

THE COVENANT VISION

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Contents

	ISSUE	No. 1.
Editorial.		1.
Our Eternal High Priest.		3.
An Unsharable Responsibility.		7.
Principles of Bible Study.		9.
A New Spirit.. . . .		17.
Influences.		20.
The Man of Sin.		21.

**“Heaven and earth shall pass away:
but My words shall not pass away.”**

THE COVENANT VISION.

Editor: F.W.Dowsett.

In presenting this little magazine, it is not our intention to start up another organisation. Our only purpose is to present the Word of God in its fullness as we feel God has revealed it to us, in order that the God of our Fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob may be glorified.

It is our firm conviction that we are living in the very last days prior to the return and appearing of our Great God and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are also convinced that never before in the history of our nation and people has there been such a need for the "Watchmen in Israel" to 'sound the alarm' in order to awaken God's People to the urgent need to repent, and to return to God with all their hearts, and with all their minds, and with all their strength.

Denominational doctrines and differences are not our concern, and it is not our intention to enter into such arguments. There is not enough time left that we can afford to waste it on such unproductive, and indeed destructive exercises. We are concerned ONLY with what the Word of God says and teaches.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for all people to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour as the only means to Eternal Life.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people to recognise their inheritance, and their responsibility, as the literal descendants of God's people Israel.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for all who would faithfully serve God to 'receive the Power from on high'

(continued on inside back cover.)

Editorial

"Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

Never in the history of our nation, nor for that matter the entire world, has there been such a necessity to fully understand, and implement, this vital statement from God's Word, as found in Proverbs 14:34.

When we examine it we find four specific things mentioned: 1. Righteousness. 2. A Nation. 3. Sin, and 4. People.

When we further examine it we find two other important factors, namely that:

1. RIGHTEOUSNESS is related to the NATION.
2. SIN is related to the PEOPLE.

So what God is telling us is in this verse is that the purpose of righteousness is not to exalt people. The responsibility of people is to BE righteous, NOT to be exalted. The only person we exalt is God. But because God has appointed the nation of Israel to be His witness to the very fact that He IS God, then it automatically follows that this nation must of necessity also be righteous in the sight of God in order to operate as His instrument to bring blessing to all the other families and nations of the earth, as He promised our father Abraham.

Of course, a nation - and for that matter any group, whether it be a nation, a church, or a family - is the sum total of the people of which it is comprised. So that the condition of that nation in the sight of God is directly proportional to the condition of the individual

people who make up that nation. Sodom, for example, was an evil city, not for what the city as such had done, but because of what its citizens did. And I have not chosen that example lightly. The end result of Sodom, as we well know, is that God completely destroyed it in righteous judgment. We have every reason for concern at the awful possibilities which lie ahead, because God has warned us that He does not change, and that He is the same today as what He was yesterday.

In God's sight, SIN IS STILL SIN! We might get used to it, but God never does. We might try to excuse it, but God never does. We might try to compromise with it, but God never does.

SIN IS SIN, and SIN IS A REPROACH TO PEOPLE.

The word 'reproach' as used here means 'shame and disgrace.' Thus we are shamed and disgraced in the sight of God when we sin. We belittle ourselves. We do ourselves a severe injustice. We cause ourselves to become something that God never intended us to become. We cause ourselves to stand before Him in shame, whereas we were intended to stand before Him in unsurpassed joy.

Our nation is the expression of our people. And our nation is today reeling under the judgments of Almighty God simply because we as a people have turned from the righteous Law of God, and have instead followed in our own paths. We have the audacity to flout God's Laws, and then add to it the stupidity of questioning God's right to punish and correct us. We will only see righteousness in our community when we as individual members of that community seek the righteousness of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Christ in the hearts of the people is the only thing that will put Christ into the heart of the nation.

Christ, Our Eternal High Priest.

Rev. J.A.B.HAGGART.

According to the Gospel of John, the first person to meet Jesus after His resurrection on the first Easter morning was Mary Magdalene. She was in tears at the time. She did not recognise Him until He spoke to her just outside the sepulchre. "Why are you weeping?" He asked her. "Who is it that you are looking for?" She thought first that it was the gardener and replied, "If it is you, sir, who removed Him, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

Then when Jesus spoke her name, "Mary!", she turned to Him and recognised Him, exclaiming "Master!" Impulsively, she reached out her hand to touch Him. But Jesus cautioned her, "Touch Me not, for I am not yet ascended to the Father. But go to thy brethren and tell them that I ascend unto My Father, and your Father: to My God, and to your God." (John 20:1-18.)

