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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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WHOLE NUMBER 2218

HUMAN FOLLY PERSISTS

RAYMOND A. WAUGH
 Midland, Texas

(PART II)
 FAILURE

Since recorded history began, men in every generation have appealed to economic theory and agricultural technique. They have terraced the land and diked the rivers to conserve the soil and assure their crops. But God periodically opens the windows of Heaven and mighty waters destroy the terraces, burst through the dikes, and carry the crops off to the sea. In good times, men may sow the wide open spaces with grain producing seed, but again God demonstrates human folly and frailty with inevitable failure. Periodically, He seals the heavens and burning, searing winds off the mountains and the deserts rob soil and substance of life-giving moisture. The cloudless skies are darkened by the dust of human hopes born aloft by the malevolent winds.

The world of men and women who honor not the giver of all good must suffer under God's intermittent wrath and instruction. History proves this beyond any question. Men may cry, "Peace, Peace," but there is no peace. Men

may brag of prosperity, but there is no prosperity. There are the have's and the have-not's! There are, in truth, the Lazarus's and the Richmen. The incorrigible nature of men is evidenced in the supposed



RAYMOND A. WAUGH

good which most of them do, but ever to benefit themselves!

Tragically, and incomprehensibly, corruption and mortal device permeate the very warp and the (Continued on page 3, column 1)

THE SOUL'S DIRECT RELATION TO GOD

PHILIP L. JONES
 (1838 - ???)

At the basis of all being lies the individual. In matter we come in the final analysis to the atom or more recently to the electron. In natural history back through genera and species we go until we find the primitive parent. In human history, whatever line we traverse, we cannot stop before we reach the individual. The unit everywhere begins the arithmetic of God's universe.

In the spiritual realm this is no less true than elsewhere. It is the man, and not the nation, or tribe, or family with whom, in the closest scrutiny, God has to do. The question that came to Adam in that first inquest into moral action, "Where art thou?" is the question that in some form has been propounded throughout the ages. It is the human soul that must stand face to face with God. That human method at times has seemed to act otherwise does not set aside this supreme principle.

Israelitish policy might include Achan's family in his punishment, but it was Achan alone who was guilty of the sin. The burden of the (Continued on page 5, column 5)

GOING TO BREAKFAST WITH THE LORD

JON RULE
 Taylor, Michigan

(John 21:15-17)

The needs of the saints have been provided for by God in many ways and many places, and the saints so blessed have enjoyed many a delectable treat from the

from a river whose headwaters came from a Rock and ate "corn from heaven" and "angels' food." Would you not love to make a meal of that? Would not you like to partake of that cake and water the angels gave Elijah? Just simple food. Nothing that would be considered a culinary delight, but the Lord sent it. For the child of God, that makes it a feast. And so here by the Sea of Tiberias. The Lord "showed Himself again" (in His resurrected body they could not see Him except by an action of His will) and issued the gracious invitation, "Come and dine." Once again, this is just a simple meal of fish and bread, but what a wonderful and blessed time it would be to breakfast with the Lord by Galilee on the bread and fish He had prepared.

After our Lord fed them (vs. 13), He turned to the Apostle Peter and began a conversation. "Lovest thou me" turns the mood of this breakfast somewhat. While I am satisfied that Peter had felt some uneasiness the moment he saw the fire that the Lord had prepared and remembered another fire (John 18:18), and while his careful answer, "Yea, Lord, thou knowest I love thee," is honored by the Master, "Feed my lambs," yet, I know a thousand arrows of guilt stabbed his soul. What a breakfast conversation! (Continued on page 4, column 3)



JON RULE

Pantry of Him Who said, "If I was hungry I would not tell you. I own the cattle on a thousand hills, the earth and the fulness thereof." In the wilderness, Israel drank

Some Things Will Outlast This Present Evil World

MARTIN E. HOLMES
 Ocala, Florida

We live in a world that is constantly changing and according to the second law of Thermodynamics, if left to itself, our world would gradually decay until one day it would disappear completely. We know that our world of today will one day be destroyed by our eternal and sovereign God. The Apostle Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote in II Peter 3:10-12, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" But in the midst of all of this change and the coming great change we find in the Word of God there are some things that will outlast this present evil world in which we live.

In Mark 13:24-33 I believe it is taught that Israel as a nation will outlast this present evil world in which we now live. Our Lord speaks in Mark 13:30 of "this generation."



