

He is your friend who pushes you nearer God.

# Let's Study Revelation

By E. G. COOK  
Birmingham, Alabama

This is a chapter of a book which Brother E. G. Cook expects ultimately to print on the Book of Revelation. It is a joy to us to share it with our readers today, and after you have read it, I am sure that you will say that it is only a sweet foretaste of what the entire book will be like.

In Chapter 16 we have the last of the three types of judgments called in 11:14 the third woe. First, there were the seal judgments which made up the first woe. Then there were the trumpet judgments which made up the second woe. And here in this chapter we have the vial (or bowl) judgments, the third woe. This word "vial" comes from PHIALE which means a bowl. All other translations put it bowl as it should be.

In verse 1 John hears a great voice out of the temple. And this great voice tells the seven angels which we saw in 15:1 to go their way and pour out their bowls of wrath of God upon the earth. The iniquity of the people has now become full. In Gen. 15:16 God told Abraham that his seed (the children of Israel) would come back to the land of Canaan in the fourth generation. And the reason why they must wait until the fourth generation was that the iniquity of the Amorites was not yet full. God would destroy these people when He brought the Israelites into the land, Deut. 31:3. This He did in Josh. 24:8. But remember, He waited about destroying them until their iniquity was filled up. So He is waiting today for the iniquity of this old religious world to be filled up. But would appear that their iniquity is already full. So we had better be listening for that wonderful "Come up hither."

In verse 2 the first angel went, rather departed and poured out his bowl of God's wrath upon the earth. As a result of this bowl of wrath, the people who worship the image of the beast and the ones who wear the mark of the beast become afflicted with noisome and grievous sores. I am not forgetting that this revelation was given to us in signs and symbols, and I am persuaded that these plagues in this chapter do have a symbolic meaning. But, as of this moment, I am unable to see just what they symbolize. But the fact that I am unable to see what the symbolic meaning of these plagues is does not, by any means, mean that there is no symbolic meaning here.

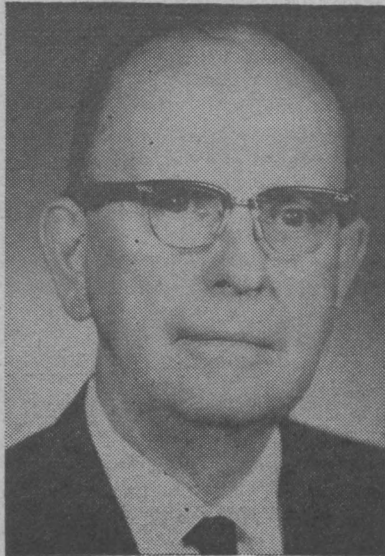
However, I am also persuaded that these plagues also have a literal meaning. We know from Rev. 14:9-11 that those who worship this beast or receive his mark are to be tormented with fire and brimstone. But here in 16:2 they suffer here in this life as well. In Deut. 28:35 Moses said to the children of Israel "The Lord shall smite thee in the knees, and in the legs, with a sore botch that cannot be healed on the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head." Verse 15 of this chapter tells why the Jews were to be afflicted with these awful sores that cannot be healed. They were commanded to worship God, but here in 16:2 they are worshipping the beast and his image. And remember, it is not the old devil that is afflicting them. In Isa. 47:15 God says, "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil. I the Lord do all these things." This "evil" comes from RA which means sorrow, wretched-affliction, calamities, and says that He creates these

things.

In Ex. 9:8-10 we see God, through Moses sending boils upon the Egyptians and upon their beasts. Most writers on Revelation say that what we see here in 16:2 is a repetition of what we see in Ex. 9:8-10, but if you notice, in Ex. 9 the boils come upon the enemies of the Jews, but here in Rev. 16 the sores come upon the apostate Jews themselves. So I prefer to say that Rev. 16:2 is the fulfillment of Deut. 28:35 rather than a repetition of Ex. 9:8-10. If you notice, I said these sores in 16:2 come upon the apostate Jews. It may be that Gentiles will also worship the image of this awful man called the beast, but I am convinced that this plague has to do with the Jews in the main.

In verse 3 the second angel pours out his bowl upon the sea and it becomes like the blood of a dead man. When a man dies his blood is the first thing about him to become putrid, and corrupt.

That is why the undertaker draws the blood from the dead body. Fifty years ago when there



E. G. COOK

were no undertakers except in the larger cities, when a person died he, or she, had to be buried

within a few hours or else no one could stand to stay in the room where the body was because of the awful putrid odor. And the greater part of this foul odor was the result of the stagnant blood. So now when the sea becomes corrupt and putrid like the blood of a dead man every living thing in it dies. This sea will, no doubt, be the sea of Galilee that has been the pride and joy of the Jews throughout the centuries. It was on, and around this sea that our Lord did a greater part of His mighty works. It was upon the blue waters of this lovely sea that our Lord walked that night. It was to this sea that He said "Peace, be still" and there was a great calm. It was on the shore of this sea that He cast the legion of demons out of the maniac of Gadara. It was in this sea that the disciples fished all night and caught nothing. But when they cast the net on the other side of the ship at the command of our Lord, the net was filled with

great fishes. It was at Capernaum on the northern shore of this lovely sea that more than half of our Lord's recorded miracles were performed.

O the mighty works our Lord did perform on, and in the vicinity of this beautiful sea. And all these mighty works should cause the Jews under consideration in Rev. 16 to fall prostrate at His precious feet exclaiming, O Lord, thou art the Almighty One, the great God of Israel. But instead of that they fall at the feet of the image of the beast. They worship not only the antichrist and the beast but the old dragon himself. Is it any wonder then that their beautiful and beloved sea has become like stagnant, putrid blood that stinks to high heaven? Our authorized version says, "And every living soul died in the sea," but practically all other translations say, "And every living thing in the sea died." People are not under consideration here, but rather the fish and other creatures that live in this sea. I say in this sea because the word "sea" is singular. It does not say in the seas, but in the sea.

Then in verse 4 the third angel pours out his bowl of wrath upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. At first it is only the sea that becomes like the blood of a dead man. And only the creatures that live in the sea are said to die. Now the rivers, and even the springs of water up in the mountains that feed the rivers become blood. But this blood is not said to be like the blood of a dead man. God's chosen nation of Israel drank water in Egypt while the Egyptians drank blood. But they have sneered at the precious blood of the spotless Son of God. They have said "His blood be on us, and on our children." Now they must drink blood. It is still true that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." I do not mean to say that these Jews will be forced to drink the precious Blood that was shed on Calvary's tree, but this blood in the rivers and fountains of waters will be His blood in the sense that He is the one that sends it.

In verses 5 and 6 the angel of the waters, that is, the angel who is given charge over the waters, is heard justifying our Lord in His giving these people blood to drink. He is saying that they have shed the blood of saints and therefore they are getting what they deserve. There are those who say they want justice. Here are some people who are getting just that. You and I had best cry for mercy, because the very best of us would be in an awful predicament were it not for His mercy.

In verse 7 another angel out of the altar joins in with the angel of the waters and says, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments." I'm sure that even those image worshipping Jews will not doubt the justice which they are receiving.

Then in verse 8 the fourth angel pours his bowl of wrath on the sun, and it (not him) was given power to scorch men with fire. Even the sun which is some 333,000 times the size of the earth must be given power from on high before it can put out more heat than it is already putting out. In Deut. 32:21 God says, "They (the children of Israel) have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God." This old image of the beast which they are worshipping is not God. So when they worship this image, they move God to jealousy. And in Deut. 32:24 He says, "They shall be burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat." (Continued on page 7, column 1)

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*"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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## WHY I AM A BAPTIST

By CLAUDE KING, SR.  
Indianapolis, Indiana

The stated subject of this article is one, that if it were put in form of a question; and asked to the average Baptist church member, he could not give a clear-cut, Scriptural answer to it! The Bible admonishes believers to "season" their answers with "salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Col. 4:6; I Peter 3:15). Of course we realize that many Baptists are such in name only. They are either not saved, or they have no genuine Scriptural convictions. My reasons for being a Baptist may not be those that a great scholar would set forth; but I believe them to be Scriptural.

First of all, I am a Baptist in principle because God made me such through regeneration (the new birth), and a genuine, Holy Spirit led conviction that the Bible is the only safe rule for guidance, faith and practice (II

Tim. 3:16-17). I firmly believe that if a genuine believer in Christ was left to-himself — with



CLAUDE KING

nothing but the Bible and the Holy Spirit to guide him — he would become what Baptists and

their predecessors have historically taught and practiced, in principle. When a believer goes astray doctrinally, it is either because he has listened to false teachers, or he has gotten the wrong concept of God's Word because he did not seek Holy Spirit guidance.

Certainly, I believe that God uses believers to instruct and lead other believers to a more (Continued on page 6, column 3)

### BRO. COX TO HOLD REVIVAL IN LEXA, ARK., ON NOV. 11

Elder Wayne Cox of Selmer, Tennessee, will be beginning a revival meeting with the Wycamp Missionary Baptist Church of Lexa, Arkansas, on November 11.

This is a newly organized church and I sincerely trust that our readers will remember Bro. Cox and this church much in prayer.

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

### "SOME DOCTRINES FOR WHICH BAPTISTS ARE HATED"

"And Sarah saw the son of Hagar of the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac."—Gen. 21:9, 10.

"Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now." — Gal. 4:28, 29.

