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# The Baptist Examiner

Paid Circulation In All States And In Many Foreign Countries

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

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WHOLE NUMBER 1640

## FTH Concludes Report On Recent Patrol

Greetings to each of you once again from New Guinea. Once again we invite you to join us as we continue the Aigeguali-Auwi mission patrol. Perhaps you read of a weekend patrol that I made only a short time before I left on this one and if so you no doubt remember me telling of a fall that I had and chest injuries as a result of it. All this patrol has been made with those chest pains giving me considerable discomfort. During the baptism that I told about in my last letter, I had a few men to baptize that were quite large and the strain of lifting these fellows out of the water caused a new series of pains to set in and for the remainder of the trip I was in bad physical condition. However, I still had a lot of work to do before the patrol was up so I tried to make the best that I could of a bad situation.

The last report ended with the sixth day which was a Tuesday. Wednesday morning we packed up and moved on to another location. Our new stop was at the Guhabea Baptist Church. The folk at Guhabea are always an inspiration to me and they seem to never tire of showing their appreciation for what the Lord has done for them. I have yet to have to wait on them to assemble for a service. They are always waiting when I arrive and we never have to wait for them to get there for a service, even when I stay for a few days with them, and we have two or three services each day.

We arrived at Guhabea that morning about 9 o'clock and spent a few hours with the people before we had a service. About 2 p.m. we assembled at the church building for our first service and we had about 350 people in attendance. The church building will hold about 300 people so the rest had to stay outside. But the church buildings over here are so constructed that one can hear just as well sitting just outside as he can inside. However, until every available space has been taken they will not let one sit outside. We had a good service that afternoon and made some plans for the remainder of the time that I would be there. This ended the day's service and for the most part the day's activities.

The eighth day began with a



FRED T. HALLIMAN

busy schedule. We first assembled at the church building for a preaching service about 10 a.m. Again we had an overflowing crowd, even more than the previous day. Besides all the folk from the Guhabea area, there were two of the missions that the church sponsors represented there also. One entire group of 16 were there and a few from the other mission. Then there were several people there that attend the other Mission Station a few miles from there.

There were several to be baptized there that day including some from both missions that the church sponsors. Soon after the preaching service that morning we went to the place where the baptism was to take place and had another short service at the water's edge. During this baptism there were 44 baptized into the Guhabea Church. Fifteen were baptized from one of the missions and two from another mission, all were baptized into and upon the authority of the Guhabea Baptist Church.

This baptismal service was held in a beautiful spot. The location is in a small patch of timber where a stream flows just at the edge of it. The people have made a dam across the stream which forms a nice pool just about four feet

## Texas Church To Have Third Annual Bible Conference

Elder B. A. Langford and the Bethel Baptist Church of 113 West Campbell, Pasadena, Texas, will host their third annual Bible Conference beginning June 17-21. The services will be held each morning at 9:45 and each evening at 7:15.

In addition to your editor, other speakers include Elder Joe Wilson of Winston-Salem, N.C.; Elder Milburn Cockrell of Dorsey, Miss.; Elder Tex Cobb of Stockdale, Texas, and others.

Pasadena is a suburb of Houston, and we certainly urge our readers living in that area to attend this Conference. We consider this church and pastor as the very finest, and we sincerely trust that we shall meet lots of our readers at this Conference.

deep and the water is crystal clear and flowing all the time. By the time I had finished with baptizing the 44 people there that day I was having severe chest pains and was glad that I had finished that part of the work on this patrol.

These baptizings are usually always attended well by folk from these other Mission Stations and this has been a great witness for our Lord. It gives us the opportunity to preach a lot of truth to a lot of folk who otherwise might never have opportunity to hear it. As a result not a few have heard the truth and started attending the services of some of the Baptist Churches and later have been baptized into one of these churches themselves. My belief is, to preach the truth and spare not, condemn sin and heresy, meet Satan on his own grounds, preaching Jesus as God's only remedy for a lost sinner. It has been my experience to find that this will bring in God's elect (Continued on page 2, column 4)

## The Baptist Examiner FORUM

"Will saved people pass through the tribulation period or will they be raptured out of the world before the tribulation begins?"

I believe the Scriptures teach very plainly that the saved will be taken away before the tribulation.

ness is not for the saved, but for the wicked that remain after God's people are caught away. True, there will be a multitude of martyrs who go through "tribulation the great one" as it is expressed, but they will be those who did not turn to the Lord before the tribulation.

2. In I Thess. 5: the writer is discussing the second coming of Christ, and the suddenness of the event. He speaks of what should be the Christian's attitude of readiness, and then he says, "BUT GOD HATH NOT APPOINTED US TO WRATH, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ . . . wherefore comfort yourselves together." The wrath spoken of, must relate to that which happens following the rapture, since the Lord's return is the thing being spoken of, and he says that we saved are "not appointed unto wrath." That wrath belongs on those who have gone off after the Beast to worship him.

Of the same import is I Thess. 1:10, "And to wait for his Son from heaven whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus WHICH DELIVERED US FROM THE WRATH TO COME." The coming of Jesus and deliverance from a wrath to come, is associated.

3. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THERE IS ALSO THE ARGUMENT OF TYPOLOGY against believers going through the tribulation. Take the case of Noah. Before the flood came, he was called into the ark of safety. Take the case of Lot, he was called out of Sodom before the fire and brimstone fell. Are they not typical of those who shall be caught away before God's wrath is poured out without measure upon the godless world?

But perhaps I should stop here, and give space to my fellow columnists.

Some saved people will pass through the tribulation. Those that are living now will not. The Lord can come at any time to rapture His saints. "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." (Matt. 25:13). Titus tells us to live righteously (Continued on page 3, column 2)

## Explanatory Note As To Cook's Book

Brother Cook's book has been badly delayed on account of the nationwide trucker's strike, but it looks now as if we'll be able to start mailing it virtually at once.

As a result of this strike, the book laid on one trucking dock for 54 days untouched and unmoved. However, we have been assured that it will be in our hands before the first of June. Just as soon as we receive it, we'll start mailing it out.

This has been such a grief to us as well as to Brother Cook, but it is one of those things that has been beyond our ability to do anything about, and we have just had to wait.

Those who have sent orders will find the book in the mail at a very early date, we trust.

Those of you who have not sent in an order yet, do so at once. It is a good book and the only Baptist commentary on the Book of Revelation. It sells for \$3.50 and we could certainly urge you to get your order mailed to us just as quickly as possible. You'll never regret spending this \$3.50 for this book.

ROY MASON

RADIO MINISTER  
BAPTIST PREACHER  
Aripeka, Florida



tion. Some argue desperately that Christians will go through the tribulation, or at least that the careless and worldly will endure that fate. Some argue so vehemently that it would seem that they WANT to go through the tribulation. Well, I DON'T, and I frankly admit it.

The argument against the saved going through the tribulation is cumulative. As one reads the New Testament a great many things crop out — things that don't fit in with the idea that the saved will go through the tribulation. Such is the trend of the teaching along this line, that the unbiased reader completes his reading with the conviction that the saved will be caught away before the tribulation comes. Note several things:

1. GOD'S PEOPLE IN THIS LIFE DO NOT SUFFER BECAUSE GOD SENDS SUFFERING UPON THEM. Satan, our enemy, is at the bottom of our sufferings. Even sickness is of Satan. Jesus in healing a woman said, "Hath not Satan bound this woman, lo these many years?" Even chastisement comes through the Lord taking off His protective hand. When He does that, Satan buffets us. Paul in writing to the Corinthians concerning the incestuous church member, counseled that they disfellowship him and turn him over to Satan to buffet. I Cor. 5:5, "Deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved."

But consider this, we read in Revelation about the plagues that God sends during the tribulation, and they are truly awful. Would God rain down hailstones of a hundred pounds weight on His children? Would He send afflictions such that they would long to die? Remember that these things are not being sent by the devil but God sends them. No, this period of terror and awful-

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

### "THE LAST CENSUS"

"The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah." — Psalm 87:6.

May I remind you that this is a census year so far as our Government is concerned. I think it is an average of about every ten years that the Government takes a census of all the people in the United States. Other censuses are taken at various times. For example, an agricultural census, or a census as to various trade unions and their activities, is taken at various seasons, but the census by way of counting the number of people that exist in the United States is taken on an average of about every ten years.

Beloved, the taking of a census is as old as humanity. When the

census enumerator came to your house a few days ago after you had received certain census papers through the mail and had filled out those papers, and you returned those census papers to the census enumerator who in turn filed them with the Government, you may have thought that that is something that has been done only a few times in history. Actually, as I say, it is as old as humanity itself, for in the book of Genesis we find the first census that is recorded in the Word of God. Listen:

"And all the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were threescore and six."—Gen. 46:26.

This is a reference to the time when Jacob and the Israelites went down into Egypt. It says that there were 66 of this group. Add to it Jacob himself, and Joseph's two sons, and Joseph, and you will have 70. This included all the house of Jacob — 70 individuals. So far as I know this is the first time that a census was ever recorded in the Word of God.

A little later, when Israel came out of Egypt, a census was made. "Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their names, every male by their polls;

From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth (Continued on page 2, column 1)

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JOHN R. GILPIN.....Editor

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## "The Last Census"

(Continued from page one)

to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies.

Even all they that were numbered were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.—Num. 1:2,3,46.

This was the total number of the men of war — 603,550 individuals of the children of Israel that were able to go to war when they came out of the land of Egypt.

Forty years passed by — the children of Israel were in the wilderness during that forty years. They sinned during that forty years to the extent that they refused to take God's Word as final. They refused to go into the land of Canaan when they came to Kadesh-barnea. When the spies went over into the land of Canaan and came back with a report, they told about the giants, the sons of Anak, that they saw there, and the children of Israel refused to go into the land of Canaan. As a result, God caused them to march around the wilderness for forty years until all that crowd of adult men that refused to go into the land of Canaan died. Now, forty years later, they are getting ready to go into the land of Canaan again, and the Word of God tells us:

"These were the numbered of the children of Israel, six hundred thousand and a thousand seven hundred and thirty."—Num. 26:51.

You will notice that there were 1,820 less that went into the land of Canaan than what might have gone in had they entered forty years previously.