There is a far greater significance to this seemingly simple dialogue between Jesus and Mary Magdalene than one might think. Jesus, who had just walked out of the tomb in His resurrected body, was no longer man, but the High Priest of Israel! He was on His way to the Holy of Holies in heaven in His function as High Priest. On the Day of Atonement it was the duty of the High Priest to enter and scrub Himself in the large basin standing outside the Temple, termed 'the molten sea.' (II Chron. 4:2-5). This large circular basin was about 15 ft. in diameter and was placed upon the back of twelve brass oxen, each facing outward from the centre in a compact circle. Having bathed himself, no one was allowed to touch him before he entered the Holy of Holies

to sprinkle the sacrificial blood upon the altar. Should anyone touch him along the way to the sanctuary, he became unclean. He was then compelled to return and repeat the process all over again. This was the reason why Jesus could not allow Mary Magdalene to touch Him. He was on His way to the Sanctuary in Heaven. He ascended to Heaven with the speed of thought and fulfilled His function as High Priest of Israel. But He quickly returned. On Easter Day He appeared to several of His disciples, and on Easter night He walked through the locked door to meet and talk with His apostles, huddled there in fear. We can only imagine the excitement of seeing Jesus again, alive after having been laid dead in the tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea.

Had Mary touched Jesus early that Easter morning, Jesus would have been compelled by law to go through the whole purification process again. We can only guess the full significance of those three words He spoke to Mary, "Touch Me not!" But as High Priest He knew full well that He should not be touched before ascending back to Heaven. Some believe that He actually carried up a few drops of His own blood (the blood of the Lamb of God) to sprinkle on the altar of God in heavenAs the law on earth, so it is in heaven.

We must be aware that this was not the first time that Christ had assumed the role of High Priest. As Melchizedek, the King of Salem and Priest of God Most High, Christ came to bless Abraham in the Valley of Shaveh after he had defeated Kedorlaomer and his confederation of kings. He came bringing bread and wine to Abraham and gave this blessing to him. "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your power." (Gen. 14:18-20 NEB.)

There can be little doubt about the identity of Christ as Melchizedec. God said of Him, "Thou art My son; today have I begotten thee. And also in another

place He says, Thou art a Priest forever, in the succession of Melchizedek. In the days of His earthly life, He offered up prayers and petitions, with loud cries and tears, to God who was able to deliver Him from the grave." (Heb. 5:5-8. NEB.) As Melchizedek, Christ used His office as High Priest to inaugurate the service of Holy Communion, which throughout the Christian dispensation has become the holiest and most reverent service in the Christian liturgy. By serving bread and wine to Abraham, He shewed Himself as "the mediator of a New Covenant, or Testament, under which those whom God called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance." (Heb. 9:15). Because He had foreseen that Abraham's descendants would not be able to keep the covenant as given later at Mount Sinai, a New Covenant would be provided which would be written in their hearts. The New Covenant was initiated by Christ, and continued (with the help of the Holy Spirit) by His disciples, each forming the foundation stones for the Christian Church. Beginning with Abraham in the Valley of Shaveh, and continuing throughout his seed, Christ provided a means for the propagation and spreading of the Kingdom message throughout the earth. History has born out this truth, because it has been the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic and kindred peoples who have provided the missionary stock for the carrying of Christianity to the far corners of the earth.

As High Priest, Christ is now in Heaven receiving our prayers and presenting them to the Father. He said, "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another comforter." (John 14:16). During the time Christ was on earth with His disciples, He was always nearby to help them and to counsel with them. Then one day He announced that He would soon have to depart. But this did not mean that they, or we, would be left without strength, or instruction, or guidance. He would not leave His followers helpless. He promised to send them the Holy Spirit, who would be their paraclete, one who is 'called alongside to help.'

