

The Baptist Examiner

Paid Circulation In All States and In Many Foreign Countries

"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them."—Isaiah 8:20.

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Russia Prepares For War Just As God Has Prophesied

The growing might of Soviet Russia through continued aggression and her building up of vast armaments have filled the nations with anxiety and fear. A great show down between two world camps, one Communist and the other Rome-Fascist, generally referred to as "conservative," appears inevitable. Those versed in world affairs no longer question the possibility of war with Russia, but rather when will it begin.

Russia is intensively making preparations for war. According to figures given in the Intelligence Digest (Sept., 1950), the U.S.S.R. now has 4½ million men under arms and 20 mil-

lion are available on full mobilization. This does not include Chinese manpower. She has between 40,000 and 50,000 aircraft and is producing planes at the rate of 50,000 a year. Another news source says that she has 350 long-range bombers capable of reaching any place in the United States. As disclosed in the Intelligence Digest, she also possesses 50,000 tanks and 350 submarines. Moreover, Russia is manufacturing the atomic bomb. According to a statement by Senator Mundt, Russia now has enough A-bombs to knock out the United States in 90 seconds should war come. Hydrogen bomb secrets are also in her

possession. In connection with underground stores built for atom bombs are airstrips for the use of transport planes. Just before an operation, transport planes will load atom bombs and carry them to military aerodromes.

Bacteriological warfare ranks high in Soviet planning, and Russia is said to be ahead of all other powers in the development of this method of warfare. Tests made last January on political prisoners were most satisfactory to the Russian scientists, says the Intelligence Digest.

Russia, in making all-out pre-
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CONSECRATION

Whose I am.—Acts 27:23

I would be Thine, dear Lord, completely Thine,
As in that first glad hour when love divine
Swept o'er my burdened soul with heavenly peace,
And made its anxious cares and troubles cease.

I would be Thine. But round about I see
The forces bent on slyly drawing me
Away from Thy communion and instead
Enmeshing me in sin, all vile and dread.

And when I would with earnestness and zeal
My Master serve, there came the strong appeal
Of worldly fame and pleasure, and my soul
Was swept away from love's complete control.

When I my body and its members would
To righteousness present, I doubting stood;
For such a charm unrighteousness did cast
Upon my soul, I yielded at the last.

And yet, dear Lord, I only Thee desire,
And fondly to Paul's "Whose I am" aspire.
Instil Thy power and steel this will of mine;
I would be wholly, only, ever Thine.

Election And The Atonement Taught In God's Book

By J. T. Johnson, Kennedy, Ala.

(The following quotations are by Elder J. T. Johnson, Kennedy, Alabama, on election and the atonement made in a letter to Zach Savage, Box 2424, Gainesville, Florida.)

"It is indeed refreshing to know that there are others who believe and teach the wisdom, righteousness, faithfulness and ability of The Triune God instead of exalting the sinful, ignorant, unfaithful, and finite human being. I don't know of anything that is more dishonoring to the Godhead than to teach that His righteous purposes are dependent on the unrighteous will and carnal mind of an alien sinner. I don't know
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KINDNESS & REWARDS

Charles Babonet came to the U. S. A. from Austria, several decades ago. He remained a bachelor, lived frugally, and amassed a fortune.

When he died on August 7, 1950, \$300,000 in cash and bonds was found in his little shack on the east side of Los Angeles.

Public Administrator Ben H. Brown said the estate might run to \$500,000. Brown believes other income from oil has not yet been located. Babonet was believed to have invested his savings in California oil lands.

A will, handwritten on a piece of wrapping paper, was filed by L. M. Giannini, president of the Bank of America, to dispose of Babonet's estate. He had mailed the will to Giannini, head of the world's largest bank. \$100,000 was willed to a family who had shown him a happy day at the beach and who had never seen him since. The story of his day at the beach was laboriously written: "I hereby give, devise and be-
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The Fool

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

An evangelist, E. L. Hyde, was conducting a revival meeting, and in the course of his remarks said that he could prove to the satisfaction of any infidel within ten minutes that he was a fool. The next morning, while walking, a gentleman accosted him very abruptly by saying, "Aren't you the evangelist preaching up here at the church?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, I supposed you were a gentleman."