MARTIN E. HOLMES

I believe He is speaking of the generation that will be allowed to see Israel reborn as a nation among other nations. This became a reality in 1948 when Israel was granted autonomy as a sovereign nation. Some of the generation that was living when this took place in 1948 will be alive when our Lord comes to this earth again.

For over a thousand years, or since God called Abraham out of the Ur of the Chaldees, Satan with a lot of human help has been trying (Continued on page 6, column 2)

Native Missionary Opens New Work To Hewa Folk

By FRED T. HALLIMAN
 Missionary To New Guinea

Dear Friends,

Greetings to each of you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Trusting that this finds each of you enjoying the rich blessings of the Lord.

We are doing fine here in Papua New Guinea. We have been having very unusual weather for this time of year. Normally the heavy rains set in about the first of December and continue through May and part of June. However, January was the driest that we have ever had in this area in the 18 years that I have been keeping rainfall records. About half of February was the same. This may be due to the unusual amount of cyclones near the island. To my knowledge there has not been any damage to any part of the island as a result of a cyclone, but they have been striking the nearby islands and Australia quite frequently for the past couple of months. Just last night as I was listening to the news a cyclone was reported to be gaining new strength and striking Australia for the second time, after 21 days of destruction up and down the coast and in the nearby islands.

Well, we have not done a lot of reporting in the past few weeks but we have done a lot of work. Our work has reached the stage and is spread out so far now that I am almost constantly on the go, trying to keep up with it. New areas continue to open up and we are finding it difficult to get to some areas as often as we would like.

Apart from myself as a full time missionary we have a national that lives here on the Mission Station also, that is a full time missionary and both of us cannot keep up

with all the work as it should be. We are so thankful to see the work continue to grow and spread out to other areas, and we pray and ask you to join us in prayer that the Lord will continue to give us strength to meet the demands laid upon us.

The native missionary is out on mission patrol this week visiting a new area. The people that he is visiting this week are known as the Hewa people. We have had very little contact with that tribe. For the past year, or a little more, we have had services occasionally at a place which is still in the Duna area but a few of the Hewa people have attended these services. Now we have begun to get frequent requests to come into their own area and start services among them. Last week on Thursday the native (Continued on page 7, column 4)

The World's Burden . . .

Priestcraft

J. B. GAMBRELL
 (1841 - 1921)

I am writing to help, if I can, in the vast work of the spiritual, moral, social and civic reconstruction of the world in a period made both auspicious and perilous by the world war. And every line of this book is written in the belief that only truth can guide humanity on the upward way all good people wish the race to travel. Somewhat large consideration was given the unionizing movement because it is a huge blunder which has thrown itself athwart the path of both religious, moral and civic progress.

In a like spirit and with the same purpose, I come to deal with priestcraft, which I hold to be the world's chief burden, an incubus on the soul of humanity and the (Continued on page 6, column 4)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon By Milburn Cockrell

WHEN GOG MEETS GOD

(Preached on the Independent Baptist Hour on March 25, 1979).

North of Palestine is a nation occupying one-fifth of the earth's surface or twelve million square miles. I refer to the land of Russia and her satellites. Soviet Russia occupies 8,647,250 square miles and her satellites about four million. Russia and her satellites have a population of over nine hundred million people. She probably controls thirty to forty per cent of the world's population one way or another. Russia is the king of the

north. Her dominion extends from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean, a two-continent empire spreading over Europe and Asia.

One of the most significant events in the last quarter of a century is the remarkable rise of Russia to a place of world prominence. Rising up from almost total destruction in World War II, she has become one of the principal competitors of the United States for world leadership. The United Soviet Socialist Republic of Russia has as its goal the completion of the world revolution

begun in November 7, 1917. She expects her master plan to communize the world to be successful between 1970 and 1980. The overthrow of the non-Communist world is to be accomplished through infiltration and minor wars.

Many Bible readers are asking will Russia rule the world? Is Russia mentioned in Bible prophecy? Will Russia fight a war in the Holy Land? To these questions I must reply that Russia has a very prominent place in Bible prophecy. Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 tell the future (Continued on page 2, column 1)

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When Gog Meets God

(Continued from page one)
ture of Russia in world affairs.

In Ezekiel 36 to 40 we have a panoramic view of the end time scenes. Chapter 37 is a prophecy of the restoration of the nation of Israel. This prophecy was fulfilled in the last generation. After two thousand years of dispersion of the Jews among the Gentile nations of the earth, the State of Israel emerged on May 14, 1948.

