they were unable to cast out devils because of their lack of faith. Faith alone is able to purify the heart and fulfill all the precepts of God.

Selected

Comments From The Mail

From Washington:

"We thank you as a necessary link in God's plan of perfect timing as all things work together for good for those who love God and who keep His commandments."

From Minnesota:

"Over 45 years ago my Dad and I shared God's Word with you when you preached the kingdom message in St. Paul, Oh what beautiful wonderful memories. This morning I heard that old familiar voice on WTCN radio ringing out the Word of our God. Amen, Brother, Amen!"

From Minnesota:

"Thank you for years of preaching the gospel of the kingdom. I also enjoy your tapes on personal salvation and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. I have never heard a preacher who opens the Word so well to my understanding as you have done over the years. God bless you and your ministry."

From Kentucky:

"I appreciate America's Hope. It is the best material I have read on the kingdom."

THE WORD is God's pruning knife, sharper than any two-edged sword that pierces even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, and is quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. Only when affliction leads to the Word does it become a blessing; the lack of this heart-cleansing through the Word is the reason why affliction is so often unsanctified.

Jesus says, "Ye are already clean, because of the Word I have spoken unto you." It is as the soul gives up its own thoughts and men's thoughts of what is religion, and yields itself heartily, humbly, patiently, to the teaching of the Word by the Spirit, that the Father will do His blessed work of pruning and cleansing away all of nature and self that mixes with our work and hinders His Spirit.

You cannot have My joy with out My life. Abide in Me, and let Me abide in you, and My joy will be in you. All healthy life is a thing of joy and beauty; live undividedly the Branch life; you will have His joy in full measure.

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MONTHLY

APRIL 1991

As The Garden

By C.O. Stadslev

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

This scripture teaches that God will select one particular land or nation and in comparison with other nations, this nation will be "as the garden," and from this people will "spring forth righteousness and peace" before all nations.

Read the first nine verses in Numbers 24. Verses 5-6: "How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel! As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters." This scripture teaches the same as the scripture in Isaiah teaches. It teaches that this Jacob Israel nation would be a beautiful nation in comparison with many other nations. It would also be a very prosperous nation, and a great military power.

The above scriptures teach as Christ taught in Mark 4:26: "And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground." The kingdom comes forth as "seed" sown in "the ground," in other words, over a period of time. According to verses 27-28 people would not recognize or realize that the kingdom was coming forth.

Verse 29: "But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." This states that the kingdom comes forth in "the harvest." And Christ said, The "harvest" is the end of the world or age, not the beginning of the next age, but at the end of this age.

If that which is "sown" in a "garden" is neglected, then weeds, thistles and other

undesirable growth will grow up and cover and take over the garden. This garden nation has been badly neglected in recent years, therefore we have what Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 17.

In verse 10 Isaiah prophesied: "Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips." A nation that has forgotten "the God of thy salvation" must be Christendom. And because this nation has "forgotten" the Lord Jesus Christ in many of its ways, they have planted what they thought were "pleasant plants." But they were "strange slips," strange doctrines, teachings, ideas, ways of life contrary to the scriptures.

The balance of Isaiah 17 prophesies what the consequences will be "because thou hast forgotten" the Lord Jesus Christ and have planted what appeared to you to be "pleasant plants," but they were "strange slips," unscriptural antichrist doctrines, practices and ways of life.

This "garden" nation will not be destroyed, but it is being punished and will continue to be punished until the nation repents and turns to the Word of God for the nation, which is the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Genesis 2 states that God planted a garden, and in that garden He placed Adam. Adam was commanded to dress and keep the garden. In this garden God planted every tree that was pleasant to the sight or God planted tress for beauty. What a beautiful garden this nation and other nations will be when the people do as God commanded Adam. Keep and dress the trees, make them beautiful, remove the dead tress, remove the undesirable undergrowth.

What a beautiful garden it will be!

Isaiah 44:23: "Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel."

The curse will be lifted from all creation and the "heavens," the "mountains" and the entire creation will "sing." And "every tree" in the "forest" for "the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel."

After Jacob had prevailed in prayer, his name was changed to Israel. The word "Israel" means to rule for God or a scriptural form of government. When Jacob blessed the sons of Joseph in Genesis 48:16 he said, "...let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

Prevailing prayer brought this new order of the ages into existence and we have the most scriptural form of government in all church history. And we are located "in the midst of the earth" between two great bodies of water?.

I Will Purge

By C.O. Stadsklev

"And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD." (Ezekiel 20:38) This is a decree by the Almighty God making an unchangeable and unbreakable prophecy and promise.

There are no "rebels," or those "that transgress" against God in heaven so this purging does not take place in heaven. Neither does this purging take place in the church. The church is not a country and a land. The church is a worldwide spiritual body of individuals who have received eternal life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

This purging by God Almighty takes place in a country and in a land, and both of these words are in the singular. Verses 35-38 will give us light on what country and what land the prophet saw in his prophetic vision.

Verse 35: "And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face." This verse indicates that it would be a land and a country that would be a "wilderness" at the time of Ezekiel's prophecy. And that in this country and this land, God would "plead" with these people. In other words, he would open the scriptures to them.

Verse 36: "Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD." Here again it indicates that the "country" and the "land" in verse 38, that Ezekiel saw in his prophetic vision, was a "wilderness" at the time of Ezekiel. It also states that God would "plead" with these people, or open his Word and speak and enlighten these people in regard to his Word. This was to be similar to how God pleaded with his people in the wilderness of Egypt. There are many similarities between the founding of this new order of the ages and the Israel people being delivered from Egypt and entering the promised land.

Verse 37: "And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant." "Under the rod" means under a scriptural form of government. "I will bring you into the bond of the covenant" most likely refers to the covenant God made in Genesis 17:19 with Isaac "for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him."

The sojourners, who will be purged or removed from this "country" and this "land," are the people whose loyalty is to another nation or another form of government. They shall not come "into the land of Israel." This is an end time prophecy because it states: "...And ye shall know that I am the LORD."

Isaiah 13:9: "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it." This "land" has been made "desolate," and it is the greatest debtor nation in all history. But God's purpose in this is to "destroy the sinners" out of it.

Amos 9:8: "Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from off the face of the earth; saving that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, saith the LORD." Time will reveal what and where "the sinful kingdom" is. The "house of Jacob," now the nations of Christendom, will not be destroyed, neither will they come under the reign of some great antichrist. The "house

of Jacob" has been and is now being punished, but they will not be destroyed.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:1 the Apostle Paul wrote: "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you." Paul is here dealing with "times" and "seasons" and not with one particular event, rather a period, the period that we are now in.

Verse 2: "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." "The times and the seasons" that we are in is called "the day of the Lord" in both the Old and the New Scriptures. It is the time and the season when God will make the enemies of Christ, Christ's footstool.

Verse 3: "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." In this time and season called "the day of the Lord," there would be those who would cry "peace and safety" in order to deceive people, and to accomplish their evil purposes. But when they do, "sudden destruction" from the Almighty comes upon them.

Verse 4: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." Apparently the "brethren," the Christians, will be here on earth during this "times" and "seasons" called "the day of the Lord." But the "brethren" need not be in "darkness" concerning this "day of the Lord."

Verses 5-6: "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." This is further evidence that the "brethren," the Christians, will be here on earth in "the times and the seasons" called "the day of the Lord." In "the times and the seasons" that God will destroy, purge and remove the tares, the rebels and the workers of iniquity, and the children of the wicked one from among his kingdom people.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith." (Galatians 5:1,5)

Fulfilled Prophecy

By C.O. Stadsklev

In Isaiah 41:22-24 the God of the Bible challenges all the gods of heathendom to prophesy the future. "Let them bring them forth, and show us what shall happen: let them show the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together. Behold, ye are of nothing, and your work of nought: an abomination is he that chooseth you."

The God of the Bible is the only God that has prophesied the future and brought these prophecies to fulfillment. God has definite purposes for giving prophecies on the future and bringing these prophecies to fulfillment.

II Peter 1:19: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts."

The purpose of Bible prophecy and its fulfillment is to give people light and hope in regard to the time in which they are living. Another purpose is to establish faith and give a basis for intelligent faith. Jesus said, I have told you these things before they come to pass that when they come to pass ye might remember that I told you of them, and ye might believe.

In Acts 2 the Apostle Peter preached on the day of Pentecost a sermon on fulfilled Bible prophecy and three thousand souls were converted. Read Peter's sermon beginning at verse 15 and throughout the chapter. Note Verse 16: "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." Everything that Peter said was prophesied in the Old Scripture.

Read Stephen's sermon in Acts 7. It is a message based entirely on the history and the prophecy of the Old Scripture. Stephen's sermon from the Old Scripture and fulfilled Bible prophecy was so convincing that the only answer the enemies could find was to kill Stephen. Verse 54: "When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth." There is no way to refute and deny fulfilled Bible

prophecy.

If there had been more preaching on the prophecies that have been and are now being fulfilled, there would be much more light and hope in regard to the time in which we are now living. There would also be many more people who would believe the Scriptures than there are today.

Complete in Him

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him... (Colossians 2:6-10)

Fruitful Work

Have you ever noticed the difference in the Christian life between work and fruit? A machine can do work; only life can bear fruit. A law can compel work; only life can spontaneously bring forth fruit. Work implies effort and labour; the essential idea of fruit is, that it is the silent, natural, restful produce of our inner life.

The connection between work and fruit is, perhaps, best seen in the expression, "fruitful in every good work" (Col. 1:10). It is only when good works come as the fruit of the indwelling Spirit that they are acceptable to God.

Under the compulsion of law and conscience, or the influence of inclination and zeal, men may be most diligent in good works, and yet find that they have but little spiritual result. Their works are man's effort, instead of being the fruit of the Spirit, the restful, natural outcome of the Spirit's operation within us.

