

America's Hope Monthly

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A Farce and a Fake

By C. O. Stadsklev

Much what we today call higher education and advanced learning is a farce and a fake. The Word of God, in Proverbs 1:7 states, "The fear of the Lord (or reverence and respect for God) is the beginning of knowledge."

There is more practical knowledge, wisdom, and counsel in the thirty-one chapters of Proverbs than in all the so-called social science books in existence. We should expose and refute many of these books, some used as textbooks, and not allowed them as textbooks. They are bringing the wrath of Almighty God down upon our nation.

In the first six verses of chapter 1 God states why he inspired Solomon to write the Book of Proverbs:

"The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding, To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity, To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear, and will increase leaning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation, the words of the wise and their dark sayings."

Verse 7 states, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

According to this scripture we are largely a generation of educated fools. As we all know most of our institutions of so-called higher learning despise the wisdom and instruction inspired and recorded for us in the Word of God.

In verses 24 through 32 of Proverbs 1, Solomon was inspired to prophesy about what would come upon the Anglo-Israel people if and when they refused to recognize the Word of God as the final authority in all social and moral issues. As I read these verses note how perfectly relate what we as a people, especially in our educational system have done to the Word of God and note also how perfectly Scripture describes the present condition in our nation:

"Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded: But ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof I also

will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind: when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer: they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them. and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them."

There are a number of statements in this Bible passage which we should stop and consider for our own physical safety and survival, and much more so for our eternal well-being.

By showering upon this nation unprecedented physical, material, and temporal blessings and benefits God has called and stretched out his hand to us, but as a people we refused to either recognize or honor the Christ our God. We have not even regarded and acknowledged these innumerable national blessings as coming directly from God

We have set at nought all God's counsel and would have none of God's reproof This we have done by throwing the Bible out of our schools, colleges, and universities This we have done by teaching that Christ's death and resurrection canceled God's national counsel and reproof found in the Old Scriptures. We set at nought God's national counsel when we refuse to acknowledge and realize that we the Anglo-Saxons are the Israel people of the Scriptures.

It is not a pleasant thought that God Almighty will laugh at our calamity; that the God who has made us a great nation, fulfilling the covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, will mock when our fear cometh as a desolation and our destruction as a whirlwind with distress and anguish; but this is what we have asked for and it is evidently what will be required in order to teach us to reverence and respect our God.

The communistic world conspiracy has all the elements

mentioned in verses 26 and 27 of Proverbs 1: calamity, fear, desolation, destruction as a whirlwind, or from the air, with distress and anguish.

In verse 23 God says, "They shall call upon me but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me."

In verses 29 and 30 we learn who the "they" are. They are those that have hated knowledge—and remember reverence for God is the beginning of knowledge—and they are those who did not choose the fear of the Lord and wanted none of God's counsel and despised all of God's reproof.

If you think our educational, financial, governmental, and even our religious leaders do not hate Bible knowledge and despise God's counsel and reproof, then enter these realms and attempt to preach and teach the knowledge, counsel and reproof of God as found in the national and moral laws of both the Old and New Scriptures.

Verse 31 states, "Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices." This is what we are now doing, and the end is not yet.

Verse 32 gives a sample of the profound wisdom found in Proverbs: "For the turning away of the simple (or ease of the simple) shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them."

How true this is of us as a race, a nation, and as individual! Almost without exception whenever God has granted the Anglo-Saxons ease, comfort, and leisure with prosperity, we have brought slaughter and destruction upon ourselves by departing from the Word of God and the duties God has placed upon us. This is true of us as a race, a nation, and as individual Christians.

Lest someone might get the idea that God would bring wholesale, indiscriminate destruction upon both those who hate and those who love the Christ, the last verse of Proverbs 1 states, "But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear and evil."

Because God does not strike down the atheistic and communistic professors in our midst the instant they defy and blaspheme His Word and His name, multitudes in our land have mistaken God's patience and longsuffering for an inability on the part of God to do much about the present apostasy in our schools and churches.

If God should administer immediate judgment upon every peep-squeak agnostic, or communistic professor, God as the great Creator would be unfair and unwise. Such retribution would never instill in mankind genuine reverence, respect, and love for God. God is not a hasty bully. God is eternal Majesty, Might, Power, Love and Authority.

God in His great wisdom and sovereignty will allow peoples, nations, and generations to reap and eat the fruit of their own way, and to be filled with their own devices, thus those who are sincere learn to have reverence and regard for the Word of God.

God has not been trying to Christianize the nations and

peoples of the earth during the Church Age.

For 1,900 years God has been, as stated in Acts 15:14, visiting the nations to take out of them a people for His name. That body or people is called the Church in the New scriptures. It consists of all whom the Spirit of God has regenerated through repentance and faith, regardless of race or denomination.

To test, try, develop, and perfect these individual Christians throughout Church history, yea human history, God has allowed all sorts of evil forces and evil personalities to exist, survive, and even thrive, in order to buffet and develop the individual believers whom He was training to be the rulers in the Kingdom Age.

Multitudes of the so-called worldly wise have been so blinded and deceived by their own conceit and their own depraved nature that they have never studied the Scriptures seeking to learn the Creator's plan for this or any other age.

And because God has allowed rebels to live and evil to flourish, they in their stupid arrogance have imagined, and even taught, that there is no God, or if He does exist life is of no account in this enlightened and intelligent day.

The fact is, these God defying, Christ hating, and Bible ignoring, educational and religious leaders are largely responsible for the weak and vacillating U. N., which the world conspirators have used so effectively.

If anyone has sufficient common sense and statesmanship to question these conceited and self styled experts on either foreign or domestic affairs a whole flock of parrots, newscasters so-called, begin their prattle in order to smear loyal citizens and to create confusion among the people.

It was the Godless and Bible ignoring education Paul the apostle, had in mind when he wrote the following in Romans 1:21, 22, 28-32:

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful. but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools . . . And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable. unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

Not a pretty picture, but a true description of what our present antichrist and unscriptural so-called education has produced. And now the harvest of our Bible disregard and ignorance, with the wrath of an angry God, is being poured upon us.

The Certainty that He will Protect us and Care for Us.

The most tragic phase of the present world judgment and punishment is that there is not sufficient Bible knowledge nor understanding of the will and purpose of Almighty God among our leaders to cause them to realize that God is punishing the nations of earth for transgressing and ignoring His laws, statutes, judgments, and commandments.

Due to this ignorance we are unable as a people to do the things that would bring God's blessings instead of God's curses upon us.

We are, as Isaiah prophesied, revolting more and more. The more God punishes us the more unscriptural legislation we enact thereby bringing more judgment and confusion upon ourselves.

In chapter 3:12 Isaiah prophesied the following concerning our day: "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths."

No generation in history has perhaps spent more money and effort to make its children contented and happy. Nevertheless, no generation in history has experienced more oppression and difficulties with its youth than the present, or as Isaiah said, "Children are their oppressors."

This also is because we have ignored, and even ridiculed, the laws of Almighty God in matters pertaining to pleasure and recreation.

"Women rule over them" is another evil Isaiah foresaw in our day. The Creator had a number of very good reasons why he placed the responsibility of leadership and decision upon the men of the nation, and maybe He will allow us to learn this in the hard way, as we apparently are going to have to learn many other things.

Next Isaiah says, "O my people." That means the Anglo-Saxons who are Israel. "They which lead thee cause thee to err." Undoubtedly, Isaiah had a vision of the swarms of bureaucrats and so-called experts that have been directing the affairs of this nation. Experts whose chief ability is to find ways to regiment the people and spend the taxpayers' money

According to God's law no person who has not first been a success in his own private life and effort could be given a place of authority in the nation. See Exodus 18:21.

Many of these so-called experts never made their own way in life. In youth they entered our institutions of free education, memorized some unscriptural and impractical theories, were told they were educated, and given a government job. And now we discover that these Bible ignoring and Christ-rejecting policies have brought Christian civilization to the brink of disaster.

Isaiah also said, "And destroy the way of thy paths." As a generation we have been so thoroughly indoctrinated and propagandized with unscriptural and anti-Christ theories and policies that millions of people do not know the way back to God in national affairs. Therefore the only thing God can do is to drive us back by the force of circumstances.

"Thou hast purchased us to God by Thy blood." This ensures us that He will preserve us and care for us. The man who has purchased something of value, for instance a good horse, not only receives it when it is brought to him, but he appreciates it, he takes care of it, and provides for it. He exercises it and he uses it. He does all this that he may have the utmost service and pleasure out of it. When Jesus Christ receives us—however glorious that is—it is only the beginning. We can rely on Him who bought us by His blood to complete His work in us.

It is just the want of insight into this truth that holds many troubled persons back from surrender, and causes many of weak faith to live always in trouble and worry. They do not apply to spiritual things what they understand so well in earthly affairs. When a man has paid a high price for something, even if only a horse or a sheep, he takes it for granted that he must care for it, in order that he may have pleasure and service from it. And the Lord Jesus—how is it that you do not understand it—takes upon Himself to care for you, and so to order things that He may attain His purpose in you. You cannot guard yourself against temptation or going astray. You cannot manage yourself or make yourself fit for His service. You cannot direct yourself so that you may know how to act in everything according to His will and that of the Father. You cannot do it. But He can; He will, as the One who has bought you with His blood.

My fellow-believer, the right that the Lord Jesus has obtained to you is so infinitely high, so broad, so unlimited, that if you will only think about it, you will respond to it. Just as I desire that every member of my body—the eye, the ear, the hand, the foot—should always be at my service, so the Lord desires that you, as a member of His body, along with every power and faculty, should always, without a moment's break, serve Him. You are so far from being able to do this that you do not even apprehend it. Cease trying to do it, and begin each day by committing yourself to the almighty preservation and control of your Lord. Just as a horse or a sheep with each new day must be afresh cared for by its owner, even more so must you, as the property of the Son of God, be cared for by Him. Christ is not an owner who is outside of you, or who is only in heaven above; He is your Head, and just as the first Adam lives within you with his sinful nature, so He, as the second Adam, lives in you with His holy nature and by His Holy Spirit. **And the one thing to which He calls you, is to trust Him, to wait on Him, to confidently rely upon Him; to finish in the outward things of our lives, His hidden and unnoticed work of protection and perfection.** Would that each one of us might know what is implied by our being accepted as the blood-bought possession of Jesus. It implies:

1. That He has set a very high value upon us, and so He

will not allow any evil to befall us. He will manifest His love to us; He has need of us for His work and glory, and it is His desire and joy to adorn us with His salvation, and to fill us with His unspeakable joy. Meditate upon this till it becomes fixed firmly in your mind.

