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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 DID JESUS SIT ON JACOB'S WELL?

By E. G. COOK

In John 4:6 we read, "Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with (or from) His journey, sat thus on the well." How important it is that we consider every little detail when we study the precious Word. When we see something like we see here in this verse, it should arouse our curiosity. I have heard it said that curiosity killed the cat. Well, maybe it did, and maybe it didn't; it will cause us to study the precious Scriptures more if we get our curiosity aroused enough about something we see in the Book.

There is no unimportant nor insignificant thing to be found in God's Holy Word. The Holy Spirit never used one single word just for the purpose of making His Book larger, and therefore making it look more impressive. So, oftentimes the location, or the place where an incident takes place speaks a great message, both loud and clear, but too many times we do not get the message because our ears and our hearts are not attuned to it.

The children of Israel were in Egypt when the Lord delivered them. Egypt, therefore, is a type, or symbol of the place where we were when our Lord found us. That is, Egypt is a type of the world. John the Baptist preached in the wilderness — the wilderness, therefore, is a type of the barren, desolate condition in which Israel was at that time spiritually speaking. It also speaks of the barren, desolate condition you and I were in when our Lord delivered us from our sins. Jesus spoke the first four parables of Mt. 13 which had to do with public profession of Christianity by the seaside. The sea in Scripture speaks of peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. But, when He spoke the next two which concerns only His own people we read in verse 36, "Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house." The house speaks of Israel, His chosen people, or nation. So it behooves us to always consider the location at which an incident in the Scriptures takes place.

Going back to our text Scripture in John 4:6, let us notice that Jesus sat on the well. When we see this we should become curious



E. G. COOK

to know why the Holy Spirit tells us that our Lord sat on the well. If the Holy Spirit merely wanted us to know that our Lord needed to rest, why did He not just say Jesus sat down to rest? When I became curious enough about this I began to study the wells found in the Old Testament. When I did this my soul was thrilled and blessed. And I trust that as we study some of these wells together your soul will be blessed as was mine.

When we begin to study any word in the Bible we should always start with the first place the word is found, for, after all, that is where God started with it. The first place we find a "well" in our Bible is in Gen. 16 where we read, "But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt harshly (harshly) with her, she fled from her face. And the Angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness. In verse 7 it is a fountain of water, but in verse 14 it is "the well." Let us notice some things connected with this well. First the "well" is where the Angel of the Lord found this poor outcast. So this well speaks

of Jesus Christ. We hear Him as He says, "No man cometh unto the Father but by me." And in Isa. 12:3 we read, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." Second, this well was located in the wilderness which speaks of the condition a lost person is in when the Lord finds him. And third, the well was the place where God was revealed to this poor outcast woman. We hear our Lord as He says, "He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father." So this well speaks of Christ as the One in whom the Father is revealed.

Then in Gen. 21:14-19 we read, "And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs. And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bow shot: for she said, let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept. And God heard the voice of the lad; and the Angel of God called Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her. What aileth thee Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is." And then we read, "And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water." How this does speak of our inability to see any spiritual thing until God opens our eyes that we may see. This well was there all the time, but Hagar could not see it until God opened her eyes. This does not mean that she was blind physically. She could see her child dying of thirst over there in the best shade she could find. She could see those heat waves dancing between her and her beloved child. But what she needed was that seeing eye we find in Prov. 20:12 where we read, "The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them." So for us to see spiritual things it is necessary for God

I believe the trouble here comes from failing to take into consideration the way and manner in which people commonly speak. I think of the man who had been active in the ministry. He had been a pastor and had preached, but he became inactive

those who observed his evil behavior, and had asked, "do you really believe that that man is a saved and called man?" they would have said, "No."

Now in this case these false prophets and teachers had put themselves in the ranks of the saved and blood bought, but like the boozy preacher just mentioned, they were doing things contrary to their professed calling such that the writer exclaimed, "Why, they are by their damnable heresies denying the very Lord who bought them." But had one talked with Peter and asked, "Do you really believe that these men are genuine blood bought men?" What do you think he would have said? Would he not have answered no? It was a matter of taking them for what they claimed to be — blood bought men, and speaking of them according to their claim, when doubtless they were in reality among the unregenerate. There is all the difference in the world between professors and possessors.

Christ died for the truly elect, but many who claim to be among the elect, by their lives deny the very Lord (whom they say) bought them.

This passage does not teach an unlimited atonement else it contradicts the rest of the Bible. Jesus said "All that the Father giveth me shall come unto me, and him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out."