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AMERICA'S Hope

MONTHly

MAY 1991

The Present Truth

By C.O. Stadskev

"Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth." (2 Peter 1:12) When Peter said "the present truth" he acknowledged that there would be future truths revealed in the scriptures. And in saying "the present truth" Peter was undoubtedly mindful of his own experience.

When a mob, at the command of the scribes and the Pharisees, arrested the Christ and brought him to trial before the scribes and the Pharisees, Peter denied, and even swore that he did not know the Christ. And after Christ had been crucified and buried, instead of Peter going to Galilee to wait for the resurrection of the Christ, as Christ had told him and others, Peter said, I go fishing. In other words, it is all over, I was deceived, I am going back to my fishing business.

Peter was such a strong and convinced kingdom believer that he could neither receive nor believe what Christ had come to accomplish at his first coming. Peter and many others were so convinced and so determined in regard to the kingdom that they could not believe that Christ had come at his first coming to atone for sin, and to usher in the church age.

Peter was such a strong and convinced kingdom believer that God had to give Peter both a vision and a voice from heaven, before Peter would preach the word of God to someone who was not of the Israel stock. This is recorded in Acts 10. Up until that time, the apostles had preached nothing but the gospel of the kingdom as is shown in Acts 2 in Peter's sermon on Pentecost, when three thousand were converted, and in Stephen's sermon in Acts 7, when the only thing the opposition could do was to kill Stephen.

Today Christendom, both the clergy and the laity, are such strong and convinced believers in the church that they neither receive nor believe the gospel of the kingdom. God had to do some startling and supernatural things to convince the apostles concerning the truth of the church, and the fact that Christ came at his first coming not to set up the kingdom, but to atone for sin and to usher in the church age. And so today, God will have to do some startling and supernatural things to convince Christians and the church that the church age is closing and that God is bringing forth the kingdom age.

Christ likened the coming forth of the kingdom as a tree coming forth with branches. It requires years for a tree to develop and become a tree with branches into which the birds lodge. This new order of the ages has come forth in a period of years and it has three great branches in its form of government. In these branches there are red birds that are building nests. Most of Christ's parables deal with the coming forth of the kingdom in the end time and the cleansing of the kingdom people at the end of the world. Read chapter 13 in Matthew.

When God closed the old religious order of the Old Scripture and ushered in a new order, the Christian faith and the church, it was a very difficult time even for the early apostles. When the Christ attempted to prepare his disciples for his death and crucifixion, Peter said this should never come to the Christ. In turn Christ "rebuked Peter saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men."

Saul of Tarsus thought he was doing the will of God when he arrested, persecuted and had Christians killed. And so it is today, there

are many Christians who imagine that they are doing the will of God and defending the faith when they reject and oppose the gospel of the kingdom. But in short time all of Christendom will be inquiring about the gospel of the kingdom. There is at least one sure thing that Christians can do to hasten the end of the present terrible world condition, and that is to promote and support the preaching of this gospel of the kingdom. See Matthew 24:14.

My People

By C.O. Stadskev

"Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways! (Psalm 81:13) It is very evident from both the Old and the New Scriptures that the people that God called "my people" were the earthly physical people of ten tribed Israel and the earthly physical people of true Judah. These people are now the nations of Christendom, the literal descendants of ten tribes Israel and of the three tribes Judah nation.

In verses 14-15 God promises: "I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries. The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him: but their time should have endured for ever. "In this scripture we have a reference both to the "enemies" of God's earthly kingdom people and "the haters of the LORD."

Verse 16: "He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee." The above are the blessings that would come to God's earthly kingdom people if they would hearken unto God's word as a nation.

In Isaiah 42:24-25 we have the negative side. "Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the LORD, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law. Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid it not to heart." These scriptures have had such an evident fulfillment upon the nations of Christendom that they need no comment.

In verse 6 chapter 9 Daniel prayed: "Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land." Daniel blamed his own nation for the terrible things that the Babylonians did to his nation in Jerusalem, and the taking of the nation of Judah into Babylonian captivity. Daniel said, because as a nation we "hearkened not to thy servants the prophets." "Prophets" were men who spoke God's word to the nation.

Daniel's prayer continues, "our kings, our princes, and our fathers, these civil authorities in the nation were responsible for this terrible judgement that came upon the Judah nation. They rejected, they even despised the gospel of the kingdom. The Judah nation, at that time, wanted to kill anyone who brought the word of God for the nation. Read Jeremiah's prophecy.

The admonition and instruction from this scripture, for us today, is very evident and needs no comment except to say that the first word in the gospel of the kingdom is repent. And who is to repent? God's earthly servant kingdom people are the first who must repent. God's earthly servant kingdom people must change their mind, their attitude and their thinking in regard to the gospel of the kingdom.

There is also learning and admonition from Daniel's personal life. Daniel 6:1-3: "It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm."

Would Darius, the king, have placed Daniel in this most exalted position in his government if Daniel had been advocating to the people that they should not pay their taxes? And that they should not obey the laws of the land? We would also ask, would Pharaoh have placed Joseph in the exalted position in his government if Joseph had carried on a campaign against paying taxes in Egypt, or obeying the laws of the land? The answer to these two questions is self evident.

True, both Daniel and Joseph refused to make government their God and to worship government, but they also knew that human government was ordained by God. Daniel states that sometimes God will raise up as ruler over the people "the basest of men" in order to punish the people for their iniquity and their sin and rebellion against his word. But human government was ordained of God.

In Romans 13:1 the Apostle Paul wrote: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." Give this verse some thought and study.

Verse 2: "Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." We must make a clear distinction between reformation and anarchy. Reformation by legislation is both scriptural and constitutional, but anarchy is the method that the communists use to subjugate a nation. Beware of anarchy.

1 Peter 2:13-15: "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."

The truth of God, the wisdom of God and the power of God in the gospel of the kingdom would remove every evil that afflicts and threatens our nation. And it is the only thing that will do this for our nation. At the present time, our government is unable to solve a single problem that vexes and threatens this nation.

The gospel of the kingdom would solve the drug problem, the problem of gangs using violence and terror to accomplish their end. It would put an end to poverty and misery in this nation of abundance. It would put an end to illiteracy and violence in our schools. It would put an end to all these afflictions, all these perplexities and distresses for the nation.

It would put an end to unemployment at a time when there are millions of things in this nation that should and could be done. It would put an end to farmers, home owners and business men losing their property. It would put an end to the breakup, takeover and destruction of large industries.

This gospel of the kingdom would also solve the problems pertaining to foreign affairs. It would solve the problem in the Middle East where our citizens are held captive. It would solve the problems we are confronted with in the Far East and in neighboring Central America. These problems, if we would honor the gospel of the kingdom, would all be solved and would all vanish away.

Can you imagine that this present world condition will prevail when the Lord Jesus Christ and his glorified church and his redeemed kingdom people rule and reign throughout the entire earth? A change for our good is in the making.

The question is, How much of this distress and perplexity, and threats from both inside and outside our nation must this nation experience before it comes to its senses and receives and believes and honors the gospel of the kingdom? More than half of the Word of God is devoted to the gospel of the kingdom. Christians need to hear the "Good News" in the gospel of the Kingdom.

Are You Prepared?

By C.O. Stadsklev

In Luke 12:35-48 Christ speaks of his second coming. Verse 47: "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes." The "servant" in this verse undoubtedly represents people who know the will and the word of God, but do nothing about it. Neither do they prepare themselves to do anything for the will and the word of God in the end time. They shall be beaten with many stripes.

Verse 48 states that those who did not know the will and the word of God for this present end time shall be beaten with few stripes. It also clearly states: "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." Christians who have light and understanding on the Israel truth and the Gospel of the Kingdom have been given much. And much will be required of them when that which Christ decreed in Luke 19:27 is fulfilled. And when Ezekiel's prophecy in chapter 35, and Zephaniah's prophecies in chapters 1:18

and 2:1-2, and Obadiah's prophecy come to pass. This is our time to prepare for that time.

The above prophecies are beginning to be fulfilled and when they are fulfilled, many Christians will be thrown into consternation and confusion confounded. Christendom will be asking who and where is Israel? And who can teach us the Gospel of the Kingdom which Christ said must be preached to all nations, before the end could come? In Luke 16:10 Christ said: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

The promise, "Whatsoever ye ask in My name," may not be severed from the commandment, Whatsoever ye do, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." If the name of Christ is to be wholly at my disposal, I must first put myself wholly at His disposal, so that he has full and free command of me. It is the abiding in Christ that gives the right and power to use His name with confidence.

Selected

"...in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses." (II Cor.6-4)

It takes Almighty grace to take the next step when there is no vision and no spectator, the next step in devotion, the next step in your study, in your reading, in your kitchen; the next step in your duty, when there is no vision from God, no enthusiasm and no spectator.

Every Christian has to partake of what was the essence of the Incarnation, he must bring the thing down into flesh and blood actualities and work it out through the finger tips. We flag when there is no vision, no uplift, but just the common round, the trivial task.

The thing that tells in the long run for God and for men is the steady persevering work in the unseen, and the only way to keep the life uncrushed is to live looking to God. Ask God to keep the eyes of your spirit open to the Risen Christ, and it will be impossible for drudgery to damp you. Continually get away from pettiness and paltriness of mind and thought and out into the thirteenth chapter of St. John's Gospel.

Selected

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MONTHLY

JUNE 1991

The Ten Virgins

By C.O. Stadskev

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom." (Matthew 25:1) This is a kingdom parable, and the word "then" refers back to the two last verses in Matthew 24.