Chapters 38 to 39 reveal events which happen after the restoration of Israel to Palestine. So the prophecy in chapters 38 and 39 could not have been fulfilled before 1948. These two chapters tell of Russia's invasion of Palestine at the battle of Armageddon. Chapters 40 to 48 describe in great detail the rest of Israel in the land of Palestine and the reign of King Jesus on earth.

MAGOG IS RUSSIA

We are presently living in the time between the 37 and 38 chapters of Ezekiel. The 38 and 39 chapters predict a war between Israel and Russia. Two thousand and five hundred years ago the Spirit moved Ezekiel to utter a prophecy against Russia. At the time Ezekiel wrote the inhabitants of this northern country were roving tribes, living by thievery and warfare. These people had terrorized southwest Asia from the time of Ezekiel's birth. So he was familiar with these people then called Scythians. It is believed by some that the Babylonians sent the prophet to the land of the Scythians.

Ezekiel describes Gog as the king of the land of Magog. He wrote by divine inspiration in verse 1 to 4 these words: "And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Baptist Examiner Forum
P. O. Box 71
Ashland, Kentucky 41101

In reference to the answers given in TBE's Forum dated March 10, 1979. Does the cleansing blood of Christ qualify any saved man to be ordained as Pastor or Deacon? If not, what would dis-qualify him?

Raymond Nuckles
Rt. 1, Box 816
Colfax, N. C. 27235

One can readily see that the identity of Gog and the land of Magog are vital to understanding this passage. Since Gog is referred to as "Thou," "Thee," "Him" (Ezek. 38:16-17, 22; 39:34) and is said to have hands (Ezek. 39:3), we can be sure he is a real person. Ezekiel 38:3 says that he is the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. Hence Gog is the king of a northern confederacy of nations which will attack Israel when they are dwelling in security in the latter days prior to the second coming of Christ.

The word "Magog" is mentioned first in Genesis 10:2 as the second son of Japheth. Since Ezekiel speaks of the land of Magog, he must be referring to the land where the descendants of Magog settled. Commenting upon Genesis 10:2 Josephus says: "Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who are by the Greeks called Scythians" (ANTIQUITIES OF THE JEWS, p. 40). We know from history that the Scythians lived north of Israel and were scattered over the area that is now called Russia.

John Gill, writing in the mid 1700s, wrote in Ezekiel 38:2: "Gog is further described as the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: some render it prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; taking Rosh, as the rest, for the name of a place, a part of Scythia, from which the Russians came, and had their name" (GILL'S EXPOSITOR, Vol. VI, pp. 197-98).

James Bichen, pastor of the Baptist Church in Hop Garden from 1811 to 1818, wrote about Gog and Magog: "Respecting Gog and his associates, mentioned by Ezekiel, it appears that Gog, or Magog, the son of Japheth, settled himself about Mount Caucasus, and is esteemed as the father of the Scythians, who dwelt on the east and north-east of the Euxine or Black Sea. Gomer and his son Togarmah peopled the northern track of the latter Asia; Meshech settled to the eastward of Gomer, in part of Cappadocia and Armenian, to the south and south-east of the Black Sea; Tubal settled still farther to the eastward, towards the Caspian Sea. These two latter were the near neighbors of Gog. From a colony of Tubal sprung the Russians; and the Muscovites own their origin to a colony of Meshech" (SIGNS OF THE LATTER DAYS, p. 103, 1794 edition).

He adds on page 104: "Thus the Russians and Muscovites themselves appear to be included in the enumeration of Ezekiel, and we may observe that they have already extended their conquests into the neighborhood of the Black and Caspian Seas, and of those parts originally settled by Gog and their ancestor Tubal. The probability is, that they will extend their conquests still farther, and be distinguished instruments in the overthrow of the Turkish Empire. And having effected this, it is likely that, with the assistance of their newly acquired subjects or allies from the Caspian to the Propontus, with the Persians, &c. (The people enumerated by Ezekiel), they will both be the invading multitude marked out by the Spirit of Prophecy."

These two statements from two great Baptist scholars are sufficient to convince me that Gog is the ruler of modern Russia. But there is much modern scholarship to vindicate these two old Baptists. A footnote on Gog in the Scofield Reference Bible says on page 883: "That the primary reference is to the northern (European) powers, headed up by Russia, all agree." Halley's Bible Handbook, Fairbairne's Imperial

Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Lange's Commentary, Unger's Bible Dictionary and the New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge all agree with this view.