2. That our great need is to recognize ourselves as His possession, and by a reverent confession of this, to have the heart filled by the consciousness of it. Just as a faithful dog often shows so great an attachment to his owner that he will not cease following him, let the wonderful ownership of Jesus, His blood-bought right, so possess you that it will every moment be the key-note of your life, and the power of an enduring attachment to Him.

3. That we should cultivate trust in Him, and let it completely control our whole soul and every thought as to how we are to spend our life and do our work. A possession is preserved and cared for by the owner. Jesus, my heavenly and almighty Owner who has bought me for Himself by His blood, and prizes me as "the dear purchase" of that blood, He will surely protect me, He will surely fit me for all things in which He intends to make use of me.

"Thou art worthy, for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood." Oh, my readers, listen, I pray you, to the song of heaven, and let it begin to sound in your heart. Let it be the heart confession of your relationship to the slain Lamb. Remember, I pray you, that the blood is the power of salvation, and the subject of heavenly praise. Remember that the blood is the power that binds us to Jesus in bonds that cannot be loosened.

Let him who has not yet acknowledged the claim of Christ do so today, and let him now say: "Thou art worthy; for the sake of Thy blood Thou shalt have me."

Let him who has already acknowledged the Lord's claim abandon himself to the heavenly influences of the Holy Spirit for the destruction of all doubt and slowness of heart, and for the enduement of power to live wholly for "the

Lamb of God."

Meditate upon and adore God for this divine wonder that you have been bought by the blood of the Son of God, and let your life become a translation into earthly walk and behavior of the song: "Thou art worthy, for Thou wast slain, and hast purchased us to God by Thy blood."

—Selected

The Sleep of Death

"I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me" (Psalm 3:5).

The Psalmist uses words which belittle the terror of death, He says, "I lie down and sleep," rather than, "I died and was buried." For death and the grave have lost both their name and their power. Death is no longer actual death but a sleep. The grave is no longer an actual grave but a bed in which one rests. Who is not certain that he will awaken who falls into a sweet sleep where death is not present? The psalmist declares that he has not died but has slept and awakened. Just as sleep is necessary and needful to strengthen and enliven the bodily powers, so is death necessary for the betterment of life. As Psalm 4:8 suggests: "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." Therefore must those in Christ look not at death itself but at the certain life and resurrection in order that the promise of John 8:51 may stand:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my saying, he shall never see death."

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"Blow the trumpet in Zion . . . turn unto the Lord your God"

By C. O. Stadskev

The Zion of Bible history is no more, but the Zion of Bible prophecy is very much in evidence as the most powerful nation of the end time. It is named "The United States of America."

Since the nation's pulpits say so little concerning Joel's prophecy these days, perhaps a very brief review of this small book would be helpful to our readers, especially our new readers. And particularly so because our nation is the Zion nation of Bible prophecy, not of Bible history.

In other articles we have established from Bible history that the term "Zion" is a term used in Bible prophecy to symbolize the type of civil administration that King David—or we might say President David—maintained and followed during his forty years as civil administrator and Chief Executive of our Israel forefathers.

David ruled for forty years in Israel, seven years over the Judah kingdom alone and then thirty-three years over the united Judah and Israel kingdoms. The governmental seat of his administration and place of authority was located in the city of Jerusalem in an area called Zion.

On other occasions we have noted that in Bible prophecy as the prophets foresaw the rise of our great United States of America, the most unique and phenomenal rise in the history of nations, that they called our nation "the daughter of Zion." That is what we should expect since the United States of America is the first nation in 2,500 years with a civil administration actually patterned after, and established upon, the same principles of civil administration that David observed as he ruled from historical Zion. And this is the reason we speak of scriptural government as Zion.

From the writings of Peter we learn that Joel's prophecy is an end time prophecy, a prophecy pertaining to the "last days." In these last days the Zion of prophecy would come into world view. We need to review such prophecies from time to time because people know so little about Bible history and Bible prophecy, generally speaking.

The book of Joel consists of but three chapters. In all three chapters Joel states that his prophecy is an end time prophecy. For instance, Joel 1:15 reads, "Alas for the day!

for the day of the Lord is at hand . . ."

All students of Bible prophecy agree that the expression "the day of the Lord" is the time in which we now live. This is the period also known as the "judgment of the nations." It is the transitional period through which we pass from the Church Age into the Kingdom Age.

But in this short article we especially want to emphasize verse 1 of chapter 2:

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand."

Here Joel tells us the alarm is to be declared in "mine holy mountain," or in other words, in "my blessed and favored nation," the nation which has been used, anointed and blessed above other nations. And the sound of alarm announces "the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." In solemn assembly and with fasting, the leaders and inhabitants are warned to go "into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord."

So in the day of the Lord, the end of the age, there is a nation called Zion in Bible prophecy to whom the alarm is sent which causes its inhabitants to tremble. It is "a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness . . ." And lest we despair, let us not forget the Lord's words of comfort to His followers:

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

We should thank God that some of our civil administrators and our political leaders, are much more alert, active, diligent and faithful in warning our nation of the threat of the heathen world and world communism with its twin socialism than is our indifferent Clergy.

From verse 2 on down the chapter through verse 10 of chapter 2, we have a very detailed description of the great military might that the communists and one-worlders are building throughout the world in such lands as Russia, China, Africa and even lesser nations. Apparently, the communists will get all these nations mustered against us.

Joel foresees and foretells of their multitudinous number coming against us in chariots that fly (modern planes).

“The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array” (verses 4 and 5).

Joel sees them coming suddenly—running, climbing into chariots that fly or leap upon the tops of mountains. These chariots have a roaring sound likened to a stubble fire, and they come to attack our great Zion nation.

I cannot understand why more clergymen do not expound these three chapters of Joel’s prophecy so relevant to our nation in these “last days” of the Church Age.

The Lord calls our nation to true repentance and a turning again to His ways in Joel 2:12,13:

“Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.”

Did you notice that we are cautioned not to panic, not to rend our garments, but to turn unto the Lord our God? When people rend their garments they are panic stricken and hysterical. Paraphrasing some, God is telling us through the prophet, “All you need to do, inhabitants of the United States of America, is to honor the national message of the Scriptures, consider the gospel of the kingdom, and turn to the Lord’s ways for men and nations.”

You must understand that your nation is the Zion nation of the end time. You must see we are actually in the beginning of the great restitution. So He warns, “Turn unto the Lord your God.” This we must and will do!

Such passages are singularly addressed to nations of Christendom. It could not be otherwise. The prophets of God and His Word would never tell the heathen to turn to their idols. Even they have invitations to forsake their idols and turn to the true and living God. We are the leading nation of Christendom, the Zion nation of prophecy. So it is to us primarily, and kindred nations, the call comes to repent and turn from our backslidings.

Still another call is given to the Zion nation in verses 15 through 17:

“Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

“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 shine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them; wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?”

Here we observe that this Zion nation has

congregations, elders, priests, ministers, altars and people who are told to pray, “Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them.” Here, as elsewhere, the Lord’s heritage is the Israel people. We speak of them as Isaac-sons or Anglo-Saxons today.

What is the goal of World Communism and one-world conspirators? What is their one great objective?

It is to subjugate, corrupt and undermine the United States of America, the great Zion nation. Therefore the Lord through the prophet calls upon Zion to turn to the Word of God, to honor the Son of God and to cease our backsliding as a nation. Then God Himself will intervene in our behalf.

In both chapters 2 and 3 of Joel we have God’s promise of intervention: “Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people” (2:18).

No people in all human history could be called God’s people any more than the people of the United States of America. This nation was actually planted and established upon the Word of God. This will become ever more apparent as we go further into the great day of God Almighty.

Another identification mark of our being the Zion nation of Bible prophecy is found in verse 23 of chapter 2:

“Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former and the latter rain in the first month.”

Here we have the mark and promise of abundance, and increasingly so. Our abundance is so great that it presents a national problem. It is simply another sign we are Zion of Bible prophecy and that as such we would be the nation of abundance and provision.

“Rain” symbolizes the favor, the mercy, the kindness and the provision of God. No nation in all human history has had the blessing and favor, the mercy and provision of God’s abundance in the measure we have as a nation.

We are now living on the threshold of the Kingdom Age with the restitution of all things foretold by the prophets near at hand. Therefore all things shakeable and out of harmony with God’s determination for the New Order of the Ages must be removed. The blowing of the trumpet in Zion is being heard.

Our Zion nation must and will lead, and this will be a difficult time. But the outcome will be glorious. It will be the full manifestation of the Kingdom of God on earth. So do not faint at the sound of the blowing trumpet in Zion. Rejoice for the Kingdom of God on earth is at hand.

Christianity is the companion of liberty in all its conflicts—the cradle of its infancy, and the divine source of its claims. —Alexis de Tocqueville)

The Ministry of Pain

“Look upon mine affliction and my pain . . .” (Psalm 25:18).

“Why should the believer suffer affliction, and be subject to pain?”

“Is physical pain the result of man’s wrong doing, or does it have a place in God’s plan for the development of character?”

These are questions which have been asked of me by some of the most faithful Christians I have ever known; it is difficult for the average believer to understand, and accept, the answer of the Holy Spirit as recorded in the scriptures. The universality of pain is thus described by the poet:

*“Nothing begins, and nothing ends,
That is not paid with moan;
For we are born in others’ pain,
And perish in our own.”*

That the Christian life is not one of pleasure and ease seems to be very definitely indicated in the Apostle Paul’s letter to Timothy as he said, “Persecutions, afflictions came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra, what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me, Yea, and All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

Paul spoke from observation and experience; as Saul of Tarsus he was the official witness of the unwarranted persecution and painful death of the young deacon Stephen, hearing his dying prayer, “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.”

Saul had caused much sorrow and pain to the followers of Christ, arresting, persecuting them, and putting them to death for no other reason than that they were followers of their Lord. After being stricken with blindness, Saul was blessed with such clearness of vision that he saw his Lord face to face, causing him to forsake the role of persecutor and join the hosts of persecuted. From an experience of many years of suffering, the great apostle brings to us lessons of great value as to the presence and purpose of pain in the experience of, “All who will live godly in Christ Jesus.”