There was a fourth census that was taken, as recorded in the Word of God, and this one was one that didn't please the Lord. As a result thereof, God sent punishment upon David. Listen:

"For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which was with him, go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people."

And Joab said unto the king, Now the Lord thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my Lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?

So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.—II Sam. 24:2,3,8,9.

This didn't please the Lord. Instead of David depending upon the Lord, he sends Joab, who was

the captain of the army, throughout all the land to number the men of war. It took Joab nine months and twenty days to complete the task, even with the army assisting. They found exactly how many men of war — valiant men — men that drew the sword — that they could depend upon, but the thing displeased God. David was depending upon an arm of flesh.

You will notice in the third verse that Joab said, "But why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?" as if to say, "David, you are doing wrong. I'll do it because I am only a commander of the army, and if you tell me to do it, then it is my task to do so. But, David, you are doing wrong. You are depending upon an arm of the flesh, the number of soldiers that you have, rather than God Himself." If you read the balance of the chapter, you will find that God showed David wherein he had done wrong, and God punished David greatly.

Here are four instances found in the Word of God as to a census being made: when Israel went to Egypt, when Israel came out of Egypt, when Israel came into the land of Canaan forty years later, and when David unwittingly and ignorantly took a census, depending upon his strength of manpower rather than upon the Lord to fight the battles of the country.

### I

#### IT WILL BE THE FINAL CENSUS.

As I say, we are taking a census this year in the United States. As I thought about it, it gave rise to the last census that will be made, which is recorded in my text:

"The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah."

This last census will be the final census. It will be a conclusive census. It will not only be the last one that will ever be taken when the Lord takes it as recorded here in my text, but it will be a conclusive census.

The census that is being made this year is not conclusive in any wise at all. If they come to your house today to pick up your census papers, there may be a death or there might be a birth at your home before even the census papers are recorded. It cannot be a final census nor a conclusive one. It is only a gross estimate and is in no wise to be considered an exact counting except insofar as it represents the day in which the census papers are prepared at your home.

When it was decided that this census was going to be made particularly at this time in 1970, it was said that they were to take a census of everybody regardless of age. The infant in arms and the old man that has plowed out to the end of his row were to be included in the census. It was said that regardless of the financial standing of individuals, everybody was to be counted. It was said that regardless of strength, everybody was to be tabulated. Insofar as an individual might have a physical disability and unable to walk, that individual was to be counted just the same as the strong, stalwart individual that was able to go forth and be a valiant soldier in battle. In other words, it was said that this census that is being made this year was to be complete, conclusive, and final to the best of the ability of the census enumerators.

But, beloved, it isn't conclusive. There will be a lot of people missed. There will be a lot of folk whose names will never be recorded in this census. There will be deaths that will take place before the tabulation is complete. There will be births that will take place before the tabulation is completed. It is not in any sense at all a final and conclusive census.

However, the census that I have read to you about in my text is a final census; it is a conclusive census. No more names will be added to it. All of God's own are going to be found there. Every one of God's own people are go-

ing to have his name recorded in this final census.

### II

#### IT WILL BE A PERSONAL CENSUS.

You notice that it says, "The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there." It doesn't say, "these men" but "this man." Not as an aggregate and not as a whole, but individually and personally, this last final census is to be made. It doesn't say "this church," or "this nation," and it doesn't say "this family," but it does say, "this man was born there."

I am glad, beloved, that this final census that God takes is a personal census. Man fell as a whole, but man has to be saved individually. The whole human race fell in one day, as a whole, as an entirety, as a totality, but man isn't saved in that manner. Men are not saved according to churches, and men are not saved according to families, and men are not saved according to nations, but men are saved individually. I say this census that God takes, the final census, is to be a personal one — every individual personally recorded.

### III

#### THIS IS A VITAL CENSUS.

Notice, "this man was born there." When God takes a census, God is going to record every individual that has been born into His family.

I tell you, beloved, the new birth is one of the most precious truths in all the Word of God to this preacher — the fact that a man is born again, Good isn't going to count, in this final census anybody, except from one standpoint — that you have been born again.

If the Lord were taking this census this morning, would you be one whose name would be recorded in this census?

### IV

#### WHOSE NAMES WILL NOT BE FOUND IN THIS CENSUS?

All the hypocritical church members who have joined the church for gain or for respectability certainly will not be found in this census. I am satisfied as I look backward across my experience as a minister that there's many a man that has joined the church just from the standpoint of respectability or from the standpoint of gain. It used to be said when I was just a boy preacher that if a doctor or a lawyer moved into a community, he always looked about to see which was the biggest church, the most influential, who had the richest members, and then he would cast his lot with that church. I am sure that it has not been true in many instances, but I am satisfied that it has been true many times that people join a church just from the standpoint of respectability or financial gain.

Beloved, those individuals who are hypocritical church members, who are nothing but wolves in sheepskins, who are nothing but white-washed sepulchres, as Jesus said in the book of Matthew — those individuals will not have their names recorded in this final census.

I will tell you somebody else that is a mere hearer. There are plenty of such individuals who are but hearers, and not doers. They merely hear the Word and pass it by. Paul, in writing of such, says:

"To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life." — II Cor. 2:16.