"The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 24:50-51)

The "ten virgins" all had "lamps." Scripture states that "thy word is a lamp." Apparently they were Christians who expected the bridegroom or the Christ to return to earth.

Matthew 25:2-3: "And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them." The "foolish" virgins had the "lamps," they had the Word, but they did not have "oil" to cause them to have light on the Word. "Oil" symbolizes the Holy Spirit.

Verses 4-5: "But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept." The "wise" virgins had "lamps" and they had "oil" in their lamps. In other words, the Holy Spirit gave them light on the Word.

In II Peter 1 verse 19 Peter states that fulfilled Bible prophecy is "as unto a light that shineth in a dark place." We are in "a dark place" now. Because the "bridegroom tarried," the "ten virgins," all of them, "slumbered and slept." Christians are now in a time when it seems that the Lord is tarrying.

Verse 6: "And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." "Midnight" is a time of darkness. All of the "ten virgins" were told

"Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." The "bridegroom" comes to the earth where "the ten virgins" are.

In verse 7 all of the "virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps." But for the "foolish" virgins, it was too late for in verse 8 it states: "And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out."

Verse 9 makes it plain that this is not a parable on personal salvation, because no one has ever bought or buys personal salvation. "But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves." Christians who have the light and the leading of the Holy Spirit, in regard to the Word of God and regard to the coming of "the bridegroom," will pay a price. When Elisha asked for a double portion of the Spirit that Elijah had, Elijah said, You have asked for a hard thing. And so it is.

Verse 10: "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut." The "door" that was "shut" was not the door to personal salvation, it was a door to a Christian's position in the kingdom. See Matthew 5:19.

Matthew 25:11-12: "Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not." When the Lord said, "I know you not" it does not mean that the Lord did not know that the "foolish" virgins lived. The Lord has given life and breath to every mortal that has ever lived or ever will live. The Lord knew all about their existence.

The Lord did not know that the "foolish" virgins had ever done or said anything to support, teach or spread the truth concerning

Christ's earthly kingdom reign. The "foolish" virgins did not even know what people were God's earthly kingdom people. Nor did they know how and when the kingdom was to be restored again to Israel.

Scripture states that "God spoke by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" concerning the restoring again of the kingdom to the Israel people in the last days. The "foolish" virgins had ignored and rejected this that "God spoke by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" concerning the restoring again of the kingdom to Israel, now the nations of Christendom.

Certainly, there are many different callings and ministries for both the clergy and the laity and they will all have their rewards. But to neglect and reject the Gospel of the Kingdom, for which Christ shed His blood, will by itself bring no great reward. The parable of the "ten virgins" is a kingdom parable and it is an end time parable or prophecy.

The only truth and the only power that will bring the kingdom people, the nations of Christendom, out of their present deplorable condition is the truth of God and the power of God in the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Sever The Wicked

By C.O. Stadslev

"So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just." (Matthew 13:49) Another translation states, "Sever the wicked from among the righteous."

In Deuteronomy 6:25 Moses wrote: "And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us."

In the above scripture Moses wrote to the children of Israel after they had become a nation. In Romans and Galatians the Apostle Paul made it very plain and emphatic that there is no personal salvation by the law. But the question arises, Is there national righteousness by the law?

Repeatedly, in the historic books of the Bible we read that a certain king and his

administration did right in the sight of the Lord. We also read that a certain king and his administration did evil in the sight of the Lord. As we consider these examples, we discover that those that God said did right in his sight honored and observed God's kingdom laws. And those did evil rejected, neglected God's kingdom laws. They made their own laws, or adopted heathen laws.

In Psalm 15 King David asked a very timely question, and he answered the question. "LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?"

(Psalm 15:1) It is evident, from this verse, that "thy holy hill" meant the kingdom of God on earth. Verse 2: "He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart." It seems from Psalm 15 that when the angels sever the wicked from among the righteous, those who will be removed and those who will remain will be determined by what these individuals have done and not done.

Verse 3: "He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour." This will require a tremendous severing in the news media.

Verse 4 identifies the people who will not be severed or removed from the kingdom, God's holy hill. "In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not."

Verse 5 continues to identify those who will dwell in this holy hill and will not be removed. "He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved."

Christ fulfilled and put away the law of ordinances such as the sacrificing of animals to atone for sin, but Christ did not put away the national laws in the gospel of the kingdom.

In Acts 3 Peter spoke of the second coming of the Christ. In verse 23 he said: "And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people." Christ is the prophet in this scripture, and every soul which will not hearken and obey the Christ, shall be destroyed from among the people.

In verse 24 Peter said: "Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise

foretold of these days." Peter used all the prophets from Samuel to support what he said in verse 23. People who will not hearken or obey the Christ in his earthly reign will be destroyed from among those who will hearken and obey the reign of Christ.

In Acts 3:20-21 Peter said: "And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

We are now in the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. This restitution of all things will require time, but "the great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly." (Zephaniah 1:14)

Blindness

By C.O. Stadsklev

"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." (Romans 11:25)

The truth that ten tribed Israel was blinded to was the fact that they were Israel. God's purpose in this blindness was lest they should be wise in their own conceit. Lest they become a proud people, very conceited and self sufficient and self exalted.

We have examples of this in the Israel Movement today. There are Identity teachers that limit their teaching to the truth that the Anglo-Saxons and kindred people are the Israel people. Some of these Identity teachers make the word "saved" in verse 26 to mean personal salvation. Which it does not. Verse 26 states: "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

The word "saved" in Romans 11:26 has the same use and the same meaning as the word "saved" has in Exodus 14:30. "Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore." Imagine the millions of

people that would have been deceived and forfeited their personal salvation if this had been preached throughout the Church Age.

In verse 25 the Apostle stated that this blindness would continue "until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." The time for these great Gentile or heathen powers to come to an end has now come. Communism is the last and it has come to its end. Therefore the blindness that the nations of Christendom are Israel has also come to its end.

In the Scripture the word "mountain" is often used to represent a kingdom. Isaiah 25:6: "And in this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined." The above kingdom or nation is a place where there would be an abundance of the good and necessary things of life.

Verse 7: "And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations." In this verse, God states He will destroy the covering that is cast over all the people and the veil that is spread over all nations.

Others may have a different interpretation as to what this spreading and this veil is, but I believe it is the blindness that is spread over all people and the blindness over all nations in regard to the fact that the nations of Christendom are Israel.

Verse 8 states when this will be done. "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it." This is clearly at the end of this age and at the ushering in of the kingdom age.

In Scripture we have the words of daily life, in themselves without life or power. The mind can study and utter them, but they bring neither help nor blessing. "The letter killeth; the Spirit quickeneth."

The fire of the Holy spirit takes them as its fuel, and makes them the power by which the fire on the altars of our hearts is kept ever burning.

Selected

Comments From the Mail

From California:

"I enjoy your broadcast very much and find them very comforting as we are headed into dark days ahead. For people with no knowledge of God's Word, it is indeed a time of doom and gloom. Even some of the Anglo Israel ministers spend more time talking about the treachery and betrayal going on today than the promises of God's interceding for Israel."

From Wisconsin:

"The Lord bless you all, especially dear Pastor Stadslev whose sound Bible based and coordinated teachings have influenced my life and my family. Strange how some principles heard as a new Christian now come strongly to mind. I've also seen admonitions and statements made 25 plus years ago to us as Kingdom groups, come true. And his emphasis on prayer and Scripture has been proven for me, over and over, the power, the opportunity and strength, patient endurance, waiting on the Lord. I am still thankful for His leading us to Gospel Temple in 1960."

From Massachusetts:

"I again thank you for your tapes that bring out the Word so very well. And I thank you for the wisdom and comfort."

From Washington:

"Thank you for your little note of appreciation, I loved getting it. America's Hope is top on my list of contributions. They don't come any better when it comes to expounding the real Word of God. I really don't know what we would do without it. I pray the Lord will keep you strong and in good health. America surely needs to hear this message - the way it comes from you. May He bless you in your work."

From Illinois:

"You make the Bible so clear and easy to understand. God bless you. I want to help with the printing."

From Ohio:

"I certainly enjoy your paper each month. I keep all of them and read them again. So many people don't know who Israel is and they find it hard to believe when told. I have believed it for 22 years."

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MONTHLY

JULY 1991

He Is A Babe

By C.O. Stadsklev

The physical birth of a babe is a miraculous physical creation. The spiritual birth of a babe is a miraculous spiritual creation. Babies in the human creation are most necessary, for if babes should cease to be born the human race would soon vanish from the face of the earth. Likewise, if spiritual babes were to cease being born, Christianity would vanish from the face of the earth.

Hebrews 5:12-14: "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

When the writer of Hebrews wrote "for he is a babe" he was not suggesting that the birth of spiritual babes should cease. The Holy Spirit's teaching is that spiritual babes should grow. As a mother waits and watches for her babe to develop teeth so that the babe would not be limited to a diet of milk; so the inspired writer was waiting and watching for spiritual babes to develop teeth so they would not be limited to a milk diet.

In verse 12 the Holy Spirit gives spiritual babes a mild rebuke saying that when you ought to be teachers, you must again be taught "the first principles of the oracles of God." The Holy Spirit is grieved just as parents would be if their babe developed no teeth, and had to remain on a milk diet throughout his life.

In verse 13 we learn why Christians who insist on a milk diet year after year remain babes. It is because they are unskillful in the word of righteousness. When the Book of

Hebrews was written as a letter of exhortation, the Old Scripture was the only "word of righteousness" in existence at that time. God alone knows how much unrighteousness in Christendom today is due to the fact that neither the clergy nor the laity are skillful in the Old Scriptures. Every national affliction in our nation today is because the present generation of Christians are not skillful in the Old Scriptures.