"I claim to be one."

"Well, I don't think you are one. Didn't you say last night that you could prove to the satisfaction of anyone within ten minutes that all infidels are fools? If you don't prove it to my satisfaction I will publish you in all the city papers, as the most consummate liar that

ever struck the city."

Seeing there was no possibility of reasoning with the man, Mr. Hyde said: "Where is your infidel?"

SHUT IN

She sighed: "Those yesterdays which now have fled— I might have filled them all with shining good, When I was young and hours so swiftly sped Had I, dear Lord, but served Thee as I should."

And this "today"—let me redeem it still, Praise Thee and trust, submissive to Thy will. Within the narrow compass of these walls I need not stay; Thy Book is open wide Inviting me where living water falls, Where the strong mountains
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Scriptural Morons Talk Of The Church As Being Universal

Space in this editorial column does not permit a lengthy discussion of this very greatly important topic of "The Church," but, for those who are open-minded students of the Word of God, we would make a brief suggestion. In speaking of "the church" in the New Testament, the Lord uses two principle figures—a body (I Cor. 12:12-27, Eph. 1:22, 23, etc.) and a building (I Cor. 3:9, 16; I Tim. 3:15, etc.). Anyone, who thinks at all, immediately recognizes that the main idea in either a body or a building is that of "together." Members of a human body scattered over the landscape, one member on this hillside, another in the valley,
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ISAIAH 53

Because of the fact that there are many Jewish students in a certain large high school in New York State, it was agreed that Scripture reading in the school be solely from the Old Testament.

Then one day . . . Isaiah 53 was solemnly read. Instantly there was a rumbling among the Jewish students. Protests were made after the assembly and Jewish parents promptly took action to put an end to the Bible reading on the grounds that the Christians had violated their agreement not to read from the New Testament. "They read about the crucifixion and the death of their Jesus," a Jewish student insisted.

The superintendent pointed out that there had been no such violation, then turned to their book of Isaiah in the Old Testament and showed them what had been read. There was complete silence. They had indeed heard the story of the Lamb of God, written seven hundred years before He came to earth.
—Prophecy Monthly

The First Baptist Pulpit

"1951 IN PROPHECY"

Frankly, I think the only persons who know in any wise what is going on and can appreciate the things that are taking place in the world, are the saved people who know something about the Bible. I doubt seriously if the average politician and statesman in America really has any grasp of the world situation that would be true in the light of the Word of God. Practically every worldly-minded individual that I read after talks about a utopia here within this world that is man-made, man-produced, and man-promulgated. Practically every worldly man today who is trying to direct the affairs of the nation is

trying to make a world better without the Lord Jesus Christ.

In view of that, I am persuaded to believe that the majority of them know mighty, mighty little about the Word of God. The folk who know about the world situation are saved people who know something about the Bible and who interpret daily current events in the light of the predictions of God's Word.

It is with that attitude, beloved, that I come toward God's Word today. Blessed Book that it is! God wrote it for your edification. God gave it to you for your learning. God prepared it that you might not be ignorant

of the things that are taking place and the things that shall take place here within this world.

I am different from the Catholics who don't want their people to read the Bible. I want every man and woman in the world to read God's Book. I want you to read it every day, and if I were you, that would be one New Year's resolution that I would put at the top of my list—to read God's Book every day and to learn what God has to say.

God's Book hasn't left us in doubt as to what the future holds in store for us. It hasn't
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"1951 In Prophecy

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left us in doubt about what we can expect. Rather, as a blueprint, it gives to us a schedule of events that will take place right down to the time when Jesus comes again, and on beyond into the aeons of eternity to come.

I

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WILL NOT COME TO PASS IN 1951.

First of all, the Great Tribulation that is spoken of in the Bible, will not come to pass in 1951. In the book of Jeremiah it is spoken of as the time of Jacob's trouble. Listen:

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it."—Jer. 30:7.

The Great Tribulation which is to try the whole world, is prophesied from the beginning to the end of God's Book. Listen again:

"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"—Rev. 6:12-17.

I might read you dozens of Scriptures describing this Tribulation period, yet, beloved, this shall stand as an example of all the balance. It is thus prophesied that there is coming a time in this world—a time of tribulation, which primarily is called the time of Jacob's trouble, meaning that this period of tribulation will primarily fall upon the Jews; yet, at the same time, it shall affect Gentiles too.