Will there be people in hell who were bought and paid for by the shed blood of Christ? If so, it will be proved that He didn't have the power to protect and keep his property. I don't believe that — do you?

Whenever we find a portion of Scripture that would seem to teach a general truth, we must keep in mind that that truth can-

ROY MASON

RADIO MINISTER
BAPTIST PREACHER
Aripeka, Florida



and got to drinking. It was in the day when there were slot machines, and this minister in a drunken state was seen standing before a slot machine, poking his money into it. This brought the remark from a bystander, "Why, that preacher's actions are such as to deny the very One who saved and called him." He had CLAIMED to be saved, and had claimed to be called to preach, but was he? Because he had classed himself with the saved and called, he was spoken of as if he were saved and called. But had one talked with

to take charge. In Acts 16:14 we find that the Lord opened Lydia's heart that she might understand what Paul was preaching. And in I Jno. 5:20 we read, "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that (or in order that) we may know Him that is true." In Isa. 65:1 our Lord says, "I am found of them that sought me not." Most modern day preachers seem to just jump over, or ignore that last word in this sentence and thereby make it fit in with poor depraved man's thinking. But still God says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts," Isa. 55:8. And still He says, "I am found of them that sought me not."

Then in Gen. 21:29-32 we read, "And Abimelech said unto Abraham, What meaneth these seven ewe lambs which thou hast set by themselves? And he said, For these seven ewe lambs shalt thou take of my hand, that they may be a witness unto me, that I (Continued on page 3, column 4)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

"What The Human Race Is Doing Today"

"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."—I John 5:19.

May I say at the very outset that this world is divided from God's standpoint both as to the saved and unsaved. It is divided from God's standpoint into two classes—children of Satan and children of God. Everybody who is unsaved is a child of the Devil. Whether you like it or not, that is true, and it is the plain language of God's Word. Listen:

"Ye are of your father the devil."—John 8:44.

"Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in lusts of our flesh and of the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the

children of wrath, even as others."—Eph. 2:3.

As an unsaved person who is a child of Satan, you are spoken of by nature as a child of wrath. You have to have a spiritual experience with the Lord to be otherwise. We read:

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."—John 1:11-13.

Notice, this says that the only way you can come into right relationship with God is by that

experience whereby you are born of God.

We have the same truth presented to us again. Listen:

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."—Gal. 3:26.

Every saved person is a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

There are thus two classes held up to us—children of Satan and children of God. You are a child of the Devil by your natural birth into this world; you are a child of God by your spiritual birth into God's family. I know that there are those who teach today the theory of the Fatherhood of God whereby they say that God is the spiritual Father of us all. (Continued on page 2, column 1)

not be beyond the limitations of other Scriptures. In other words, my friends, God is not going to teach a limited atonement in one place and a general atonement somewhere else. God does not contradict Himself. Jesus Himself said; "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37). He also said in John chapter 10 that He gives His life for the sheep. In that same chapter He spoke of unbelievers in this way:

"But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you." (John 10:26).

As for II Peter 2:1, we see a lesson of false professors. There obviously were people, even preachers, who were in the church. These people were teaching and preaching in the church. They were teaching false doctrines. Apparently they had been very clever and started out with just little things until they were bringing in many heresies under the guise of Christianity.

Let me pause to warn you that this can happen today if we are (Continued on page 2, column 3)

JAMES HOBBS

Rt. 2, Box 182
McDermott, Ohio

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Human Race, Today

(Continued from page one)

The lodges teach this, the majority of homes teach it, the preponderant bulk of people all over the world teach it, and even lots of preachers preach it. I passed by a church building sometime ago and on the bulletin board they had this statement: "We believe unquestionably in the universal Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

Beloved, I say to you, that does not tally with the Word of God. God's Word declares that unsaved people are children of Satan. God's Word declares that the only way a person can become a child of God is by a spiritual experience with Jesus Christ which He describes when he says, "Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Mark it down, unless you have believed in Jesus Christ, you are today a child of the Devil.

My subject is, "What the Human Race is Doing Today" and my text says, "The whole world lieth in wickedness." In the Greek language, it literally says, "The whole world lieth in the wicked one." That ought to answer my question. That ought to give you the answer to my subject. You ought to know from that what the human race is doing today. It is doing exactly what the wicked one, the Devil, wants them to do. I would like to show some few things in particular that the human race is doing today.

I

THE HUMAN RACE IS WORSHIPPING ITS GOD — THE DEVIL.

We read:

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."—II Cor. 4:4.