Genesis 21 tells about the birth, the early days, and the weaning of Isaac. To appreciate and understand this 21st chapter of

Genesis, it is necessary that you understand that which took place in the life of Abraham and Sarah previously. God had made a promise that there was going to be a child born unto Abraham and Sarah. Of course, they doubted it at first. Why shouldn't they doubt it? Abraham was ninety years old. Sarah was an old woman. At the time the promise first was given, she was past eighty. Why wouldn't they doubt that they were going to have a baby at their house?

They waited for a while, and God didn't come through with His part of the promise. The result was that the child wasn't born. Finally, they became dis-

couraged and impatient as a result of their waiting.

Ultimately, Sarah turned over to Abraham her slave girl, Hagar, and said unto Abraham, "You cohabit with her, maybe that is what God meant in the first place. Maybe we were mistaken in thinking that God was going to give us a baby through you and me. Maybe it was God's plan all the time for you to cohabit with Hagar, and since she is my servant, then the child shall be mine." So Abraham did as his wife suggested, and a child was born of Abraham and Hagar, whom they named Ishmael.

I guess Abraham was pretty (Continued on page 2, column 2)



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JOHN R. GILPIN ..... Editor

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## Calvary Baptists Enjoy Revival With Wayne Cox

Calvary Baptist Church of Ashland, Kentucky, has just closed a good meeting with Brother Wayne Cox of Selmer, Tennessee, being our special preacher for



ELD. WAYNE COX

the occasion. Brother Cox was with us for eight services — from Monday night, October 7, through Sunday night, October 13, and his ministry was indeed a blessing to all those who attended.

Of course, ours is a very small church, but, for the size membership, we had exceedingly good attendance. There were a number of visitors present each night from churches round about, and their attendance was deeply appreciated by Calvary Baptist Church.

Brother Cox has been a reader of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER during the entirety of my tenure

as editor. We have been together on many occasions for revival meetings, Bible Conferences, and special services. To say that we love Brother Cox and appreciate deeply his ministry is but expressing it most mildly. He is truly a man for whom we thank God, and we rejoice to have had him with us for this meeting.

We would certainly urge the Baptist brotherhood at large to keep Brother Cox busy in work of this type. Any church that has him to preach for them will be blessed immeasurably thereby.

Brother Cox's address is:

Elder Wayne Cox  
Route 3,  
Selmer, Tenn. 38375.

## "Baptists . . . Hated"

(Continued from page one)

well proud and pleased with that little fellow that God gave him in their home, and I am sure he came to love that child greatly. The Word of God indicates his intense love for little Ishmael in more than one instance, especially when you hear him pray, "What shall Ishmael be?" Surely Abraham loved the child. But God showed Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar that the thing they had done was wrong, and that it wasn't His plan at all, and that they had gotten ahead of God in their plans. God showed them that even yet a child was to be born of Abraham and Sarah.

Time passed by and still that little fellow didn't put in his appearance. When Abraham was 100 years old and his wife Sarah was 90 or past, God gave them a child. Talk about the unusual, the miraculous, and the supernatural; you surely have it here when a woman 90 years of age gives birth to a child. I know that Abraham was a proud father now that God had done what He had promised.

We are not told at what age they weaned little Isaac, but the time came when it was necessary to take his "bottle" away from him. The time came for them to wean him. On the day that little Isaac was weaned, Abraham made it a day of celebration. When that little fellow had his "bottle" taken away from him, which was a sign that he was getting to be somebody now, they had a feast — a celebration. You know about how that little fellow felt when they took his dinner away from him, and didn't let him get it like he had been getting it in the past. Isaac cried. I can see him as he cried all day long. There was his big brother — his half-brother by the name of Ishmael, who sees little Isaac crying, and he gets off to one side and makes fun of him. Although the Bible doesn't say it, I can hear him say, "Shame on Isaac, little cry baby," making fun of him.

Immediately, this incensed Sarah to the extent that she said, "Get rid of Hagar. I'll not allow that servant girl in my home

anymore. I'll not allow her child around me." Accordingly, Abraham did as his wife suggested, and the child who was born according to the flesh was sent away. Ishmael and his mother Hagar were sent out into the wilderness.

When we come to the New Testament, the Word of God tells us of this experience and makes a spiritual application of it, for it says that every one of us who are saved, are children of promise, just exactly like Isaac was. Isaac was a child of promise. He was promised of God, and God ultimately came through and fulfilled His promise, so that Isaac was a child of promise. Paul says in the New Testament that every one of us who are saved, are children of promise.

In contrast, Ishmael was a child of the flesh. God had absolutely nothing to do with the birth of Ishmael other than that God is a sovereign God who predetermined everything that comes to pass. But from this standpoint, Abraham took things in his own hands, and did according to his desires and his wishes, and Ishmael was merely a child of the flesh.

Paul says that every unsaved person is likewise a child of the flesh, and he says that just as he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the spirit, so it is now; as if to say that just as it was in the days of Ishmael and Isaac, so it is in this day. Just as Ishmael, who was a child of the flesh, persecuted Isaac, who was a child of promise, so the children of promise can expect persecution on the part of those who are children of the flesh today.

I cite this passage of Scripture as a good example for us, as to what we can expect today. In fact, I take for granted that any child of God can expect some persecution here within this world. Actually, I think very few of us have ever known the first meaning of persecution. I think the hard times that come to us come mostly because of our stupidity, rather than from persecution. As I look backward across my own experience, I say that my experience has been a rugged one to say the least; but I often say that I think a great deal of my rugged experience has been brought on because of my lack of knowledge, and as a result of my own stupidity, and the same is true of everybody else. At the same time, there is a lot of persecution that comes to any child of God on the part of the world. Just like Ishmael made fun of little Isaac — just like the son of the flesh made fun of the son of promise in Abraham's day, so the children of the flesh today, the unsaved of the world, will persecute and hate and make fun of the children of God.

I want to make it a little more emphatic than that. I want to show you that as it was in the days of Isaac, so it is especially true so far as Baptists are concerned today. There are some things for which Baptists are hated in a general sense. I mean to say, any truth the Baptists preach, they will be hated for it by somebody, and likewise any error or heresy that Baptists uncover and expose, they will be hated for it by the folk whom it uncovers and exposes.

For example, if I preach against falling from grace, all those preachers who believe and practice falling from grace are going to be infuriated and incensed at what I have to say. If I preach against Masonry as a religion (and that is exactly what it is), and if I contend against the religious aspects of the lodge system, then I can expect the lodge crowd to hate me for what I have to say. If I preach against baptism for regeneration and tell you that men are saved only by

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PASTOR K. R. CROWL

I became acquainted with the Baptist Examiner paper about two years ago through the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Oneco, Florida, which church I now pastor. About two years before that a preacher friend of mine preached to a group of us at a little mission I pastored and he spoke on the doctrine of election and also on total depravity. I asked him if he knew of any publication that I could get for my people that would teach the doctrines of Grace. He said that there was a paper which came out of Ashland, Kentucky but that they taught tithing, and limited atonement, which he said he did not believe in. When I finally did receive the Baptist Examiner I still believed in the universal church theory, general atonement, and several other false teachings. I surely praise God for a church that believes in and upholds the Baptist Examiner. I have come to a much better Bible knowledge of the true Church and the doctrines of Grace through the messages of many fine preachers which have been in the Examiner. As long as I pastor any church I will lead them to support the Examiner. If God should send me to the mission field as I hope He does (be it His will), I will pray that every church that supports me will also support the Examiner. Any person that believes the Bible should give to the support of The Examiner. As long as the Examiner continues to teach the truth, I for one, will continue to support it and pray for it. Every one of the Lord's churches should uphold the ministry of this great Baptist paper. I would suggest that each church give a monthly offering of a substantial amount and then increase it as the Lord enables them. I pray that our church will always give to this great work!

PASTOR K. R. CROWL  
Oneco, Florida

the grace of God and not by feelings hurt when he goes to the waters of the baptism, then I can expect all that crowd who believes in baptism for regeneration and baptism for remission of sins — I can expect them to hate me for what I have to say. If I tell you that the Lord's Supper is for one local organization and only for one church, and that I have no right to partake of the Lord's Supper, except in the church of which I am a member, and nobody has a right to partake of the Lord's Supper here except the individuals who are members of this church — when I preach that, then I know that all those who believe in open communion are going to be incensed, and infuriated, and insulted by what I have to say.

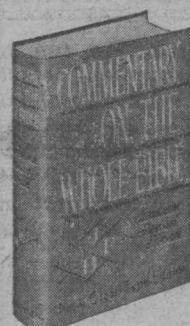
So I say, beloved, regardless of what we preach, and irrespective of what we have to say, somebody is going to get his feelings hurt when he goes to church. It would be some preacher that could always preach and never make anybody mad. What would he preach? Could you tell me what a man would preach that never did make anybody mad? Talk about a fellow crawling through a barrel of fish hooks and not getting stuck; the preacher that can preach and never offend anybody certainly can crawl through a barrel of fish hooks and never catch his clothes one time.

There are some things for which we are particularly hated. I say, in a general sense, you can never preach anything but that somebody would be offended by what you preach, but there are some few doctrines for which we are particularly hated, and it is those particular doctrines that I want to mention to you. (Continued on page 3, column 1)

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## "Baptists . . . Hated"

(Continued from page two)

### A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.

Baptists are hated because we preach that when Jesus was here in the days of His flesh He established a Baptist Church. I don't make any apology at all when I say that when Jesus was here, He established one church, and only one church. Jesus said to His disciples:

"I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."—Mt. 16:18.

He didn't say, "I am going to build a great number of churches," but He said, "I will build my church."