Of his personal experiences Paul said: “Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep. In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren, in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Besides those things that are without,

that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is offended and I burn not?”

From these and many other references we know that Paul ran the entire gamut in the scale of mental and physical pain, and, if we will, we may learn much in the lesson of patient endurance.

Of his most serious disability we hear the apostle say, “Lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

It might be well to note here that Paul’s thorn was not the fruit of His own misdeeds. In this instance it was given him for the express purpose of keeping his feet upon the ground, to keep him human, “lest I be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations.”

Even a follower of Christ can suffer from a swelled head, from an exalted pride because of the honors God bestows upon him.

Whatever our personal opinion of pain and suffering may be, we need to realize that it is not always a punishment sent by the Lord upon His followers. There have ever been persons, like Job’s false comforters, who take a delight in saying to the sufferer, “Whoever perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off?”

They forget the death of the innocent Stephen, or the lifelong suffering of the greatest of the apostles, or the faithful Christians who were made to face the wild beasts, or whose living bodies were burned as torches to illumine the Roman feasts. These suffered untold agonies, but it was not as a penalty for their sins.

It might help us to a better understanding of the ministry of pain if we would reread the great old hymn, “The Son of God Goes Forth to War.” I will quote the last verse:

*“A noble army-men and boys, the matron and the maid,
Around the Saviour’s throne rejoice, in robes of light
arrayed:*

*They climbed the steep ascent of heaven through peril,
toil and pain;*

*O God, to us may grace be given to follow in their
train”*

The gifted author must have believed with the apostle, “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” “But why should the righteous suffer? If God be the Maker and Ruler of all, why should He permit the righteous to suffer?” Let us notice some of the many references from the Sacred Word concerning the purpose of pain and sorrow, in order that we may find the true answer to these vital questions.

Let us first note carefully the reason given for the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the Hebrew letter we read of Jesus: "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Here we learn that the purpose of Christ's suffering was to make him perfect, to transform Him from the human into the Divine that He might be the Saviour of all who would follow Him.

In the garden of Gethsemane, in that brief period when the human dominated the Divine in the character of Jesus, we hear the cry, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me." But it was not possible—the way of the cross must be traveled if the souls of men were to be saved.

Again, in the agony of humanity came the wail of despair, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" But God had not forsaken the humanity which Christ represented; this demonstration of human weakness must precede the divine transformation of the Son of man into, "The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." The pain of the cross was essential to the glory of the resurrection. In human weakness the Divine perfection was manifest; through the pain of the cross the mortal puts on immortality.

As it was with the son of man, so it must be with His followers: "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. "Without experiencing something of the pain and suffering of our Lord, we cannot hope to be like Him, and to reign with Him in His eternal kingdom. Here is the definite promise: "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him."

We can hope to reign with Him in the glory of His kingdom as we are changed, by suffering, into the image of His glory. And it is written that we shall be so changed: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall

appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

Our relationship to Christ is dependent upon our willingness to partake of His suffering. This is plainly indicated in Paul's letter to the Christians at Rome: "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be glorified together" (Romans. 8:17).

Shall we not willingly accept this ministry of pain when we realize that it is a means used of the Holy Spirit to lead us into an ever closer, more sacred relationship with our Saviour and King? Let us hear the kindly admonition of the Apostle Peter as he said concerning the painful experiences which come to every follower of Christ: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you. But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings: that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

The most precious metals used by men are subjected to great heat, tested, tried as by fire, that they may be cleansed of their dross, and purified for the use of their master.

In the time of our pain may we remember the experience of Paul, and pray, not for the removal of the pain, but for the giving of God's grace, that our strength may be made perfect in weakness.

Then shall we realize the meaning of the apostle's words and rejoice, even in the moment of our most agonizing pain, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

*"A finer peace shall be wrought out of pain
Than the stars in their courses know:
Ah, me, but my heart is in sorrow till then,
And the feet of the years move slow."*

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May 1997

The Judgment Seat of Christ

By C.O. Stadskev

"Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:9-11).

"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

How will Christians, who have taught the direct opposite of what Christ spoke concerning the Jewish religion, fare at the judgment seat of Christ? To be summoned before the judgment seat of Christ will be the most awesome experience that we as Christians will have, either in this life or in the life to come. Our appearance before the judgment seat of Christ will determine our position in the ages to come.

In Matthew 12:36 and 37 Christ said: "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Here again, we have the expression "in the day of judgment." "Every idle word" is defined as meaning barren and lifeless word.

Both the Old and the New Scriptures make it very clear that there is one particular thing that we as individual Christians will be judged on. We will be examined and judged on whether or not we have been faithful. We shall cite scriptures to establish this fact that our position, authority and reward will be determined by whether we have been faithful.

From Matthew 19:27 through 30 we already know that the twelve apostles "shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." But there will be millions of other positions and services to be rendered in the kingdom age.

In Matthew 24:45 through 47 Jesus said: "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. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods." Note he said, "Who is a faithful and wise servant." "Faithful" to whom or what? "Wise," wise in what? We will consider that later.

In Matthew 25:21 Jesus said: "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." Note the word "faithful" appears twice in this one verse. Luke also records this statement by the Christ.

In I Corinthians 4:1 and 2 Paul wrote: "Let a man so account of us y 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." Here again we find that it is required of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God that they be faithful.

Referring to his own calling and ministry, Paul wrote the following in I Timothy 1:12: "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."

Paul indicates the reason God called him and opened the Word of God to him was because God knew Paul would be faithful to the Word. Undoubtedly, the opposite is also true. Namely, that God does not open His Word to those who will not be faithful to the Word.

In II Timothy 2:1 through 3 Paul wrote the following: "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Therefore thou endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Here again the requirement is to faithful men.

In Hebrews 3:1 and 2 we read: "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house."

Moses was faithful and became the greatest lawgiver and the greatest civil administrator of all history. Christ was

faithful and provided personal salvation for whosoever will and the redemption and the restoration of the kingdom of God on earth. Christ and Moses were faithful to one thing, namely, the Word of God. The one and only way any Christian can be faithful is to be faithful to the truth and the light they have received from the Word of God.

It is just as important and necessary that the laity be wise and faithful in the giving of their tithes and offerings as it is for a preacher to be wise and faithful in his preaching and teaching. The laity becomes a partaker in the truth or error it supports. God who ordained preachers to preach also ordained that the laity should support the preaching of God's Word by their tithes and offerings.

In Luke 12:47 and 48 Christ made a very clear distinction between the servant that knew the Lord's will and the servant who knew not the Word of God on a particular teaching. The servant that knew and did not according to the Word of God, Christ said should be beaten with many stripes. The servant that knew not the Word of God and did not according to the Word of God, Christ said shall be beaten with few stripes for unto whomsoever much is given (truth and light from God's Word) of him shall be much required.

I suggest that every idle word does not refer to the word we speak in the various and many contacts, conversations and relationships we have with other people. The barren words that Christ referred to would seem to mean words that are barren of the Spirit of God and contrary to the Word of God. In other words, religious teachings that are not scriptural. And note in our text, Christ was dealing with servants. This understanding of every idle word also agrees with Christ's decree in Matthew 12:37.

There are few things that are more serious and destructive than unscriptural teachings promoted by Christian ministers and churches. It is one thing for poisonous plants to grow and flourish in a desolate place (the world); it becomes a very serious matter when poisonous plants from the wilderness are transplanted, watered and nourished in the Lord's vineyard (the church).

It is one thing for Christians who have been told and taught by preachers that these poisonous plants are choice vines, producing delicious and nourishing grapes, to water and nourish these poisonous plants with their tithes and offerings. As Jesus said, it becomes a more serious matter, bringing more stripes for Christians who know that these plants are poisonous and transplanted from and by the haters of the Lord.

In Matthew 24:14 the Christ said the preaching of this gospel of the kingdom for a witness unto all nations would bring to an end the present, evil and wicked age. The poisonous plants (teachings) have so poisoned and hardened the ground in the Laodicean church that it is very difficult for this gospel of the kingdom to even take root, much less grow and flourish. This gospel of the kingdom pertains to the kingdom of God and it was to be a witness to all nations,

not all individuals in all nations.

It is impossible for those who believe and teach that Edom is Israel, the church is the kingdom, and that God gives the kingdom and all the nations to an antichrist to even comprehend, much less preach and support this gospel of the kingdom.

How can anyone preach the gospel of the kingdom who does not know who the kingdom people are? And how can anyone preach and teach the good news of the kingdom who ignore and reject the glorious truth that the blood of Christ redeemed the kingdom, as well as providing personal salvation for whosoever will.

Satan hates and fears this gospel of the kingdom more than any other Bible doctrine. In his efforts to hinder the preaching of this gospel of the kingdom, seducing spirits have successfully suggested to Christian ministers and churches that this gospel of the kingdom is limited to the gospel of personal salvation. Consequently, Christian churches teach that all there is to preach is personal salvation for the individual. If such is the truth, the end of this age should have come in the time of the apostles for all the world heard the witness of personal salvation in the days of the apostles.

The following scriptures will establish the fact that representatives and individuals from all nations heard about the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ in the time of the apostles. See Romans 1:8, Romans 10:18, Acts 2:5, Acts 13:47, Acts 18:6, Acts 19:10 and Acts 22:21 (tribes). Satan can read and undoubtedly he is so desperate in his determination to hinder, discredit and cancel out this gospel of the kingdom because he realizes that this gospel of the kingdom, when preached, will be the end for him. "The devils also believe, and tremble." (James 2:19)

Both sacred and secular history clearly show that unscriptural religions and unscriptural doctrines within the Christian church have always been one of the greatest hindrances to timely truth from the Scriptures. As Christians, our first and highest priority should now be to prepare to appear before the judgment seat of Christ. We can do nothing about the past, and the only thing we can do about the present is to preach and teach the whole counsel of God. See Acts 20:20. The Almighty is now beginning to take over in the affairs of all men and nations. See Psalm 110:1.

We have all sinned. Romans 3:23 and Ecclesiastes 7:20. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Is the opposite also true? What happens if we as Christians do not walk in the light that God has given us through his Word? To walk requires decision, action and effort in regard to the light the Holy Spirit has given us from God's Word.