Gensenius, the German-Hebrew scholar, in his unsurpassed lexicon states: "Rosh—proper name of a northern nation, mentioned with Tubal and Meshech, undoubtedly the Russians, who are mentioned by Byzantine writers of the tenth century, under the name of 'the Rhos' (In Greek), dwelling to the north of Taurus."

The American Standard Version gives the correct translation of Ezekiel 38:2 where Gog is called "The prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal." The King James translators were wrong in making Rosh have the adjective meaning of chief. It is a proper noun. Rosh is probably the root of our modern word Russia. It is quite common for the consonants to remain the same and the vowels to be changed. If the vowel "o" is changed to "u" it becomes the root of our word, "Russia," with the suffix added.

"Meshech" is the ancient tribal name for Moscow. It is related to Moschi, a people who inhabited a portion of the land between the Black and Caspian Seas. These people were later called "Muscovites" from which came the name Moscow. "Tubal" is the tribal name from which the eastern capital of Russia, Tobolski, is derived.

RUSSIA NORTH OF PALESTINE

If one rejects these conclusions, he still must admit that Russia is in a geographical location north of Palestine. Ezekiel three times tells us according to the marginal

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rendering that these invading hordes come from "the uttermost parts of the north" (Ezek. 38:6, 15; 39:2). If you draw a straight line from Jerusalem to the North Pole, you will find that your line passes through the city of Moscow as both Moscow and Jerusalem are in the same meridian.

RUSSIA'S ALLIES

Ezekiel even names those nations who will form a confederacy with Gog in the invasion of Palestine. He says in verses 5 to 6: "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shields and helmet; Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands; and many people with thee."

The list of Russia's allies starts with Persia. Much of what was once ancient Persia is modern Iran, for in 1935 the name of Persia was changed to Iran. The term Persia may also embrace modern Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, all of which today are under the control of Russia. Events in Iran have received much attention in the last few months. Under the rule of the Shah Iran was loyal to the United States. Now an Islamic-Marxist government has replaced the Shah. Khomeini has seized power with the support of the Soviet Union. These events are a prelude to a complete Russian takeover.

Ethiopia, a country in east Africa, comes next in the list. This is Cush, the first son of Ham (Gen. 10:6). His descendants settled in what is now modern Ethiopia and Sudan. This country is south of Egypt and is generally mentioned in connection with Egypt in the Old Testament (Ps. 68:31; Isa. 20:3-5; Ezek. 30:4-5; Dan. 11:43; Nah. 3:9). Modern Ethiopia has adopted Communism and allied herself with Russia. This has occurred after the United States donated her millions of dollars in foreign aid.

Libya comes next. This is Phut, the third son of Ham (Gen. 10:6). Some believe his descendants settled on the tract of land lying on

the Mediterranean between Egypt and Carthage. Others believe it was in the same geographic region as Persia and Ethiopia, which lies south of Russia. David Cooper holds that Libya is Somaliland east and north of Ethiopia. John Gill says it is a country in Africa to the west of Egypt.

Next is Gomer. In Genesis 10:2-3 Gomer is seen as the oldest son of Japheth. But later the name was applied to a tribe, probably the Cimmericians. Their land was sometimes called Gomeria, Gomerland, and Germania. We know it today by the name Germany. It is also well-known that East Germany is presently under Russian control.

Then there comes Togarmah. We learn from Genesis 10:3 that Togarmah was a son of Gomer. They were the Armenians. They settled north of Israel in what is modern Turkey. Modern Turkey borders on Russia and is on very good terms with the Russians.

In verse 6, the expression, "many people with thee," points to the countries swallowed up by Russian conquest. In 1940, Russia took the Baltic republic of Latvia, then Lithuania, then Estonia, and forced Rumania to give Bessarabia. Then in 1945 she took part of Finland, then swallowed up Czechoslovakia, then Poland, East Prussia, and seized the Kureles Islands, and then the south half of Sakalin Island. In 1948 she made satellites of Rumania, followed by Hungary, Albania, Bulgaria, East Germany and North Korea. In more modern times Russia has spread her tentacles into Cuba, Angola, and Vietnam.

THE INVASION OF ISRAEL

The actual invasion of Palestine is described by Ezekiel in verses 8 to 12: "After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. Thus saith the Lord GOD; it shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unvalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates. To take a spoil, and take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land."