If I say that I am going to take my wife out to dinner, that doesn't mean that I am going to take your wife out to dinner. If I say I am going to take my wife out to dinner, that means that I am going to take just one woman out to dinner. When Jesus said, "I will build my church," the word "my" puts a restriction upon the text to the extent that Jesus was talking in terms of only one church.

I make no apology at all when I say that the Lord Jesus Christ built a church when He was here in the days of His flesh. He didn't wait for the day of Pentecost to start a church. He didn't wait for the days of John and Charles Wesley. He didn't wait for the days of Henry VIII to start a church. I tell you, the Lord Jesus Christ started a church in the days of His own flesh.

Let's look at it from the standpoint of one of these modern Protestant churches. Take the Episcopal Church, for example, since in reality, it is actually one of the oldest of all the Protestant churches. The Episcopal Church was started by a man who had been owned and honored by Catholicism, Henry VIII was king of England, and he had a wife that had been wished on him when he was a child of 12 years of age. When he grew up to young manhood, he found that he was restricted in his activities by a wife much older than he was, who had been wished onto him by governmental regulations.

Furthermore, she had not given to him a male heir, and desiring a male heir to be his successor on the throne, Henry VIII decided that he wanted a divorce from his wife so he could marry somebody else.

Bear in mind that being a loyal Catholic at that time, Henry VIII desired to uphold the traditions in the Catholic Church. Previously, when Martin Luther had risen up, and had said things contrary to the Catholics, Henry VIII had said mighty nasty things about Martin Luther, to the extent that the Pope had honored Henry VIII, and called him, "The Defender of the Faith." The pages of history say that the Pope pronounced upon Henry VIII a marvelous honor when he called him a defender of the faith, but now the shoe is on the other foot, and Henry VIII wants to get rid of his wife and the Catholic Church doesn't want to give him a divorce.

The Pope says that Henry VIII can't have a divorce, but Henry VIII said, "Who are you to tell me that I can't have a divorce? I have to get rid of this wife that was wished on me when I was a 12-year old boy. I'll start a church of my own." So he did. He started the Episcopal Church in order that he could get a divorce from his wife and marry another.

Of course, after he got rid of one wife, it was easy enough for him to get rid of them in a wholesale manner, and he finally ended up with a half dozen wives. I think he cut the heads off of two, one died on the gallows, and another died in prison. Anyhow he got rid of them. He had the "know-how" when it came to getting rid of wives. Beloved, Henry VIII started the Episcopal Church on this basis.

I say to you, every Protestant Church that has ever come into existence, has come into existence with some kind of pretext like the pretext of Henry VIII. Even down to this day, there has never been an organization that has come into existence to call itself a church, but that there is some pretext whereby they rebel against authority.

The Lord Jesus Christ didn't say anything about starting a

church in the days of Henry VIII. Rather, He said, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." He didn't say anything about starting a church down here in the 20th century. He said, "I will build my church," and He built His church. He didn't wait until the 20th century to build one. He didn't wait for the days of Henry VIII, and He didn't wait until Martin Luther. He didn't wait for John and Charles Wesley. Instead, He started His own church, and He said concerning that church, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," as if to say that His church was going to live, and endure, and exist forever.

There are folk today who say there is no such thing as church succession and church perpetuity. A man who says that there is no such thing as church succession denies immediately Matthew 16:18, when Jesus said, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." That is calling the Son of God a liar, because Jesus said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against my church. I am starting it myself, and it is going to continue." Beloved, the individual who denies church perpetuity and church succession through the ages is first of all calling the Son of God a liar when he says that that church went out of existence, and it had to be established by somebody else.

I look at it from this standpoint. Jesus Christ is the head of the church, and there has to be church perpetuity and church succession if there is life. Cut your head off and how much life do you have? Sever the head from the body and how much life is left for the body? Beloved, if the Head started the church back there in the first century, and that church went out of existence, and it remained for Henry VIII to resuscitate it, or for Martin Luther or other individuals to bring the church to life, then you have an organization today without any life. You either have church succession and church perpetuity, or you do not have any church. Instead, you have an organization without a head. The Son of God said, "I will build my church," and He built it. If you say there is no succession and no perpetuity, then whatever you have today is a church organization without life, because there is no continuity between the Head and the organization.

I believe that Jesus Christ established His church when He was here in the days of His flesh, and that church has had an unbroken line of continuity down to the present time. There has never been a day but that there have been Baptist Churches in existence from the days of Jesus to this present day, and they'll continue that way. I don't care what happens or what problems may arise, Jesus' Church has lived for two thousand years, and it will always live until Jesus comes again.

If a man is a sound Baptist

preacher, he preaches church succession and church perpetuity. There have been a few so-called Baptist historians who have preached otherwise. There are lots of modern Baptists today who say that Baptists started in the 16th century with John Smyth. I tell you, beloved, if Baptists started in the 16th century with John Smyth, then Baptists are a dead organization, because they are separated from the Head. You have to have unbroken continuity, or else you have no life.

There's many an individual that hates Baptists because Baptists stand for this truth — namely that Jesus started Baptist Churches when He was here in the days of His flesh and they have had an unbroken line of continuity down to the present time. I make no apology to anybody when I say I believe that. The fact of the matter is, instead of making an apology, I am proud to believe it, and I am happy to preach it. Do you know why folk hate Baptists when they preach this? If I tell you that Jesus established a Baptist Church in the days of His flesh and that none other except those established by Him can claim to be churches of the Lord Jesus Christ, then that actually unchurches every other professing Christian.

Now I am not saying they are not saved. I am not saying that there are not good people in these organizations. Rather, I am just saying they have no church. Jesus started His church, He gave to His church a commission, and He gave to His church the ordinances, and any other organization is running without being sent, is preaching without having a commission, and is carrying out the ordinances without having any authority whatsoever to do so.

I do not think that Methodists and the Campbellites and the Holy Rollers or any other organization can claim to be God's church. They have come up of their own accord, and they have no vital connection to the Head. They are organizations that are dead from the beginning, and they will remain dead because of the fact that they have no vital connection with the Head of the church, in the first place.

Beloved, this doesn't make folk

love us. It doesn't make people love your pastor. The fact of the matter is, down through the years your pastor has been hated because he has preached this truth, but he preaches it because he knows it is the truth.

## II

### SOVEREIGNTY AND ELECTION.

Baptists are hated because they preach the doctrine of sovereignty and the doctrines of grace. I say to you frankly, I believe in a sovereign God, who doeth all things after the counsel of His own will. I believe in a God who moves in every particular, and everything that takes place, is moved or happens in the light of God's sovereign purpose. Listen:

"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water HE TURNETH IT whithersoever he will."—Prov. 21:1.

Beloved, who controls the rivers? When a flood comes, who controls the water? You say "We are, because we are building dams, and we are putting up dikes, and we can control the elements." At Portsmouth, Ohio, in 1913, they said, "We'll build a wall that will keep the waters out of the city of Portsmouth from now on, but in 1937, God showed the city of Portsmouth that He had the last say, and He pushed the waters over the top of that flood wall and flooded the city of Portsmouth more than it was flooded in 1913.

I tell you, beloved, God has the last say in sovereignty. He controls the waters, and if God wants the waters to come up and flood this town, no floodwall can stop Him, for He controls the waters, and He turns the waters according to His own will.

This text says that the heart of the king is in God's hands. Beloved, if God can turn the heart of the king, and control the heart of the king, then if somebody likes you today and hates you tomorrow, don't feel badly toward that individual. Remember God is sovereign, and God controls it. I tell you, beloved, God is a sovereign God, and God controls the hearts of individuals, and causes them to do according to His own will.

Talk about a doctrine that thrills my soul, this one does it. (Continued on page 5, column 1)



## SATAN

by  
LEWIS SPERRY  
CHAFER

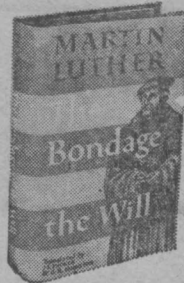
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# The Baptist Examiner FORUM

"Explain Matt. 24:36-41. Who is going to perish — the ones that are taken or the ones that are left?"

AUSTIN  
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Arabia Baptist  
Church

Arabia, Ohio



These particular verses are part of the answer to a question asked by the apostles of Jesus Christ concerning the end time. In order to explain to them the answer, He used the sign of Noah. If we can understand what took place in the time of Noah, then the answer to this question should be obvious. In examining the time of Noah we find that Noah was lifted above the judgment of the flood by the ark, and was saved, whereas those who were left, perished.

"And all flesh died that moved upon the earth."—Gen. 7:21.

"As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." Luke 17:26.

From this verse it becomes apparent that there is to be a repetition of the days of Noah; therefore the ones who will perish are the ones who are left to face the judgment of God during the Tribulation Period. In stating that the ones who are left, perish, I do not mean to infer that they perish in Hell. What I do mean is that they perish as to physical life. The Bible makes it very clear that there will be many thousands of God's elect who will perish (physically) during the time of Jacob's trouble. Read Rev. 7:9.

John saw this great multitude who had perished during the Great Tribulation, but their perishing was not spiritual, only physical. To add further proof to this, let us once more look at the judgment during the days of Noah. When God lifted Noah above the flood in the ark, he did not become possessor of eternal life by this act. Noah was saved and possessor of eternal life many years before the flood came. So when the Scripture declares that Noah was saved from death by being lifted out of judgment, it has reference only to physical life. There is no doubt in my mind but that many babies perished in the flood. I do not for a moment entertain the idea that they perished spiritually, or that at this very moment they are in Hell.