What are the consequences if we as individuals, kingdom and Israel believers sit on the light which in the providence and purpose of God we have received? Will we

be held responsible for sitting on light and thus withholding it from others? In Matthew 5:14 and 15 Jesus said: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house." Light from and on God's Word was not given to be put under a bushel, but to give "light unto all that are in the house."

Luke in chapter 11:33 through 35 relates the Word of Christ as follows: "No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness."

Note Christ said that no man puts a candle in a secret place or under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. (Christ also said that if a Christian's eye (purpose) be single, the whole body is full of light. But if a Christian has a selfish purpose, the body becomes full of darkness. Therefore Christ said, "Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness."

The Christ went into great detail using various illustrations commanding and warning Christians not to put light and truth from the Word of God in a secret place, neither under a bushel. A candle would be smothered under a bushel. And a candle put in a secret place (hidden and neglected) either would go out or cause great loss and destruction. When this gospel of the kingdom, and the Israel truth is put in a secret place or under a bushel, it ceases to be the glorious truth and light to those who do so. And as they continue to do this, truth and light becomes dimmer and dimmer and finally it becomes darkness and a nuisance.

In I Corinthians 3:10-15 the apostle Paul was inspired to warn and instruct Christians on the importance of how and with what material they use in building upon the foundation, which is Jesus Christ.

"Let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon." In verse 12 Paul lists six things that Christians can choose and use in their Christian life and service. They are "gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble." Wood, hay and stubble represent the Christian's life, decisions and activities determined by human and natural desires. Gold and silver and precious stones represent the Christian who denies self and faithfully seeks to walk in the light of God's Word and gives witness to that light and truth.

In verses 13 through 15 the apostle was inspired to write: "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." These are very serious and frightening words.

Verse 15 indicates that a Christian who has followed the way of least resistance and a course which has gratified the social desires and avoided rejection by other Christians will have his works burned, and he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire. In view of the above scriptures, and there are many others like them, are those Christians, who in the purpose of God have been given light on this gospel of the kingdom and its blood atonement, wise and faithful stewards when they give their tithes and offerings to ministries that consider this gospel of the kingdom and its blood atonement to be heresy?

Another question, are those who know that the Anglo-Saxons are Israel wise and faithful stewards when they give their tithes and offerings to ministries that teach that the synagogue of Satan is Israel, and insist that the antichrists are God's special, chosen people? Friend, it is far better to consider these questions here and now than when summoned to appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

As born-again believers, we all rejoice and thank God that personal salvation and the milk of the Word is being preached. But the one and only hope for the nations of Christendom today is this gospel of the kingdom and its blood atonement. One of the most harmful and destructive teachings in Christendom today is the teaching that the cruel and treacherous, and violent Edomites, who have established themselves in the Middle East, are the regathering of Israel.

This deception is being propagated by every popular milk of the Word preacher today. It is also accepted as being the gospel truth in practically every Christian church in the nation.

Our nation and all nations are in terrible economic distress because of the satanic money system that wicked and evil men have placed upon all nations. This gospel of the kingdom and the national message of the Bible set forth in both statutes and examples a just and adequate medium of exchange that would, and eventually will, remove every trace of economic distress from all nations. But every popular milk of the Word preacher and milk of the Word church are adamantly opposed to any preaching or teaching of God's economic statutes set forth and exemplified throughout God's Word. These Judaized Christians not only preach against God's economic statutes set forth in the gospel of the kingdom and the national message of the Scriptures, they constantly come to the defense and support of Satan's Babylonian debt money system. And they hold those who manipulate this cursed economic system in high esteem. See Luke 16:14 and 15.

"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Revelation 3:11).

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

Faithful to what? Faithful to the Word made flesh and dwelt among us. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

OBEDIENCE: ITS PLACE IN HOLY SCRIPTURE

In undertaking the study of a Bible word, or of a truth of the Christian life, it is a great help to take a survey of the place it takes in Scripture. As we see where, and how often, and in what connections it is found, its relative importance may be apprehended as well as its bearing on the whole of revelation. Let me try . . . to prepare the way for the study of what obedience is, by showing you where to go in God's Word to find the mind of God concerning it.

TAKE SCRIPTURE AS A WHOLE

We begin with Paradise. In Genesis 2:16, we read: "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying." And later in Genesis 3:11, "Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?"

Note how obedience to the command is the one virtue of Paradise, the one condition of man's abiding there, the one thing his Creator asks of him. Nothing is said of faith, or humility, or love: obedience includes all. As supreme as is the claim and authority of God is the demand for obedience as the one thing that is to

DECIDE HIS DESTINY.

In the life of man, to obey is the one thing needful. Turn now from the beginning to the close of the Bible. In its last chapter you read (Revelation 22:14), "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life." Or, if we accept the Revised Version, which gives another reading, we have the same thought in chapters 12 and 14, where we read of the seed of the woman (12:17), "which keep the commandments of God, and hold the testimony of Jesus"; and of the patience of the saints (14:12), "Here are they that keep the commandments of

God, and the faith of Jesus."

From beginning to end, from Paradise lost to Paradise regained, the law is unchangeable—it is only obedience that gives access to the tree of life and the favor of God.

And if you ask how the change was effected out of the disobedience at the beginning that closed the way to the tree of life, to the obedience at the end that again gained entrance to it, turn to

THAT WHICH STANDS MIDWAY

Between the beginning and the end—The cross of Christ. Read a passage like Romans 5:19, "Through the Obedience of the One shall the many be made righteous"; or Philippians 2:8, "He became obedient unto death, therefore God hath highly exalted Him"; or Hebrews 5:8-9 "He learned obedience and became the Author of salvation to them that obey Him," and you see how the whole redemption of Christ consists in restoring obedience to its place. The beauty of His salvation consists in this, that He brings us back to the life of obedience, through which alone the creature can give the Creator the glory due to Him, or receive the glory of which his Creator desires to make him partaker.

Paradise, Calvary, Heaven, all proclaim with one voice: 'Child of God! the first and the last thing thy God asks of thee is simple, universal, unchanging obedience.'

—Selected

*A thousand blessings, Lord to us
Thou dost impart,
We ask one blessing more, O Lord
A thankful heart!*

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Prepare to Meet Thy God, O Israel

By C.O. Stadsklev

The prophet Amos foresaw our day and was inspired to write, "Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." Two times in this verse we find the expression "O Israel." Who is Israel? There are those who say it makes no difference who Israel is; yet these same people will admit that the Holy Scriptures were written primarily to the Israel people, concerning the Israel people, and exclusively by the Israel people.

The following is a quotation from the Jewish Encyclopedia, volume 12, page 249. "If the Ten Tribes have disappeared, the literal fulfillment of the prophecies would be impossible; if they have not disappeared, obviously they must exist under a different name." This statement relative to Ten-tribed Israel is true. And since it is, the finding of Ten-tribed Israel becomes a most important problem confronting the modern Christian Church.

There are many who believe the Jews are all of Israel. This is not to be wondered at for Ten-tribed Israel according to the prophets were to lose their identity and be called by another name.

Isaiah 65:15 reads, "And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord God shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name." And in Isaiah chapter 44 and verse 21 God inspired the same prophet to write, ". . . Israel . . . thou art my servant." Therefore it is scriptural to teach Israel was to be called by another name, and that name according to Genesis 21:12 was to be Isaac or Isaac-sons—which we today pronounce Saxon.

Thus we find that there was a time in which had everyone known what people constituted Ten-tribed Israel, prophecy would not have been fulfilled, for as we read in Psalm 83:3 Israel was to be hidden. We have now come to the time when Israel must be found if we are to recognize the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

The Israel people were to be hidden and unknown even to themselves and is emphatically stated by the Lord in Matthew 13:44.

This parable reads, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field."

This is a kingdom and not a church parable. The treasure in the parable according to Exodus 19:5 is the Israel people. There God inspired Moses to write that Israel "shall be a peculiar (special) treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine." The first thing, and about the only thing we are told about this treasure in this parable is that it was hid in a field. In this same 13th chapter of Matthew Jesus said, "The field is the world."

In other words Jesus said Israel was hid in the world. The man who bought the field after he found the hidden treasure and hid it again "and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath and buyeth that field" was none other than the Lord Jesus Christ who purchased personal salvation for "whosoever will" in the field, or world, and national restoration for Israel, the Anglo-Saxons. Twice in this parable of one verse we are told that the treasure which the Scriptures state is Israel was hid in the world.

Occasionally someone asks if the Anglo-Saxons are Israel, then why did not more of the spiritual men teach that the Anglo-Saxons are Israel. In the first place, many of them have but God has set times for bringing special revelations to His people as a whole. On the other hand, how could people know that the Anglo-Saxons were Israel until the Anglo-Saxons had fulfilled a sufficient number of the prophecies pronounced upon Israel to prove they were Israel; and we might add that the principle reason many people including Christians do not recognize the Anglo-Saxons are the descendants of Ten-tribed Israel is because they know little or nothing about the history of these people, and many who know Anglo-Saxon history know little or nothing about the Bible prophecies concerning Ten-tribed Israel.

There is another interesting expression in our text—"thy God." In other words, the Anglo-Saxon people have a God.

Is not God the God of all peoples? Yes, but He is in a special way the God of the Anglo-Israel people as they are a special people unto God.

In Genesis 17:7-8 we read, "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee and to thy seed after thee the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

The fact that the Anglo-Israel people were to be a special people unto God and that God was in a special way to be their God is known as the "Everlasting Covenant." Abraham took this covenant at its face value and expected God to make the descendants of his son Ishmael this special chosen people. God made this covenant with Abraham before Isaac was born, hence Abraham's prayer that Ishmael might inherit this covenant.

Here in Genesis 17:20-21 God spoke to Abraham and said, "And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee . . . and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time next year." This, of course, does not refer to personal salvation but rather to national election, for Arabs may be born-again as well as Anglo-Saxons.

When Isaac later became the father of Esau and Jacob, God again had to choose between these two and their descendants as to whom was to become this chosen servant people and receive the blessings of Abraham and Isaac. Jacob was chosen and was renamed Israel. This was the beginning of the Israel people.