I say to you, the Great Tribulation is just as sure to come to this world as there is a God in the skies. The same is true concerning all the balance of God's prophecies. I turn back through the Old Testament and I find prophecy after prophecy that God kept in the past. Since God has kept these prophecies



of the past, I am definitely persuaded that God will keep every prophecy down to the end of this Book.

Therefore, beloved, this prophecy concerning the Tribulation shall some day come to pass. In view of the fact that this Tribulation is to extend over a period of seven years from its beginning unto its end,—in view of the fact that there is a seven year time element involved, I say that the Great Tribulation cannot take place in 1951. I don't say that it won't begin. It could begin in 1951 but there is one thing certain, it can not reach the depths nor the heights of trouble and sorrow that it shall bring upon the world, and it can not run its course during the year 1951.

Again, beloved, the millennium can not take place in 1951.

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."—Rev. 20:1-4.

This tells us that some of these days the Devil is going to be chained and will be cast down into the bottomless pit. When that takes place, the millennium of a thousand years of righteous reign is going to be ushered in upon this world.

I go back and read the story

of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and I think that it must have been wonderful for them to have lived in Eden's garden, unfettered by sin, and unhampered by the temptations of the flesh. It must have been wonderful to have experienced that unusual joy that you and I have never had—talking face to face with God Almighty. Beloved, I have something better to look forward to than what Adam and Eve had in the Garden of Eden, for some day I am going to live here within this world for a thousand years with the Lord Jesus Christ, and I am going to talk to Him face to face, and walk with Him hand in hand. The millennium for a child of God will be better than the Garden of Eden was for Adam and Eve, for the best they had was a perfect human righteousness. During the millennium you and I as God's children will have a perfect divine righteousness—the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ covering us.

Beloved, the millennium is not going to take place in 1951. I would be happy if I could look, not to Washington, but to Jerusalem for leadership in 1951. I would be happy if I could forget about Stalin and about Truman and about all the rest of the leaders of this world and just be able to look to the Lord Jesus Christ during this coming year. I would be glad if the millennium could begin, but in view of the fact that the millennium comes after the Tribulation period and the Tribulation period is of seven years duration,—in view of that time element I say that the millennium will not come in 1951, nor could it begin in 1951. The second resurrection, which is the resurrection of the unsaved, will not take place in 1951.

"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection."—Rev. 20:5.

The first resurrection comes at the beginning of the millen-

nium, but the second resurrection doesn't take place until the end of the millennium. That is to say, saved people who have died in Jesus Christ are going to be raised from the grave at the beginning of the millennium and they are going to live and reign and walk with Jesus right here within this world through all the thousand years of the millennium. As for the unsaved man, his body will be in the ground and will stay in the grave until the end of the millennium, and after the millennium the second resurrection shall take place with the bodies of the unsaved dead being brought forth from the ground.

Oh, what a joy you as a child of God have who has lost a loved one in Christ Jesus. What a joy when you think about that one who died in the Lord, who some day is going to reign along side of you through the millennium. What a sorrow if that loved one of yours died without Jesus Christ. I would that I might speak tenderly to you if you have lost someone who knew not the Son of God as a Saviour. I would that I might speak tenderly that I might offer to you some comfort; but, beloved, frankness to my God and honesty in the light of His Word compels me to say that if your loved one died without Jesus Christ that that loved one will never be with Christ during the millennium. That loved one will never come out of the grave until the second resurrection which comes at the end of the millennium, at which time the unsaved will be judged and cast body and soul into a Devil's Hell to suffer throughout eternity.

Beloved, what is true of that loved one who has died outside of Jesus already will be just as true of you if you die outside of Jesus Christ.

I want you to notice also that the end of this physical world whereby the elements shall be melted with fervent heat will not take place in 1951.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."—Rev. 21:1, 2.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"—II Peter 3:10-12.