Hosea 4:6: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

Would you agree that God has forgotten many of the children - youth - in Christendom today? Do drugs, alcoholism, teen suicide and teen age pregnancies say anything to the clergy today? The only "knowledge" Hosea could have had in mind is the knowledge in the Old Scriptures. Verse 6 in Hosea 4 has been repeated throughout the history of God's kingdom people.

Verse 14 in Hebrews 5 should help us to discern the meaning of "strong meat." And it is the responsibility of every Christian, and especially the clergy, to examine both the milk and the meat. There are many counterfeits for spiritual regeneration in churches today, as there has always been, and also much sour milk and poisoned meat. And no Christian and especially the clergy, can make any compromise with sour milk and poisoned meat.

When church people are taught philosophy and psychology, they are being fed substitutes for the meat of the Word. The above mentioned may be good and necessary in their place, but they are neither the sincere milk nor the meat of the Word. "Beware lest any man

spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

(Colossians 2:8)

The horrible consequences of being kept on a milk diet is everywhere evident. Thank God for every spiritual babe, and for those who are feeding these babes with the sincere milk of the Word, but to our shame, loss and suffering in the last seventy to eighty years, we have learned that babes do not make good watchmen. Babes are easily frightened. Babes do not make good soldiers. It is difficult for babes to put on "the whole armour of God" and "stand against the wiles of the devil." Neither do babes make good wrestlers "against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Babes are easily fooled and deceived.

Dr. A.B. Simpson, the founder of Christian Missionary Alliance said, "It is good things that keep Christians from the best things," and how true it is. It is often good Christian books which keep both the clergy and the laity from meditating in the Word of God day and night. Satan, through subtlety and flattery, has been able to establish his teachings in Christian churches to a great extent by so called good Christian books and popular preachers. Certainly, there are good Christian books and Christians should read them, but in so doing do not neglect the Word of God.

Even the apostles got caught up in being so busy doing good things that they neglected prayer and the Word of God. Acts 6:2: "Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables." Acts 6:4: "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." Serving tables is a good and necessary service, but it is a tragedy when preachers become so occupied in building a following that they neglect prayer and the study of the Word of God.

What word did the twelve apostles give themselves continually to? Paul, who wrote most of the New Scriptures, had not even been converted at that time. So they must have given themselves to a study of the Old Scriptures.

I recently heard a popular preacher say that God's national laws are not valid today. The Old Scripture states that God's national laws

will endure throughout all generations. In Deuteronomy 8:3 Moses wrote: "...that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live." In Matthew 4:4: Christ said: "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Note the word "live." Did the Old Scripture proceed "out of the mouth of God?" With one sentence this popular preacher swept away from the minds of millions the gospel of the kingdom. And this is the teaching of almost every popular preacher in the nation. It apparently will require a terrible shaking in Christendom before the clergy will magnify the law and make it honorable. Good will not forever replace the best.

"...Strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." The kingdom age is moving in upon us therefore we must discern what is good and evil in this kingdom nation. The Old Scriptures are almost entirely devoted to discerning both good and evil. See Deuteronomy chapter 4, and chapters 28-33.

Matthew 13:51-52: "Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord. Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old." "All these things" must refer to the seven kingdom parables in this chapter. Jesus said that if a scribe (teacher) is to be instructed and to instruct others unto the kingdom of heaven (on earth) he must bring forth out of his treasure things new and old, from the New and the Old Scriptures.

Those who attempt to instruct people on the kingdom using the doctrines of the church teach error. The main theme and instruction throughout the Old Scriptures and in the Lord's kingdom parables is the kingdom of God on earth. It is impossible to instruct people "unto the kingdom" without a thorough knowledge of the Old Scriptures and the Lord's kingdom parables. To anyone familiar with the history and prophecy of the Old Scripture and the Lord's kingdom parables, the teaching that the church is the kingdom is totally unscriptural. The church is the body of

Christ. A person's inheritance and a person's body are not one and the same.

Matthew 24:45-46: "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing." This is clearly an end time prophecy. "Meat is due season" is timely truth from God's word. Peter called it "the present truth." II Peter 1:12: "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth."

Throughout the Scripture itself and all history, God's Word has had a progressive revelation. The prophets themselves, when testifying beforehand said In I Peter 1:10-12: "Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into." The prophets themselves did not have a full revelation and understanding of what they prophesied. Even the angels desired to look into these things.

With the kingdom of God coming in upon us and the closing of the church age, the gospel of the kingdom must be "meat in due season." It is the "present truth" Christians must now be established in. Timely truth from the Scriptures, or truth whose time has come, has been revealed by them who have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. At the time of Luther, the "present truth" was salvation by faith. This is now the milk of the Word.

"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." (Proverbs 4:18) "...In the latter days ye shall consider it." (Jeremiah 30:24) Hebrews 1:1: "Let us go on unto perfection" or completion. Another translation puts it this way: "Let us pass on then to what is mature, leaving elementary Christian doctrine behind..."

Armageddon

By C.O. Stadskev

In 1857 Reverend F.E. Pitts from Nashville, Tennessee was invited to speak to Congress on the significance of our nation in the light of Scripture. In his first sermon he spoke on our great country foretold in the Holy Scripture. He was invited to speak again; he spoke on a defense of Armageddon. This was an interesting and thought provoking topic. It shows that Reverend F.E. Pitts had a different view of Armageddon than is generally presented today.

We have become accustomed to thinking of the Armageddon as a indiscriminate destruction and judgment throughout the entire earth. But the Armageddon is also a defense as well as judgment and destruction. Armageddon has the thought of a roundup. In Revelation 16, the word Armageddon is associated with the gathering of the nations to the battle of the great day of God Almighty.

In Matthew 25:35-46 Christ gave a preview of this roundup or the Armageddon, the gathering of the nations for judgment and separation. This scripture does need a verse by verse comment, but there are several things that should be said in regard to this passage of scripture.

If it is permissible to change the word "nations" to mean individuals or churches, then we can change any word throughout the scripture, and make the scripture to teach whatever one wishes it to teach. To change words in the inspired Word of God is a serious matter. See Revelation 22:18-19. Christ stated clearly that the judgment in Matthew 25 is the judgment and the separation of nations.

Another serious matter and concern is: Who are the Lord's brethren in Matthew 25? To teach that those who deny the Deity of the Christ are the Lord's brethren is to deny the Deity of Christ and that comes close to blasphemy. The only people that can scripturally be called the Lord's brethren are born again Christians.

In Matthew 25:34 we are confronted with another important question. "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom

prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Who, what and where are the nations that have been "blessed of my Father?" The multitudes who are risking their lives to enter into the nations of Christendom could give an answer to that question.

The Christ did not say to the "sheep" nations, Come, enter into heaven. Christ said to the sheep nations, Come, ye inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

In the mind and purpose of God, Christ was slain before the foundation of the world. When Christ shed His blood on Calvary, He not only provided personal salvation, He also provided redemption, restoration and cleansing for God's earthly kingdom people, now the nations of Christendom. The new covenant in Hebrews 8:6-13 is with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. These people are now the nations of Christendom.

Zephaniah 3 is also a preview of the Armageddon. Note the difference between the Israel people and the non-Israel nations in this chapter. Verse 14: "Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the

heart, O daughter of Jerusalem." The daughter of Zion and the daughter of Jerusalem is now in North America.

Joel 3:9-21 is a prophecy on the Armageddon. Verse 12: "Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about." That which happened in the valley of Jehoshaphat in the time of King Jehoshaphat is a small example of what will happen on a world wide scale in this end time.

Verse 16: "In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be lack." Note the difference between verse 12 and verse 16.

The *heart occupied with its own plans and efforts for doing God's will and securing the blessing of abiding in Jesus must fail continually. God can do His work perfectly only when the soul ceases from its work. He will do His work mightily in the soul that honors Him by expecting Him to work both to will and to do.*

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AMERICA'S HOPE

MONTHLY

AUGUST 1991

Their Sins

By C.O. Stadslev

"For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins." (Romans 11:27) This is a tremendous scripture and it must be considered in the light of Verse 26. "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob." (Romans 11:26) All Israel "shall be saved" from its enemies and the hands of those that hate them, because Christ put away Israel's sin.

John 1:29: "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." From other scriptures, we know that every individual who repents and believes on Christ and receives Christ as his Saviour, that person's sins are taken away. But that is not all that Christ accomplished by shedding his blood. Christ also purchased redemption for his special earthly servant kingdom people, the people of Christendom today. According to Scripture redemption means and provides that the Israel people will be saved from their enemy nations and the hands of all that hate them.

II Samuel 7:23: "And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?" Note, this is a prophecy on "one nation" in contrast with many nations. And the "one nation" is "Israel" which was redeemed "from Egypt." The Israel nation was redeemed bondage, servitude and slavery in Egypt by the blood of lambs. These lambs were a type of the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. God confirmed these Israel people to be a people unto God forever. And the God of the Scriptures was to be their God. The only

people, as a people, that had the God of the Scriptures as their God and the Christian faith as their religion are the nations of Christendom.

It is because of Christ's blood atonement in the redemption of Israel that we read the following in Jeremiah 50:20: "In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judas, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve."

This is the same promise and the same teaching that is in the New Covenant. In Hebrews 8:6-13. Verse 10: "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." If we stop here and do not read the balance of the New Covenant, we might imagine that the New Covenant is with the church. But Verse 11 states: ""And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest." For more than 1900 years, the ministry and the mission of the church has been to say to its neighbor and its brother, Know the Lord, become a Christian. When this New Covenant comes into full effect, no one will say to his neighbor or brother, Know the Lord, for it states that everyone from the least to the greatest in Israel will know the Lord. Furthermore in Verse 10 it stated that it is the "laws" of God that God will write upon the hearts and minds of the Israel people and that is not personal salvation.