Paul says, "Preach the Word of God. Some people will accept it, and some people will reject it. To the one we are the savour, or the sweet odor, the perfume, the smell — we are the savour of life unto life to the one who receives it, and we are the savour of death unto death to the one who rejects it."

There's many a person who rejects the Word of God. He is a mere hearer of the Word.

I stand here and look out at you who are assembled before me today and I think of the number of

## I HAVE SPOKEN TO THE BIBLE CONFERENCE OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, AND . . .

I would urge

everyone to

attend this

Conference

because . . .

PICTURE UNAVAILABLE

Every Christian is a pilgrim. Pilgrims have always been happy to find a place to rest and wait upon God while in the way; some quiet place to discourse with fellow travelers about the difficulties and blessings strowed along their course. Having thus rested, they are refreshed and encouraged for their journey.

Bunyan, in PILGRIM'S PROGRESS sees one named Christian rest at a place called Beautiful. There he was "introduced as a man on a journey from the City of Destruction to Mount Zion." His invitation into the palace was "Come in thou blessed of the Lord."

While lodged there, Christian was fed with the "fat things" of that house and the wine poured for him was "well refined." Their table talk "was about the Lord of the Hill; as namely, about what He had done and wherefore He did what He did . . ." The keepers of that place also gave him a grand tour of the whole grounds, showing him many things by which he was much encouraged. Finally, he was taken to the top of the house. From there he could see the Delectable Mountains which are in Immanuel's Land.

God in His wisdom has put it into the hearts of the members and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church to prepare such a resting station for weary pilgrims. I refer to their annual Bible Conference. Here the fat things and wine well refined are given freely thru the preaching of the Word of God. You will not go away hungry. Indeed, Brother Gilpin seems to charge the speakers to take care that no one leaves without having learned of the Lord of the Hill; about what He has done and wherefore He did what He did.

From here you can see the Delectable Mountains clearly and from thence it is not far to the Celestial City whither God's people hasten. Won't you meet me at this greatest of Bible Conference, God willing?

J. C. SETTLEMOIR  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

you who have been nothing else in life thus far but mere hearers of the Word, whose name will not be recorded when this last census is complete if you continue as you are.

Somebody else whose name will not be recorded in this last census is that individual who keeps putting off salvation, and dies thus.

If I were to ask those of you that are unsaved this morning if you expect to go to Heaven when you die, you would say, "Well, I hope so." There is not a person here that would say, "I am glad to go to Hell." There is "not a person here that would say, 'I expect to spend my eternity with the damned.' Rather, you would say, 'I expect to be saved.' But you put it off, you put it off, you put it off. Sunday after Sunday, and week after week, you refuse to face the question squarely as to Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and the man that keeps on hearing and putting off and dies thus, his name will not be found in this last census.

Then there are those that live in sin and who die living in sin. I am not saying that many a man lives in sin today, yet he may be saved tomorrow. I am not saying—

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

## Halliman's Report

(Continued from page one)

and discourage the goats.

Early that afternoon we assembled at the church again for the third service of the day. Besides the preaching service there was some church business to be taken care of and this was carried out in an orderly manner. One of the missions of the church had

desires of being organized into a church and they asked the church there for authority to be organized. The church voted on this in the affirmative. After all business and the sermon had been preached we dismissed with a full day in the service of our Lord. Most every one soon went to their homes shortly after the services were over and so the eighth day of the patrol soon came to a close.

Friday had been scheduled for a full day so we got up and started early. We left Guhabea and walked to a place named Pi (pronounced pea). This was the mission from the Guhabea Baptist Church that had requested to be organized into a church. In due time we arrived there and all the people were waiting for us so after a short rest from our walk we assembled at the church building and proceeded with the church organizational service. There were fifteen people in this group and after they had been constituted a church and called a pastor he asked for membership in the new church and so they started out on their first day with 16 members. The fellow that had been serving the group as a missionary for some time was elected pastor. An excellent spirit prevailed all through the service as I traced their lineage back to the First Baptist Church of Jerusalem that our Lord established during His ministry.

After this service was over the people did not leave but all stayed around and after a while they assembled again as a church to observe the Lord's Supper. A good monetary offering from the church was received and they seemed in the highest of spirits

(Continued on page 3, column 1)



# The Redeemer's Return

By ARTHUR W. PINK

(Continued from last week)

## Halliman's Report

(Continued from page two)

as I left them that day and headed back for Guhabea.

About mid-afternoon we arrived back at Guhabea and the entire membership with the exception of one of their missionaries that was out on a mission trip was waiting for the service which soon followed. There was some business to be taken care of by the church after we had assembled and opened the service. This taken care of, there were a few that wanted to tell about having received Christ as Saviour and their desire to become a member of the church in due time. After these professions of faith had been heard I preached a sermon on the Lord's Supper and the church observed the ordinance.

This wound up the church activities for the day and for this area. After I had prepared and ate my evening meal several men gathered in and outside my house and talked about several things for about three hours. I was to leave the next morning and they had several things they wanted to discuss before I left. We finished the ninth day of the patrol at Guhabea.

The tenth and last day of the patrol started out on Saturday morning. I had intended to go about half way and spend the night with a small group of people and then leave on Sunday morning for home. However, we got started early that morning and by 10 o'clock we were at the place where we had thought to spend the night. I decided to stop and have one service instead and then proceed on to our Mission Station.