First it consisted of Jacob and his twelve boys. Later Jacob (Genesis 48) adopted the two sons of Joseph causing two tribes to come from Joseph thus making thirteen tribes in Israel. After the death of King Solomon, the Israel people became two separate kingdoms. The Ten Tribes who lived in the North of Palestine and had Samaria as their capitol were called Israel. The three other tribes who lived in the South and had Jerusalem as their capitol were called the Kingdom of Judah. The Anglo-Saxons of today are the descendants of the Ten-Tribes who were taken captive to Assyria 700 years before Christ. See II Kings 17:6. These, together with Judah, are the people whom the prophet Amos calls upon to prepare to meet their God. For an answer to this question we must search the Scriptures.

In I Samuel 7:3-4 we find, "And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth and served the Lord only."

Here we learn that our forefathers in the days of Samuel prepared themselves unto the Lord by putting away strange gods which, briefly stated, means they put God first

throughout the nation. They also began to serve the Lord God, that is, they made God's national laws, statutes, judgments, and commandments the law of the land. We also find our forefathers had to prepare themselves unto God before Joshua could lead them out of the Wilderness into the Promised Land. Joshua 3:5 states, "And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."

The question arises, How can a nation or race of people sanctify themselves? We have heard about the sanctification of individual Christians but not much about the sanctification of the Anglo-Israel people of today, which must take place before they can enter their promised land, namely, the Millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Twice in Isaiah 11:24-27 we are told that the deliverance of the Anglo-Saxons at the end of this age "will be after the manner of Egypt." That is, our deliverance will be much like the Exodus from Egypt and the entrance into Canaan by our ancient forefathers. For this reason we believe the Anglo-Israel people of today must sanctify themselves as a whole before Jesus, our Joshua, will or can bring us into God's Kingdom Age.

In Leviticus 20:7-8 Moses states how the Israel people can sanctify themselves. "Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God. And ye shall keep my statutes. The Anglo-Saxon people can and must sanctify themselves by observing God's national laws and statutes.

The fact there is a sanctification of the Anglo-Saxon people as a whole is also clearly revealed in Joshua 7:13. There God spoke to Joshua, "Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow: for thus saith the Lord God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies until ye take away the accursed thing from among you." The accursed thing in Israel at that time as the context shows was a "goodly Babylonish garment and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight" which Achan had hid in the earth. These items which in a most striking manner represent the Babylonian metallic standard of today, as well as Achan and his helpers, had to be destroyed before our forefathers could gain the victory over their enemies and enter the land of plenty. Circumstances will again force the Anglo-Saxon people to sanctify themselves. We, like they in the days of Joshua, will most likely wait until we are faced with annihilation. Read the 7th verse of Joshua chapter 7.

Let me urge each one of you as individuals to prepare to meet your God. To do this you must be born-again. Scripture states "that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." If you as an individual are to inherit a place of rulership in the coming Kingdom Age, you must have more than blood life or human life, you must have eternal life or as I Corinthians 15 states, "you must possess incorruptible life," and life which is not subject to sin, death,

sickness or disease.

The only one in human form who ever manifested such incorruptible life was the Lord Jesus Christ in His life and resurrection. This life or spirit He now offers to each and every individual who will present and commit himself to Him. The reality of this, the glorious Gospel of Personal Salvation through Divine regeneration has been demonstrated and proven by millions of people. It is God's most glorious, precious and important provision for His creation man. A good verse to use as a basis for your personal salvation is Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Tell the world there is a Saviour
Who fulfills His ev'ry claim;
He is able to deliver
All who call upon His name.

Tell the souls weighed down with sorrow,
Tried and tempted, lone and weak,
They can know His full salvation,
Find in Him the help they seek.

Tell the nations in subjection,
There is hope in Christ the Lord;
He will liberate from bondage
All who heed His blessed Word.

Tell the world, Tell the world,
Tell the world, that Jesus saves.

That Spirit of Antichrist

At no time since the founding of this nation have Christian people been confronted with such clever and subtle propaganda to abandon the Christian faith as we are today.

The first sign and warning the Lord gave the disciples when they, as recorded in Mark 13:4-8, said, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled? And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows."

We hear much about wars and rumours of wars. And

many sermons are being preached on how the whole world is being divided into "kingdom against kingdom," with "nation . . . against nation."

We hear of strange and unusual weather with its earthquakes, famines and trouble. But little is said about the one thing we were to beware of lest we be deceived—the one thing we can do something about; namely, the deception of false Christs, antichrists, or those who ignore Christ.

The Apostle John in First John 2:18,22-24 wrote: "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time . . . Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ: He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father."

While Christian people have speculated and argued about who the antichrist is, the many antichrists who were active even in John's time have been allowed to do their destructive work. John very clearly states, "He that denieth that Jesus is the Christ, he is antichrist" or the false and counterfeit Christ.

From what Jesus said about false Christs and from what we read in First John, it is apparent that it is religious doctrines or teachings denying the Deity of Jesus Christ that Christians were to beware of rather than some individual antichrist

The expression "the antichrist" is not found in the Scriptures. This fact is further established by reading First John 4:1-3: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of anti-christ, whereof we have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

A false prophet is a religious teacher who does not teach the Deity and the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ. John also states there is a spirit of antichrist. As there is the Spirit of Christ in and among born again believers so there is the spirit of antichrist in and among those whose religion denies the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ, and that spirit is a lying and deceiving spirit.

It is this antichrist spirit and antichrist doctrine that Christians must expose, and that Christians must beware of, and not so much some future individual antichrist. The fact that Christians have accused one another of being false prophets because they did not see eye to eye on prophecy and minor church doctrines has served the purpose of the many antichrists very well. As Christians we never have and never will be in perfect agreement on the interpretation of

must, if we are to be Christian, believe in what John in Second John calls "the doctrine of Christ."

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (Second John verses 7-11).

The unprecedented emphasis on brotherhood and tolerance can be very effective in causing Christians to repudiate the doctrine of Christ, and as Jesus and John warned, be used as an entering wedge for both the doctrine and the spirit of antichrist. While the foundation of God standeth sure, and the Christian faith never can be destroyed, people can be deceived and confused as to what constitutes the Christian faith; and while the foundation standeth sure, it is possible that well-meaning people may be persuaded to abandon the Rock of Ages and venture out into the quicksand of pagan and antichrist theories and philosophies.

No man in the history of the Christian faith was more intolerant and discriminating than the Apostle Paul when it came to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. In I Corinthians 16:22 Paul wrote, "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema (accursed) Maranatha."

In Galatians 1:6-10 Paul wrote, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I

now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of CHRIST."

Note Paul's emphasis on Christ. Christ, His virgin birth, His blood atonement, and His literal and bodily resurrection is the heart of the Christian faith. No compromise can ever be made on these basic doctrines.

WANTS

On a tradesman's table I noticed a book; labeled A WANT BOOK. What a practical suggestion for a man of prayer! He should put down all his needs on the tablets of his heart, and then present his want book to his God. If we knew all our need, what a large want book we should require! How comforting to know that Jesus has a supply book, which exactly meets our want book! Promises, providences, and divine visitations, combine to meet the necessities of all the faithful.

Three Whats

Never forget the three Whats. First, What from? Secondly, What by? And, thirdly, What to?

What from? Believers are redeemed from hell and destruction.

What by? By the precious blood of Christ.

What to? To an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

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Babylon the Great is Falling

By C.O. Stadslev

The scriptures clearly teach that the fall of religious and financial Babylon precedes, and is a sign of the full manifestation of the Kingdom of God on earth. Not knowing what constitutes the Kingdom of God, nor what is meant by the fall of Babylon foretold in chapters 17 and 18 of Revelation, many Christians are actually fighting and resisting the Kingdom of God and defending and seeking to uphold Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth.

Every great threatening evil of our time, such as communism, socialism, forced integration, the dilemma of inflation and deflation, are all judgments and punishments from God because we as a generation have rejected the truth of God concerning the Kingdom of God on earth. If this is true, and it is, we must do more than fight communism, socialism, forced integration, and confiscatory taxation. We must preach and teach and practice the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Jeremiah 37:6-10 states: "Then came the word of the Lord unto the prophet Jeremiah saying, Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say to the king of Judah, that sent you unto me to enquire of me; Behold, Pharaoh's army, which is come forth to help you, shall return to Egypt into their own land (The king of Judah was trusting in the army of Egypt to deliver him from the Babylonians.)

"And the Chaldeans shall come again, and fight against this city, and take it, and burn it with fire. Thus saith the Lord; Deceive not yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans shall surely depart from us: for they shall not depart. For though ye had smitten the whole army of the Chaldeans that fight against you, and there remained but wounded men among them, yet should they rise up every man in his tent, and burn this city with fire." This shows how determined God was to use the wicked Babylonians to punish Judah.

Jeremiah's generation refused to hear the word of the Lord, much less obey it. They were merely willing to fight the Babylonians. So it is today.

Some who are most fearful of communism and socialism, wanting to fight it, are even more opposed to the

Kingdom of God as taught in the Bible. It is more lucrative to appeal to people's fears and hatreds and their love for their own traditions rather than to their love of the truth — especially the truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom. As the Babylonians of old had a job to do on the Judah kingdom, so the communists, the socialists, the integrationists and the money manipulators have a job to do for God on the nations of Christendom.

Christians who have light on the Gospel of the Kingdom and do nothing about it, either personally or with your tithes and offerings, are like King Zedekiah of Jeremiah's time.

Jeremiah had plead with the nation of Judah and King Zedekiah to obey and honor the word of God, telling them the Babylonians were a judgment from God because Judah had departed from, and even refused to hear the national message of the Bible. Finally Jeremiah was given an interview with King Zedekiah and he plead with the king to take positive action relative to the word of God concerning the nations.

In Jeremiah 38:19 to 21 we read, "And Zedekiah the king said unto Jeremiah, I am afraid of the Jews that are fallen to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me into their hand and mock me. But Jeremiah said, They shall not deliver thee. Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the Lord, which I speak unto thee. so it shall be well unto thee, and thy soul shall live. But if thou refuse to go forth, this is the word that the Lord hath shewed me."

". . . Thou shalt cause this city to be burned with fire" (verse 23).

Imagine Jeremiah telling Zedekiah "thou shalt cause this city to be burned with fire" when Zedekiah was doing everything in his power to keep the Babylonians from capturing Jerusalem and burning it with fire!