Beloved, when sin entered this world Adam and Eve became contaminated, and this physical world itself became contaminated. God is never going to cease until the contamination of sin is removed from everything that it has touched. Some day every person is going to be perfect and is going to have a body that is absolutely pure and without sin. Some day, beloved, this world likewise is going to be absolutely purged from sin. The Word of God tells us that there is a day coming when the heavens and the earth are going to be burned over with fire and God is going to remove from the world every vestige of sin.

That isn't going to take place

in 1951. The new Heaven and the new earth isn't going to take place until after the millennium. Some day this prophecy will come to pass but because of the time element involved, it can not come to pass in 1951.

II

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE SURE TO COME TO PASS IN 1951.

Evil men in their sins will wax worse and worse during 1951.

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."—II Tim. 3:13.

This world isn't going to be one bit better at the end of 1951. The truth of the matter is, it is going to be worse. I have said repeatedly that this world is all on a toboggan slide, going down hill toward Hell at a fearful rate. You think that there is a lot of sin in the world. You think that there is a lot of vice and immorality and licentiousness. You think, beloved, that there is an awful lot of crime. It will never be as good next year as it was this year. It will never be better.

In the second chapter of Daniel we have a prophecy, which in reality is a dream of history. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and in that dream he saw a great vision of a man, made of component parts of various metal—a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron and miry clay. When the king awakened, he wondered what his dream meant. He couldn't understand it, but there was a man of God who could. When that man of God, Daniel by name, came in, he interpreted to the king the dream, and he showed the king that his dream was actually a dream of history. He said to the king, "Nebuchadnezzar, you represent the head of gold." Then he showed him that the chest and arms of silver represented another empire that was to follow him, which was Media Persia. He showed him that the belly and thighs of brass represented a third empire which was to be fulfilled by Alexander the Great, who was to rule the world. Then he showed him that those legs of iron were to represent Rome, divided into its eastern and western branches; and those feet of iron and miry clay were to represent the nations that came out of the old Roman empire.

Notice, beloved, those component parts that made up that image began with gold, then silver, then brass, then iron, then iron and miry clay mingled together. What does this show? Though an increase in strength, there is a decrease in finer qualities. This tells us that as time passes by, down to the time of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ the finer qualities are going to disintegrate. This prophesies the moral state and the moral conditions of this world until the Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

The Word of God gives us further proof concerning this. Listen:

"For whosoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together."—Mt. 24:28.

The word for "eagle" is the word for "buzzard." Whenever you see a buzzard floating around in the air, you can know that there is something dead down on the earth beneath. Our Lord says that when Jesus comes again, society is going to be just like a rotting carcass that the buzzards would be looking for.

I say then, here is one proph-

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"1951 In Prophecy"

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 ecy that I know is going to be fulfilled in 1951. Evil men in their sins are going to wax worse and worse in this coming year.

In 1951 there are going to be more false cults and more false religions and more false doctrines preached than ever before.

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness." — I Tim. 4:1, 7.

"Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, do so these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith." — I Tim 3:7,8.

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." — II Tim. 4:1-4.

Beloved, as days go by and as time draws near to the end of this age when Jesus comes back to this world, our Lord says that we can know that the people are going to turn away their ears from the truth and turn to fables. They are going to want preachers that will scratch their itching ears and give them something that is pleasing instead of the Word of God.

The only hope for this world religiously is the Lord Jesus Christ who died upon the Cross of Calvary. I don't tell men to join the church. I don't tell men to be baptized. I don't tell men that they have to be Baptists to be saved. I tell every body that Jesus Christ is the only hope, and that any man who trusts the Lord Jesus Christ

is saved for time and for eternity and he is going to Heaven when he dies. There is nothing for him to go to Hell for, for Christ has suffered his Hell on the Cross of Calvary. However there'll be plenty of preachers to preach false doctrine in 1951.

In 1951 men are going to keep on dying.

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." — Heb. 9:27.

"For I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living." — Job 30:23.

These verses present to us the imminency of death and the certainty of the fact that death is going to come to each of us.

James would tell those of us who plan for tomorrow the futility of such plans, for he says:

"Go to now, ye that say, To-day or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." — James 4:13-15.

How well do I remember that sainted man of God, Brother W. C. Pierce, who used to be pastor over in Catlettsburg. You couldn't get Brother Pierce to say that he was going to do anything, without adding, "The Lord willing." Several times I have tried to get him to say that he was going to do something, but he would always add that little expression, "The Lord willing." We haven't any right to plan what we are going to do tomorrow, or next week, or at any time in the future, without saying, "The Lord willing."