I will agree that the lifting out of Noah is a wonderful shadow and type of salvation, but brother, it could only be in type, for Noah was saved many years before God judged the world by the flood.

As it was in Noah's day so shall God save a remnant during the tribulation, for He has promised to lift out a portion of Israel

that they may be saved, (physically), and the lifting of them out of His judgments is the means of preservation of the nation.

"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, unto her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." Rev. 12:14.

This woman is not the church for she (church) was lifted out in Rev. 4:1. This woman is Israel who will be lifted out on eagles wings for her preservation. They (Israel) like Noah will be spared by being taken rather than left. May I also point out that those who are lifted out on eagles wings were not in the number that John saw in Heaven in chapter 7.

They are preserved physically, and spared the pangs of death, thus Israel enters into the Millennium to reign with Christ over the earth.

"Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." Matt. 24:34.

Therefore the nation of Israel shall not pass (perish) until the Lord has fulfilled all the prophecies regarding her. We cannot know the hour nor the day that God has predestinated to fulfill His promises to Israel, yet we should not be ignorant concerning the signs that God has given of the end of the age. Israel is home at this very moment, where God said she would be in the end time. It is in Palestine that Israel is to be judged, but God has decreed to save a remnant; this He does, by lifting some out lest they all perish, and by shortening the tribulation period. Read Matt. 24:21-22.

E. G.  
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Sometimes we see both phases of our Lord's second coming in the same context in the Bible. For example, in Lk. 4:16-19 we see our Lord reading His text for His first sermon in His home town. If you notice, He stopped reading in the middle of verse 2 of Isa. 6:1. Here it was a matter of His first and second coming. He read only that which pertained to His first coming. "The day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn" has to do with His second coming. So it is with the first and second phases of His second coming.

In Mt. 24 I am convinced that we see both of these phases. In

verse 29 and 30 He is definitely speaking of the second phase when He shall come down to the earth with His saints to set up His kingdom here on the earth. But in verses 36-41 I am persuaded He is speaking of the first phase when He comes in the air for His saints. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air." I Thes. 4:17.

But, I do not see anything in these verses about anybody perishing at this time. It is true that the lost people are left here when the saints are caught up. But it is also true that many of the lost who are left at this time are lost sheep. I am fully persuaded that many will be saved during the tribulation after we are raptured.

In verses 37 through 39 Jesus is saying that as the people before the flood did not know the flood was coming, so it will be with His second coming. That time is upon us today. The great majority of church people, even Baptists today do not believe that our Lord is coming back to this earth in His body that He left here with. Some six years ago the Redbook Magazine had a survey made to see what the young preachers in the seminaries of our country believe today. It was found that ninety nine per cent of these young preachers do not believe that Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth. And the heart breaking thing about it was that fifteen per cent of the preachers interviewed were Baptist preachers. This may very well mean that our Lord's coming is near, even at the door.

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This is one of the many passages that speaks of the second coming of the Lord when He comes for His people (which we call the rapture).

Let us remind you that the rapture takes place before the man of sin is revealed. God's people will be taken in the air. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (I Thess. 4:16, 17).

Verse 36 of Matthew 24 tells us that no one knows the day or the hour of this coming. My friends, God has a set time for all things, and everything will happen when He has purposed for it to happen. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son..." (Gal. 4:4). God knows the time, but man does not. We have hints as to events that take place, but we do not know the day or the hour. That is why we are admonished to watch and pray.

Verses 37-39 is showing us that the world will not be looking for or expecting the coming of the Lord just as the people did not believe that there would be a flood in Noah's time.

Verse 40 and 41 are simply showing us that when He comes for the believers that those who are saved will be taken and those who are not saved will be left. The Lord will escort us to heaven and the devil will then come forth to cause great trouble on the earth. We think things are bad now, and they are, but imagine what it will be like when all of the saved will be taken away. The only reason we have any semblance of decent morals on earth today is because of the Christians. The only honesty found is found because of the example of God's people. All this will be gone after the rapture.

Let this be a lesson to you. When you are working or when you are at home or wherever you are, live as if you know that He is coming the very next minute. He could, you know.

ROY  
MASON

Radio Minister

Baptist  
Preacher

Aripeka, Florida



In previous verses Jesus gave a parable to indicate some general signs of his return to this truth. He promised that the Jewish race would not go out of existence until his predictions all should come to pass. This "genea"—race shall not pass away. Twenty centuries have passed and they have not passed away. Instead they have been restored to their land. But Jesus warns against date setting by saying that as to the exact date of His return no man knows—not even the angels. Then He foretells that the human race will go on from bad to worse, until a condition analogous to the time of Noah shall obtain (v.37-39). Social gospelers don't seem to know that this is in the Bible, or else they don't believe it. Go to a big religious convention and you will hear talk about "bringing in the Kingdom." This is to be done through missionary, educational and other denominational efforts. There is not the slightest chance of men bringing in the kingdom of God. All such talk is pure poppycock. Baptists as well as others are being taken in with this social gospel stuff. The preaching of the gospel of individual salvation is being minimized in favor of efforts to save society. Preachers are increasingly mixing into politics, civil rights movements, etc. They are wasting their time, for all efforts to save society are doomed. Jesus pictures this age as ending under the dominance of a devil inspired creature called the "Beast" or anti-Christ. Christians are to be busy carrying out the orders given in the Great Commission, while looking for "that blessed hope and the return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." The passage referred to by the questioner is not dealing with the return of the Lord with His people in power and great glory to reign. Rather it refers to His coming to call His people away from this earth. The picture given is that of believers being caught away suddenly leaving unsaved companions startled and astonished.

ished. Bro. Gilpin used to have some words printed under the place for the date of each letter. The words were, "One day nearer our Lord's return." Those words have recurred to me many times. Praise God, they are true! Today I am one day nearer the time when I shall see the Lord then ever before. Hallelujah!

Jesus had foretold to His disciples the destruction of the temple, as He and the disciples were leaving the building. As they reached the summit of the Mt. of Olives, and seemingly paused, the disciples wanted to know more about what He had been saying. "What shall be the signs of thy coming and the end of the age?" they asked. It was in answer to this twofold question that Jesus uttered the words referred to in the question above. In this portion of Scripture He mentioned the following things:

1 — THE TIME OF HIS RETURN TO EARTH. He said that no one knew (or would know) the exact time of His coming. Further He remarked that not even the angels knew. This should prevent any date setting but it hasn't done so. I read a paper published by Oral Roberts, where several years ago, as he flew into Miami, the Lord talked to him and told him to tell people that Jesus was coming. The date given was either the current year or the next year I don't remember which—but the time was definite. I don't have to tell you that Jesus did not come. Shall we charge God with falsifying to Oral Roberts, or was it Oral that falsified?

2 — CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF THE RETURN. (v. 37-39). Jesus said that conditions comparable to the time of Noah would obtain, and we know that the world was hopelessly corrupt in the days of Noah, so much so that God wiped out the human race. When I used to attend the Southern Baptist Convention, I heard speakers talk from the time I arrived until the time I left about "Bringing in the Kingdom." The idea was that by means of missions, education, and the whole line of denominational activities, Baptists and others would bring the Kingdom of God on this earth. How pitifully absurd to talk about making the world better and better and better until finally men bring in the Kingdom of God before Jesus ever appears. This is heresy of the boldest and most wicked kind. It gives the lie to what Jesus taught. All of this social gospel stuff is man's effort to produce a perfect world. It is theological idiocy!

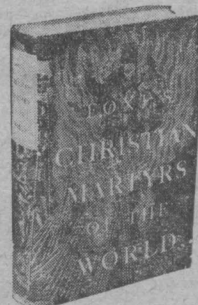
3 — CATCHING AWAY IS TO OCCUR BEFORE THE VISIBLE COMING OF CHRIST WITH HIS SAINTS. (v. 40-41). This passage can only be understood in the light of other Scriptures which tell us of what is commonly called the "Rapture." One of the other gospels tells of how two men shall be sleeping and one shall be taken and the other left. In verse 41, we have two

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PAGE FOUR



## The Forum

(Continued from page 4)

women working, and one is caught away and the other left. In other words it will be dark and time to sleep on one side of the world, while it is light and work time on the other side. The saved one is caught away, and the unsaved left behind. Answering the question of the querist, evidently the ones taken away will not perish for they are the saved. Those who perish will be among those left on the earth.



## "Baptists . . . Hated"

(Continued from page 3)

Talk about a doctrine that comforts my heart and lifts me up when I am down in the dumps, and in the valley of despair, this is the doctrine that does it. How sovereign God is!

As a corollary growing out of the doctrine of the sovereignty of God is the great and glorious truth of election that God elects men unto salvation, and that everybody that is saved, is saved because he was chosen of God in Christ Jesus before the world began. We read:

"According as he hath CHOSEN US in him BEFORE THE FOUNDATION of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."—Eph. 1:4.

Beloved, God chose us before the foundation of the world. If you are saved, you are a chosen one. If you are a saved person, you are saved because God made a choice in your behalf before the foundation of the world. If you are lost, and if you are ever saved, it will be because God chose you before the foundation of the world.

Several years ago, a man was preaching here in Ashland, and he said, "I can explain election to you." He said, "I have found that there are quite a number of people that are troubled by the doctrine of election. I can make it clear to you without any trouble at all." He said, "It is just like this: There is an election going on. The Devil votes against you, and God votes for you, and you cast the deciding vote." I remember that people all over the audience nodded their heads in the affirmative and were so highly pleased, all but one contrary Baptist preacher. I sat there and gritted my teeth and shook my head. I think I rather ruined the rest of his sermon because I was sitting on the front seat and he had to see me, and when I shook my head negatively, he didn't have much more to say.