God Almighty had given King Zedekiah and the Judah nation one of two alternatives — either to come back to the word of God and honor God's word for the nation or go into the Babylonian captivity. The Judah nation decided — as most well-meaning people in Christendom do today — that they would do neither. Christendom will not even listen to

the Gospel of the Kingdom. As for communism and socialism they say, We will fight it and expose it and thereby deliver ourselves from its satanic oppression.

God's command to the nations of Christendom today is found in Revelation 18:4 where we read "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Since we are refusing to abandon our Babylonian ways in government, religion, education and recreation, God has raised up socialism and world communism to be used by Him as a scourge and a whip to force us to abandon our Babylonian ways and to honor the laws, statutes, judgments and commandments of the Kingdom of God.

Why? Because the time for the implementation of the Kingdom of God on earth has come.

If the history of the Isaac-sons as recorded in the historical books of the Bible teach anything by the way of example and illustration, they teach that world communism is a judgment from God upon Christendom for its failure and persistent refusal to heed the national message of the Bible.

There are two different attitudes and positions among Christian people relative to communism. Both groups take the position that communism is a satanic and destructive force. One group teaches that Christians must fight and expose communism; the other group takes the position that communism is a judgment from God upon Christendom for its refusal to hear and honor the National Message of the Bible.

We teach we must do more than fight communism; we must preach and teach the Gospel of the Kingdom and honor the national message of the Bible. Until we do, God will use communism and socialism as a scourge upon us. Our position is based on the examples found in the Old Scripture of which Paul said "were written for our learning," and also on the direct teaching of the Word of God.

The following is found in the Book of Judges, chapter 2:11-15, and needs no comment:

"And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord (they ignored the national message of the Bible as we are doing), and served Baalim: And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the goes of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger. And they forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

"And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord had said, and as the Lord had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed."

In Judges 6 we read, "And the children of Israel did evil

in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds" (verses 1 and 2).

"And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord because of the Midianites, That the Lord sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage:

"And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land; And I said unto you, I am the Lord your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice" (verses 7-10).

It was not until our forefathers listened to the Word of God relative to civil and national affairs that God granted them deliverance from the Midianites.

Chapter 10:6-9 relates the following for our learning: "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moeb, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the Lord, and served not him.

"And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon. And that year they vexed and oppressed the children of Israel: eighteen years, all the children of Israel that were on the other side Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead. Moreover the children of Ammon passed over Jordan to fight also against Judah, and against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim; so that Israel was sore distressed."

In Judges 13:1 we read that "the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines forty years."

We could continue to give many examples found throughout both sacred and secular history, showing that without fail whenever and wherever the Isaac-sons departed from God's national laws and refused to hear and heed the national message of the Bible, God raised up some enemy to afflict and punish His servant race.

I Kings, chapter 11 beginning at verse 9, relates the following concerning Solomon and his administration:

"And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the Lord commanded.

"Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant . . .

"And the Lord stirred up an adversary unto Solomon,

Hadad the Edomite; he was the king's seed in Edom . . . And the Lord stirred him up another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliadah . . ." (Verse 23).

Are we going to learn from these examples written for our learning, or are we to continue to try to take the whip out of God's hand?

Turning from the examples found in Bible history, we shall note the God-inspired statement found in Isaiah 42:23-25 to show that we must do more than fight communism if we are to please and pacify God. We must honor the national message of the Bible.

Isaiah asks, "Who among you will give ear to this? who will hearken and hear for the time to come? 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."

Psalm 81:13-15 states: "Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways! 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 view of the teaching of God's Word, should we as Kingdom people specialize in fighting communism and socialism or should we specialize in preaching and teaching the Gospel and the national message of the Bible? True, it is more exciting and sensational to arouse people to fight and fear than it is to teach the good people of our nation that they must repent and turn away from their unscriptural traditions and turn to the teaching of the Word of God. But it is also possible if we become too desperate in our effort to take the rod of world communism out of God's hand that we may feel the rod ourselves.

Psalm 96

We find much light and comfort in Psalm 96. Let us read this brief Psalm which gives us an insight into world conditions after the present crisis is over:

"O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD (the Lord Jesus Christ), all the earth. Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.

"For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens. Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the

people, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth. Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.

"Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth."

Another timely, revealing and comforting Psalm for our time is Psalm 98. Let us read this Psalm also, which needs little or no comment as we view world conditions today in the light of Bible prophecy.

Psalm 98 like Psalm 96 takes us into the time when the New Order of Ages blossoms forth in all the earth. And like Psalm 96, it speaks of God's intervention in the behalf of Christendom and His final and dreadful judgment upon all Christ-hating heathen.

This beautiful Psalm reads as follows:

"O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

"He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and sing praise.

"Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King. Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity."

We shall consider one more passage from the Psalms where we find Zion and the heathen in opposite "corners." And as we read this scripture note that it will be God's blessing, favor, and intervention in the behalf of Zion that will finally cause the heathen to fear and honor the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Psalm 102 and verses 13-16 we read: "Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones (foundations) and favour the dust thereof (restoration). So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of earth thy glory. When the LORD shall build up Zion (United States), he shall appear in his glory."

Give thanks unto the Lord. His mercy endureth for ever.

Does God set Dates?

Some people seem to be of the opinion that God has never set dates when certain things would happen, but that is not the truth. God spoke to Abram in Genesis 15:13-14. And 400 years after this promise was given to Abram, even though he was dead, God raised up Moses who brought Israel out of Egypt with great substance on the exact time God had promised. In Numbers 14:31-34 God spoke to Israel through Moses. In Deuteronomy chapters 1, 2, and 3 Moses relates what befell the Israel people on their journey to Canaan land. Note Deuteronomy 2:14. Two years later Israel was in Canaan land.

Read Jeremiah 25:9-II. This seventy-year period began in 606 B. C. Seventy years later brings us to 536 B.C. and at that exact time Ezra and Nehemiah brought back the captivity of Judah from Babylon as Jeremiah had prophesied in chapter 29 and verse 10 (meaning Palestine).

We shall now consider one of the longest times of punishment God pronounced upon His earthly kingdom people. It was given at the time of Moses and recorded in Leviticus 26:18-28. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he wrote that if Israel refused to observe and honor God's national laws, statutes, and commandments and persisted in rebellion, they would be punished for seven times. This is a period of 2520 years. One time equals 360, and 7 times 360 equals 2520.

After the death of King Solomon, the Israel people became two separate kingdoms known as Israel and Judah, as recorded in I Kings 11 and 12. Read II Kings 17:6. This took place in 721 B.C. and was the beginning of ten-tribed Israel's seven times of punishment, and came to an end about 1800. Read II Kings 25:1-7. This took place 585 B.C. and was the beginning of 2520 years of punishment for Judah and came to an end in 1936. Israel's captivity began 133 years before Judah's therefore began to run out that much sooner.

Since 1800 the United States has come forth to be the great nation prophesied to come from Manasseh, Joseph's first-born, and Great Britain has come forth to be the commonwealth of nations prophesied to come from Ephraim, Joseph's second-born in the last days.

Genesis 49:1, the last days according to Hebrews 1:2 and I Peter 1:20 refers to the time between the first and second coming of the Christ. The ending of these seven times of punishments upon the Anglo-Saxons and Judah does not mean there was to be no more punishment for these people. It simply means they have served out that particular sentence. 1914 was the beginning of sorrows leading up to the final judgment of all nations which we are now in, a time when God will purge out from among the Anglo-Saxons and Judah all the rebels as stated in Ezekiel 20:18, and as the Apostle Peter wrote in Acts 3:23. The word "destroyed" is rendered "extirpated" and means to pluck out by the roots.

This will have just as literal a fulfillment as the death and resurrection of Christ did, and it is in harmony with what Christ said in Matthew 13:30. In verse 39 "the end of the world (or the end of the age)."

The church is not the kingdom of God. The church or born-again ones will be the rulers with Christ over the purged kingdom people which have always been Israel, now known as Anglo-Saxons and Judah.

Speaking to those who are unable to see the fulfillment of prophecy and discern the signs of the times, Jesus said, Matthew 16:1-3. Writing concerning the end of this age and the coming of the Christ, Paul wrote, I Thess. 5:1, 2, 4, 11.

Luke 21:28, "These things" (the things we are now witnessing). Redemption does not refer to personal salvation in this case, nor does it mean the individual will have an opportunity to be destroyed by some anti-Christ. It means what it says. The purging, the cleansing, the restoration of the Israel people for the greatest physical deliverance in all history is at hand.

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What is the Gospel?

By C.O. Stadsklev

In 1st Corinthians, chapter 15, the Apostle Paul wrote the following: "Moreover Brethren, I declare unto you the gospel . . . that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. And that he was buried, and that he arose again the third day according to the scriptures." This is the gospel of salvation.

The Gospel of the Kingdom is not the same as the gospel of individual salvation. The Gospel of the Kingdom is primarily for the Anglo-Saxons, who are Israel, while the gospel of salvation, through the shed blood of Christ, is for "whosoever will", regardless of race.

Scripture declares that Christ came to redeem them that were under the law. "To redeem" means to buy back, or ransom. The Anglo-Saxons, formerly known as Israel, together with Judah, were the people who received the law and who were under the law.

Before the day of Pentecost, which opened the Church Age, Christ and His disciples preached the Gospel of the Kingdom. Even the twelve disciples who had daily heard the teaching of Jesus did not know that there was to be a gospel of personal salvation for 'whosoever will' until after Pentecost.

After Peter had preached his first message on the gospel of salvation in the house of Cornelius, the brethren in Judea contended with him. In verses 4 and 18 of Acts, chapter 11, Peter makes his defence and relates how God had unmistakably called him to preach in Cornelius' house. Verse 18 reads as follows: "When they heard these things they held their peace, and glorified God, saying; Then hath God also to Gentiles granted repentance unto life."

All Christians are now agreed that we have come to the closing days of the Church Age, and that the Kingdom Age will soon be ushered in. Therefore, why should some think it so strange that God is commissioning some of us to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom?

In order to understand the Gospel (or the good news) of the Kingdom, which we must if we are to have the light and the courage God intended for these trying days, we must know who the Kingdom people are. The church is not the

Kingdom, neither are the Jews God's Kingdom people. God's Kingdom people were in existence 1500 years before the Church was born, and about 900 years before there was a Jewish people. The Church will be the rulers with Christ in the coming Kingdom Age.