Listen, beloved, men are going to keep right on dying. The National Safety Council estimates that there will be thirty-five million deaths by way of accidents during this year. Men are going to go right on dying from natural diseases too. Before this year passes the crepe may be hanging from your door. It may be hanging from my door. Before this year of 1951 passes, by, it will be almost a miracle to expect that God in His providence would

not remove some member of this church from us. This is one prophecy that we know is going to come to pass in 1951. Men are going to keep on dying. In 1951 the Gospel will still be the power of God unto salvation.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." — Mt. 24:14.

This Gospel is going to be preached down to the end of the age. It is going to be the power of God unto salvation right down to the end of the age. Mark it down, beloved, there will never be an individual saved who doesn't hear the Word of God. God doesn't save apart from it. The God who saves through the means of the Gospel is going to see that the Gospel will be preached down to the end of age.

Beloved that old Gospel means a lot to me. I am glad that Jesus Christ came to the Cross of Calvary and died. You ask, "Why did He suffer? Why did they kill Him?" Here is God's answer:

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures: And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." — I Cor. 15:3-4.

Mark it down, beloved, sin has to be paid for. Either Jesus pays for your sins on the Cross, or you are going to Hell to pay for them. Your sins will either be paid for by you or by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Beloved, I am glad that the old Gospel is going to be preached and that the old Gospel is going to still be the power of God in 1951 and until the Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

III

THERE ARE SOME PROPHECIES THAT MAY COME TO PASS IN 1951.

The first resurrection may come to pass in 1951.

One week recently I had three funerals in the week's time. I stood beside the third grave and saw the body of a beautiful Christian who lived here within this world put down into that grave. I said to myself, "It could be that that body will come out before the undertaker gets the lid fastened on the casket."

Listen, beloved, when Jesus comes, the first resurrection is going to take place. What a rumbling there is going to be in the ground!

I stood over here at the rolling mill some years ago and I saw a man bring that strong electric magnet close to the ground. I saw that magnet as the fine scraps and metal dust leaped up to catch hold of it. As I looked more closely, it seemed like the ground was literally alive with the little pieces that had been embedded down in the ground coming out. As I looked at it, I thought what a marvelous picture of what is going to happen when my Lord Jesus Christ comes again, — when all the saints of God are caught up with Him and all the dead in Christ are raised up out of the dust of the earth at the first resurrection.

I say to you, there isn't one prophecy in this Bible to prevent our Lord from coming in the air and catching away the redeemed of God this year. There isn't a prophecy yet to be fulfilled that would keep Jesus

CHRIST IS COMING

Christ is coming! We are waiting
 'Mid the shadows dim;
 Longing till the night's dark pinions
 Fold their plumes to Him.
 Waiting by each gate of sorrow,
 Thinking of the glad tomorrow;
 Watch while all the world is sleeping.
 Christ is coming! Come, Lord, come!

Christ is coming! In a moment
 Shall the shout resound,
 And the voice of heaven's archangel,
 And God's trumpet sound;
 Then the sleeping saints arisen,
 Bursting from their earthly prison,
 With the living upward soaring,
 See their Lord with eyes adoring.
 Christ is coming! Come, Lord, come!
 --Heyman Wreford

Christ from coming now and taking up out of this world those who are redeemed of God. There isn't one prophecy that would prevent the first resurrection from taking place right now.

The Anti-Christ, who is going to control this world during the seven years of the Tribulation, may be revealed in 1951. I think that there is some very good timber in the world right now that would make good Anti-Christ. I think that there is some very good timber in the world that our Lord can choose from as the Anti-Christ, that will lead together the nations of that world and that will control the world during that hellish period of the Tribulation.

I say, beloved, the Anti-Christ may be revealed in 1951.

Most important of all is this: The coming of my Jesus may take place in 1951. I don't say that He is coming, but in the light of my study of God's Word and in view of world conditions, surely it can't be long until Jesus Christ comes again. As surely as we are here, I feel that there is going to be a meeting in the air of all of the redeemed of God's people in a very, very near future. I don't say that He is coming but I do say that He may come in 1951. Thank God, I will be so happy if He does come in 1951.