Christ Jesus was eager to return to Heaven, after He had given His blood as the sacrificial Lamb on Calvary, to assume His office as High Priest of Israel. For the next twenty centuries He was to be engaged in answering the prayers of His followers as they ascended to Heaven through all those years. He was eager to present these prayers to God the Father on our behalf. He has also eagerly attended to the needs of His special people Israel, as they made their way out of the Middle East and began to assemble in the Isles of Britain, far to the north and west. Through the active work of His disciple, Joseph of Arimathea, the first Church was established at Glastonbury, which gradually Christianised the Children of Israel as they arrived in England. These Israelites, now known as Saxons, Angles, Jutes, Danites, etc., accepted the challenge to evangelise the world. They started with Europe, and then by the 18th. century sent missionaries to the ends of the world. Today that message is now being given directly by radio and satellite broadcast by television into the homes of all who have receiving sets, a number which is constantly increasing.

Jesus Christ was eager to become High Priest as He returned to Heaven after His resurrection. But He is even more eager to return to earth in Person as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and as Judge. He will then set up His Kingdom "on earth as it is in Heaven," in answer to the prayers of millions upon millions of Christians throughout the years of the Christian dispensation.

Yes, He is eager, and He is ready.

The question is, Are we ready for Him?

LET US PREPARE FOR HIS SOON COMING!

For the Christian, Jesus puts it plainly: "*Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given.*" (Luke 12:48b)

An Unsharable Responsibility

W. H. BENNETT

THE KINGDOM DIGEST

There was a time not so long ago when self reliance, family pride, uncompromising religious beliefs, love of one's country and its institutions and a willingness to uphold and defend them, were virtues of the highest order. But that day seems to have passed. Now, any individualism or exclusiveness, either racial or religious, is a sin, and patriotism is fast becoming a crime.

This complete reversal of the natural order of things did not come either suddenly or by chance. One need not be an expert in world affairs to see that, for some time, powerful forces have been working in an endeavor to obliterate all religious, racial and national divisions and to merge all into one. Openly, as well as in more subtle ways, we are told that wars and all of our other troubles, both social and economic, come because mankind is divided by race, religion and nationality and, consequently, that peace and plenty for all await only the removal of these barriers to human co-operation and brotherhood.

With the desire for peace and plenty, we have every sympathy. We, too, share in the hope of a day to come in which there will be peace, social justice and economic security for all — in which, as God has promised: "*They shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid.*"

But we know that this hope cannot be achieved by merging all religions or by racial and national fusion. On the contrary, that can lead only to world dictatorship and a tyranny worse than anything mankind has ever known.

In seeking to overcome their troubles in this way men ignore the Will and Purpose of the Creator. It is He Who designed the biological laws which divide mankind into families and races. It is He Who decreed that some should be white and others black, yellow and brown. Consequently, any attempt to erase these distinctions is rebellion against His Creative Purpose.

Further, in blaming the divisions of race, religion and nationality for our troubles, they ignore the fact that war and all the other evils

which afflict mankind are the result of our failure to live and conduct our affairs in accordance with those instructions which God the Creator has given us, and, consequently, that all human plans for overcoming them which fail to include obedience to those instructions are doomed to failure. Overlooked, too, is the fact that God Himself is working out a Great Purpose in human affairs designed to eliminate these evils, and that this Purpose is to be achieved — not through international co-operation or the brotherhood of man, but through the instrumentality of God's servant race and nation Israel.

This is clearly and repeatedly stated in the Holy Scriptures. Thus when Abraham was called to be the progenitor of this servant race, God explained its purpose by saying: "*In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed*" (Gen. 12:3).

Later, to Abraham's grandson Jacob He said: "*And in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed*" (Gen. 28-14).

Primarily, of course, this blessing comes through the One Seed, Jesus the Christ, but this in no way alters Israel's status as its human instrument.

Thus when God organized the Israel people into a nation, He declared: "*Ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and an holy nation*" (Ex. 19:6).

And again, "*Thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth*" (Deut. 7:6).

Though largely unaware of the fact, the Celto-Saxon peoples of today are the descendants of the Israel people of old and thus are the people whom God Himself has chosen to establish peace and righteousness among men. That responsibility is a sacred trust in which no other race or nation can have any part. For their good, therefore, as well as for ours, we must maintain our racial and national individuality.

If, then, we truly seek a world of peace and righteousness for all, we will seek it not through international co-operation and brotherhood, but rather by obedience to God's Commandments and Laws in All things, and by an awakening of the Celto-Saxon peoples to the fact of their Israelitish identity and to the necessity of accepting the responsibility which that identity entails.

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY.

By F.W.Dowsett.