Here the Devil is called the "god of this world," the text says that he has blinded the minds of the unsaved so that they can't see spiritual truth. That is why it is that I say the unsaved — the human race at large, is worshipping its god, the Devil.

Think of all the cults that are in existence today. Certainly they are of the Devil. I don't for one moment's time apologize when I say that all the isms and the sects, and all the sects and all the religious cults in the world today are purely satanic. I don't apologize in the least when I say that the majority of the churches are Devil-founded and Devil-in-

spired. I say to you, the Lord Jesus Christ established just one church when He was here in the days of His flesh, and the Devil tried to destroy that church. Jesus said:

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

Though the Devil tried to destroy that church, he soon gave up, realizing that every time he destroyed one church, dozens of others were springing up. If one church were destroyed in the community, the disciples fled to other communities and every place they went a new church arose. The Devil pretty soon realized that he was not gaining ground, but rather he was losing ground, so instead of trying to destroy churches, he quit fighting the early church and decided to build one for himself. And he did. He built a monstrosity when he built Roman Catholicism, for out from them have come the Protestant churches, and I might tell you that all the Roman Catholic churches and all the Protestant churches are purely churches of the Devil.

Beloved, hear me when I say that the human race today is worshipping its god, the Devil. Think about the night clubs. Think about the movie houses. Think about all the places of sin in the world today. Why do unsaved people go there? Why does the human race patronize these places? I'll tell you. The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unsaved and they can't see spiritual truth. These other things that have been brought into existence by the Devil—the false cults, and the night clubs, and the movie houses, and the places of iniquity and vice and sin are patronized by the human race because the human race is worshipping its god, the Devil.

II

THE HUMAN RACE IS HELPING SATAN TO ORGANIZE SOCIETY.

The world system that we live in, and live under, is Satan-inspired and Satan-controlled. And what is the human race doing? It is trying to build up this world system.

I read recently that J. Edgar Hoover says that the crime bill for your family is \$500 a year. And that is what it is for my family. And that is what it is for every family in America. J. Edgar Hoover says that every family in the United States, whether they realize it or not, is spending \$500 a year trying to control crime.

I think about the wars that come into the world and the world system. I think about the greed and the graft. I think of the corruption in government. It is the world system. The human race is trying to build it up.

I think of the average church that is a stranger to the grace of God, where never is preached the blood atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ and where people are never told that they are saved by the blood of the Son of God. I think of it—the average church is helping to build up this world system.

I think of our educational system. I say to you frankly, the educational system in America is doing more to build up the work of the Devil than anything else. It is doing more to build up organized society than anything else other than false churches. Listen:

"This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."—James 3:15-17.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

The Forum

(Continued from page one)

not careful. People will come into our churches and by using what sounds like good logic introducing false doctrines. We must constantly be watching that this doesn't happen. Christ warned of this in the message to the churches in Revelation. "But, I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam . . ." (Rev. 2:14). Jude warns us in verse 4 of his epistle. "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

So, you see, as Peter warns us, he points out that these people will come in professing to know Christ but denying Him by their actions. They will even preach of the sacrifice of Christ and then deny it in other ways.

This is how they deny "the Lord that bought them." They deny the one that they professed as their Savior.

Let me assure you, if Christ dies for a person, that person will be saved. Every person for whom Christ died will be saved and there will be no exceptions.

AUSTIN
FIELDS

PASTOR,
Arabia Baptist
Church

Arabia, Ohio



No, this verse does not teach an unlimited atonement; neither is there any other verse in all the Word of God which teaches Jesus Christ died for all men without exception. The Scriptures make clear God's purpose in sending His only begotten Son into the world, and in revealing that His name was to be Jesus ere He was born, and why he must be called Jesus.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for he shall SAVE HIS PEOPLE from their sins." — Matt. 1:21.

From this verse, I understand He was called Jesus because of the commission given to him by His father, which was to save His people from their sins. This verse also tells us that He had a people to save before He was born. They (Scriptures) make it known that those for whom He was called Jesus were given to Him by the Father. Read John 6:37. Therefore, when we call the Son of God, Jesus, we are saying that He was born to save the people whom His Father had given Him. We go further and state that His death was also for these particular people whom He was born to save.

Not only do the Scriptures reveal that He was born to save His people, but they reveal that He was successful and completed the task for which He was born and died.

"And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I would lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day." — John 6:39.

To teach that Jesus died for all without exception, is to say that He did lose some whom the Father gave Him for all are not saved. The doctrine of universal atonement pictures a faltering, failing Christ unable to accomplish that for which He was crucified, whereas, a particular atonement pictures Him as the all-powerful Christ fulfilling every detail of His will of purpose.