Hebrews 8:12 refers to the same time that Jeremiah referred to in Chapter 50 Verse 20. Verse 12: "For I will be merciful to their

unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." Verse 13 refers to the Old Covenant which God made with the Israel people as recorded in Exodus 19. Verse 6: "And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." "A kingdom of priests" meant that these Israel people were to teach and to demonstrate for the nations of heathendom a better and a higher way of life which Israel received from God. A "holy nation" means that these Israel people would be used by God to be a blessing to all other nations. This is the same prophecy and promise that God gave to Abraham, the father of the Israel people. The nations of Christendom are that people and especially this new order of the ages, called in the Scriptures the New Jerusalem, also called the daughter of Jerusalem. God has never abandoned or given up on his original purpose for these Israel people. And in God's time and in God's order they will fulfill their God appointed destiny. Malachi 3:6: "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." The Israel people are the "sons of Jacob."

Appoint A Place

By C.O. Stadskev

"Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime." (II Samuel 7:10)

Hundreds of years before that which God stated in the above scripture, God had appointed a place for his people Israel in the land of Palestine. And they were dwelling there when God made the above statement. Bible history states that these people were afflicted and they were moved from their appointed place. Ten tribed Israel was moved, taken into captivity by the Assyrians. Judah was moved and taken into captivity by the Babylonians. Therefore the appointed place in II Samuel 7:10 must be some other place than Palestine.

The new appointed "place" was to be "a place of their own" and they were to "move no more." "A place of their own" would indicate that there was another place than the place that was appointed to their fathers.

Less than 44,000 Judahites came back to Jerusalem after the 70 years captivity but in the time of the Romans Jerusalem was again destroyed and these people were moved and scattered throughout the earth. Hosea prophesied that ten tribed Israel, who were taken into the Assyrian captivity and placed in the region of the Caucasian Mountains, were not to find their way back to Palestine, but to be allured into the wilderness. Prophesying concerning ten tribed Israel Hosea was inspired in chapter 2 verse 6 the following: "Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths." "Not find her paths" would mean not to find her way back into Palestine.

Hosea 2:14: "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her." Was the wilderness that ten tribed Israel was allured to enter and where God would speak comfortably to the Israel people or as another rendering states, speak to her heart and send her revivals, was that the new appointed place?

The prophets spoke of a representative number of the twelve tribes of Israel as being regathered in a place that was a wilderness in the time of the prophets. Isaiah 40:3: "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." There is more preaching and teaching of the Word of God in this new order of the ages than any nation in all history.

In II Samuel 7:10 God said concerning his Israel people: "I will plant them" and they will "move no more." There is more evidence that God planted the Israel people in this vast North American wilderness than any other people in the past 1900 years. This is the "wilderness" that has blossomed as a rose.

We must not be so occupied with what our enemies are doing that we give no thought and no study to what God Almighty has covenanted to do for his Israel people in these last days. The nations of Christendom are the sheep

nations in Matthew 25. The individual Christians are the Lord's brethren therefore the Scripture speaks of them as joint heirs with Christ.

Judah

By C.O. Stadskev

Judah was the leading and the ruling tribe among the twelve tribes of Israel. The Christ on his human side was to come from the tribe of Judah. Nearly all of the kings that did right in the sight of the Lord in their administration were from the tribe or the nation of Judah.

For the above reasons and others, Lucifer concentrated his attack upon the tribe of Judah. The land that the tribe of Judah received in the promised land bordered the land of Edom. The Edomites are known in the Scriptures as being a fierce and treacherous people. With Judah on their border, it was a simple matter for the Edomites to infiltrate and intermarry into the tribe of Judah.

In the time of Esther when the enemies of Judah thought to destroy the true Judahites, God intervened and gave them victory over their enemies. And Haman was hung on the gallows that he had built to hang Mordecai on. Esther 8:17: "... And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them."

When Christ came to earth, these people who had infiltrated and intermarried with Judah, usurped the authority in Jerusalem over both the religious and political life. They were the ones who demanded that Christ be crucified. The true Judahites wanted to make Christ their King when He was on earth at His first coming. Christ recognized the true Judahites and the counterfeit Jews. In John 4:22 Christ said: "... for salvation is of the Jews" or in other words Christ the Saviour came from the tribe of Judah. Note the contrast in John 8:44: "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

This would be plain and simple if we would

consider Judah in the light of the Old Scriptures, especially Jeremiah 24. The Apostle Paul recognized the difference between the good and the bad figs of Jeremiah 24. Romans 3:1,2: "What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God." What Jew? The true genuine Judahite. Note the contrast in 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16: "For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins away: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost."

Chapter 24 in Jeremiah will also throw light on Christ cursing the fig tree in Matthew 21:19 and saying: "And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away."

Another reason why many people from these various heathen tribes claimed and said that they were of Judah was, they hoped thus to inherit the great covenant blessings and prophecies pronounced upon Judah in the Old Scripture. They had heard that the Christ, the Messiah, the Great World Ruler was to come from the tribe of Judah, therefore they wanted to be of the tribe of Judah.

Cut Off and Cut Down

By C.O. Stadskev

"Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off. Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut

off, thou shalt see it. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off." (Psalm 34:1-2,9,22,34,38) Read all of Psalm 37 and note the contrast between the righteous and the wicked.

In the time of Noah and the flood, the wicked were cut off and destroyed, and Noah saw their destruction. In the time of Lot, when Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, the wicked were cut off and destroyed, and Lot and Abraham saw the destruction of the wicked. At the Red Sea at the time of the Exodus, it was Pharaoh and his army that were cut off and destroyed, and the people that obeyed the Word of God, through his servant Moses, saw the Egyptians dead on the sea shore.

Prophecy indicates that the deliverance of God's earthly servant kingdom people, the nations of Christendom in this end time, would be after the manner of Egypt.

Amos 9:8: "Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from off the face of the earth; saving that I will not utterly destroy the house of

Jacob, saith the LORD." There is a sinful kingdom that will be destroyed from off the face of the earth in this present end time.

The nations of Christendom are now the "house of Jacob." Jacob was the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. They have now become the many nations of Christendom that God promised Abram in Genesis 17:1-7 and the nations that the prophets prophesied would become the nations of Christendom.

Hosea 1:1: "Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God."

There are three prophecies in this one verse, and the only people of all history that have fulfilled these three prophecies are the nations of Christendom. It does not say that they would all individually be Christians; it states that they shall be called "the sons of the living God" or the people of Christendom.

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AMERICA'S HOPE

MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 1991

Counted Faithful

By C.O. Stadskev

"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." (I Timothy 1;12)

Saul of Tarsus had one characteristic that was very important for doing the work and the will of God. He was faithful to what he believed. Prior to his conversion, Saul of Tarsus had been taught by the Babylonian scribes and Pharisees and by the Herodians. Therefore he believed that anyone who believed in Christ should be imprisoned or even executed.

Peter on the other hand, apparently was a strong man and an independent thinker because when he saw and heard what Christ did, he accepted the evidence and confessed that Jesus was the Christ.

After Saul of Tarsus' conversion, he went into seclusion and for quite some time studied the Old Scriptures and was taught by the Holy Spirit. Paul's faithfulness to what he had been taught by the Holy Spirit after his conversion caused him to become the Apostle Paul.

In the above scripture Paul said: "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, which hath enabled me..." The idea that the Lord chose the Apostle Paul because he had a very brilliant mind and was highly educated in the Scriptures is not true. Although being an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin, Saul of Tarsus before his conversion had been thoroughly educated by the enemies of Christ. In one place Paul wrote that his bodily presence was weak and his speech was contemptible.

In 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 the Apostle Paul wrote the following: "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and

things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence."

When God calls a person He always provides that person with the gifts, the ability and the wisdom to do that which God called that person to do. "No flesh should glory" but one thing is absolutely necessary and that is that person must be faithful to the Word of God.

When God called Moses, Moses said, I can't speak. The Lord said, I'll send Aaron and he can speak for you. When God called Gideon, Gideon said, I'm the least in my father's house. The Lord said, I'll be with you. When God called Jeremiah, Jeremiah said, I'm but a child. The Lord mildly rebuked Jeremiah, don't say you are just a child, don't apologize for what I have called you to do.

In 1 Corinthians 4:1,2 the Apostle Paul wrote: "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." All Christians are "stewards of the mysteries of God." And it is required that a steward be faithful.

In 1 Corinthians 12:27,28 Paul wrote: "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

Some of these ministries are more conspicuous than others, but they are all necessary and important. Preachers and Bible teachers would have no ministry if it were not for the Christians that have the ministries of helps and administrations.

This ministry of America's Hope would have had to be terminated a number of years ago if the Holy Spirit had not spoken very definitely to me that he was bringing Robert and Ardis Olson into this ministry. They have the ministry and the gifts of administration and helps.

All Christians are called to be ministers of the mysteries of God, and the principle requirement is faithfulness. All other requirements the Holy Spirit provides.

There are two principle mysteries in the New Scriptures. One is the mystery of the kingdom of heaven. In Matthew 13:11 Christ said: "He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." Christ never withheld the knowledge of personal salvation from any people so He was not referring to personal salvation, He was referring to the kingdom.

The other mysteries are the mysteries of the church. In Ephesians 3:4, 5 & 6 the Apostle Paul wrote: "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel." In the mysteries of the church, all people were invited to receive the Christ as their personal Saviour.

From the time of the birth of Christ and the ministry of John the Baptist until the day of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that ushered in the church age, the people passed through a transition period. The religious order established in the Old Scripture was being replaced by the Christian faith.