"Out in the world—the darkness gathered quickly;
 Peace is far off; men's hearts are full of fear;
 Within the veil—God's children rest in safety,
 They know their Lord's return is very near.

Out in the world—industrial strife and warfare;
 Kingdoms declining; bloodshed, loss and pain;
 Within the veil — Christ's Church, just watching,
 Praying,—
 Thrilled with His promise, I will come again.

Out in the world — heart-hunger, pleasure-madness;
 Cruelty, deception, every form of sin;
 Within the veil—soul-rest and satisfaction
 For those who, through His cross, have entered in.

Out in the world—distrust of one another;
 And blindness to the warnings of their day;
 Within the veil—the glorious hope unfolding,—
 "The Bridegroom cometh," He is on the way."

May God help you to be ready when He comes. The only way
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Paul's Interpretation Of Acts 22:16

The only way to arrive at the true interpretation of Acts 22:16 is to study this verse with its context and with other verses used by Paul to show how he and others are saved. If this verse teaches that sin is literally washed away in baptism, the preaching of Paul in other chapters of Acts must harmonize with this interpretation; otherwise the Bible contradicts itself. We boldly affirm that any person who teaches that Acts 22:16 teaches baptismal regeneration contradicts the one scriptural way of salvation as shown in both the Old and the New Testament.

I. Paul's first argument to prove that Acts 22:16 does not teach that one must be baptized to have literal cleansing from sin is found in his record of Old Testament gospel preaching in Acts 13:14-48. Baptism is not mentioned in these verses. Harken to this:

1. Old Testament gospel preaching was: THAT according to the promise of God made to the seed of David, a Savior was to be born (Acts 13:23), even Jesus, whom God did raise up unto Israel, which Paul proves by John's preaching (Acts 13:24-26); THAT according to Old Testament Scriptures this same Jesus whom God had raised up unto Israel would be wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities (Isa. 53:5, 10), whom Paul says the Jews crucified when they found no cause of death in Him, thus fulfilling all that was written of Him (Acts 13:27-29); THAT according to the Old Testament Scriptures Jesus would be buried, but would see no corruption (Acts 13:33-37), for though he was taken down from the tree and laid in a sepulcher, yet God raised Him from the dead (Acts 13:29, 30). This is the Old Testament gospel message that Moses and the prophets preached every Sabbath day (Acts 13:27; 15:21). Paul does not add to or take from this message. The message of both the Old and the New Testament is:

2. "That through this MAN (Jesus) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins" (Acts 13:38).

3. That it is by this MAN (Jesus) that all who believe are "justified from ALL THINGS" (Acts 13:39). It is believing in Jesus and what HE DID for us that justifies us from all things.

Let us conclude Paul's first argument with this statement: Any preacher or teacher who affirms that the Old Testament gospel is not the same as that of the New Testament will never preach the gospel of the grace of God, but will preach a sacramental gospel which is not the gospel of Jesus Christ.

II. Paul's second argument to prove that Acts 22:16 does not teach that sins are

literally washed away in baptism is the decision reached in the counsel of apostles and missionaries that met at Jerusalem to settle the question as to the way of salvation that had arisen because of the preaching of Paul and Barnabas. This counsel did settle this matter once and forever. And baptism is not even mentioned.

1. Peter affirmed that God made choice that by his mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. Acts 15:7.

2. He affirms that "God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them (the Gentiles) witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as He did unto us" (Acts 15:8).

3. He affirms that God put no difference between the Jews and Gentiles, "purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:9). This means that God saves both Jews and Gentiles by faith. Baptism is not mentioned.

4. He affirms that through the grace of the Lord Jesus, New Testament saints are saved the same as Old Testament saints were saved. Acts 15:11.

The record of this counsel shows that it was a democratic counsel. Barnabas, Paul, Peter, and James all spoke. Now for the big question: Will any deny that Paul here spoke his conviction? Certainly not. Therefore his silence before this counsel on the matter of baptismal regeneration is a strong affirmation that he was not baptized to wash away his sins literally, but that his heart, as well as that of others, was purified by faith.