Our Lord, in the discourse of the Good Shepherd, preaches that His death was limited for we hear Him say, "I lay down my life for the sheep."—John 10:14. Later on in the same sermon, we hear Him say, "But you believe not because you are not of my sheep"—John 10:26. From these verses, we can conclude that He did not die for those to whom He was speaking, for He said they were not of His sheep. Thus, the atonement is limited to the sheep whom God had given Him.

The Holy Spirit in the verse under consideration does not deny the teachings of Christ, rather He substantiates them. This verse does not say that the Lord bought the false prophets, rather it is teaching that the false prophets deny the Lord that bought the people (sheep-elect). A careful consideration of the pronoun "them" reveals that Peter is referring to the people among whom the false prophets

have come claiming to be ministers of the Lord.

They (false prophets) bring in among the people (elect) damnable heresies, which include denying the Lord that bought them by His death on the cross. They come denying a limited atonement, denying that Jesus finished the work for His people, preaching that regeneration is dependent upon merit of the sinner, and by so doing they bring upon themselves (false prophets) swift destruction.

Therefore, II Pet. 2:1 is teaching limited atonement for the bought by the Lord from those who bring in damnable heresies and deny the Lord who bought them (elect) with His blood.

We are too prone to jump to conclusions and give words the meaning we want them to have. (Continued on page 4, column 1)

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



I would urge
everyone to
attend this
Conference
because . . .

The Calvary Baptist Church Conference expounds the gospel of the saving grace of God in the clearest tones. The hearers being edified by the ministry of the Word, enjoy mutual growth. New life is kindled in the heart of each believer.

Every local church, there is no other kind, would be wise in sending their pastor to this Conference. Their investment would be returned many fold and rich spiritual dividends would be realized throughout the ensuing year. The speakers are neither selected because of their popularity, nor because of their powers of oratory, but because of the one inflexible rule — they be doctrinally sound. Thus, it is that each sermon is a chariot in which Christ rides to the souls of His children.

Never have I read nor heard Brother Gilpin, nor any of Calvary's members, esteem the Conference higher than any local church meeting. On the contrary, the assembly of N.T. churches is given preeminence over every other kind of assembly on earth. The Conference is not intended to improve upon the work of the churches but, it is a Divinely appointed means of promoting union and brotherly love among the various churches; thereby, each church knows that the Divine morsel given it is not eaten alone. Oneness prevails and souls are lifted up to sit in Heavenly places with Jesus Christ.

I certainly would be remiss not to mention the orderly manner in which the Conference is conducted. Confusion is practically non-existent and each minute of time is redeemed for the glory of God. Each visitor goes away saying, "Well done," to the blessed few of Calvary Baptist Church. The old landmarks of the gospel which are purposely ignored in Arminian Baptist Churches (?) are highlighted at the Conference. No mutilating, watering down, nor prostituting of the Word of God will be heard at this Conference; however, a clear and candid presentation of the truth is the reward for those who attend.

The worldly Baptist societies of this day will label you an extremist for attending the Conference but their state of apostasy is such that the advocates of free grace are thought to be beside themselves. No apology is made for the preaching of these great and glorious Baptist doctrines and to preach these doctrines without compromise or fear is the command of the Lord to His churches.

If your appetite is for showmanship, ceremonialism or any of the un nourishing wood, hay and stubble of freewillism, you will go away from this Conference spiritually famished. On the other hand, if you are hungry for that Bread which came down from Heaven and thirsty for the Water of Life, come and dine and go away feeling that the Lord is near, dear and precious. The Conference I believe is, "To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved." (Eph. 1:6).

PASTOR OSCAR B. MINK
Mansfield Missionary Baptist Church
Mansfield, Ohio

The Redeemer's Return

By ARTHUR W. PINK

(Continued from last week)

Human Race, Today

(Continued from page two)

This is describing the wisdom of the world contrasted with the wisdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. Beloved, I say to you, the worldly wisdom of geometry and mathematics, the worldly wisdom of history and geography, the worldly wisdom of sociology and psychology, the worldly wisdom of grammar and rhetoric, while it is nice to know, is building up the world system.

What is the human race doing? Beloved, it is helping to organize society. Whether the money be spent for education, whether it be spent on false churches—regardless of what it is spent for, the fact of the matter is, the human race is helping to organize society today.

III

THE HUMAN RACE IS BUILDING UP FOR THE COMING OF THE ANTI-CHRIST.

This logically follows the thought I have just presented. If the world is helping to organize society, then it is building up for the coming Anti-Christ.