We have now come to the time of the closing of the church age and the ushering in of the kingdom age. Like the former transition period, this transition period is also a time of confusion and controversy. In the midst of this confusion and controversy, we who have received the truth of the gospel of the kingdom and the Israel identity must minister the mysteries of the gospel of the kingdom. All the Lord requires of us is that we be faithful and that we witness and minister in the Spirit.

When Christ wanted to establish a truth and bring forth a confession He sometimes did it by asking questions. For instance, He asked the disciples, Whom do people say that I am? There were various answers to that question. Then Christ asked, Whom do ye say that I am? And the answer was, Thou art the Christ.

If Christians and members of a Bible Class are forbidden to ask questions, that is not a Bible Class, that is an effort to limit the knowledge of the class to the knowledge the teacher might have.

The words of Paul were a comfort to me when I realized that the things which the Holy Spirit told me to do and I did, some people used this for a reason to stop supporting this ministry. For instance, the Spirit told me sell the church buildings and the grounds and devote your time and effort to radio and the printed page, which we did.

We reach more people on one Sunday through our broadcasts than we would in a lifetime confined to four walls of a church building. Through the printed page and our Monthly publication we reach more new people in a month than we would in a lifetime confined to the four walls of a church.

Recently the Spirit said to me, Commit thou into faithful men who shall be able to teach others also. All over this nation there are faithful Christians, and if they could hear and be instructed in the gospel of the kingdom, they would be prepared for the time when this nation will be blanketed with the gospel of the kingdom.

How can they believe, how can they prepare if they never hear the gospel of the kingdom? According to Matthew 24:14, the words of the Christ, it is this gospel of the kingdom that will bring an end to the terrible condition that our nation and all nations are in today.

In Matthew 25:21 we read: "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." As Christians we should give some serious thought as to how and when are Christians faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ. There is only one way a Christian can be faithful to the Christ and that is to be faithful to the light that a person has received from the Word of God.

Christ is the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us. Christians who have received the truth and the light of the gospel of the kingdom must be faithful to that truth and light.

In Luke 11:23 the Christ said: "He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth." Christians who have received the truth of the gospel of the kingdom and assume no responsibility for spreading it, are against the gospel of the kingdom, and do more damage than those who have never heard the gospel of the kingdom. Those who do not gather for the gospel of the kingdom, scatter and hinder the gospel of the kingdom.

It has been said that what a Christian does with his or her tithe is the acid test of a Christian's faithfulness to the Christ or to the Word of God.

We are in the Laodicean church age and God is closing the church age in this Laodicean church period. Scripture states that because the Laodicean church is lukewarm toward the Word of God, the Lord will spue it out of His mouth. In its lukewarmness to the gospel of the kingdom the Laodicean church is lukewarm toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is nothing we can do about the Laodicean church but we can and must be faithful to the gospel of the kingdom. It will heal and cleanse this nation and all nations. It will fill the earth with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. And it will fill the earth with the glory of God.

Like a Flood

By C.O. Stadsklev

"So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him." (Isaiah 59:19)

Chapter 59 in Isaiah is apparently a prophecy on this Zion nation in this present end time. The first 15 verses are apparently a description of the condition our nation is in today.

Isaiah 59:16: "And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him." In view of this terrible condition and in view of God's promises and prophecies and covenants in behalf of this Zion nation the Lord wondered that there was no intercession, people did not pray for the nation. They did not lay hold on these promises and prophecies and covenants. They seemed to mean nothing to the people. The Lord wondered at this. Therefore "his arm brought salvation." We would naturally expect judgement and destruction. But the prophet saw that the Lord would bring salvation in spite of the condition today.

Blood atonement in the redemption of the Israel people provided for this salvation or this deliverance in the present end time. It also provided for the purging, cleansing and the restoration of God's earthly kingdom people to a position of world leadership and power. This has been partly accomplished and will continue until it is complete.

Verse 17 states what the Redeemer of Israel will do. "For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak."

Verse 18 continues to prophecy what the Redeemer will do. "According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompense."

Verse 19 which we quoted at the beginning tells what the results will be from what the Redeemer will do. People will fear the Lord from the west to the rising of the sun or the east. That the enemy has come in on this Zion nation like a flood needs no comment, it must be evident to everyone. The Spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against him or against the enemy has also been translated the Spirit of the Lord will put the enemy to flight. This is prophesied in Isaiah 13:14.

It states: "And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land." "As the chased roe" indicates this Zion nation will be

hunted causing many to flee.

Isaiah 59:20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. Scripture states that the word became flesh and dwelt among us. When the founders of this Zion nation placed both their form of government and their religious faith on the Word of God, the Spirit of the Lord came to this Zion nation. The Spirit of the Lord will not flee. The Spirit of the Lord will cause the enemy to flee.

Verse 21 is a tremendous scripture. "As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever."

Our Sovereign God has made a covenant with this nation that the Word of the Lord will go forth from this Zion nation forever.

A Prayer

LORD JESUS, help us to see clearly that the pace at which we are living these days shuts Thee out of our minds and hearts, and leaves us, even with good intentions, to wander in the misty land of half-truth and compromise.

DELIVER US, O God, from the God-helps-those-who-help-themselves philosophy, which is really a cloak for sheer unbelief in Thy ability and willingness to take care of us and our affairs.

GIVE TO US a passion for that which is in principle excellent, rather than in politics expedient, for that which is morally right rather than socially correct.

THESE THINGS we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

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MONTHLY

OCTOBER 1991

No Difference

By C.O. Stadskev

"And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." (Acts 15:8-9)

"Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:22-23)

The Scriptures teach that in regard to personal salvation and personal regeneration it is the same for all people, regardless of race or color. Because there is no difference in individual grace, some imagine that God makes no difference in regard to race.

Exodus 11:6-7: "And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel."

Throughout all Bible history and throughout all Bible prophecy there is a great and a clear difference between the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the twelve tribes of Israel with all other peoples of the earth.

There was a great difference between the Egyptians and the Israel people at the Red Sea. The Israel people walked through the Red Sea on dry ground. When the Egyptians entered the Sea, God turned back the waters and Pharaoh and his whole army was destroyed in the Red Sea.

Writing to the twelve tribes of Israel, Moses wrote the following in Deuteronomy 14:2: "For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a

peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth." Anything or anybody used by God in the Scripture is spoken of as being "holy" so we have this people spoken of as being "holy." The nations of Christendom have been used by God like no other people of all history.

Psalms 147:19-20: "He showeth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the LORD."

In Romans 15 and I Corinthians 10 the Apostle Paul teaches that the Old Scriptures were written primarily for the people of Christendom. God in his foreknowledge knew that it was the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the twelve tribes of Israel that would accept the Christian faith and make Christianity their religion.

The idea that God had to abandon his will and purpose of having a special earthly servant kingdom people, here on earth, because he was unable to accomplish his will and purpose is one of Lucifer's doctrines. And so is the teaching that when Christ came, he came with a much more limited will and purpose. Christ, according to Lucifer, limited his will and purpose to the individual.

In Romans 11:1-2 the Apostle Paul wrote: "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew."

God foreknew everything the twelve tribes of Israel would do and would not do. God also foreknew everything the nations of Christendom would do and would not do. But God did not cast them away. God never has, and never will abandon his will and purpose of

having a special earthly servant kingdom people here on earth.

If Christ had limited His will and purpose to the individual, the Apostle Paul would have said, I also am a Christian.

Thy Foes Thy Footstool

By C.O. Stadskev

"For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool."

(Acts 2:34-35)

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool."

(Hebrews 10:12-13) The above statements from the New Scripture are quotes from the Old Scripture.

Psalm 110:1: "A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."

Verse 2 in Psalm 110 tells us of one rod or one power that God will use to make the enemies of Christ his footstool. Verse 2: "The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies." This is the same as that which is prophesied in Micah 4:13. "Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth." It is evident from fulfilled Bible prophecy that the United States of America is Zion of Bible prophecy.

Verse 3 in Psalm 110 is a very reassuring scripture. "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth." "Thy people" are the Israel people, now the nations of Christendom. "Dew" symbolizes the blessing and the favor, and provisions of God. The dew of thy youth could refer to these twelve tribes of Israel under the administration of Moses, the man that God used to form these twelve tribes into God's earthly kingdom people. It could also refer to these Israel people under the leadership of Joshua, the greatest military leader of all

history. He subjugated in battle 31 kings. "The dew of thy youth" could also refer to the spirit and blessings of God upon this nation in its early history. At any rate, this dew, this blessing and outpouring of the spirit of God will return to God's earthly kingdom people.

Verse 4 refers to the Christ, who is the kingdom's High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Melchizedek met Abraham with presents of bread and wine after Abraham had slaughtered some aggressive kings in battle. See Genesis 14:14-20.

This seems to be a small example of what will happen world wide at the close of this present age. This is also apparently what is prophesied in Verse 5. "The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath." While God fulfills verse 5 the Christ as stated in verse 1 sits at the right hand of the Father.

Verse 6 will make the heathen, and the heads over many countries, the Lord's footstool. "He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries."

The last verse states: "He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head." "Drink of the brook in the way" is a symbol of complete victory for the Christ. And He will be lifted up above all power and authority in the earth, and throughout the universe.

This Gospel of The Kingdom

By C.O. Stadskev

In Matthew 24:13-14 the Christ said: "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Is Christ suggesting that this gospel of the kingdom would be preached in the end time?

If this gospel of the kingdom, which the Christ emphasized, is the same gospel that the Apostle Paul preached and emphasized in regard to personal salvation, then the end of this age should have come in the time of the Apostle Paul. For in Romans 1:8 Paul wrote: "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world."

Corinthians 1:5-6: "That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all

knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you."