As in everything else that we do, the study of God's Word requires adherence to rules, and strict rules at that. To ignore this fact exposes us to all sorts of error and confusion, and can only lead us to incorrect conclusions, and a consequential total lack of understanding of what God is really trying to tell us. We are thus left with beliefs which, whilst appearing to be correct, are no more than very cleverly disguised counterfeits deliberately induced by Satan in order to hide what he himself is doing. So let us look at these rules.

1. THE BIBLE HAS ONLY ONE AUTHOR.

I am constantly amazed to hear Christians arguing about the so-called differences between the statements of various writers of the Bible. To argue thus is quite senseless and totally confusing, because the writers of the various books are just that. They are the WRITERS. THEY ARE NOT THE AUTHORS. The authorship of the Bible, in its entirety, is clearly defined in the Bible itself. In II Timothy 3:16 we read;

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God."

Again in II Peter 1:20-21 we read;

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Thus, to claim that one portion of the scriptures contradicts another portion, is simply to say that God is contradicting Himself, and thus doesn't know what He is talking about.

But there are NO contradictions in the Bible. What we have are either errors in translation, or errors in interpretation.

If you find a situation that appears to be a contradiction, then IT IS MAN'S ERROR, NOT GOD'S.

In the original languages in which the Bible was written, i.e., the Hebrew of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament, there are NO errors or contradictions, BECAUSE GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF IT ALL!!

2. THE BIBLE IS A COMPLETE BOOK.

Because God is the only author, both the Old Testament and the New Testament are integral parts of the ONE BOOK. They are not separate books or sections in themselves or in their own right.

Furthermore, there are no new doctrines introduced into the New Testament that are not already contained in the Old Testament. What the New Testament does is to give us a more complete understanding of how the doctrines and promises already in existence, and set forth in the Old Testament, are to operate. For instance, the second advent of our Lord Jesus Christ is mentioned EIGHT times more often in the Old Testament than His first advent. The 'Church' originated in the Old Testament as Israel, and is NOT a new phenomenon to the New Testament. (See "CAMEO STUDIES" by the same author).

It is therefore obvious that in order to properly understand the teachings of the New Testament, we

must first understand the teachings of the Old Testament. If we do not do this, we will be building on very unsure, if not downright incorrect, foundations. There is not one teaching in the New Testament for which you will not find the foundation in the Old Testament. The Bible explains itself. If there is something in the New Testament that you cannot understand, then go to the Old Testament. That's where you will find the answer. This applies particularly to the Book of the Revelation.

3. STUDY THE CONTEXT.

One of the most common errors made in the study of God's Word is to become excited by certain statements which appeal to us, and to then accept an interpretation of this statement that supports the excitement that we feel. This is a most dangerous attitude to adopt, because our feelings, like elastic, can be stretched to suit whatever we fancy. Let us again read the statement made in II Peter 1:20;

"No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."

Or as it is recorded in the Revised Standard Version;

"No prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation."

The ONLY way to understand any statement in the Bible is to study it within its context. That is, we must study the particular statement, whether it be a word, a phrase, or a verse, within the context in which it appears. This may, and often does mean, that we must study a considerable portion of the surrounding scriptures occurring both before and after the passage being studied.

But there is a much more important context within which we must study, and that is that we must study

the passage within the context of THE SUBJECT to which it is referring. For instance, if the passage in question relates to The New Covenant ratified by our Lord Jesus Christ then it must be understood within ALL the teachings of that particular subject, and not just within the framework of some denominational doctrine. And we can only do that by going to the Old Testament, because that is where the teachings about the New Covenant began.

4. STUDY THE WORDS.

The Bible is THE WORD OF GOD. But it is comprised of the WORDS of God. As we have already seen, every WORD of the scriptures, both Old and New Testament, IN THEIR ORIGINAL LANGUAGE, was inspired by God. It is therefore important to realise that God does not waste words, nor use them promiscuously or carelessly. He means every WORD that He used. And He means us to properly understand EVERY WORD that He used.

There is NO excuse for Christians to remain ignorant of the meaning of these WORDS. And you don't have to be a Hebrew or a Greek scholar to properly understand them either. There are a number of excellent text books that are readily available, written by acknowledged experts, which will give the searcher after truth all the information that he requires. Here is a list of some of the better known publications:-

- i. Strong's Concordance.
- ii. Young's Concordance.
- iii. "A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek Testament." by E.W.Bullinger D.D.
- iv. "An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words" by W.E.Vine M.A.