I say, beloved, there is a day coming, as listed in the Word of God over and over again, when there is going to be one superman to control the world. He is called the Anti-Christ. I see signs of his coming day by day. The majority of the people of this world today would gladly bow to the Anti-Christ, if some big man would come along and say, "I will solve all your problems." Well, someday he is coming, and the world is going to bow to such an individual. The world today is forsaking the true God and going after the man that is coming.

I might say this, the Anti-Christ will be the worst man that history has ever produced. Can you imagine the human race turning away from God and turning to the worst man that ever existed when they turn to the Anti-Christ to worship him?

What is the human race doing? It is worshipping its god, the Devil; it is helping Satan to organize society, and it is building up for the coming of the Anti-Christ.

IV

THE HUMAN RACE IS BUSY DESTROYING ITSELF.

We are so used to seeing commercials on television relative to the sale of beer, to the extent that it has gotten to the place where people just take beer for granted as a part of life. And cigarette smoke is blown in your face over the television stations, to the extent that as you sit there before your television set, you are almost suffocated by the smoke that comes therefrom. I tell you, whenever I pick up a newspaper and see an advertisement for liquor and beer and cigarettes, I say the human race is busy destroying itself.

The sleeping pills that are sold today are ample proof of that. When we talk about the sleeping pills, that in turn causes us to speak about "the pill." It is the human race's attempt to destroy itself unconsciously—that is what it amounts to.

I say to you that beer and liquor and cigarettes, sleeping pills and "the pill" are filling doctors' offices and hospitals and cemeteries day by day. What is the human race doing? It is busy destroying itself unconsciously.

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

This has ever been His way. Why those years of waiting before Abraham received Isaac? Why that protracted bondage in Egypt, when the chosen people groaned beneath the burdens imposed on them by their cruel task-masters? Why those four centuries of silence between the ministries of Malachi and John the Baptist? Why a four thousand years interval from the giving of the promise of the woman's Seed until its realization? Why?—to test the faith of His people, to demonstrate the reality of their confidence in Him. So in this dispensation. Why has our Lord tarried so long in the Father's house? Why these eighteen centuries for His church to journey through the wilderness of the world? Why is it that the first, the second, and the third "watch" has passed and yet our Lord has not come? Why did God permit the Blessed Hope to be recovered almost a hundred years ago, and still the Bridegroom tarries? Why this earnest expectation on the part of His own for three generations past and even now the heavens are silent? Why tarry the wheels of His chariot? Why?—because God would fully test the faith of His people. Why is He pleased to do this? To the praise of the glory of His grace. Perhaps to demonstrate to the angels, to whom we are "made a spectacle" (1 Cor. 4:9), that God has a people who by His grace can trust Him even amid the darkness of a profound mystery! Wonderful are the ways of our God. Scoffers may cry, "Where is the promise of His coming?" Even servants may exclaim "my Lord delayeth His coming," and our own wicked hearts may sometimes be tempted to murmur against the long delay, nevertheless, it shall yet be seen that He "doeth all things well."

The Signs Of The Redeemer's Return

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28).

AS we have shown in the last chapter, the apostles and their converts looked for Christ to return in their own lifetime. They did not affirm that He would but they believed that He might. But eighteen centuries have passed since then and yet He has not come. The question therefore arises. What evidence is there that the second advent of our Lord is now nigh at hand—that is, nigh as judged even by human measurement of time? May there not be another eighteen centuries which must yet run their weary course before the Sun of righteousness arises with healing in His wings? Have we any means for ascertaining the approximate period when our Lord may be expected to appear? Have we any good ground for believing that another long interval will not yet elapse before the Saviour comes back again?

In connection with other great events which God has brought about in human affairs, fair warning has been given to announce their approach. The Flood-judgment, the length of sojourn and the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt, and the time of our Lord's first advent, may be cited as illustrations. Thus, before each of the marked interpositions of God in the past, plain intimation of their approach was given. Has then the time—the approximate time—of the great consummating event of all events been left shrouded in such secrecy that it is impossible for us to know anything about it until it arrives? Nay verily. The inspired language of Holy Writ declares—"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the Day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others, but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thess. 5:1-6). Words could scarcely be plainer.