Read verses 7-12 in Acts chapter 2, and note that in the providence of God, people were gathered together at Jerusalem from all over the world on the day of Pentecost. But the end did not come in the time of the Apostle Paul.

Peter preached Christ on the day of Pentecost and about three thousand souls repented and were converted to Christianity. In view of the miraculous birth, life, death and resurrection of the Christ, and especially the sensational miracles that Christ preformed, it is not difficult to believe that word concerning Christ spread throughout the world, as the Apostle Paul states. But the end of the age did not come at that time. Both the Christ and the Apostle Paul said that they were teaching mysteries which before their time had been kept secret and hidden.

In Matthew 13:17 Christ said: "For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them." Verses 34-35: "All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world."

Was personal salvation kept hidden and secret from prophets and righteous men in the Old Scripture? Of course not. But there were things pertaining to the kingdom that were kept secret and hidden from the foundation of the world, until Christ came and taught the mysteries of the kingdom.

Referring to his ministry, the Apostle Paul wrote the following in Colossians 1:26-27: "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." The mysteries that the Apostle Paul taught pertained to the individual and the church. Christ in you is indeed a mystery, but it is a reality.

God alone knows what Christendom and the whole earth has suffered and forfeited

because Christendom has neglected and rejected the gospel of the kingdom and the mysteries of the kingdom as set forth in the Lord's kingdom parables.

Threshing

By C.O. Stadsklev

"Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips." (Isaiah 17:10)

Our nation in recent years has "forgotten" the God of our salvation, and we have not been "mindful" of the rock of our strength," the Lord Jesus Christ. As a nation, we have planted plants that seemed to be pleasant, and we have sown strange slips, unscriptural and antiChrist doctrines and teachings.

Isaiah 17:11: "In the day shalt thou make thy plant to grow, and in the morning shalt thou make thy seed to flourish: but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow." These antichrist and unscriptural teachings and practices have given this nation a harvest "of grief and desperate sorrow." Our harvest has been in being engaged in two World Wars, and a terrible loss of life in Asia.

In addition to that grief and desperate sorrow, we have had man made economic depressions and strangulations that has brought grief and desperate sorrow to millions of people. Those who are familiar with farming know that the harvest and the threshing are two distinct and separate operations. And that the threshing follows the harvest, and is actually the last part of the harvest. In the harvest everything in the field is cut down. In the threshing that which has been cut down is separated. Jesus said, "The field is the world." John referred to the threshing in Chapter 3 verse 12 where he said: "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?"

Read verses 37-40 in Matthew 13. Note that the field is not the church. Christ said that "the field is the world." The good seed are the children of the kingdom; the tares are the children of the wicked one. They are both in

the field. Verses 41-42: "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." "Them which do iniquity" are in the kingdom; they are not in the body of Christ, the church.

Note the contrast between verse 42 and verse 43. Verse 43 states: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." Here we have a reference to the threshing. Threshing is the separating and the removing of the wicked from among the just or the righteous. It is not the removing of the righteous from among the wicked. Here the righteous shine forth in the kingdom of their Father.

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee." (Isaiah 60:1-2)

The Spectrum of Love

Patience "Love suffereth long."

Kindness "And is kind."

Generosity "Love envieth not."

Humility "Love vaunteth not itself,
is not puffed up."

Courtesy "Doth not behave itself unseemly."

Unselfishness "Seeketh not her own."

Good Temper "Is not easily provoked."

Guilelessness "Thinketh no evil."

Sincerity "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but
rejoiceth in the truth."

Patience, kindness, generosity, humility, courtesy, unselfishness, good temper, guilelessness, sincerity - these make up the supreme gift, the stature of the perfect man. You will observe that all are in relation to men, in relation to life, in relation to the known today and the near tomorrow, and not to the unknown eternity. We hear much of love to God; Christ spoke much of love to man.

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MONTHLY

NOVEMBER 1991

Times of Restitution

By C.O. Stadskev

"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:20-21)

This is the direct opposite of much of what is being preached today. Today we are being told that some great antichrist must have a world wide, very destructive reign for seven years before the Christ comes to reign.

Acts 1:3: "To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." In view of Christ's teaching on the kingdom, we read the following in verse 6: "When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?"

In verse 7 Christ answered this question. "And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power."

It was only a few days after Christ had made this statement that the Church was born on the Day of Pentecost, and that was certainly not the times or the seasons. But times and seasons have now passed since God spoke by the mouth of all his holy prophets concerning the restitution.

It would require volumes to teach that which God spoke concerning the restitution by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. The reason that many Christians do not recognize the restitution is because they are not familiar with what God spoke by the mouth of all his holy prophets concerning the restitution.

Christ devoted a number of his parables

to the restoring again of the kingdom to Israel, the people of Christendom. Mark 4:26: "And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground." This is not a church parable; it is a kingdom parable for in verse 27 it states: "And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how." Preachers do not sleep day and night and preachers are not ignorant on how people are saved or enter the church.

Verse 28: "For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." Personal salvation does not come progressively over a period of time. Salvation comes to the individual the instant the individual believes and receives the Christ. Christ taught that the restoring of the kingdom would come over a period of time and that people would not know or understand what was developing.

Verse 29: "But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." God does not put in the sickle immediately after a person has been born again and enters into the body of Christ, the church. But when the fruits of the kingdom become manifest, and everyone can see what nation has the fruits of the kingdom, then God puts in the sickle because the time of the harvest has come. Christ said, "the harvest is the end of the world" or the end of the age.

After the harvest comes the threshing. In the time of the threshing the tares are removed from among the wheat. Christ taught that the tares represent the workers of iniquity and the children of the wicked one and the wheat represents the children of the kingdom. "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father."

His Wife

By C.O. Stadskev

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD." (Deuteronomy 6:4) "I and my Father are one." (John 10:30) Speaking unto the children of Israel God said: "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion." (Jeremiah 3:14)

Because of Israel's unfaithfulness, God gave Israel a bill of divorcement. Isaiah 50:1 states: "Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away."

In order to pay the ransom price for the release and deliverance of his wife, the Lord shed His blood on Calvary at the same time that He purchased personal salvation for the individual. Therefore we read the following in Isaiah 54:4-5. "Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called."

Revelation 19:7: "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." It does not say that the bride or the virgin hath made herself ready; it states his wife hath made herself ready.

The Apostle Paul in II Corinthians in 11:2 said in writing to the church "... that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." Note Paul said, as a chaste virgin. Paul taught throughout all his writings, and repeatedly, that the church was the body of Christ. In I Corinthians 12:27 the apostle wrote: "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

The Lord's parable on the ten virgins is a kingdom parable; it is not a church parable. Matthew 25:1: "Then shall the kingdom of

heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom." This parable must be interpreted in the light of the Gospel of the Kingdom. No one buys personal salvation, but to reign with Christ in the coming Kingdom Age has a price here and now.

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:17-19)

Prove Me

By C.O. Stadskev

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." (Malachi 3:8-10)

God considers those Christians who do not tithe, to be robbing God. Because of this robbing God, this whole nation is under a curse. God's command is, "bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse." The amount is clearly stated. It says "all the tithes" which means ten cents out of every dollar a person receives. The tithe is to be brought "into the storehouse." "The storehouse" is the place where there is "meat" for the people. This "storehouse" must be the preaching, teaching, and expounding of God's word, because the word is the "meat." To those who will do this, God makes a very special and definite promise in verse 10. Read it again.

Christians who do not tithe are not only robbing God, they are insulting God. Many take the position, I have so little, I cannot

take a chance on tithing and trusting God to do what he said he would do. There are few times in the scriptures, when God invites humans to put him to the test or "prove" him, to see if God will do what he said in regard to some particular thing. Therefore Christians who do not tithe are not only robbing God, they are insulting God.

God's purpose in establishing tithing was not only that the clergy might have the necessary support in order that they might give themselves to the ministry of the word and to prayer, but God also established tithing in order to give him an opportunity to prove his reality, and his faithfulness. Tithing also gives those who tithe an opportunity to test or to prove God's reality, and his faithfulness to that which he promised in verse 10. It is similar to Bible prophecy. Christ said, "I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe."

Jacob proved God. In Genesis 28:22 Jacob said to God: "...of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee." In spite of the fact that Laban who hired Jacob and changed his wages ten times, and would have sent Jacob away in poverty, Jacob prospered, and every need he had was supplied.

When Jacob became an old man and blessed the sons of Joseph, Jacob said the following in Genesis 48:16: "The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." Jacob believed that when he promised God that he would give Him a tenth of all that God would give him, God would cause Jacob to prosper. And God in turn appointed a wise and powerful angel to watch over Jacob, and Jacob prospered.

The blessings that come to those who tithe are not blessings that a Christian will pray and trust God for, which God may or may not answer, they are blessings that come automatically to those who tithe.

In Proverbs 3:9-10 God states: "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." "The firstfruits of all thine increase" would be the tithe. "Barns" are not "filled with plenty" in an

instant. And wine "presses" do not burst forth with new wine in an instant. These developments require time.

There is a period of time between sowing and reaping. In some cases it is a short time, in other cases it is a longer time, but the reaping will be according to the sowing. In 2 Corinthians 9:6 Paul wrote the following: "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

Some Christians, because they do not reap immediately after they have sown their tithe, lose heart and lose faith, and cease to sow. Generally, the longer a person has to wait, the greater the reaping will be providing the Christian continues to sow, continues to tithe. We need also to understand that the Word of God is God's "storehouse," that is where the "meat" is.

The time when Jacob vowed that he would give God a tenth of everything that God gave him must have been a time of sorrow and tears. Jacob's parents, Isaac and Rebekah, had heard that Esau, who was red all over, when he was born, and the first red, and the father of the cruel and vicious Edomites, had said that when Isaac was dead, Esau was going to kill Jacob, his twin brother. Therefore Jacob's parents persuaded him that for his own safety, he should leave home and go someplace where Esau could not find him.