I tell you, beloved, people don't like this idea that God chose men to salvation. You say, "Brother Gilpin, that takes all the glory away from man." That is exactly right, beloved; it gives all the glory to my glorious God. I was born a sinner, and I had nothing to do with my salvation. If God

hadn't saved me, if He hadn't chosen me, I would have gone to Hell and never would have been saved. Who should get the glory in that case? Is there any glory for me? No, God gets the glory, because God chose me in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world.

Another corollary growing out of this great doctrine of the sovereignty of God is the truth of a limited atonement — that Jesus didn't die for everybody, but that He died for those who were chosen of God before the foundation of the world.

When people talk to me about the limited atonement and offer objections to it, I often say that I think I have enough sense that I would have made it a limited atonement, and I am sure God has much more sense than I have. Can you imagine Jesus Christ dying for everybody and 90% of the world going to Hell? That is what you would have if you preached a general atonement. You would have people in Hell that Christ has died for. Beloved, that is a waste. As I say, I have enough sense that I wouldn't have done a thing like that, and I am sure that God didn't give a general atonement to the world, but rather a limited atonement that is limited to those who have been chosen of God in Christ Jesus before the world began.

God's Word would tell us that Jesus Christ didn't die for everybody. Listen:

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom FOR MANY."—Mt. 20:28.

Notice, it doesn't say a ransom for all, but that He gave His life a ransom for many. Beloved, there is a lot of difference between the word "all" and the word "many."

There are going to be a lot of people saved. Don't think for one moment's time that the Devil is going to get the biggest part of the crowd. He may get a lot of the adults, but the Lord Jesus Christ is going to get all the babes that have died in Him, and that is four-fifths of the human population to start with. He also is going to get a part of that other fifth that grow to maturity. So there is going to be a large crowd that is going to be with the Lord Jesus Christ, for many are going to be saved.

But whom did Jesus give His life a ransom for? For everybody? No; for many! I tell you, it helps me when I preach just to realize that Christ has died for a certain number, and we know that when He died for that number, every one of that number is going to be saved. Listen:

"All that the Father giveth me SHALL COME to me."—John 6:37.

I have some assurance when I preach, for I know this, that every one for whom Christ died is going to be saved. If I didn't believe in a limited atonement, I wouldn't have any assurance at

all. I would be preaching to a group and worrying because they hadn't been saved, but as it is, I know that every one that God chose for Himself is going to be saved.

When our Lord Jesus Christ gave the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, He said concerning the cup:

"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed FOR MANY for the remission of sins."—Mt. 26:28.

You'll notice that He didn't say that the cup that was emblematic of His blood was shed for all, but He said it is emblematic of the blood that is shed for "many" for the remission of sins.

Beloved, you take this doctrine of the sovereignty of God, with its corollaries of election and limited atonement, and preach it, and the world is going to hate you. The world will hate any Baptist preacher who dares to preach it, and the world will hate any Baptist Church that dares to support a Baptist preacher who is preaching it. Nobody will be popular who preaches this great doctrine of sovereignty with its two glorious corollaries of election and limited atonement. I'll give you an example.

I had a friend who was pastor of Second Baptist Church in Ashland several years ago. This

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friend, in preaching one night, just barely mentioned the doctrine of election. He didn't preach at length about it, but he just barely mentioned it and passed on. A deacon in that church, with his wife and two children, got up and made a commotion as they went down the aisle and left, slamming the door behind them. That deacon said that he would never go back in that church again as long as that preacher preached — that that was the worst doctrine that a man could preach — sovereignty and the doctrine of election. That man hated the doctrine.

Beloved, a lot of so-called Baptists hate it, and a lot of so-called Baptist preachers hate it, but there has never been a sound Baptist from the days of the early apostles but that he has preached this glorious truth of the sovereignty of God, and its two corollaries of election and a limited atonement.

Yes, beloved, there are a lot of Baptists that hate the doctrines, but wherever a man is a Baptist of the Pauline type or the type of the Lord Jesus Christ, he still preaches the doctrine of the sovereignty of God and the glorious truths of election and a limited atonement.

### III

#### THE DOCTRINE OF SECURITY.

By security I mean that when God saves a man, He saves him forever. He doesn't half save him, but He saves him.

I was preaching in Ohio one day and was invited home to eat dinner with a high type family. It was a most wonderful home, a most wonderful hostess, and a most wonderful dinner. There

were a dozen or so people seated around the table and it was really a wonderful repast that she had planned that day. She was seated at my left, and she turned to me and said, "Brother Gilpin, do you believe the doctrine of security—that when God saves a man, He saves him forever? I said, 'I surely do.' I said, 'If a man were drowning in the Ohio River and somebody were to swim out to him and take hold of him, and hold on to him for a few minutes and then turn loose, and let him drown, they would never say that fellow was his saviour. That man has only prolonged the agony of the fellow in the water if he doesn't hold onto him and bring him safe to shore once he takes hold of him.' I said, 'My Lord Jesus Christ is a Saviour. He is not a partial Saviour, nor a half Saviour, but He is a Saviour, and when He takes hold of a man, He is going to save him.' I can see that woman now as she turned around with a most cynical smile on her face and said, 'I used to believe that too, but our pastor has taught us better.'"

I tell you, beloved, I believe in a God who, when He saves a person, saves him to the extent that he is always saved, and never can be lost by sins he may thereafter commit. Listen:

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall NEVER PERISH, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."—John 10:28,29.

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."—Rom. 8:38,39.

Paul names nine agents and agencies — internal, infernal and external — and he says none of these nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Don't tell me a man can be saved today and lost tomorrow. Don't tell me there is such a thing as falling from grace. Don't tell me there is such a thing as a man being saved and becoming a child of God, and then later becoming a child of the Devil. In the light of such Scriptures as these, such is an utter impossibility.

I ask you mothers, when you went down into the valley of the shadow of death and gave birth to a child, could that child ever have been unborn after being born? You say, "Brother Gilpin, that is foolish. You know if a mother has given birth to a child, that that child could never be unborn, after it has been born."

Beloved, the Bible says that when we are saved, we are born of God. Now if what has been born, can't be unborn in a woman, certainly what has been born of God can't be unborn of God.

When God saves a man, the Devil can't unborn him, for he is always God's child.

As the old song says:

"I've found a Friend, oh, such a Friend!  
He loved me ere I knew Him;  
He drew me with the cords of love,  
And thus He bound me to Him.  
And 'round my heart still  
closely twine  
Those ties which naught can sever,  
For I am His, and He is mine,  
Forever and forever."

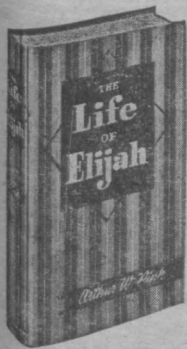
Thank God, when He saves us, He saves us forever!

### CONCLUSION

Yes, beloved, every doctrine in this Bible that is preached, we are going to be hated for it by somebody. Somebody is going to hate you for every doctrine. Everything in this Bible will find somebody to displease. Every time you preach against a heresy you are going to make somebody mad, but in a particular sense, these are a few of the special doctrines that cause the wrath, and the hatred, and the animosity of even the religious world at large, and oftentimes even the wrath of heretical Baptists. For shame that a man would be a Baptist preacher and deny that Jesus established His church in the first century! For shame that a man would be a Baptist preacher and deny the doctrine of sovereignty and the doctrines of election and a limited atonement! For shame that a man would be a Baptist preacher and deny the glorious doctrine of the security of the saved.

You know, beloved, the longer I preach, and the further I go in my ministry, the sounder I think I become, and the more I feel that God would have us contend for these glorious truths. The fact of the matter is, the farther I go, the more I want to tighten my Baptist belt and contend for these great truths. There is not any loosening up, nor any letting up on my part, but I am going to continue as long as my God enables me to do so, to preach these same truths, and I pray for you, and call upon you to stand with me and to help me.

I am not saying that I don't get discouraged sometimes. I am not saying that I don't get my feelings hurt sometimes by telephone calls and by letters that we get. I am not saying that I am the most happy person in the world from the standpoint of the opposition that does its best to irk and irritate me. If I had my way, I would just like to lay down and quit. I'd like to get off on an island and get completely away from all the anxiety and all the burden. Now that is the flesh. But there is another side to Gilpin, and that is the side that was saved back yonder when he was a boy, that is still contending for the same truths, and by God's grace is going to continue to stand for them till he of God can't be unborn of God. (Continued on page 6, column 3)



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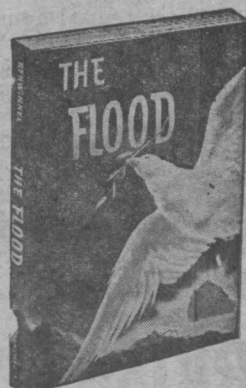
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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

OCTOBER 26, 1968

PAGE FIVE



# HERE'S ANOTHER LETTER FROM BOUGAINVILLE

By RALPH A. DOTY  
Missionary  
to the Solomon Islands

On November 1, 1943 United States Marines stormed ashore at Empress Augusta Bay near the village of Torokina on the west coast of Bougainville island to push a column through the jungle toward a completed Japanese Airbase. Beginning with the invasion of Guadalcanal on Friday, August 7th, 1942 and the capture of an airfield — later named Henderson Field — the United States had followed a policy of invading islands where completed airbases could be captured and used for further strikes northward toward

the enemy concentrations around the airfield at Kahili.