God does not desire His people to remain in ignorance concerning the period when His Son shall return. Just as of old, He said concerning the impending destruction of Sodom "Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?" so has God graciously taken the Church into His counsels and revealed to us a "part of His ways" at least. We do not know the day or the hour, we are unable to determine the precise year when the Redeemer shall return, but we do know that His coming is now near at hand. We know it from the testimony of God's living oracles. He has not left us in darkness, but has placed in our hands the more sure Word of Prophecy "whereunto we do well that we take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn and the day star arise in our hearts." The prophets of Old Testament times are commended because that

they "searched what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow" (1 Pet. 1:11); surely, then, a similar "searching" is commendable in us.

As we study the Old Testament Scriptures we discover that a number of "Signs" were given to herald the first advent of Christ. There were conditions to be realized and certain events which would come to pass, and as these conditions were met and as these events occurred those who "looked for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38) saw in these things so many intimations of the approach of Messiah's advent and His public manifestation. The Scriptures of Israel revealed the fact that the Redeemer would be born in Bethlehem of Judea (Micah 5:2); they foretold that He should be a lineal descendant of David and therefore of the Tribe of Judah (Ps. 132:11); they announced that a forerunner should go before Him and make straight His way (Isaiah 40:3); they went so far as to set forth the approximate date of His appearing, namely, before the scepter had departed from Judah (Gen. 49:10), while the Temple was yet standing (Mal. 3:1), and sometime before the sixty-ninth week of Daniel had run its course (Dan. 9:24-27). In like manner, the New Testament Scriptures also record certain "Signs" in connection with our Lord's second coming to the earth. We say "to the earth," for let it be distinctly understood that Scripture interposes nothing whatever between the present hour and the coming of Christ for His saints, when He descends into the air and catches them up to Himself. All the "Signs" recorded in the Word of God have to do with His return to the earth.

(To Be Continued Next Week — D.V.)

Jacob's Well

(Continued from page one)

he called that place Beersheba; because there they swore both of have digged this well. Wherefore them. Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba." This reminds us of what we see in Heb. 7:21 where we read, "The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." So, as the well in the wilderness speaks of Christ as the one whom we could not even see until God opened our eyes that we might see, this well at Beersheba speaks of Him as our great high Priest.

In Gen. 24:10-12 we see Abraham's servant praying by the well in the city of Nahor. How this does speak of our avenue of approach to the Father. Let us notice, this servant was not praying to this well. He was praying by it. In Jno. 16:23 our Lord said, "In that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He shall give it you." When you hear someone start praying to Jesus you can know that person does not study the precious Scriptures as he should. You have, no doubt, heard people say that prayer is the most important thing in a Christian's life. That is just like saying the most important thing in a three-year-old child's life is his talking to his parents. But, beloved, I say unto you, the most important thing in our lives is to let our heavenly Father talk to us in Holy Word. He knows what to say. So when we pray let us pray to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ.

In Gen. 29:1-3 we read, "Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east. And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it." What a lovely scene for anointed eyes to behold. And what a contrast is there between this lovely scene and the one in Gen. 21. There in the desolate wilderness the poor outcast woman had absolutely no future to look forward to until the Lord opened her eyes that she might see, but here we see this well out in the open field in plain view. Then too, we see here the sheep resting by this well. How this does speak of the sweet rest we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Ex. 33:14 our Lord said to Moses, "My presence shall go

with thee, and I will give thee rest." And in Mt. 11:28 He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Next we go to Ex. 2:15-17 where we read, "Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well." What a comfort it is to know that when old Satan gets on our trail, we have One to whom we can flee for protection. Many a saint has gone down in shameful defeat by his trying to withstand Satan in his own strength. But not one of them has ever come to shame by fleeing to Jesus Christ of whom this well speaks. When Moses had fled from Pharaoh who is a type of Satan, and had sat down by a well which is a type of Jesus Christ, we see the daughters of Jethro coming to the well for water. When these daughters of Jethro came for water the shepherds came and drove them away. How this speaks so clearly of Satan's ministers of today as they drive people away from Christ with their liberalistic infidelity and their social gospel that has no saving power. But just as Moses stood up and helped the daughters of Jethro in that far away time, we still have a few here and there who are willing to help those who desire the life giving water. But before they help those who need help they must be by the well, that is, they must depend upon the Lord of whom this well typifies.

Then when we come to Num. 21:27 we see the well personified. There we read, "Then Israel sang this song, Spring up O well; sing ye unto it." To be sure, they were not singing unto an inanimate hole in the ground as such, but rather unto Him whom this well typifies. The well was such a clear type of their Lord they sang unto it with Him in their hearts and minds.