- v. The Companion Bible. Edited by E.W.Bullinger, and published by Samuel Bagster & Sons.

I strongly suggest that you obtain these books, and USE them in your study of God's Word. They will help you to understand the WORDS of God, in order that you may more easily understand the WORD of God.

5. THERE IS ONLY ONE INTERPRETATION.

This a fact that many Christians completely overlook. The usual practice is to apply whatever passage of scripture we are studying to our own, or some other's, personal life and experience. Now I am not saying for an instant that this practice can not be advantageous in bringing out a particular emphasis. There are many APPLICATIONS of scripture, and any one passage could have several such applications, but these applications need not necessarily be the original INTERPRETATION which God intended.

A very good example of this principle is found in Jeremiah, chapter 18, where we read the account of the potter remoulding the vessel which had become marred in his hands. We have all heard numerous sermons applying this to our own lives, illustrating how God can remould us from being a marred vessel as a result of sin, to an acceptable vessel as a result of our accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as our own personal Saviour. Now I don't argue with this fact for one instant, and the application is very pertinent.

But irrespective of how good the application is, **IT IS NOT THE REASON WHY GOD INSPIRED JEREMIAH TO WRITE THIS PARTICULAR PASSAGE!**

The INTERPRETATION of this passage is that God intended to remould THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL. He says so in verse 6.

So we readily see that if we only understand an 'application' without understanding the 'INTERPRETATION', we will miss the whole point of what God is saying to us in that portion of scripture.

So the rule is, firstly, that while there may be several applications of a particular passage, THERE IS ONLY ONE INTERPRETATION OF THAT PASSAGE!!!

Secondly, that we must not allow an APPLICATION to overshadow, and particularly replace, the INTERPRETATION.

6. GOD'S PURPOSES DO NOT CHANGE.

A great deal of error has crept into the understanding and teaching of God's Word because people do not really accept the immutability of what God says. We read certain statements that God made, and because we cannot see the fulfillment of these statements ourselves, we immediately come to the conclusion that God has changed His mind and introduced alternatives to what He originally planned.

But nothing could be further from the truth.

"God is not a man that He should lie,
neither the son of man that He should
repent."
(Num. 23:19.)

"So shall my word be that goeth forth
out of my mouth. It shall not return unto
me void, but it shall accomplish that
which I please, and it shall prosper in
the thing whereunto I sent it."
(Isa. 55:11.)

If God has promised that He will use a particular person for a specific purpose, then He will use that person. HE WILL NOT USE A SUBSTITUTE!

If God has promised that He will use a particular nation for a specific purpose, then He will use that nation. HE WILL NOT USE A SUBSTITUTE!

If God says that He will perform His purposes here on this earth, then He will perform them on this earth. HE WILL NOT TRANSFER HIS ACTIONS TO SOME OTHER PLACE OR SPHERE!

If God says that He will perform His will in a certain way, then He will perform it in that way. HE WILL NOT CHANGE HIS INTENTIONS IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER!

If God says that He will perform His will at a certain time, He will perform it at the set time. HE WILL NOT CHANGE HIS PLANS JUST TO SUIT OUR CONVENIENCE!

WITH GOD, THERE ARE NO ALTERNATIVES!! His will is omnipotent.

7. MORE THAN ONE WITNESS IS REQUIRED.

God's Law requires that a matter shall be established at the mouth of at least TWO OR THREE witnesses. (Matt.18:16.) So whatever subject we are studying, we must look for this corroboration.

God does not defy His own rules. There is no excuse for us to do so.

“God above all things! For it is an eternal providence which directs omnisciently the good and evil fortunes of human men. . . . Tranquilly will I submit myself to all vicissitudes and place my safe confidence in thine unalterable goodness, O God! Be my rock, my life, forever my trust.”