We can only guess what might have been the thoughts of Lt. Pilsbury that day as he winged his way south east on what was becoming a routine daily occurrence. Nosing down toward the enemy base he squeezed the trigger and his guns roared, spitting bullets at the Japanese emplacements far below him. As he pressed home his attack on the airbase the anti-aircraft battery on Kangu Hill blasted at him as they had done all of that week. But today their aim was better or as some might put it, Lt. Pilsbury's luck ran out. Out of control the plane headed for the jungle and another Navy pilot was reported "missing in action." That was the last anyone heard of Lt. Pilsbury for 25 years.

Recently a surveyor moved off of the main Buin road just south of the three Chinese trade stores and the Administration offices that make up the town of Buin and began to chop his way into the jungle to survey for a wider road. Thirty feet from the main road, hidden by thick jungle, he came across a navy fighter plane surrounded by tall trees. Assuming that the plane was well-known he continued on with his surveying. A casual comment later on in the day from a missionary caused the man to take another check on the plane. The Administration got wind of the find and investigation proved that this was Lt. Pilsbury's Corsair fighter with the remains of the Lieutenant still in the cockpit. The remains were shipped back to the Navy Department in San Francisco. After 25 years Lt. Pilsbury was going home.

Many people were amazed that the plane could have gone undetected so near a main road for so many years but the Australian Administration pointed out that there were probably thousands of similar planes scattered through the jungle on Bougainville Island, but so thick is the jungle that none can be seen. The Japanese base at Kahili is now the site of a Methodist girls school and although the people there know where the airfield is, its concrete runway is not usable as the jungle has grown over it hiding it completely. I was told recently that they would like to use the runway but that the necessary bulldozers needed to clear it are not available.

From where I sit in my sak sak shack a thousand feet in any direction will take one into dense and almost unpenetrable jungle where similar planes may be quietly resting, waiting for some one to happen across them.

The untimely death of Lt. Pilsbury points up the brevity of life and the necessity of making your calling and election sure. The finding of his remains in the cockpit of his plane 25 years af-

ter his death has had a profound effect on many people in the Territory who realize that his death and the deaths of thousands of other American men have made the present freedom in the New Guinea territory possible.

## "Baptists . . . Hated"

(Continued from page five)  
dies. I call on you, and I ask you to stand with me as I try to continue to contend for these great truths of God's Word.

God's Word says:  
"For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord."—I Thess. 3:8.

Paul said, "I'll live just as long as you stand fast." I say to you, that same thing is true with me, for I'll live just as long as you stand for the truth. The ministry of John R. Gilpin will continue as a vibrant ministry as it has in the past, just as long as you continue to stand by me. May God help you, and may God help me, that we'll stand fast for the things of God from day to day.

May God bless you!

## Why I Am A Baptist

(Continued from page one)  
perfect understanding of sound doctrine. He set different individuals in His churches, and gave them different gifts for the stated purpose of leading in spiritual matters (Eph. 4:7-16). This was for the purpose of maturing the saints and the "edifying of the body of Christ (local church)," that we might not be "tossed to and fro" by the false teaching of cunning, evil, deceitful, ungodly men. God's plan for the salvation and spiritual development of His elect is not a haphazard one. It was well planned and developed before the foundation of the earth, and He is bringing His purpose in redemption to pass in time!

Let us note, just here, that it is the Holy Spirit's prerogative to bestow spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12:1-11). "Headquarters" and "Conferences" and "Catholic Hierarchies" and "Baptist Conventions" may dictate, suggest and even force their programs on churches and provide the workers to carry out man-made programs; but they cannot provide the spiritual initiative and power to develop God's people spiritually. Even the heart recognition of Christ as "LORD" is a gift of grace wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 12:3b)! Grace didn't stop with the salvation of the soul. Grace is also God's means of spiritual development, strength and power (II Cor. 12:7-10; Titus 2:11-15). Paul admonished young Timothy to "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (II Tim. 2:1). Apart from the grace of God a saved person is just as weak, helpless, and worthless spiritually as an unsaved person — it takes the grace of God to make purpose in life.

With the preceding thoughts in mind let us consider some other points on the stated subject.

I am a Baptist because I believe that God's appointed way of identity with Him and His Son is through His church.

I am sure that a sound understanding of the beginning of church history starts with the public ministry of Christ. John the Baptist disciplined and baptized the members that constituted the beginning of the church that Jesus organized before His death. By comparing Scripture with Scripture there can be no reasonable doubt concerning the organization of the first church (Mark 3:13-14 with I Cor. 12:27-28; Acts 1:21-22; Matt. 16:

17-18). I am convinced that the church that Jesus organized and left the pattern for in this world to carry on His ministry has not failed in any age. There will be churches like the pattern that He left when He returns. I am sure that the historical principles and teachings of Baptists and their predecessors are fashioned after those of the pattern that He left.

The church, the organization that Jesus left in the world to carry out His mission, is a unique organization. It alone has the authority from Him to make disciples, baptize those who repent and believe (with a baptism that meets all Scriptural requirements), and to teach those whom they disciple (Matt. 28:18-20). God, in infinite wisdom, and "according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord," designed that through this unique organization He and His Son would get "glory . . . throughout all ages, world without end" (Eph. 3:10-11; 21).

I belong to God for I have been "bought with a price: Therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (I Cor. 6:19). I belong to God by "blood redemption;" I am His son by the "new birth;" I am His son by "adoption, and an heir of God through Christ;" I am Christ's by inheritance (Eph. 1:18); and He secured an "eternal inheritance" for me (Heb. 9:15).—Therefore I am to glorify Him in His appointed way — through this unique organization — His church! With a firm conviction that Baptists and their predecessors have historically been in principle and practice what the church that He organized, while on earth, was — I am a Baptist.

Jesus authorized two and only two ordinances in this unique organization, that He called His assembly, for the sole purpose of identity of His people with Him and His death, burial and resurrection for their justification (I Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 4:25) — baptism and the Lord's Supper (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 22:17-20; I Cor. 11:23-25). Christ died as my substitute, was buried, and rose again the third day "according to the Scriptures" for my justification. When I was baptized by the authority of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Bro. Walker used me as a subject to picture this great gospel truth of salvation by grace through personal faith in the substitutionary death of Christ. This identified me with both the death and resurrection of Christ in His appointed way. I observe the Lord's Supper, in the church where I retain my membership, in memory of His death in my behalf. These two ordinances are for the purpose of setting forth the gospel pictorially. The Book of Acts records the early part of church history, and the Holy Spirit declares the ministry of Christ to have continued in this way (Acts 1:2). The ministry of Christ is still being carried on

by the Holy Spirit through Christ's churches.

There are only two organizations in the world that make the claim of dating back to Christ's public ministry — Baptists and Catholic. The Protestant denominations spring from Catholicism, and date back to some man as head and founder. Not one of the Protestants had any intention of starting a new church. Luther, Knox, Calvin and even Alexander Campbell were trying to reform something they believed to be already in existence, and each one of them failed. They each brought into the denominations that they are responsible for a number of the very corrupt, false doctrines of the church they were protesting — the Catholic Church. The major ones still retain the marks of Catholicism — baptismal regeneration, infant baptism, and sacraments, to mention a few.

In contrast to Catholicism and Protestantism, Baptists and their predecessors have always, since the time of Christ, taught: "salvation by grace through faith; believer's baptism; that the two church ordinances are symbols, and not sacraments; that Jesus Christ is the Head and Founder of His church; that Christ is the only Mediator between God and man; that all believers are priests; that we are eternally saved apart from any merits of our own; that we are personally elected unto salvation in Christ before the foundation of the world; quickened and sealed by the Holy Spirit, and kept by the power of God; and that the Bible is the only safe rule and guide for faith and practice." The Gospels and the book of Acts teach us that the first churches taught these truths — therefore I am a Baptist.

The first churches, beginning with Christ, taught the doctrine of election (John 6th chapter; Eph. 1:4-7; II Thess. 2:13-14; I Tim. 1:9; Acts 13:48; Acts 11:18; I Cor. 12:3; Rom. 9th chapter, and there are many more passages). I am convinced that I can say, with Scriptural authority, "God personally elected certain individuals unto salvation before the creation of the universe, and He sees to it that those whom He chose repent and believe the gospel — repentance and faith are inseparable graces. This blessed truth has made the hearts of believers rejoice down through the centuries, and it was definitely taught in the early churches!"

However, let us make another point right here. A sound, Biblical understanding of the doctrine of election never dampened the evangelical, missionary fervor of the early believers. "They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the gospel" (Acts 8:4). They were busy doing what God called them to do, and left the business of quickening, and calling the elect to God. The preaching of the Gospel is God's appointed method of calling the elect (II Thess. 2:13-14; I Cor. 1:18ff). Paul was the

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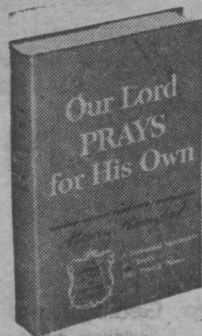
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PAGE SIX



Everyone should fear death until he has something that will live on after his death.