III. Paul's third argument to prove that Acts 22:16 does not teach forgiveness through baptism is in the answer that he and Silas gave the Philippian jailer.

1. The jailer's question to Paul and Silas was: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" This question is so clear and plain that even a simple-minded person, according to nature, could understand it if the way of salvation could be understood by the worldly wisdom of men. But the knowledge of salvation comes to every one as it did to Paul, namely, "by the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal. 1:11, 12). Paul asked Jesus a similar question: "What shall I do Lord?" (Acts 22:10). Could one of the "ALL THINGS" which are appointed for thee to do" have to do with how Paul was to be saved? Here is the test: If Jesus meant by His answer to Paul's question that Paul had to be baptized in order to be saved, then Paul would surely have said to the jailer: "Believe and be baptized and thou shalt be saved." Otherwise Paul and Jesus would have been found contradicting one another. Here is Paul's answer to the jailer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house" (Acts 16:31). A

kindred question was asked the Lord by some who believed in a DO religion to be saved. Listen to the Lord's answer: "This is the work of God that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent" (John 6:29). Jesus said that believing on Him whom God sent is the work of God! Those who preach and believe in a sacramental gospel will never survive to swim the great gulf as they try to answer the Lord Jesus.

IV. Paul's fourth argument to prove that Acts 22:16 does not teach salvation through baptism is found in the commission that Christ gave to Paul before he was baptized. Christ told Paul what to preach (Acts 26:15-18), and baptism is not mentioned.

1. Jesus revealed Himself to Paul in the form of a light above the brightness of the sun (Acts 26:13) shining around and in Paul (Gal. 1:15). It was right there that Paul ceased to confer with flesh and blood. It was there that Paul recognized Jesus as Lord—"What shall I do, Lord?" Paul says: "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost" (I Cor. 12:23). Notice the contrast between Paul and those who called Jesus Lord in Matt. 7:22. Those preachers that believed in a DO religion used the Lord's name in everything they did, but what they had done was exalted above what the Lord had done. It was not so with Paul. He counted his own righteousness and all things but dung that he might win Christ. Phil. 3:3-9.

2. The Lord told Paul that He had appeared unto him to make him a minister and a witness of the things which he had seen. Acts 26:16. What had Paul seen? He had seen Jesus revealed to him. He had HEARD and UNDERSTOOD the words of the Lord. Therefore he was of God. He was a saved man; for Jesus says: "He that is of God heareth God's word" (John 8:47). Paul was never disobedient to the heavenly vision (Acts 26:19), saying: "For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus and Him crucified"; and again: "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel" (I Cor. 1:17). Baptism had no part in the gospel Paul preached.

3. The Lord told Paul that He had appeared to him, not only to make him a minister and a witness of what he had seen, but of the things in which he would appear to him. Acts 26:16.

(1) The Lord sent him to the people and the Gentiles. Acts 26:17.

(2) "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive the forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith" (Acts 26:18). Now for the great question: A Paul, did the Lord tell you that the people

and the Gentiles, in order to have forgiveness and inheritance among them that are sanctified, would have to be baptized? Listen to the answer again: "That they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me (Jesus)." Therefore we see that Jesus, years after He had ascended to Heaven, appeared to Paul and commissioned him to preach the same gospel the Lord preached to the people during His earthly ministry. No one can get around this.

V. Paul's fifth argument to prove that Acts 22:16 does not teach that baptism saves is found in his preaching to King Agrippa. Paul first tells the king how the Lord revealed Himself to him and then proceeds in telling him why he was a prisoner.

1. Paul was a prisoner because he preached the gospel of the Old Testament. Acts 26:6, 22, 23.

2. Paul affirms that his preaching or witnessing both to small and great was the same kind of preaching as that of Moses and the prophets (Acts 26:22); for the preaching of Moses and the prophets was: "That Christ should suffer." Paul affirms that Jesus of Nazareth did suffer; that Christ should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light to the people and to the Gentiles. Paul affirms that the hope of the promise made to our fathers was that God should not suffer His Holy One to see corruption, and, therefore, that it should not be thought an incredible thing that God should raise the dead.