INVASION AFTER ISRAEL IS REGATHERED

The situation existing when this invasion takes place is worthy of consideration. Verses 8 and 16 tell us that this invasion will occur in the "latter days." Verses 10, 11 and 14 reveal that Israel will be dwelling in safety in their ancient land. Again we see that this battle cannot be fought until Israel is in her land. She must not only be in her land, but dwelling safely in her land.

Then too I notice that the invasion is to occur after the rebuilding of cities without walls. In ancient times cities had walls around them for protection from the enemies. This practice was discontinued in our time since walls are not adequate protection against modern

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warfare. If you go to Israel today you will see cities without walls. Unvalled villages point to Israel's present situation.

I further see in verses 12 and 13 that Israel will have become a great nation of wealth. Russia comes to take silver and gold. Those familiar with the present economic growth of Israel know that it has already become a nation of wealth. Israel has a tremendous oil reserve. The chemical value of the Dead Sea area is believed to be about three trillion dollars. These chemicals of the Dead Sea are urgently needed for modern industry and warfare. Israel has already established a plant at the south end of the Dead Sea and is reclaiming these chemicals and shipping them out.

The Middle East is a hub between three major continents—Europe, Asia and Africa. Therefore it is of tremendous strategic importance to a nation seeking to dominate the world like Russia.

ISRAEL'S ALLIES

Some of the other nations of the world will protest this invasion of Palestine. Ezekiel tells us in verse 13 of chapter 38: "Sheba and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? Hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?"

Sheba and Dedan are Arabian nations which would include modern Saudi-Arabia and Yemen. Tarshish is the country which was settled by the descendants of Jav-

(Continued on page 5, column 2)

BRIEF NOTES

Calvary Baptist Church is happy to announce that the Independent Baptist Hour can now be heard on KAWS of Hemphill, Texas. The station has 1,000 watts of power and is 1530 on the dial. This AM station is in the extreme eastern end of Texas near the Toledo Ben Reservoir. It should reach into the western part of Louisiana. Readers in this area are invited to listen in to the program on Sundays from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m.

The Living Stone Baptist Church of West Virginia ordained Bro. Richard S. Cornett to the gospel ministry on March 25. The church also ordained Bro. Eugene Dunkle and Bro. Lyle Gothard to the office of deaconship. The church was assisted in this by a council of ordained ministers and deacons from sister churches.

The West Baptist Bible Church, 411 Presley, Oakdale, La., and Pastor Cecil L. Lawrence will host their annual Bible conference April 20-22. The pastor and church invite you to attend. A number of speakers are on the program.

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Human Folly . . .

(Continued from Page One)

woof of the society of humans, both secular and sacred. God tells us, in truth, that Jesus "Made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the form of a servant" (Phil. 2:7), but that men "seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's" (Phil. 2:21). Jesus dramatizes this truth for us in, "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not; if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive" (John 5:43).

Certainly, we live in such an hour!

If one is acclimated to tune-in on the hollywoodized, braggadocious, entertainment religion of our day, or the subtle, sanctimonious, deceiving religious builders of our day, one would suppose that God is in the business of improving, remodeling, or even rebuilding the world in which we live. Some of these even prophesy in the name of the Lord and "cast out demons" and boast of "wonderful works" in the name of Jesus, but they comprehend not the simple truth that Satan is "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2).

One makes his appeal to raise a quarter of million dollars for a "Christian Temple" or a "Church" which he will plant in a distant pagan land in his own name—among the shrines which have stood for several millennia. Another makes his appeal for millions for the construction of a crystal palace to the supposed praise of God, when the man is absolutely devoid of a knowledge of the simple Gospel of Jesus Christ and the churches which He alone can build. Still another convinces the masses of credulous folk that his mountain-top religious, academic institution is the thing that God has been preparing since "In the beginning, God . . ." (Gen. 1:1).

"Wonderful works," we hear them cry!

But from God's perspective, these defy God's, "Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted; but the rich, in that he is made low, because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away" (James 1:9-10). These, in the darknesses of their Scriptural ignorance, assure their credulous followers that in them they have found a persisting, permanent testimony. Thus, they make their appeals for the "wonderful works" they are doing and even call for "memorial gifts" to provide an endowed earthly future for their efforts.