## Let's Study Revelation

(Continued from page one)

According to the teaching of this old religious world, all this should bring this generation of image worshipers to Christ, but as we have seen in 6:15-16 it does just the opposite. Nothing but the mighty drawing power of Almighty God can bring a depraved, spiritually dead sinner to Christ. So here instead of their coming to Christ for mercy they blaspheme, that is, they speak profanely of the God who has power to send these awful plagues. Who can know the awful depths of sin into which depraved, spiritually dead mankind has gone? And who can comprehend the mighty power that must be exerted in order to bring a lost person up out of that awful pit of sin? The lost person can no more bring himself up out of that terrible condition than a big fat hen can fly up to the highest peak of the Rocky Mountains and build her nest there. In fact, that lost person has no more desire to leave that slimy pit of sin than that hen has to fly to the mountain peak. So here in verse 9 these people do not repent, neither do they give the glory to God that is due Him. In verse 10 the fifth angel pours out his bowl of wrath upon the seat (throne) of the beast. This beast is the ruler of the revived Roman Empire. He is the first beast of Revelation 13 whom John saw rising up out of the sea which speaks of chaotic conditions in the world. And when this bowl of God's wrath is poured out upon his throne, his whole kingdom becomes full of darkness. This awful tribulation that is looming up in the face of this old wicked world will, no doubt, be a very grievous thing throughout the whole world, but these terrible bowls of wrath which we see in this chapter seem to be more or less localized. By this I mean

that they will directly affect only the Bible lands. The second bowl was pounded out upon "the sea" not upon the seas, or the oceans. Now this fifth bowl is poured out upon the throne of the ruler over the revived Roman Empire which will be the Bible lands.

It was the Roman Empire that crucified the Lord of glory. It was this same empire that utterly destroyed Jerusalem, the city where God had put His name. It was this same empire that enslaved and scattered God's chosen people of Israel. And though all this was done according to the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, still they willingly and gladly did it. So in verse 11 we see the people of the kingdom blaspheming the God of heaven because of their suffering. Still they do not repent of their awful deeds.

In verse 12 the sixth angel pours out his bowl of God's wrath upon the great Euphrates River, and the river is completely dried up. Here we are told that it is for the purpose of permitting the kings of the east to cross. But in Isa. 11:15-16 we see that it is also for the purpose of making it into a highway for the remnant of the Jews to travel over in their return home to Israel. In Zech. 10:11 this river is called the pride of Assyria. In Isa. 62:10 the command goes out to clear this river bed of stones and to build a highway along it for the people. These people are our Lord's people.

God hating and Bible denying infidels of our day think they have the Red Sea and the Jordan River incidents all figured out, but when this great river some 1500 miles long, ten to thirty feet deep and very wide is completely dried up from source to mouth, they will be forced to shut their mouths. Some hold to the idea that the kings of the

east here is the kingdom of Japan because it is known as the kingdom of the rising sun. But verses 13-14 tears that theory to shreds.

In verses 13-14 we see three filthy, slimy, frog-like spirits coming out of the mouth of the dragon (Satan), and out of the mouth of the beast (ruler of the revived Roman Empire), and out of the mouth of the false prophet (the anti-christ). In our translation we are told that these spirits are the spirits of devils, working miracles. But it should be the spirits of demons. The word comes from DAIMONION which is the word for demons. There is but one devil (DIABOLUS), but there are many demons. We are told that these spirits go to the kings (rulers) of the earth and of the whole world. That is why the kings of the east in verse 12 cannot be just the kingdom of Japan. It must include all the kings of the east. It will include Japan, China, India and all the smaller nations of south and southeast Asia.

Then we are told that these spirits go to these kings for the purpose of gathering them to the battle of the great day of God Almighty. The great Euphrates River is to be dried up in order that the kings of the east may come to this awful battle, but the other nations of the world are to come also. And, if you notice, they are to come to "the battle of the great day of God Almighty." This is not the God you hear about in something like 99 per cent of the pulpits of the world today. This is the El Shaddai, the Almighty One. We see this expression in Gen. 17:1 where He says, "I am the Almighty God." When this awful time comes it is to be feared that many people will say to their pastor, this is not the God you told us about. And I am afraid many preachers will be

(Continued on page 8, column 1)

## Why I Am A Baptist

(Continued from page 6)

greatest missionary and evangelist of all time, and no one made any stronger statements on the doctrine of election than he did; yet he was faithful to the proclamation of the gospel (I Cor. 15:1-4). He faithfully exalted Christ as Lord and Saviour, without discrimination, to Jews, peasants, pagans, kings and rulers alike; and urged them to repent and believe. He didn't seem to think that God placed him under any obligation to make any attempt at harmonizing the sovereignty of God, and man's responsibility to repent and believe. The fact is he declared that God commands all men everywhere to repent, because judgment is certain (Acts 17:30-31).

Paul could genuinely thank God that the Thessalonians were chosen of God from the beginning "through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." But he didn't forget to also thank God that they were called by the gospel he preached, "to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thess. 2:13-14). He faithfully declared that: "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). He taught that one must hear in order to believe, and that the message must be a "sent" one (Rom. 10:10-17). However, there is no record that he ever urged anyone to "open your heart and let Jesus come in!" He taught that it was God's business to convict (John 16:8-9), and "open the heart" (Acts 16:14). Salvation is wholly of the Lord!

The Bible knows nothing about any kind of a church except a "local one." There is no such thing taught in Scriptures as a "universal church" either visible or invisible. The Greek word translated "church" means "as-

sembly," and there can be no assembly without a locale! New Testament churches were local, visible, self-governing assemblies of baptized believers who recognized Christ as the Head, and the Holy Spirit as their ever present, indwelling guide and helper. They marched into the unregenerated, pagan world, without the benefit of any auxiliary organizations; under the authority of Jesus Christ, with nothing but the Word of God and the Holy Spirit faithfully declaring, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12), and God did the rest according to His will and purpose.

Many so-called Baptists have sadly departed from these Biblical truths, I am sorry to say. However, I am convinced that Baptists and their predecessors have been faithful in proclaiming these truths. They are not all the truths that Baptists have taught — but they are some of the basic truths that they have died for in the past.

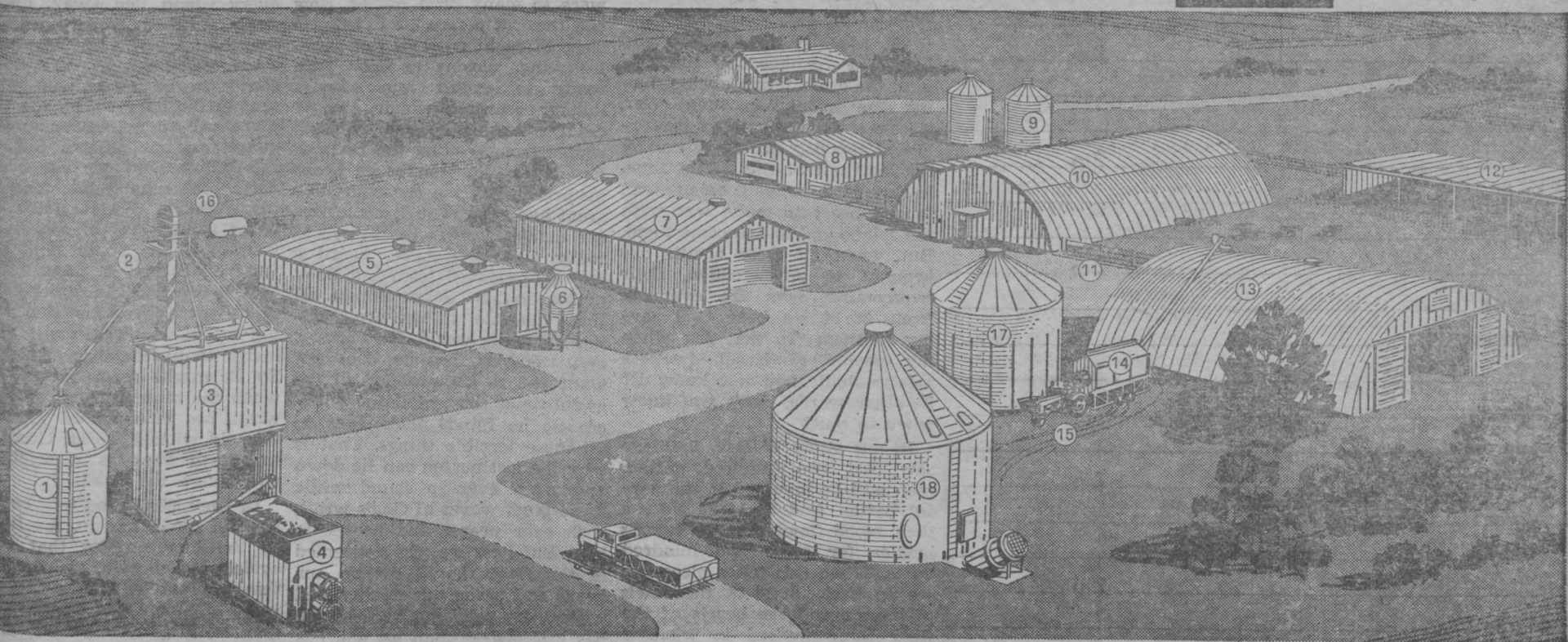
I am afraid that the limitations of paper space would not allow me to state other Biblical reasons for my subject. However, let me conclude with this statement: "I am what I am by the grace of God," (I Cor. 15:10). Thank God, I am not what I once was — a condemned sinner; I am not all that I would like to be — I would like to be perfect in all my conduct (I do have a perfect standing in Christ); I am not what I hope to be when Jesus comes and I am glorified with Him; but thank God, "I am what I am by the grace of God!"