King Agrippa knew from history that these things were true. Acts 26:26. Paul preached the gospel of the Old Testament to the king. In proof of this, listen to the question Paul asked the king: "King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets?" (Acts 26:27). Now for this question: Will you accuse Paul of not preaching the gospel because he did not say: "Be baptized and wash away thy sins"? Will you despise and wonder and perish (Acts 13:40, 41) by not accepting the gospel message of the Old Testament? If you refuse to heed, listen, please, to what the Lord Jesus says: "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father; there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" (John 5:45-47).

Finally, the word of this salvation is sent to you that feareth God (Acts 13:26). We have this blessed assurance: "As many as were ordained to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48) and shall continue to believe.

Kindness and Rewards

(Continued from page one)

yea, to a young party so kind years ago to pick me up on the highway going to the beach for the day in their car; they had their little daughter they called Babe and her little friend all singing and so happy.

"This little friend she called Sue . . . If I live to be a thousand, I will never forget that day and their happiness and kindness."

He learned the names of his friends by sneaking a look at the registration slip on their car. Mrs. Tyson was willed \$60,000, Tyson and their daughter \$20,000 each. Sue was given \$10,000.

Believers may never be remembered in the wills of those whom they befriend, but it nevertheless pays to be happy and kind toward all, for the Lord Jesus said: "Whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward." (Mark 9:41).

Reward should not be the motive, but it certainly is an en-

couragement, therefore "let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9). —Now



Russia

(Continued from page one) parations for war, is doing exactly what God told her to do through the prophet Ezekiel. "Be thou prepared and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them" (Ezek. 38:7). Since God Himself will fight against her, in all fairness He would give her ample opportunity to make herself strong. Let no one think, however, that God will take sides in the coming world struggle. Divine resistance will be purely in defense of His chosen people when Russia and all her allied forces under Gog comes against Israel. But who can withstand God when once He riseth up to battle? All the manpower in the world and all the weapons of war piled together in a heap can not overcome Him. Therefore Russia is making gigantic preparations for her own destruction. Herein shall God be sanctified in the eyes of many nations when Gog meets with overwhelming de-

feat upon the mountains of Israel (Ezek. 38:18-23).

—The Midnight Cry



The Church

(Continued from page one) and still another in the plain, would not constitute a body. For the members of a body to be a body, they must be together. The material for a house scattered all over the lot, or all over the country, could in no wise be called a house. To be a house, the materials must be together. All of the Lord's children will never be together until the Lord calls them out unto Himself in the resurrection. Then, and not until then will there be a "universal" body or "universal" church. The Lord speaks of this in Hebrews 12:22, 23. So many people who truly know the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour have missed the truth about the New Testament church because they have not seen, or ignore the simplest principles of Scripture interpretation. The commission of our Lord in Matthew 28:18-20 was not given to all Christians everywhere, but to a specific local group, but to them as an institution which was to last "until the end of the age."

—The Clarion

Election

(Continued from page one)

of anything that could be more discouraging to a penitent sinner than such teaching. And yet, perhaps 90 per cent of religious teaching does just that. Such teaching reverses the order of repentance (a change of mind). It suggests God's mind must be changed to conform to the sinner's will which puts Him in the class of a sinner with a carnal mind—changed from a spiritual mind to carnal. The more I think of these things the more ridiculous it looks.

"I believe in the doctrine of election and the atonement for the elect only. We have a plain type of that in the passover in Egypt; none but the chosen of the Lord were relieved and made secure by the blood of the passover. There are many passages of Scripture which fully establish the doctrine of particular redemption (of the elect only)."

"In every invitation of sinners to the Saviour I can recall that is recorded in the Bible it is stated what kind of a sinner is being invited. I mention a few: 'Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters . . . (Isaiah 55:1). Here only the thirsty are invited. Our Lord

does not make calls in vain. 'Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled' (Matthew 5:6). 'In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink' (John 7:37). 'Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28). 'And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come.'"



Shut In

(Continued from page one) rise, the valleys hide.

Shut in, I know—and yet my restless feet
Could never know of journeying so sweet.
Life's day will pass—tomorrow I shall be
Forever well, and strong, and serving Thee!"

—A. E. Grantham



"1951 In Prophecy

(Continued from page three) you can be ready is through the death of God's Son for your sins. Trust Him now!