The people at Hamutu, the place of our intended overnight stay, were somewhat disappointed when they learned that the plans had been changed but all know the amount of work that I am involved in so the disappointment was short lived when I explained why I wanted to go on. We had to wait about half an hour at this place for the folk to assemble as some of them were at their gardens. About 11 a.m. the service was over and we had started out on the last, and by far the worst, leg of our journey. About middle of the afternoon I arrived back at the Mission Station, but not before getting soaked again in a down-pour about a mile from the house. Thus ended the tenth and last day of the patrol.

### A Summary Of The Patrol

These churches, not unlike the churches of Corinth and other places of the early church history, develop some irregularities from time to time and while they are short lived and the people are eager to follow the New Testament pattern once they know it, these things do crop up and they need attention. Some of these things had to be attended to at some of the churches on this patrol.

The church books had to be brought up to date as some had died and some had moved to other churches since I had last visited them. In every church there had to be some corrections made in the church records and this was taken care of.

There were some to be baptized into each church with the exception of one while on this patrol and this was done. There were exactly 100 people in all baptized into four different churches.

In every church except one there were some professions of faith. There was not an exact count made of these but the number would be about thirty. A few from the area where we live in have moved to the area where the patrol was made and they wanted to move their membership to the churches where they were

Throughout the ages man's efforts have been directed toward ruling and regenerating the world. Man has been given full scope. With what results? With the result that the incurable hatred of the human heart to God and the utter depravity of human nature have been fully displayed. How has man used the freedom, the opportunities, the privileges, the talents with which his Maker has endowed him? To what profit has he turned them? Have they been used with the purpose of glorifying God or of deifying himself? To ask the question is quite enough. Loud have been man's boasts. Lofty have been his claims. Pretentious his vauntings. Such terms as improvement, advancement, enlightenment, evolution, civilization, have been his favorite slogans. But the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, and the folly of the world's wisdom and the vanity of man's claims are now displayed before our eyes. What has 'civilization' effected? With all our so-called enlightenment and progress unto what have we attained? Let the records of our Law-courts tell us. Let the columns of the daily newspapers make response. Let the economic, political and moral conditions of the day make answer. Let the world war with all its inhumanities, its barbar-

(Continued On Page Four)

attending. I believe this is Scriptural and ought to be followed by all Baptists where a sound church can be found to move one's membership to; however, this cannot always be done where there are so many different brands of so-called Baptists.

Then, there was one Baptist Church organized. This brings our total number of churches here in Papua-New Guinea to 19. This does not include the two on the island of Bougainville. A District here is the equivalent to a County back home and our work here on this island extends into parts of three Districts. We have organized churches both in the Southern and Western Highlands Districts, and our outstations extend over into the Western District.

I know of no patrol that I have made for the same length of time that I feel that more has been accomplished than on this 10-day patrol to the Aigeguali - Auwi area. We will soon be sending some pictures of the patrol. May God bless you for your part in this work.

## The Forum

(Continued from page one)

and godly: "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and

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our Saviour Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:15). We are told in the book of James that the coming draws nigh. "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." (James 5:8).

Immediately following the rapture of the saints the beginning of the tribulation period is seen. This starts easy but progressively gets worse. During the first part the 144,000 Jews will be saved. In the middle of the 7 years the 2 witnesses will be killed. (See Rev. 11). The tribulation period will then get worse as the man of sin is revealed, but there will be others saved. People from all nations will be saved and many die a martyr's death. "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, what are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? and I said unto him, sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes,

and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Rev. 7:14).

There will be some who are raptured out of the world before the tribulation, and there will be some who are saved during the tribulation.

This is a question that I had much rather had not been asked. My reason for saying that is the

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fact that this question seems to be dividing the Lord's saints up into little cliques. This causes a loss of fellowship to some extent and I wish it could be played down. I once thought I knew the Bible taught a pre-trib rapture. But when greater Bible scholars than I ever hope to be began to advocate mid-trib and some even went to post-trib I had to admit that maybe it was a matter of opinion, and I hate to see the saints divided over mere opinions.

The arguments of a mid-trib rapture are to me rather far-fetched, and those of the post-trib advocates are even much more so. But I can only assume that my arguments seem even more far-fetched to them. I just hope they don't move the second coming of my Lord over to the middle or to the end of that glorious millennium because I would not know how to handle that wonderful situation, and I do not believe they would either.

One post-trib argument that I have heard is that the saints must suffer that terrible tribulation in order that they may reign with Him. I just do not like that argument a little bit. It would keep all the faithful saints through the centuries from reigning with their Lord even though some of them suffered even unto death. And at my age I would not stand much chance of reigning with Him. But I say unto you, beloved, you can suffer. Another post-trib argument connects the last trump of I Cor. 15:52 with the seventh trumpet of Rev. 11:15. It may be that I am just too dumb to see it, but be that as it may, I simply cannot see any connection between these two trumpets. The one in Rev. 11:15 is blown by the seventh angel, and it has to do with God's dealings with this old wicked world. But in I Thess. 4:16 we see our Lord descending from heaven with the trump of

God. To me this trump of God in the hand of our Lord is the last trump of I Cor. 15:52. It has to do with the calling out of all the Lord's saints to meet Him in the air. In that sense it is the last trump. So far as I am able to see there is no connection between the last trump of I Cor. 15:52 and this old wicked world. Neither can I see any connection between the seventh trumpet of Rev. 11:15 which has to do with this old wicked world and our Lord's precious saints. In Isa. 27:13 we see a great trumpet that is to be blown for the purpose of gathering the children of Israel back home. These are three different trumpets, and they are blown for three altogether different purposes.