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PAGE SEVEN

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## Let's Study Revelation

(Continued from page seven)  
forced to say, No that is not the God I was talking about.

In verse 15 this God Almighty says, "Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments." In I Thes. 5:4 we read, "But ye brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." Our Lord's saints are to be looking for Him. We are to be expecting Him at any and all times. But this old religious world will not be expecting Him. Therefore, His coming will be to them as a thief.

Then in verse 16 we are again occupied with "the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Here we are told that the kings of the whole world are to be gathered into the place called Armageddon. Armageddon is a place in the northwestern part of Palestine known to us as the hills of Megiddo. We are also told that He (God Almighty) does the gathering, and He does do it, but He does it through the three frog-like spirits we saw in verse 13.

I believe we get a good idea as to how these spirits will go about their job of gathering these kings to Armageddon in I Kings 22:20-22. Here God says, "Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And

one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him. And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And He said, thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth and do so." Now it is perfectly safe for us to say that God cannot lie, because He has told us in His Word that He cannot lie. But we dare not tell Him that He cannot tell someone else to lie.

I believe that we can see the working of the frog-like spirits in Ezekiel 38:10 where God says to the kings of the world, "Thus saith the Lord God; it shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought." If we read the following verses we shall see that the evil thought is that they go up to the land of Israel and take a spoil. The wealth of the world is flowing to the land of Israel while the other nations of the world, including our own country, are heading toward bankruptcy. This too, is the hand of Almighty God. He is fulfilling His prophecies concerning the land of Israel. In Isa. 35:6 He says, "In the wilderness shall wa-

ters break out, and streams in the desert." Irrigation pipes are already carrying water from the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River down into the Negev desert in southern Palestine. The first of this water to flow into this desert flowed May 5, 1964. So today water is flowing through pipes to several hundred thousands of acres of what has for many centuries been barren, desolate, desert land. And as a result of this, we see the fulfillment of Isa. 35:1 where we read, "The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose." This is coming to pass before our very eyes today. The population of Beersheva (originally Beersheba) increased in fifteen years from 1400 to almost 60,000. And we are just seeing the beginning of the development of this land called Israel.

So the frog-like spirits put it into the minds and hearts of the kings (rulers) of the earth to go up to Israel and take a spoil, that is, get some of that wealth from those old Jews. But remember, God is the One who does all this through these slimy spirits. In Ezek. 38:16 He says, "I will bring thee against my land." The time will have come for God to completely destroy the fighting power of this old wicked world. So He brings all the armies of the world to Armageddon. And though He is the One who brings them against Israel, still in Ezek. 38:18 He says, "And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog (who represents all these armies) shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face." More than two hundred years ago Jonathan Edwards preached a sermon on the subject "Sinners in the hands of an angry God." And to be sure, it is an awful thing for sinners to fall into the hands of an angry God. But here we see God's enemies falling into the hands of a furious God. And it seems to me that I can see Him pointing His finger in their faces as He says in Ezek. 39:4, "Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel." Not only does this Almighty God tell them that they are to fall. He tells them where they are to fall. And still they will be there at the appointed place when the appointed time comes.

We must not get this awful battle of Armageddon confused with the other terrible wars during the tribulation time. War, wreck and ruin will be the order of the day during especially the last half of this awful time. In Rev. 13:7 we see it being given to the beast to make war with the saints, and to overcome them. But, when all these armies are brought to Armageddon, their overcoming days are over. In Ezek. 38:14 we hear God saying to them "In that day when my people of Israel dwell safely, shalt thou not know it? In other words, don't you know when to quit?

In our study of Rev. 9:16 we saw that two hundred million men will be involved in this awful battle. And in 14:20 we see their blood flowing to the horse's bridles for some two hundred miles. When this takes place, we see in Ezek. 39:17-18 the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field being invited to what is called in Rev. 19:17 "the supper of the great God." But here the King James translators put the word "great" in the wrong place. When this time comes, it would be a waste of breath to tell the world that God is great. They will already know it. So this should read, "the great supper of God." Other translations put it this way. And to be sure, the bodies and blood of two hundred million men will make a great supper. In Ezek. 39:19 God tells these fowls and beast that "Ye

shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you." On Mt. Calvary our Lord sacrificed His own precious Blood for His people, but here on the mountains of Israel we see Him sacrificing the blood of His enemies for the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field.

Then, after the fowls and the beasts have finished with their great supper, we learn in Ezek. 39:12, "And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land." My, what a funeral. And I believe that awful battle is so close to our door that boys, and maybe men, are walking upon this earth today, breathing the same air that you and I breathe, whose blood will flow down the valley of Esdraelon for 200 miles, and some of whose bones will bleach in the Palestinian sun for seven months before they can be buried. But praise His holy name, we who are His chosen saints will be raptured to ever be with the Lord before that awful time comes.

In verse 17 the seventh angel pours out his bowl of wrath into (rather upon) the air. This word "air" comes from AER which means the lower atmosphere, or the air around our heads. So this last bowl of wrath is poured upon the very air the people will be breathing. And when this is done, a great voice comes from the Throne in heaven saying, "It is done." When everything that had been prophesied would be done before our Lord dismissed His Spirit had been done, we hear Him saying in Jno. 19:30, "It is finished." So here when God had poured out all the wrath that He had chosen to pour out upon this old wicked world, we hear the great voice saying, "It is done." Wuest says, "It has come to pass and is now an accomplished fact."

Still this old wicked world will find very little to rejoice in. The blood from the bodies of her combined fighting force has become a great river of blood two hundred miles long. The fowls of the air and the beasts of the field are feasting upon the bodies of her mighty men, tearing their flesh from their bones as if they were so many dead horses. How can the lost person lie down and sleep at night with all these awful things closing in upon him, ready to engulf him like a mighty ocean? No wonder the old devil does all he can to keep people from reading the Book of Revelation. No wonder he keeps his preachers from preaching this great and wonderful Book. There are many Baptists in the world today who have never heard a sermon preached from the Book of Revelation. Satan knows all these terrible things are coming upon the world. He believes and trembles, but he does not want you to know about all the awful times that await the wicked. So he blinds their eyes to all these terrible things. That is why the lost person can lie down and sleep ever so sound while these great waves of God's wrath rush ever nearer and nearer to him. But how we, the redeemed of the Lord should lift up our heads and praise our mighty God with great rejoicing because He has had mercy upon us, and has delivered us from all these awful things here on the earth as well as from an eternal hell. When we come to see this, it should cause us to want to tell the whole world about it.

In verse 18 we hear the voices and the thunders and we see the lightnings and the greatest of all earthquakes. Earthquakes are already becoming more and more numerous; and more and more devastating. But these are only the beginning of sorrows. As we have said before, the seventh seal judgment, the seventh trumpet judgment and the seventh bowl judgment all end up together. In 8:5, 11:19, and now in 16:18 we

hear the voices and the thunders, and we see the lightnings and the earthquakes. And it seems that the fire in the elements (lightnings) and the stored up fire beneath the earth's surface that causes the earthquakes are becoming restless and eager to perform their destined role in the consumation of this wicked world.

In verse 19 we see the great city being divided into three parts. I believe that most people who study their Bible are in agreement that this great city is Jerusalem. Jerusalem is called the great city in Jer. 22:8 and also in Rev. 11:8. In Rev. 17:18 Rome is called that great city. But from the context of the verse before us we are convinced that this great city is Jerusalem. We are told that the cities of the nations fell. They will not be just divided. This word "nations" comes from ETHNOS. When this word ETHNOS is used in the singular number it always means the nation of Israel unless some other nation is designated. But when this word is used in the plural number it always means the nations other than Israel. Some say that all the cities outside of Israel will fall, and they may be right. Any way I praise my dear Lord that when that awful times comes, I will not be residing in Birmingham, Alabama. Before that day comes our Lord "shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." If, when that time comes, my Lord brings Birmingham down to a heap of ruins, I can only say, amen, for she has deserved it.

It seems to us today that God has forgotten about the Catholic Church along with all the other churches who tolerate her, and who compromise the truth in exchange for her favors. But when the appointed time comes, He will remember her. Here she is called great (or mighty) Babylon. Our Lord willing, we shall deal more fully with mystery Babylon the great in the next chapter.

In verse 20 we are told that every island fled away, that is, they vanished from sight, and the mountains were not found. I am convinced, by what to me seems to be undeniable proof, that in the days before the flood there were no insurmountable mountains nor deserts, but that the entire land portion of the earth was inhabitable. The fact that Admiral Byrd and his men found a huge bed of coal in the vicinity of the South Pole some forty years ago is proof to me that at one time dense vegetation grew where there has been nothing but snow and ice for lo, these many centuries since the flood. So it would seem to me that when the seventh bowl of God's wrath has been poured out upon this old wicked world, God puts the earth back as it originally was before the flood.

In Ezek. 38:22 God tells us that He will plead against the leader of the huge armies that come against Israel with, among other things, great hailstones. Here in verse 21, John was permitted to see, in his vision, these great hailstones falling out of heaven upon men. We are told that every hailstone will weigh about a talent, that is, about one hundred pounds. These, I believe, are the hailstones that fall upon the two hundred million men who are gathered on the mountains of Israel for the battle of Armageddon by the frog-like spirits. These are the hailstones that will cause the blood from this huge army to flow to the horse's bridles for two hundred miles. Will some of that blood be yours, or will some of it be the blood of some of your sons, or some of your friends? Let us remember, our Lord shed His precious blood for us on Calvary's tree.

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PAGE EIGHT