Jacob apparently made the journey to his uncle, walking alone. When night came Jacob laid down on the ground, took a stone and used it for a pillow. Neither Jacob nor his parents slept well that night. Jacob awoke early in the morning, and made his vow to God in regard to his tithe. Jacob did not ask for much. He asked for bread and for raiment, until he could return home to his parents. God kept his promise as stated in Malachi 3:10, and in Proverbs 3:9-10. God fulfilled his promises to Jacob over a period of time. And Jacob prospered in everything he did. Poor people should be the first to take advantage of God's promise to those who tithe.

*"...He shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgement to the people in uprightness. The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble."
(Psalm 98-9)*

Dependent On God's Presence

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall...walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

There is no thrill in walking; it is the test of all the stable qualities. To "walk and not faint" is the highest reach possible for strength. The word "walk" is used in the Bible to express the character - "John looking on Jesus as He walked, said, Behold the Lamb of God!" There is never anything abstract in the Bible, it is always vivid and real. God does not say- Be spiritual, but- "Walk before me."

When we are in an unhealthy state physically or emotionally, we always want thrills, In the physical domain this will lead to counterfeiting the Holy Ghost; in the emotional life it leads to inordinate affection and the destruction of morality; and in the spiritual domain if we insist on getting thrills, on mounting up with wings it will end in the destruction of spirituality.

The reality of God's presence is not dependent on any place, but only dependent upon the determination to set the Lord always before us. Our problems come when

we refuse to bank on the reality of His presence.

The experience the Psalmist speaks of- "therefore will we not fear, though...." will be ours when once we are based on Reality, not the consciousness of God's presence but the reality of it - Why, He has been here all the time!

At critical moments it is necessary to ask guidance, but it ought to be unnecessary to be saying always-"O Lord, direct me here, and there." Of course He will. If our common sense decisions are not His order, He will press through them and check; then we must be quiet and wait for the direction of His presence.

Selected

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding." (Isaiah 40:28)

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. (Isaiah 32:17)

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MONTHLY

DECEMBER 1991

Heir of the World

By C.O. Stadslev

"For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith." (Romans 4:13) The above is undoubtedly one of the most tremendous promises given to a man and his seed or his descendants.

The first promise that God gave to Abraham is recorded in Genesis 12:2: "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing."

This promise is repeated in Genesis 18:17,18 and the words "mighty nation" are added. "And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?"

In Genesis 49:1 we read: "And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days." Jacob was Abraham's grandson. It is evident from the prophecies and the promises pronounced by Jacob that these promises and prophecies would not be fulfilled in the lifetime of these individual men, but as is stated "in the last days." We are now in these last days.

Is there a great and mighty nation in the earth today in these last days? Yes, there is. The prophets called this nation Zion. And this Zion nation, called the new order of the ages, was established and developed by Abraham's seed, the Isaac-sons. This Zion nation has already had world wide influence.

In Micah 4:1,2 we read: "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow

unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."

The "Jerusalem" here is the New Jerusalem, another name for this Zion nation. "Mountains" symbolizes kingdoms and nation. Mountain of the Lord means the kingdom of the Lord. And note the time is the last days.

After this Zion nation has had its cleansing and purging, nations will come, not only for physical and material aid, they will then come to learn to word and the will of God.

Note the contrast in verse 11: "Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion." There is an all out effort to defile this Zion nation or to spy upon it.

Verse 12 states: "But they know not the thoughts of the LORD, neither understand they his counsel: for he shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor."

Verse 13 in Micah 4 is a decree by the Almighty. It states: "Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth." This has already had a very small beginning.

Chapter 60 in Isaiah is a prophecy on this Zion nation. Verse 12: "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted." This Zion nation must first have its cleansing before it will enter into its God appointed destiny spoken unto Abraham.

Appoint and Prepare

By C.O. Stadskev

"Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime." (II Samuel 7:10)

The place that God said He would appoint for His people Israel could not have been Palestine because after some time Israel was moved by the Assyrians into the Assyrian captivity and Judah was moved by the Babylonians in the Babylonian captivity. In the place or land that God spoke of these Israel people were to move no more.

It does not say that they would not be afflicted, but it would not be as beforetime. They would not be subjugated by foreign powers and deported into other lands.

The place that God would appoint for the regathering of His Israel people was evidently this North American wilderness where a representative number of every one of the tribes of Israel have been gathered together and this is their homeland. Not something they inherited from their fathers, but something they built and developed themselves. And from this place and this position they will not be removed.

In John 14 Christ said the following in the two first verses: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." Christ did not say, Let not your heart be troubled: in heaven there are many mansions and I go to prepare a place for you. Christ said: "In my Father's house are many mansions." " If we can learn where God's house is it will help us to understand this scripture.

In Genesis 28:16-17 we read: "And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Verse 12 of this chapter relates that during the night Jacob had a dream and he saw a ladder set up on the earth, reaching unto

heaven: and angels ascending and descending on this ladder.

In verse 13 God said the following to Jacob: "And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed." Are the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob Israel the house of God?

Specifically and repeatedly in the Old Scriptures God states, I will dwell with Israel. This was so real that God told the Israel people that they should be a clean and orderly people and that they should obey God's laws pertaining to cleanliness and sanitation because God dwelt with His people Israel.

True, God is everywhere, but repeatedly and specifically God stated that I dwell with my people Israel. Is it not reasonable to say that where God dwells, that is God's house? There are many nations in this house.

In John 14:3 Christ said: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." If we can learn where the Christ will be during the coming kingdom age, which is rapidly moving in upon the earth, we will get light where co-rulers with Christ will be in this kingdom age. Scripture states that Christ comes to receive the kingdom. So Christ receives the kingdom here on earth.

In Luke 1:32-33 the angels said the following to Mary the mother of Jesus: "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

The throne of David is here on earth, it always has been and it will continue to be; the house of Jacob is here on earth and will continue to be here on earth. The twelve apostles are to be co-rulers with Christ, sitting on twelve thrones ruling over the twelve tribes of Israel. These twelve tribes of Israel are here on earth.

There is no teaching in the Scripture that Lucifer, his principalities and powers, his fallen angels, and his human agents fear and hate as much as they do that which the scriptures teach concerning the restoring of the Kingdom of God on earth with Christ reigning with His

saints throughout the earth. Lucifer is also called Satan. He is called the Deceiver because it is by deception and error that Satan expects and hopes to accomplish his purpose of establishing his one world rule.

All of the large denominations today in their early history recognized that there was a national message in the Scriptures, and they preached and taught it. Luther taught that civil administrators were just as responsible for administering God's civil and moral laws for the nation as the clergy was responsible to preach the doctrines of the Christian Faith for the church.

All of the other denominations took the same position in their early history. The Methodists would not permit a Christian who took usury on a loan to another Christian to become a member of their fellowship. The Presbyterians published a book called Christian Civil Government. On the cover of this book the capital of this nation stands and rests upon the Bible. These church fathers did not see the Israel truth, because the time had not come for this truth to be revealed according to Romans 11:25,26.

In Romans 11:1 Paul wrote: "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin." Paul did not say, I am also a Christian, a born again believer. Paul said, "I also am an Israelite." God's special servant kingdom people were the Israelites and they were in the time of the Apostle Paul and they continue to be so today. But today they are the nations of Christendom.

Scripture teaches that the reward of the Christians is that they are to reign with Christ here on earth during His earthly Kingdom reign, which is the next age.

These two strange teachings created a vacuum into which Satan and his co-workers entered in and took advantage of. This is clearly evident in Christendom today. But that does not change the Word of God. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations and then shall the end come.

There is one thing that Christians can do to hasten the end of the terrible condition the world, including our nation is in and that is to preach and teach the gospel of the kingdom.

Objectives of Bible Teaching

The history-minded teacher of the Bible tends to be adsorbed in historical sequence. He instinctively dwells upon good eras and devastating wars with their respective causes.

The geographically-minded teacher is preoccupied with mountains and valleys, rivers and towns, slopes and plains of the Holy Land.

The morally sensitive teacher tends to concentrate upon evil and its consequences, goodness and its rewards.

The literary-minded teacher is only bent on a hunt for metaphors and figures of speech but he is tempted to interpret history and Christ's redemption metaphorically.

Blessed is the teacher who sees the Bible for what it is - **God's SELF-revelation.**

Accordingly, we are ever in the presence of God when we open His Book. In the Bible God is speaking to us. God is telling us who He is and who we as His images should be.

Selected

DID you ever notice how many times the Apostle Paul uses the term "According to..." in his Epistle to the Ephesians?

Here are twelve quotations from Ephesians which point out the purpose and plan of God for your salvation. Here are a dozen bases for prayer, a dozen claims you can make on the Word of God, according to Ephesians.

According to Ephesians

1. According as he hath chosen us...by Jesus Christ to Himself. (1:4)
2. According to the good pleasure of His will. (1:5)
3. According to the riches of His grace. (1:7)

4. According to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself. (1:11)
5. According to the purpose of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will. (1:11)
6. According to working of His mighty power. (1:19)
7. According to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power. (3:7)
8. According to the eternal purpose which He hath purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (3:11)
9. According to the riches of His glory. (3:16)
10. According to the power that worketh in us.
11. According to the measure of the gift of Christ. (4:7)
12. According to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love (4:16)

Notice that it is never according to you, but always Him, His purpose, His will, His grace, His power, His working. But it is always for you, your good, your pleasure, your glory ultimately. Let this be the basis for your faith and your prayers.

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help man permanently be doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

- Abraham Lincoln

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