Surely, these have never heard God's, "Come now, ye that say, to day or tomorrow we will go into such a city and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain; whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanishes away" (James 4:13-14). Though these may say "in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? . . . And in thy name done many wonderful works?" (Mt. 7:22), God informs us that His response will be "I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Mt. 7:23). We hear them employ the name of the

Lord on occasion, but it is to their own names that they bring the glory, the honor and the fame!

It is as God has said, "If another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive" (John 5:43). It is then, no marvel that human success in the religious world is all about us. Or that man or woman with sufficient communicative capability and spiritual callousness can convince credulous masses that they are the servants of God in the midst of the earth, though they are, in reality, the servants of Satan, "The god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4) and employ their own names for worldly fame.

These have all of the marks of worldly success! But their materialistic earthiness and their calloused scheming, in their efforts to separate "widows and orphans" and the affluent from their monies, mark them for spiritual failure! Remember that it is — who appeals for your sacrificial gifts that he might establish his "Mountain-top Institution" and reach the world for Christ tomorrow. Remember, too, that it is — who appeals for your tithes, offerings and gifts that he might display his crystal palace to the impressed masses and provide God a "beautiful place" in which to dwell, though God assures us, "The Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands" (Acts 7:48).

These succeed, but not for Christ! These glorify themselves, but not the Lord!

They have a host of peers whose approaches and appeals are as theirs, and, as they, these appear to succeed. But the ultimate issue of their "Wonderful works" is "Depart from me, I never knew you"! Whose, then, will these memorial gifts be? Whose, then, will these religious edifices and institutions be?

FUTILITY

While these play at religion and, at times, even play church, more than 150,000 souls die each day. "He that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Mt. 7:21) apparently is no concern of these. Thus, they miss the tragic futility which pursues their religious self-aggrandizement, and their credulous hosts follow them into their folly.

These comprehend not the message which God provides us in the truth that the second half of this century has been ravaged by war, "burn baby burn," more than 2500 deaths of unborn little ones each day, revolutions at every level, and the ever-present threat of nuclear terror. They miss the truth that in the 1940's we bowed beneath the awful weight of flaming, catastrophic chaos; in the 1930's, we had a depression and a famine; in the 1920's, we had a depression and a financial crash; in the 1910's, we had war and pestilence; and in the 1900's, we had depression and war.

Back through the centuries, and in most every nation, the story continues the same. The great Roman Empire never knew a generation without war, pestilence, and famine. Great Britain, in all of her glorious and inglorious history, has never known a decade without war, and she has never experienced a generation without chaos. The Oriental lands, in their thousands of years of history, have been beset almost constantly by strife, famine, pestilence, and



The Baptist Examiner

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

Pastor — First Baptist Church of Naples Park, Florida

For April 22, 1979

I Peter 3:10-17.

The formula for a happy and contented Christian life involves a right relationship to God, and a regulating of our activities to the Word of God.

VERSE 10

"For he that will love life," Really he that desires or would love life. The intensity of the desire will affect the manner in which we carry it out.

"And see good days." "Have a good day" is a common expression.

History shows fully that men place their confidence, hope, and faith in things, but that the devices of human ingenuity vanish in the devastation of the darkness of destruction. In every generation since men began counting time, pestilence, famine, and war have upset the best laid plans and the most exact hypotheses of mortals. In every generation, men have been brought to a knowledge that gold, zeal, and well-laid plans do not and cannot secure the future. In every generation, men have been afforded the opportunity to see that faith in things, faith in human efforts, and faith in human plans is the folly of fools!

In every generation, men have been presented with the practical, innately inscribed, and recurring documentary that faith in God alone can establish today and secure the future. Impossible though it may seem, every generation of men has literally reeked with "successful" Herod's and the "unsuccessful" John's. In every generation, there have been the "successful" religious leaders and the "unsuccessful" souls such as Stephen. The Plague of pragmatism is a disease for which mortal men have never found a cure.

Thus, with every fiber of their beings, they must appeal for worldly successes. And whether in the secular or in the supposed sacred arenas of existence, the experiences of men would be and are very much as those which transpired in the day when Jesus walked the earth. The word of the Lord then is viable even today. "These things I have spoken unto you that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

If we can receive it, the cycles of time show that men turn their backs upon God's teachings and refuse His Truths in hours of crises. They turn to economic theory when the stock markets of the world collapse. They turn to agricultural techniques, engineering efficiency, and vulgar verbal displays when the winds turn grassy plains into dust. They turn to philosophical and psychological hogwash when suicidal and schizophrenic attitudes replace sanity. They turn to pretty speeches and peace prizes when demonical characters rape the youth of the land. They turn to physical and material prowess when the spiritual powers of darkness descend as a cloud.