In II Sam. 17 we see Jonathan and Ahimaaz fleeing from Absalom and his host. In verses 18-19 we read, "But they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man's house in Bahurim, which had a well in his court (yard); whither they went down. And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground corn thereon; and the thing was not known." How this does speak of our being hid (Continued on page 4, column 5)

The Forum

(Continued from page 2)

For instance, when we read in our Bible about God saving someone we will, if we are not very careful, just automatically think

E. G.
Cook

701 Cambridge
Birmingham, Ala.

BIBLE TEACHER

Philadelphia
Baptist Church

Birmingham, Ala.



it means to save that person from the penalty of sin. But oftentimes that is not under consideration at all. In Psa. 6:4 David says, "Oh save me for thy mercies' sake." Now David was a saved man before he ever wrote the first Psalm. But here he says, "save me for thy mercies' sake." If we read Psa. 7:1 we can see what David was talking about. There he says, "Save me from all them that persecute me." He is asking God to save him from his enemies.

It is to be feared that many of us do the same thing in regard to II Peter 2:1. Some would say that since Christ bought these false prophets and false teachers that means He paid their sin debt. But paying their sin debt is not under consideration here in the least. Here the word "bought" is from AGORAZO which just simply means to buy something in the market. If a Greek were to speak of going to a car dealer to buy a car, he would use the word AGORAZO. So when we see the word "bought" in the New Testament let us remember it does not necessarily mean that Christ paid the ransom for sin in that particular case. In Mk. 10:45 the word "ransom" comes from LUTRON an altogether different word.

It is my contention that when Adam fell the earth and everything in it fell into the hands of the usurper, old Satan. He is the god of this world. When the old devil told the Lord Jesus Christ in Mt. 4:8-9 that he would give Him all the kingdoms of the earth and the glory of them if He would only fall down and worship him, he was not making an idle promise. He, by the permissive will of God, had the power to do just that. As a result for our Lord to ransom His people and thereby deliver them of all this it became necessary from this present evil world. In the same way it was necessary for him to buy back the wicked, or else punish those who were the property of another. So He has bought (AGORAZO) the false prophets and the false teachers along with all the rest of the wicked world. They are all His property to deal with as it seemeth good in His sight. They are His property just as the cattle on a thousand hills are His property, but they are no more His children than those cattle are His children.



Human Race, Today

(Continued from page 3)

V

THE HUMAN RACE IS DEFYING GOD AND BLASPHEMING HIS NAME.

Years ago, when I was a boy preacher, just after the overthrow of the Russian government when the Czar was deposed, and the Kremlin came into existence, and the new political policies of Russia became Communistic, I saw a cartoon published in a Russian newspaper. This cartoon pictured a man climbing a ladder pointing into the sky, and

in his hand was a sickle and a mallet, and underneath were these words: "Now that we have finished with the earthly czars, we'll tackle the heavenly ones." With a look of scorn upon his face, this Russian workman was climbing into the skies to take God off His throne.

Beloved, I say to you, the human race is defying God and blaspheming His Name.

Let's think about cursing. If all the cuss words that were spoken yesterday were spoken at one time, there would be an echo from those cusswords that would be heard around the world.

I think about the modernism in churches today, and God knows that there is plenty of it. Modernism is rampant in the majority of churches. When you talk to people today about the blood of Christ, they look at you like they thought you were an idiot. They look at you as if you didn't know what you were talking about. They look at you as though they had never before heard what you are saying. I dare say that you could go into the average church and talk about the blood of Jesus Christ and people wouldn't have any idea at all as to what you were

talking about.

Beloved, I would hope that the youngest child that comes to our church know that we are saved by the blood and that Jesus Christ died for our sins, yet all over the world today people are defying God and blaspheming His name through modernism, whereby there are teachers telling people they don't need the old teachings, they don't need the Bible, and they don't need what God says in His Word. The modernism that is abroad in this world, which was spawned in the colleges and the churches, is today nothing else but an attempt to defy God and blaspheme His name.

The Supreme Court has done as much to help it along as anything else. I am not saying that I believe that the Bible should be taught in school. In fact, I do not believe in teaching the Bible in a secular school. I do not want my children to listen to a Methodist, or a Holy Roller, or a Campbellite, or a Catholic teach the Bible. At the same time, I respect the other man's children and I don't want them to listen to me unless they come to our church to hear me teach the Bible. I agree with the Supreme Court to the extent that the Bible

should not be taught in public schools, but I certainly disagree with them a thousand per cent when it comes to the matter of reading the Bible without comment and when it comes to the matter of praying in school.

I remember hearing sometime ago that a teacher came into the cloak room and found three boys down on their hands and knees. She said, "What are you doing?" They said, "Shooting craps." She said, "Thank God, I thought you were having a prayer meeting."