The Jews at one time had the Kingdom, but not now. In Matthew 21:43-45, Jesus said: "Therefore (that is because they rejected Him) say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them."

Did Jesus mean that the Jews could not become Christians and members of the body of Christ (that is, the Church)? Of course not! A large number of them have throughout the church Age experienced regeneration. Jesus meant just what He said, namely this: that the Jews, who were less than one-tenth of Israel, would have the Kingdom of God taken from them and given, not to the Church, but to a nation — mark you — to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. There is only one people from that day to this who have in any measure brought forth the fruits of the Kingdom of God — that is, preached the Gospel and honored the Kingdom laws as recorded in the Bible — and these are the Anglo-Saxons.

The Gospel (or the good news) of the Kingdom is this, that these chosen servant people, who have so miserably failed in doing the will of God, will, through the Redemption provided at Calvary, be fully restored and made to walk in all the judgments and observe all the statutes of God. "The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this."

It is well to learn all we can in regards to what the various nations and dictators of the world propose to do, but it is a thousand times more important for us to know what Almighty God has covenanted to do at the end of this age, the period in which we are now living.

In verses 47 to 50 of Matthew, chapter 13, the Kingdom of Heaven is likened unto a net. Into this net — that is, into the midst of the Anglo-Saxons (God's earthly kingdom

people) — were gathered of every sort. In other words, many diabolical systems and vicious people are in this net. Now listen to verses 49 and 50: “So shall it be at the end of the world (that is, at the end of this age) the angels (thank God for the angels!) shall come forth and sever the wicked from among the just, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire, there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

The next verse, namely 51, gives clear evidence that the parable of the net is not a church parable. It does not deal with personal salvation. “For Jesus said unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea Lord”. But the disciples did not understand the mystery of the church until after the death and resurrection of the Christ, for in Mark 9:32 we read: “But they (disciples) understood not that saying (that is, the saying concerning why He must die) and were afraid to ask him.”

The disciples had no difficulty in believing the Gospel of the Kingdom, for it is clearly taught in the Old Testament. The gospel of personal salvation, as the Apostle Paul wrote in 60 A.D., was a “mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints.” The Apostle Paul was the first man to whom God gave a clear revelation of the gospel of salvation for “whosoever will”. See Ephesians, chapter 3.

The Gospel of the Kingdom presents Christ as King of Israel (the present day Anglo-Saxons).

The gospel of salvation presents Christ as Saviour for “whosoever will”.

The Apostle Paul says, “I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid . . . God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.” In verses 25 to 27 of this same chapter, namely Romans 11, we read the following: “For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery (or secret) 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. 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; for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins”.

Israel, or the Anglo-Saxons, were to be blinded, in part, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in — and so they have, for they have been blinded to the fact that they are God’s Kingdom people, the inheritors to the glorious covenants God made with ancient Israel. According to Luke 21:24, the time of the Gentiles began to end in 1917, when Jerusalem was taken from the Turks. For there we read: “And Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” In Psalm 102, verses 16 and 18, we read: “When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. This shall be written for the generation to come, and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord.” In Isaiah 42:3,4 we read: “He (Christ) shall bring forth judgment unto truth (or victory). He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the

earth and the isles shall wait for his law.”

As for the gospel of personal salvation, you have heard that again and again. You need, however, be reminded of Revelation 20:5, 6: “But the rest of the dead liveth not again until the thousand years were finished . . . Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

These verses, with other Scriptures, make it clear that those who die without being born again will not see, much less share, in the glorious reign of Christ here on earth. All who died as Christians will be resurrected to occupy various positions in the coming Kingdom Age.

In the last chapter of the Bible we have the final invitation to “whosoever will”. “And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say Come, and let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

The Parables of The Fig Tree & The Two Sons

By C. O. Stadskev

Matthew 24:32, 33 finds Jesus making the following statement: “Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.” Here we learn that there is an end time prophecy in the Parable of the Fig Tree.

Turning to Matthew 21:19,20 we find another statement by Jesus concerning a fig tree: “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 henceforth for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!”

Note carefully that in both of these passages the fig tree had only leaves. It had leaves only when Christ was on earth; it would have only leaves at the end of the age.

Tremendous and dreadful significance is found in the words of Jesus when He said to the fig tree, “Let no fruit grow on thee henceforth for ever.” Small wonder that we read, “And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!” Jesus remarked to them, “Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith (and they had faith), and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.”

The disciples, by their faith in Christ and by preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus were instrumental in

making the "fig tree" wither and "this mountain" to be cast into the sea (or to be scattered). The "sea" in symbolic language means as we read in Revelation 17:15 that "the waters are peoples, and multitudes, and tongues." In other words, "this mountain" was to be scattered among nations and people.

In the end time the fig tree nation was to put forth leaves again, but only leaves; that is, it would have power and influence similar to that which it had in Christ's time for Jesus said, "Let no fruit grow on thee henceforth for ever." The aspiration of the fig tree to bring forth fruit unto the Kingdom of God on earth will never be realized for in this same 21st chapter of Matthew, verse 43, Jesus said, "Therefore say I unto you, the kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

Mark's narrative relative to the fig tree is found in chapter 11. Verses 20 through 22 state: "And in the morning, as they (Jesus and His disciples) passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots, And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God." Any attempt to establish an anti-Christ world rule is under the curse of God and can never be fully realized. The "fig tree" may, and apparently will again develop to the state of leaves but it will never bring forth fruit and it will never become the Kingdom of God on earth.

Those who would spiritualize the Lord's parables, making them Church parables and teaching that the Church is the Kingdom, must teach — if they desire to be consistent — that personal salvation was forever taken away from certain people and that no matter what they did these people could never be saved. Such, of course, is not the case for individuals from every race and color have become born again believers. In the matter of personal salvation God is no respecter of persons and every and any human being is invited to come to God through the shed blood of Christ and thus become a child of God, a new creation. But the fig tree will never become the Kingdom of God on earth.

The Parable of the Two Sons, like other Kingdom parables, is not difficult to understand for those who are familiar with the history and prophecy of the Old Scriptures.

This parable is found in Matthew 21:28 - 32. It begins by asking, "But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard." We have learned from the Parable of the Husbandmen that the whole house of Israel, that is, both ten-tribed Israel and the Judah nation, constituted the vineyard of the Lord.

In verses 29 and 30 we read, "He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went, And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not."

It is apparent from verse 31 that the two sons in this

parable represent the two factions in the whole house of Israel. The whole house of Israel was established a nation, under God, in 1300 B.C. as recorded in the 19th chapter of Exodus.

In 930 B.C. the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and the priestly tribe of Levi became a separate nation when the other tribes, under Jeroboam, set up their own nation with Samaria as their capitol. (See I Kings, chapters 11 and 12.) Ten-tribed Israel apostatized, backslid and departed from God's will and word more rapidly than the Judah nation did and they were taken into Assyrian captivity in 722 B.C. (See II Kings 17:5,6.)

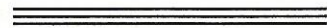
However, a little more than 100 years later Judah had also departed from the word of God to such an extent that God in anger and judgment sent Judah into Babylonian captivity for 70 years. (See II Kings 25 and Jeremiah 25:11,12.)

After the seventy years' captivity in Babylon had been fulfilled less than 43,000 Judahites returned under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah and rebuilt Jerusalem and it was their descendants that were in Palestine at the time of Christ's ministry on earth. (See Nehemiah 7:66 and Ezra 2:64.)

With this brief outline of Bible history in mind we shall note verses 31 and 32 of Matthew 21 on the Parable of the Two Sons: "Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him."

The fact that Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you," shows that He was contrasting the ones He was speaking to with others whom they considered unworthy and very unrighteous.

In this parable Jesus was prophesying what we today recognize as history, namely this, that while ten-tribed Israel was the first to refuse to work in God's vineyard and the first to go into heathen captivity, they later repented, received in a measure the Gospel and have been the only people or nations who have preached and taught and even fought for the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.



"The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations" (Psalm 145:9-13).

God's Greatest Gift to Man

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Imagine! God offers to give eternal life to each person who receives Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Who does not desire eternal life? Men will spend their last dollar to prolong their physical life for even a few days. And, that even though their physical life may be full of suffering and sorrow.

What is eternal life? It is the life or spirit which brought Jesus from the grave and transformed His body into a glorious body no longer subject to the limitations of the physical life such as death, weariness, or pain.

How is this life received? It must be received as a gift. It cannot be received as a reward or as a prize for good deeds done in the physical life. Physical life, which we receive from our parents, is selfish and proud in its very nature. Eternal life is another specie altogether, and we must be born into the eternal just as truly as we had to be born physically in order to have the physical. You do not become a Christian by living good physically.

This eternal life, which is God's greatest gift to man is in the inspired Word of God. Jesus said, "... the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." As corn life is in the kernel of corn, as wheat life, or germ, is in the grain of wheat, so eternal life is in the promises of God. Hence the importance of daily reading the Word of God.

The Scriptures speak of the experience of receiving the gift of eternal life as the New Birth. In First Peter 1:23 we read, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." Physical life is corruptible, that it is subject to sin and death. Eternal life, which inspired into His Word, is

incorruptible and is not subject to sin and death.

After a person has been born again or regenerated the Word of God he becomes a dual natured person. It is this which the Apostle Paul deals with in the 7th and 8th chapters of Romans. In Galatians 5:17 the Apostle Paul wrote, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." "The flesh" means the physical life which we received at our physical birth. "The Spirit", means the eternal life which we received when we were born by the Spirit which is in the Word of God.

The victorious and fruitful Christian is one who submits his will to the will of the Eternal Spirit by which he was born again. On the other hand, the Christian who refuses to submit to the Spirit of God will be overcome by selfishness and pride, which Paul calls the flesh.

Many unregenerated people stumble over the fact the people who claim to be born again are not perfect. Christians can be perfect only to the extent they have perfect knowledge and are directed by the Spirit of God. Since no mortal has perfect knowledge there can be no perfect human. However, a Christian can and should be perfect in his submission to God.

"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" (Colossians 2:6-7).

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God Revealed

By C.O. Stadsklev

The Scriptures open by stating, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Except for stating that God planned and arranged for salvation through Jesus the Christ before the foundation of the world, the beginning of creation is as far back as the Scriptures take us, for the same reason, perhaps, that our text books on mathematics in grade school do not deal with trigonometry.

In Deuteronomy 6:4 Moses was inspired to write the following words: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one LORD."