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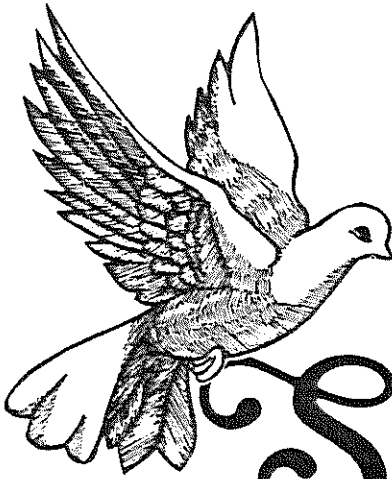
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A New Spirit

(Courtesy 'National Message')

By H. BARKLAM, A.R.C.A. of Derby

Israel's Failure

THE failure of Israel to keep the covenants made with them by the Lord at Sinai, was due, not to the weakness of the law, but to the weakness of the flesh. When desire conflicts with the law, and the emotions, instead of the will, dictate the choice, transgression follows and sin the result.

Israel's history is a chequered one, from blatant unbelief and corrupt practices, to surges of spiritual inspirations and exalted ideals. The balance was more often weighted on the side of the rebellious. Such an unsatisfactory state of affairs could only be overcome by the declaration of a New Covenant, which would provide for a release of transforming spiritual power, enabling the purposes of God to be fulfilled in the lives of the people.

The judgment of the law against transgression was, 'the soul that sinneth, it shall die' (*Ezekiel 18:4*).

But, says Paul, 'the righteousness of God without the Law is manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the prophets: even the righteousness of God through faith in Christ Jesus for all who believe. For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, being justified freely through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.'

The New Covenant

That is the reason why Jesus spoke at the Last Supper of the New Covenant, to come into effect through the shedding of His blood. Where there is a testament, there must also be the death of the testator before it becomes effective, and Jesus came to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

What then are the benefits of His people? The terms of the New Covenant are set out by the prophet Jeremiah, and verified by the writer to the *Hebrews*. 'This shall be the Covenant that I will make with

the House of Israel; after those days, saith the Lord, I will put My Law in their inward parts, and write it upon their hearts, and will be their God and they shall be My people' (*Jeremiah* 31:31-34; *Hebrews* 8:6-13). Ezekiel speaks of a new heart and a new spirit, that will enable the nation to walk in the statutes and keep the judgments of the Lord (*Ezekiel* 36:26-28).

God always intended that Israel should be His witnesses, and it is no surprise to learn that Jesus instructed His disciples to wait in the city of Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on High. He said, 'You shall be witnesses to Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth' (*Acts* 1:8).

The Blessings of the Holy Spirit

John the Baptist said that Jesus would baptise with the Holy Ghost and with fire. An apt description of purifying by fire, and of that which followed on the day of Pentecost, when the cloven tongues of fire rested on each of them, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost (*Acts* 2:1-4). To be filled with the Spirit makes the heart of the recipient much more receptive, and sensitive to the purposes of God. The blessings promised by Jesus are enumerated by St. *John* in his Gospel, providing syllabus of instruction unparalleled in any earthly seminary. Speaking of the coming of the Holy Ghost he emphasised seven aspects of His ministry:

1. He will abide with you forever.
2. He will be in you.
3. He is the Spirit of Truth which proceedeth out of the Father.
4. He shall reprove the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.
5. He will guide you into all Truth.
6. He will show you things to come.
7. He will glorify Me (Jesus).

(*John* chapters 14,15).

All this is promised to the believer, and follows our Lord's own words to His disciples, 'I command that ye love one another.' So concerned was He with the importance of this commandment that He repeated it several times. We who profess to follow the Lord would do well to preface our own services with these words.

The Guidance of the Holy Spirit

The obvious is simply stated, 'Love is the fulfilling of the law.' Its application to every day problems has to be worked out in each life. Let us turn for enlightenment to the *Acts*, where Greek widows complained that the Hebrews were given priority in the daily ministry. The apostles knew that serving at tables was not their calling, so seven men were chosen, of whom one was Philip. The qualifications required were that they should be filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom. Hands were laid on them in confirmation, and the outcome of their ministry was the proclamation of God's Word, and an increase in the number of disciples, together with a great company of the priests who became obedient to the faith (*Acts* 6:1-7). Philip, led by the Holy Spirit went to one man, an Ethiopian eunuch, who believed when it was explained to him, that *Isaiah's* prophecy concerning the suffering Messiah, was fulfilled in Jesus (*Acts* 8).