I think that that is like the majority of people. I think that is about like the majority of schools. But I notice of recent date when the chips were down and when people were thinking there were going to be three Americans floating around in space throughout all eternity, never returning to this earth, that the President and everybody else said, "Let's pray." I wonder why they didn't write to the Supreme Court and say, "Will you pass on this? We would like to know whether we can have a prayer meeting for those fellows." They didn't do that. They didn't ask the Supreme Court to say whether we could have prayer for them, but they said, "Pray. Make it a night of prayer."

I believe in every school, wherever that school is, that there should be the reading of the Word of God and there should be prayer. But today we are defying God and blaspheming His name. Schools, colleges and churches, as well as individuals, by their cursing and profanity, are blaspheming God every day.

VI

THE HUMAN RACE IS BUSY REJECTING GOD'S SON AND GOD'S SALVATION.

God only had one Son, Jesus Christ, and God only has one plan of salvation, and that is by the death of Jesus Christ. We read:

"Jesus saith unto him, I am THE WAY, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, BUT BY ME."—John 14:6.

"I am THE DOOR: BY ME if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."—John 10:9.

"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.

I tell you, beloved, God only had one Son, and God only has one way to save people. Don't you let anybody tell you that you can be saved by turning over a new leaf and quitting your meanness. Don't you let anybody tell you that you can be saved by joining the church. Don't you let anybody tell you that you can be saved in any manner whatsoever unless it is that Jesus Christ died for your sins. I say that the human race is busy rejecting God's Son and God's salvation.

People won't go to church. You can ask people today to go to church and they just more or less pass you by as though it was something wild about which you are talking. I can remember when I was a boy that all you had to do was go out in the community and ring a church bell and announce the fact that you were going to have a revival meeting and in two or three nights the church building would be filled. But it is far from that today. What does the Word of God say? Listen:

"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, AGAINST THE LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision."—Psa. 2:2-4.

Beloved, what is the human

race doing today? I'll tell you. It is busy rejecting God and God's salvation.

VII

THE HUMAN RACE IS BUSY GOING TO HELL.

How many people do you find today that are not busy? Very few. Everybody is busy—busy in the schools, busy in the church, busy in the market, busy in the place where you work. Everybody is busy. Busy doing what? Going to Hell.

The Christian's business is that of rescue. I come here to preach to you, and you teachers come here to teach. What is our business? It is that of rescue. While the world is busy going to Hell, our business is that of rescue.

I look at those of you who are lost, who are here, and I thank God that you are here. I think about those of you who have never yet seen the truth that Jesus Christ died for your sins. Would to God that you could see it today, that you would believe that Jesus on the cross of Calvary paid for your sins with His blood and thereby you can be saved and become a child of God.

You say, "That is old-fashioned." Beloved, it is just the Word of God. It is just what God says in His Word. Listen:

"Without shedding of blood is no remission."—Heb. 9:22.

"And the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."—I John 1:7.

"And washed us from our sins in his own blood."—Rev. 1:7.

Mark it down, God has just one plan of salvation, one way to be saved, and you need that salvation. What is the human race doing? Beloved, it is busy, busy, busy going to Hell. Beloved, don't go with them, but turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.

Might it please the Lord today to reach down and save somebody that is lost. I can't save you and you can't save yourself, but Jesus Christ died for the sins of His elect. May you today believe and be saved.

May God bless you!



Jacob's Well

(Continued from page 3)

with Christ in God. As Absalom and his host knew nothing about where Jonathan and Ahimaaz were, so the world knows nothing of our heavenly position. But O precious that position is to us who are in Christ Jesus.

Then in II Sam. 23:15 we read, "And David longed, and said, O that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem." Nothing but the water from this well of Bethlehem would satisfy David's thirst. And nothing but Jesus Christ who was born in Bethlehem can satisfy a thirsty soul. He said in Jno. 6:35, "He that believeth on me shall never thirst. And how we do rejoice in Prov. 5:15 where we are told to "Drink water out of thine own cistern, and running water out of thine own well." What a far cry from the well in the wilderness that we could not so much as see until God opened our eyes to this one that is our very own. "My Jesus I love thee, I know thou art mine."

How all this does show us why Jesus sat on Jacob's well. It connected Him with all these beautiful types of Him in the Old Testament. I pity those who are unable to see our dear Lord in the Old Testament.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We appreciate the above article by Brother Cook. Don't forget to place your order this week for his new book, "Let's Study Revelation." Order from us at \$3.50 per copy.

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