So much for that. Since I have agreed to do the best I could in answering the questions for the Forum, I must needs do the best I can to answer this one. I must try to show why I am a pre-trib from head to foot.

In the first place, I believe the church at Philadelphia represents our Lord's true churches in the last days just prior to our Lord's second coming. And in Rev. 3:10 He tells this church that He "will keep thee from (E.K. out of) the hour of temptation (trial, or ordeal) which shall come upon the whole world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." The terrible judgments of the awful tribulation time are to be poured out upon this old wicked world. They are not for the purpose of punishing the saints.

Then in Dan. 9 Gabriel told Daniel that there were to be 70 weeks (weeks of years) to be determined upon his people. These seventy weeks of years have absolutely nothing to do with us in this age. By a study of Dan. 9:25-26 we learn that 69 of those weeks were fulfilled when our Lord was crucified. That leaves one week, of seven years to yet be fulfilled. But when that time comes God will again be dealing with Daniel's people (the Jews). From a study of Eph. 3:10 we learn that during this church age our Lord deals in spiritual matters only through the church. That being true, it seems to me this church age will have to end with the rapture before God begins to deal with the Jews again.

And then in Rev. 1:19 our Lord made three divisions of the Book of Revelation. He told John to "write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." This word "hereafter" comes from META TAUTA which literally means "after these things." Some tell me that this means after the things John had seen. That would make "the things which are" and "the things which shall be after these things" to be one and the same thing. But the Holy Spirit never makes an ambiguous statement. So that means there must be two separate and distinct periods of time in Rev. 1:19. One is the church age, and the other the tribulation time, or the things which shall be after the churches. So the saved must be raptured before the tribulation time begins.

The saved of this present dispensation will not pass through the Tribulation, but shall be resurrected and translated ere the judgment of the earth begins. Thus, they shall be removed from this earth — body, soul and spirit. The Scriptures speak very clearly as to this issue, leaving no doubt as to what will take place before the Tribulation begins, what is to take place once it starts and what the end will be. They (Scriptures) declare that when Jesus shouts, the dead in Christ shall rise first. This refers to the dead bodies of God's children, and then the living chil-

dren shall be changed and caught up to meet the Lord in the air. "For the Lord himself shall de-

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scend 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.

These verses stress emphatically that only the dead and living in Christ are affected by the voice of the Son of God. There is not a hint that He will leave part of them in the world, rather it shall be like it was in the Exodus from Egypt, not a hoof was left behind.

Now that the Scriptures have established that all the saved (dead and living) are to be taken out when the Lord shouts in the air, let us turn to the teachings of our Lord as He taught the disciples in order to establish when the saved shall be lifted off the earth. Read Matt. 13:24-30 and 36-43.

In explaining the parable, our Lord defines the good seed as children of the kingdom (regenerated) and the tares as children of the wicked one (unregenerated). He clearly defines the field where the wheat and tares grow as the world. Then, just as clearly, He commands the servants (church) to let them grow together until the harvest which He says is the end of the world (age), and at which time the tares are gathered in bundles to be burned. Brethren, this is unionism which is so prevalent in this day, and I would have you notice that the tares are bundled in the field ere the wheat is put into the barn.

Then the wheat (saved) are removed from the field before the tares are burned. May I also point out that they (tares) are burned in the field (world) — the great tribulation. Therefore, the saved are to be taken out of the world while the owner of the field (Jesus Christ) rids it of sinners. Enoch prophesied of the Lord returning with His saints. This is proof that God had taken them out of the world for they could not have returned with Him unless He had previously taken them to be with Him.

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints."—Jude 14.

The Holy Spirit, through Paul, reveals that we (saved) must appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Read II Cor. 5:10. This judgment will follow the rapture (lifting out of the world) of the saints. We are to be judged according to our deeds done in the body, whether good or bad. Thus, it is not a judgment of disembodied spirits but of resurrected and translated bodies.

Christ does not judge another body for deeds it did not do, so it must be the same body in which we laboured. This judgment takes place in Heaven and is pictured in Rev. 4 and 5.

While the Judgment Seat of Christ, marriage and wedding feast of the Lamb are taking place in Heaven, God is judging the earth and Israel, and saving a remnant for His name sake. Therefore, all the saved of this and past dispensations will be taken out ere the tribulation begins.



## "The Last Census"

(Continued from Page Two)

ing that there's many a man who is now saved, who has previously been living in sin. But I am saying this: the man who keeps on living in sin and dies living in sin, that man's name will not be found in this last census. When God takes the census and writes, the man who lives in sin and dies living in sin, his name will not be found in that census.

Again, the moral man who can find no place for God within his life and who thinks "because I am good and doing the best I can, that is all that is necessary" — that individual's name will not be found in this census.