Peter, after a dream, which upset his ideas about associating with gentiles (*Acts* 10), was directed by the Holy Spirit to go with the men who knocked at his door, and proceed to the house of a centurion, by name, Cornelius. Whilst Peter was delivering his message, all those who were present believed. They were then filled with the Holy Spirit and were baptised with water. The incident created a great stir among the brethren in Jerusalem, but when Peter explained the

circumstances they realised the scope of the salvation of God for all men, and they gave thanks accordingly' (*Acts* 11:17-18).

The Overruling of the Holy Spirit

Even the location of the area of the ministry was revealed by the Spirit. Paul and Silas were forbidden to preach the gospel in Asia and when they tried to go to Bythinia, the Spirit would not allow it (*Acts* 16:6-11).

Paul did experience a vision however, in which he saw a man beckoning him to go to Macedonia. He and Silas were assured that this man was showing them God's will; obeying the call therefore, they preached the gospel at Philippi, thus opening up a new field for ministry and European evangelisation.

If the proclamation of the gospel made such an impact through Spirit-filled men and women in so short a time, what may a Spirit-filled gospel accomplish when the Lord fulfils His promise to His people, 'I will put My Spirit within you' (*Ezekiel* 36:27).

The Denial of the Holy Spirit

It is evident that the present world is in a state of chaos, where grandiose schemes of Unity exist side by side with the stark reality of disruption in every aspect of our lives. There are marches, sit-ins, confrontations by militant minorities, who interfere in the affairs of others; speeches on human rights and freedom of action demanded for

those who hold the same or similar views, but often denying the same freedoms to those who think differently.

Surely the idea of brotherhood which of course, includes the sisters too, is a fine and worthy ideal, and solidarity a good and worthy achievement. Undoubtedly all this is true, but it has a fatal flaw and one which Jesus pointed out to the lawyers. *Mark* 12:28-34 says, in His masterly statement of basic law, that loving one's neighbour as oneself was the second commandment. The first and greatest of the commandments was, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.'

The Fulfilment of the Holy Spirit

The nation today must begin to re-think its priorities. Time and money spent in plastering over the cracks of a crumbling man-made edifice, needs to be channelled into laying a new foundation based upon the commandments, statutes and judgments of Almighty God. When He becomes our Father, our fellow men become the family, and as in the ideal family unity in diversity exists, so by the same reasoning this becomes possible for the nation. With God's law in our hearts, and the Spirit of the Lord to guide us, a new and better world would open up before us, where righteousness and peace would prevail.

If this were only a pious dream, and not the declared purpose of God, then we would have a strong case for despondency.

'And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance' (*Acts* 2:1-4).

Influence

Some parents say: — We will not influence our children in making choices and decisions in matters of Religion.

WHY NOT? The Press will. The ads will. The Radio will. The TV will. Their neighbours will. Their business will. Their Politicians will. Their schools will.

We use our influence over our flowers, vegetables and horses and cattle, also our pets such as dogs and cats. Why then, in the name of all that is holy and sacred should we neglect our children and leave them to make their own decisions on the most important thing in life?

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in the heart:

And thou shall teach them diligently unto they children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou risest up . . .

And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, what mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments which the Lord our God hath commanded you? Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand . . . And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He hath commanded us.”

Deut. 6 (See also Deuteronomy 31, and Psalm 78).

Courtesy: “Identity”

Our Children must be Taught!

It is frequently forgotten that each generation in succession is born into the world without knowledge of truth or faith or national ideals. To each succeeding generation, by instruction AND example, these things must be taught.

Dr Pascoe Goard

The Man Of Sin.

A WORD STUDY OF II THESSALONIANS 2:3-7.

by F.W.Dowsett.

"Let no man deceive you by any means. For that day (the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ of verse 1) shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the Temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Remember ye not, that when I was with you, I told you these things?

And now that ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work....." (2 Thess. 2:3-7.)

THE TIMING.

The timing of the revelation or revealing of THE MAN OF SIN is just prior to the Second Return of our Lord Jesus Christ. So NOW is the time when we are to understand just who or what is THE MAN OF SIN.

The only way to understand what God is telling us in this passage is to study the words used in the original language. The authorities I am using are:

1. "A Critical Lexicon and Concordance of the English and Greek New Testament" by E.W. Bullinger, D.D.

2. "Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words." by W.E.Vine, M.A.

So let us study the words:

"Falling Away." Apostasy, NOT only religious. It covers all aspects of both individual and national life, including finance, politics, morals, religion, and faith. It means a collapse, or falling away, from what should be. It covers not only the structure, but includes the FOUNDATIONS. Thus, not only is TRUTH destroyed, but THE FOUNDATIONS OF TRUTH.