One of the doctrines of the ancient Hebrew faith of the Old Scriptures, which distinguished it from all the various heathen faiths of the surrounding nations, was the fact that the Hebrews always insisted there was only one God; they were monotheistic.

The prophet Isaiah was very emphatic on the doctrine of one God. Isaiah 45:5, 6 states, "I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me; I girded thee (Cyrus), though thou hast not known me. That they may know from the rising of the sun (that is the east), and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else."

We shall also read verses 18, 21 and 22. "For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited; I am the LORD; and there is none else. Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient times? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else."

In Isaiah 46: 9, 10 we read the following:

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel

shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure." Did you notice that in Isaiah 4, God said He is the Saviour and that He invites all the ends of the earth to look unto Him and be saved?

In the book of Isaiah alone we find the expression the Holy One of Israel twenty-two times, and this Holy One in Israel is repeatedly called the Redeemer of Israel.

In Isaiah 7:14 the prophet prophesied of the coming of the Christ and wrote, "Therefore the Lord himself (Notice, the Lord himself) shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." In Matthew I we find this passage from Isaiah quoted: "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (verses 22 and 23).

Referring to the coming of Christ, Isaiah wrote the following in chapter 9, verse 6: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

There can be no question, nor any denial of the fact, that the Old Scriptures teach that the One that was to be born of a virgin, came into this world as a son and a child, was none other than the mighty God Himself coming to be a Saviour to "whosoever will, and the Redeemer of Israel."

We shall now consider what the New Scriptures teach concerning the identity of the Christ. First we shall weigh the writings of the Apostle Paul, and then some of the things that the Lord Himself stated as recorded in the Gospels.

In Colossians 2:8, 9 the Apostle Paul wrote, "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."

In the first chapter of Colossians, verses 15 through 20, Paul makes the following statement concerning the Christ:

“Who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature, for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him (that is, Jesus) should all fulness dwell; and having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.”

Here we find the Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, ascribing to Jesus the Christ the very same attributes, honor and power that was ascribed to the one God of the Old Scriptures. In both chapters one and two of Colossians, the Apostle states that the fulness of the Godhead dwells in Christ. In other words, God was in the human form that was called Jesus the Christ.

In Second Corinthians 5: 19 Paul makes the following statement: “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.” Notice, Paul says God was in Christ. The Christ was God in human form.

Now let us turn to First Timothy 3:16, which was also written by the Apostle Paul: “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” In other words, the Apostle Paul here states that the One that was received up into glory, believed on in the world, preached unto the Gentiles, seen of angel,, and justified in the Spirit whom we all know is Jesus the Christ, was God manifested in the flesh.

The Apostle Paul repeatedly in his writings stated what was so emphatically declared in the Old Scriptures; namely, that there is one God and none else. There is no God beside this one God. In Romans 3:30 we read, “Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and the uncircumcision through faith.”

The following passage is found in John 10:30-33: “I (Jesus) and my Father are one” (not two, but one). Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.” In stating “I and the Father are one” Jesus was saying, “I am the human manifestation of the one God.” In so doing he declared Himself God. Incidentally, it was this one claim that brought about his crucifixion.

John 14: 10, 11 records the following statement by the Lord: “Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the

Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works sake.”

These words spoken by Jesus came as an answer to a question, or perhaps rather a request, from Phillip. We shall also quote verses 7, 8, and 9 of John 14, which brought about the Lord’s statement in verses 10 and 11: Jesus was speaking to his disciples and said, “If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Phillip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet thou hast not known me, Phillip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, show us the Father?”

Jesus, apparently, was quite exercised because of the disciples’ failure to fully realize that He was God in human form.

Speaking to those who questioned him and who refused to believe that He was God in human form, Jesus, as recorded in John 8:56-58, said, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus saith unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM.”

The expression I AM as used by Jesus was more than a statement of being in existence. It is a title of Deity. When Moses asked God who he should say had sent him to deliver the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage, God answered Moses as recorded in Exodus 3:14: “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”

The Apostle Paul in Romans 1 :1-4 wrote the following: “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” Because the New Scriptures speak of Jesus as the Son of God some people have gotten the idea Jesus was another God.

Jesus the man was the Son of God. The body of the baby born in the manger was a special creation of God in the womb of the Virgin Mary. But that body was occupied by Almighty God Himself.

Because Jesus prayed to the Father some people imagine Jesus could not actually be God. It must be remembered Jesus was both God and man. Jesus the man prayed to the Father whom Jesus repeatedly stated “dwells in me.”

If Modernism, so-called, which is not modern but an ancient satanic lie, had been confronted with a Christian Church that knew and believed what the Scriptures reveal concerning our one God it would have made no progress.

It was the idea of Jesus being another God that was the opening wedge for the teaching that Jesus was the Son of God only as other good men are the sons of God.

The Apostle John gives us the following instruction and warning relative to the identity of Jesus and his oneness with the Father: First John 2:22, 23 and the third verse of chapter 4. "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (But) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is in the world."

I want to close this article with the 17th verse of the first chapter of First Timothy: "Now unto the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Christian Assurance

By C. O. Stadslev

It is becoming more and more important each day that we all understand what is meant by the New Birth. For while no man knows the day or the hour when the Son of Man will return, it is very evident from prophetic Scripture and the signs the Lord Himself gave us that this age is very rapidly drawing to a close.

A new birth or a new creation in any realm is practically the same. When a person is born again, which Jesus said we must be, the spirit or life of God enters the heart and life of the person and this union produces a new creation. This is what the Apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote: "If any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature: . . . behold, all things are become new."

The New Birth is a new creation. With the new creation there are always new desires, new likes and new dislikes. After a person has been born again, he will have a dislike for those things he once enjoyed, and enjoy those things he formerly disliked.

In First John 3:14 we read, "We know that we have passed from death unto life (that is, we have been born again), because we love the brethren." Individuals who have been born again love and desire to be with others who have been born again. This verse also says, "He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." In the last verse of this chapter the Apostle John was inspired to write, ". . . and hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

Many sincere but uninformed and unthoughtful people think it is presumptuous and arrogant for people to say they know they are saved. This all depends upon what basis or reason a person has for being confident that he is saved and

will enter heaven. If this confidence is based on a person's character or conduct, it is not only presumptuous, it is an insult to God and makes the word of God a lie. On the other hand, if this assurance of salvation is based on the substitutionary suffering and death of the Christ and the promises of God, then to doubt one's salvation is to make God a liar and the sacrifice of the Christ as inadequate to atone for sin. To prove this statement I shall read several verses of Scripture from the 5th chapter of First John.

In verse 9 we read, "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater (that is, if we believe one another we surely ought to believe God) for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his son."

Verse 11 says, "And this is the record, that God hath (present tense) given to us eternal life, and this life is in his son."

In verse 13 we read, "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."

In verse 10 of this chapter the Apostle John was inspired to write, "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."

Why in the world will you insist that we cannot know that we are saved and thus make God a liar and make it impossible for you to have the assurance of eternal salvation?

Jesus Himself said as recorded in John 5:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

John 3:36 reads as follows, "He that believeth on the Son hath (present tense) everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." In view of these and many other Scriptures you must do one of two things. You must either admit that people can know they are saved while on earth or else be guilty of making God a liar.

In the 23rd verse of the first chapter of First Peter we learn how we are born again. It says, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."

In James 1:18 we read, "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures." These and other Scriptures make it plain that it is the inspired Word of God when received in a person's heart that regenerates that person. You can be born again now as you read if you will receive the Christ as your personal Saviour.

Listen to this verse in John 1:12: "But as many as received Him (the Christ) to them gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his

name." Perhaps some are asking, "How does a person receive the Christ?" The life or spirit of Christ is in the inspired Word of God as the spirit or seed of corn is in the kernel of corn. Therefore as the Apostles Peter and James wrote, we receive the Christ and are born again when we receive and trust the inspired words of the Christ. If you will thus receive John 1:12 you will, as the Apostle John said, have the witness of the spirit in your own heart that you are a child of God. Whatever you do, do not stop short of the witness of the Holy Spirit in your own heart. You become the child of God through the incorruptible seed, the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever.

The Apostle Peter also tells us how we are born again in Second Peter 1:4: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of divine nature." In other words; we are made partakers of Divine nature or are born again by receiving the exceeding great and precious promises found in the Bible. One of these promises in John 1:12. Believe it, receive it for yourself, and it will impart the nature of God into your heart and soul. The life you received from your parents is corruptible, that is, it is sinful by nature, and subject to disease and death. The life you receive through the life-giving promises of God is incorruptible life, which liveth and abideth forever.

We must never lose sight of the fact that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. This can be proven by astronomy, anthropology, biology, geology, and every other science known to man. However, the most satisfying and most convincing proof that the Bible is the inspired Word of God that any person can have is the change of heart and life a person experiences when he is born again by the inspired Word of God.

The New Birth is a biological necessity, that is, our human life or nature makes it absolutely necessary for us to be born again. Every person who has received Jesus Christ

as his personal Saviour by believing and receiving the life-giving Word of God as his very own has the seed of God abiding in him and will some day be transformed into the image of God's dear Son.

Unfortunately, all Christians do not shew forth the new nature which is of God sufficiently to cause others to see their need of regeneration. However, this does not excuse or justify any sinner, for anyone who will read the Scriptures will soon discover his need for regeneration.

Often unregenerated people say, "I am just as good as that Christian." Maybe you are, and for various reasons, but the real difference between you and the weak Christian is that he in spite of his faults, yea perhaps because of his faults, is trusting in the blood of Christ for salvation while you by comparing yourself with others make it plain that you are trusting in your own goodness, which in the sight of God is an abomination and an insult.

You may be able to keep the weeds plowed under in your potato patch, but unless you plant potatoes you will have no potato crop. Your neighbor who has planted potatoes but has allowed weeds to grow and almost hide the potato vines will at least have a few potatoes. As seed does not take root in hard surface ground, so the Word of God, which is the seed of God, does not take root in an unrepentant and unbelieving heart. As wheat in a granary bin does not bring forth a golden harvest of wheat so a heedful of Bible knowledge does not produce regeneration. It is faith and not merely knowledge that saves.

"Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might"
—not in your own, for you have none. The strongest man is he who has learned to confess his own weakness, and lean entirely on God as his strength.

—Selected

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