I know so many people today who are trying their best by their goodness to do the right thing in life. Humanly speaking, we would say they are good-hearted. Humanly speaking, we would say that they are good people. They are fighting for right always. You will never find them on the wrong side of moral issues. You will never find them on the wrong side of any ethical question. They are standing for what is right, but they are lost without Jesus Christ as their Saviour. That individual who is a moral man (or a moral woman) without the Lord

Jesus Christ as his Saviour, you will never find his name recorded in this last census that God makes.

V

### WHO IS GOING TO MAKE UP THIS LAST CENSUS?

My text says, "The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there." Beloved, I am glad that it is the Lord who is going to write up this last census. Aren't you glad that it is the Lord who is going to handle this census?

I am certainly glad that it is not the pope. Wouldn't I be in a bad situation? Wouldn't my lot be a sad lot if the pope were to take the census? He would take my little book of sermons against Catholicism and he would say, "To Hell with him" in a hurry. And I wouldn't be a bit surprised but that he would send you along to the same place with me. You might remonstrate and he would say to you, "Why did you support him? Why did you back his ministry?" I imagine that if the pope were the one writing up this census that there would be a mighty, mighty limited crowd of people that would go into the presence of God. I don't think it would be nearly as big a crowd as it is with God writing the

record.

Satan isn't going to write the last census. Thank God, the Devil isn't going to make up this last census. If he did, there wouldn't be a saved person in the world. There wouldn't be one that he would count. I am as certain as can be, the Devil knowing that he himself is going to Hell, that he would cast every person in this world into Hell if he were the one making up this last census. Thank the Lord, it isn't the pope, and it isn't Satan.

Certainly it isn't you or me that is going to make up this last census. Did you ever stop to think that it is the Lord that is going to write up the record and say, "This man was born here"? I rejoice for this fact, that this last census is not going to be taken by the pope and it is not going to be taken by Satan, and it is not going to be taken by you or me, but it is the Lord that is going to write it, and is going to say, "This man was born there."

VI

### WHY IS THIS LAST CENSUS TO BE MADE?

Beloved, listen, it is not that God will learn anything from this last census. God isn't going to take this census in order to learn one single thing. The fact of the matter is, God can't learn anything, because God knows everything. Listen:

"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure." —Isa. 46:10.

God knows the end from the beginning. He isn't going to take this last census in order that He will learn anything. God isn't a school boy, and God is not at all trying today to learn one thing. He knows everything. He knows the end from the beginning. He knows what the final result will be from the very beginning.

What a contrast to you and me! We only know things for sure as they come to pass, but God knows everything from the beginning. So this last census will not be taken in order that God might learn anything.

Beloved, this census will be taken in order to show God's value of His people. Do you realize that if you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ that God puts a tremendous value on you! Listen:

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord harkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels." —Mal. 3:16, 17.

Oh, He is going to write it. He is going to take this last census Himself, and He is going to say, "This man, this woman, this child was born again in this particular place." He is going to say, "These are my jewels." I tell you, this last census will show God's value for His people —how He values His own.

But there is another reason for this last census and that is, it is going to show Satan's utter defeat. The Lord is going to record all of His own just for a purpose — to say, "Satan, you didn't get him. You did your best, but you didn't get him. He is mine."

Notice again: "And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" —Zech. 3:2.

This was the time when Joshua, the high priest, stood in the presence of the Lord with filthy garments and the Devil was standing there to claim him, and the Lord said, "Take away from him the filthy garments and clothe him with the right type of clothing. Take away these filthy

garments and clothe him properly." Then He says to Satan, "Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" This showed Satan was defeated in his claim concerning Joshua.

I tell you, beloved, one purpose for this last census is to show Satan's utter defeat. Not one single one that God predestined and purposed unto salvation will Satan be able to claim in the final analysis when the last census is made.

But more than that, and more precious to me than anything else that I have said to you, is this truth: **this last census is taken for one final purpose — to show that God's decrees and man's acts tally.** God made some decrees, and man is doing some acting, and this last census is to show that the decrees of Almighty God in the beginning and man's acts in the end — every one of them — tally perfectly.

Let me show you what God's decrees are.

We are told how that God has decreed a certain number that are going to be saved. Listen:

"I have manifested thy name unto the men which THOU GAVEST ME out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word."

Now they have known that all things whatsoever THOU HAST GIVEN ME are of thee.

For I have given unto them the words which THOU GAVEST ME; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me." —John 17:6-8.

God gave to Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world a certain number — a love gift of the elect of God. That is God's decree.

How many are going to be saved? We read:

"The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD." —Rev. 17:8.

Beloved, there are some people whose names have been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world. Who are they? The same crowd that I read to you about in the 17th chapter of John. All the elect of God have had their names written in the Lamb's book of life before the foundation of the world.

Notice again: "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because YOUR NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN." —Luke 10:20.

These names will not be written when you die. They will not be written there when you come to the judgment. They will not be written there at the final assize. They will not be written there in this judgment. Beloved, they are already written in Heaven. Whose names? Those that were chosen of God before the foundation of the world. That is God's decree.