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Psalm 11:3.

"Man of Sin."

"Man" Mankind. A group of people, as distinct from a special or particular person.

"Sin." Lawlessness.

"Sin is the transgression of the law."
I John 3:4.

Used here, it does not apply just to the ACT of sin or lawlessness, but to the EVIL PRINCIPLE or INTENT OF THE HEART covering and motivating all forms, phases, and movements of sin. It is also referred to as INIQUITY.

"Son of perdition."

"Son." NOT necessarily a descendant. It refers to the origin and nature which determines the character of what is being referred to. For example:

"The field is the world. The good seed are the children of the Kingdom; but the

tares are the children of the wicked one. (Matt. 13:38.)

"Perdition." Destruction and ruin which is absolute, final, and irreversable.

"Opposeth." To be set opposite to, and to be totally repugnant to.

"Exalteth." To lift oneself up in arrogance and conceit.

"The Temple of God." God's People, not only individually, but nationally.

"And what agreement hath the Temple of God with idols? FOR YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD. As God hath said, 'I will dwell in them, and walk in them. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.' " (2 Cor.6:16, and Leviticus 26:11-12.)

"Shewing." Displaying, but in such a way as to take attention from themselves and direct it to something else.

"Revealed." To remove the veil or covering away from, and so to expose to open view what was previously hidden, (and obviously in existence).

"Mystery." "That which is known to the initiated. In the ordinary sense it is equal to 'knowledge withheld', but in the Scriptural sense, it means, TRUTH REVEALED."

Now we should note that all these aspects which we have just studied were already in existence, and already operating when the Apostle Paul wrote these words. Paul describes the Man of Sin and the way in which it

operated as "The Mystery of Iniquity", and went on to say that 'it was already working.'

It was only left for the IDENTITY of this power to become manifest just prior to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So applying the above word studies, we arrive at the following amplified paraphrase of Paul's statement:

"Just prior to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wise shall understand the REVEALED TRUTH that there will be a collapse, not only of truth, but of the very FOUNDATIONS of truth, which will include all aspects of our society and way of life. This collapse will be motivated by a group of mankind who will not only BE lawless, in terms of their disobedience to the Laws of God, but who will be dedicated to the very evil principle and intent of the heart to promulgate evil. Its aim will be the absolute, final and irreversable destruction of everything pertaining to God. It will be arrogant, conceited, and repugnant to God. It will be utterly deceitful, in that it will shew itself to be what it is not, and hide its true identity by focusing peoples' attention elsewhere, and it will operate within God's people."

We now ask the question. Who is this group who poses as 'a sheep in wolves clothing', (or as Rev.13:11 expresses it, is 'like a lamb, and speaks as a dragon' or Satan), and is so ruthlessly opposed to our Lord Jesus Christ? Who is this group who are so dedicated to the propagation of everything that is evil, and everything that will destroy the mind and the will of our people through constant brainwashing and falsehoods? Who is this group who are the self-confessed enemies of God? They were operating in Paul's day, and they are still operating today! Their aims are still the same!

WHO ARE THEY???

WHO IS 'THE MAN OF SIN'???

which can only come through the infilling and ministry of the Holy Spirit within us.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for our nation to return to full obedience to the Law of God as the only way by which we can receive the full blessings of God.

We proclaim the absolute necessity for each and every individual Christian to prepare themselves for the greatest event yet to be witnessed on this earth, THE RETURN OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

The production, publication, and distribution of this magazine, THE COVENANT VISION, is being undertaken as a faith ministry. It is sent out without any charge, to all who wish to receive it. Naturally, it costs money to do this, and whilst we have dedicated our own personal resources to the continuation of this ministry, the support of those who read it, and are blessed by it, is vitally necessary for its continuance and growth. To this end we invite your prayerful consideration.

We also invite you, our readers, to send us the names and addresses of any whom you think could be blessed by receiving a free copy. In this way you can share in the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Kingdom, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified.

It is our fervent prayer that you will be blessed and lifted to higher planes of joy and blessing as you study and learn of the wonders of God's Word, and of His boundless and merciful love for each of us.

With our Christian love, Frank and Betty Dowsett.

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THE BIBLE

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe in it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in the judgment, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibilities, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

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