God gave the decree. God said, "This man is going to be saved. This man is going to be saved. This woman, this child is going to be saved." That was before the foundation of the world. Now the last census is taken. What does it show? It shows that everyone that God chose before the foundation of the world is ultimately in God's presence, saved and secure.

I'll tell you what it will show, beloved. It will show that all whom God chose, came as it was written, they came at the time that God ordained, they came at the place that God predestinated, and they came by the means that were foreknown to God before the foundation of the world.

Here it is: God's decrees on

the one hand, and man's acts on the other, and this final census is to prove conclusively that God's decrees and man's acts tally.

Listen, beloved, free moral agency will never defeat predestination. Every time I run into one of these free willers — these free moral agents — these fellows who say, "I am a free willer" — every time I run into one of them I say, "Brother, when the last census is taken, man's acts and God's decrees are going to be seen to tally perfectly."

Predestination is not going to be upset by free moral agency. There is not going to be one single "free willer" get in that wasn't predestinated by God before the foundation of the world. If one — even one — "free willer" were to get into Heaven that wasn't in God's predetermined plan before the foundation of the world, then predestination would be completely upset. But not so! God's decrees and man's acts will tally conclusively.

**This last census will also prove that there isn't any such thing as apostasy.** There is the individual who says, "If you will just hold out faithful to the end, then you will be saved." Those that make up the last census will not include this individual. The crowd that God started with before the foundation of the world — that God Himself foreknew — that God predestinated unto salvation — that God gave as a love gift to Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world — every one of them is going to be in this last census, and not a single one is going to apostatize. You see church members that apostatize, but they weren't in this crowd back here that God started with.

### CONCLUSION

Only regeneration secures us a place among the Heaven-born. If this is God's census, the last final census, and God is doing it to show Satan his utter defeat, and God is doing it to show that man's acts and God's decrees perfectly tally—if that be true, then only regeneration can secure us a place among the Heaven-born. You will never go to Heaven except as a regenerated man. What an honor to be recorded by the Lord, to have your name recorded by the Lord in the final analysis, just like God recorded it before the foundation of the world! What an honor!

I read sometime ago how in the Golden Book of the Republic of Venice that kings and princes paid dearly for the honor of having their names recorded there. Down in Mexico they have somewhat the same system. In the big Catholic temple of Mexico City, you find great gold plaques with various names written on it. President Nixon's name is there. Ex-President Truman's name is there. Great plaques of gold—I have seen them with my own eyes. In the Golden Book of the Republic of Venice, kings and princes paid dearly to have their names recorded there. They considered it an honor.

I want to tell you, beloved, in the book of life, God wrote your name before the foundation of the world, and this last census is going to show that you were born again, and that man's acts and God's decrees perfectly tally.

Beloved, it is going to be an honor to have your name in the Lamb's book of life. No wonder Jesus said, "Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." I do rejoice because of it. I thank my God that that is true of me, and to those of you who are here, I would to God that it might be said to be true of each of you. Would to God that when the Lord makes up His record, this last census, that it will be said of you, "This man was born there."

May God bless you!

## THE REDEEMER'S RETURN

(Continued From Page Three)

ities, its fiendish atrocities, give reply. And mark, it cannot be said that these things are due to man's ignorance and inexperience. Man is not just starting out to make history. We are now living in the *twentieth century* of the Christian era. Man then cannot complain that God has not given him plenty of time to mature his plans. No; God has given ample time, time enough to show that he is an utter failure, time enough to demonstrate that he is totally incapable of governing himself, time enough to prove that if relief comes at all it must come from *outside* of himself.

Here then is the first part of our answer. Christ's return has been delayed in order to provide opportunity for man's plans to fully develop. *God waits till harvest-time.* He has been waiting patiently with sickle in hand, and as soon as the crops of human industry have fully matured, the word will go forth — "Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for *the harvest of the earth is ripe*" (Rev. 14:15).

Why has not our Lord returned long ere this?—We answer—

*Second, in order that God might fully display His long-sufferance.*

"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, *not willing that any should perish*, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:8, 9). All through these nineteen centuries the Lord has been saying, "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Ever since the Saviour left the earth, God has been dealing with the world in mercy instead of visiting it with judgment. God's patience toward our wicked race has been truly marvelous. Wonderful it is that the vials of His wrath have not been emptied upon the nations long ere this. What long-sufferance Jehovah hath shown in bearing with such rebels these twenty centuries! Why is it that the Day of Salvation has lasted until it now exceeds in length every dispensation that has preceded it? Why is it that the door of mercy still stands open wide and God is yet beseeching sinners to be reconciled to Himself? Why is it that Christ has not long, long ago returned in flaming fire to take vengeance on them that know not God and obey not His Gospel? Why is it that He is not even now seated upon the Throne of His Glory and saying to His enemies, "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels"? Why? Ah! why? Because the Lord God is *longsuffering* to usward, not willing that any should perish. Suppose that Christ had returned five, ten, twenty, fifty years ago, then, in such case, how many who read these lines rejoicing that they have been accepted in the Beloved, would have perished in their sins! Join, then, with the writer in returning thanks for the marvelous longsufferance of our gracious God.

Why has not the Lord returned long ere this? We answer—

*Third, in order that God might fully test the faith of His own people.*

(To Be Continued Next Week — D.V.)