Truly, mortal presumption is a fatal spasm!

FORSAKING FOLLY

Today, if you are trusting in the persistence of the material and physical tomorrow, I beg you to forsake that trust! If you are placing your confidence in the annuity or social security, I beg you to forsake that trust. If you are placing the future of your lad or lassie in a trust fund, I beg you to forsake such foolishness.

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin, and yet I say unto you that even Solomon was not arrayed like one of these" (Mt. 6:28-29). Note, too, if you will, "If God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow (Continued on page 5, column 3)

sion of this world, but the meaning and the method used to bring this about varies greatly.

"Let him refrain." Most young people are taught to express themselves freely and fulfill all their desires. However, what they are not taught is that whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap (Gal. 6:7).

"His tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile." Ungodly thoughts, ungodly words, and ungodly activities are not conducive to a happy and healthy life. Evil speaking soon results in corrupting ourselves and those around us. Word pollution has swept our country. James gives us a vivid description of the destructiveness and the deceitfulness of the tongue (James 3:5-8). Brainwashing is nothing new, as the Devil has been a master at this since the Garden of Eden.

VERSE 11

"Let him eschew evil." We are to shun evil like we would a deadly plague. We are to flee from it like we would a rattlesnake. A good illustration is Joseph fleeing from the house of Potiphar (Gen. 39:11, 12). We are to have "no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness" (Eph. 5:11). We should not open our doors to it or enter into its doors (Prov. 1:10,15).

"And do good." Instead of injuring those around us with our tongue, we are to "do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). We are to "ever follow that which is good, both among ourselves and to all men" (I Thess. 5:15). As we pack our days with ministering to others, we discover real joy and happiness. Therefore, "let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Heb. 10:24).

"Let him seek peace, and ensue it." Truly "blessed are the peacemakers." We are to go out of our way to bring about peace. How many problems in churches and among nations could be averted or corrected by "a word spoken in bond." Paul's admonition to the Ephesians, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace," is a timely admonition for any age. Yes, God's saints are to "follow peace with all men" (Heb. 12:14).

VERSE 12

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous." Here we have one of the most solemn and one of the most comforting expressions in the Word of God. Joseph may have been forgotten by the butler (Gen. 40:23), but not by the Lord. God will not forget our work and labor of love (Heb. 6:10).

"And His ears are open unto their prayers." Is it any wonder that David prayed three times a day? However, we must remember this is in connection with a practical holiness. In this regard, God honors His servants as they honor

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Him.

"But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." God does not countenance sin. He frowns on the workers of iniquity (Ps. 5:5). We have ample testimony of this both in the Bible and in history. "Vengeance is mine saith the Lord, I will repay." It is well for God's people to remove themselves from the tents of wickedness and come out from among them and be separate.

VERSE 13

"And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" In view of the previous verse, the child of God does not have to fear what man shall do unto him. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31). The Christian who is a follower of Christ, who is a follower of God, and who follows those who have followed and are following the Lord, can't be ultimately defeated (Mt. 4:19; Eph. 5:1; I Cor. 11:1; I Cor. 15:58).

VERSE 14

"But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake." The Christian can expect trials and persecution in this world, in spite of his every attempt to promote peace. However, if it comes as a result of his faithful testimony and teachings and practices concerning Christ, even this will be honored of God.

"Happy are ye." This suffering puts the Christian among faithful company (Mt. 5:10-12). What a joy to these so privileged.

"And be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled." Since the child of God has a blessed hope, he should not be alarmed at that which would frighten the ungodly, nor become agitated by the seemingly adversities of this life. He should not fear men, nor fear what they fear (Isa. 8:12; John 14:1).

VERSE 15

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts." A quotation from Isaiah 8:13, and means to set God apart in your hearts and have a holy reverence for Him and His commandments. A good example of this is Peter and John when they said, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

"And be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." When men wonder at the Christians, like Stephen, who could patiently bear up under afflictions and even death, we should tell them why this is so (Heb. 10:34; II Cor. 4:17,18).

VERSE 16

"Having a good conscience." As you examine your motives and deeds you can say it is for God's glory, knowing what you are doing is out of love for the Lord.

"That, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers." As they accused Stephen, Paul, and even Christ.

"They may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ." Eventually they will be made to see, either in salvation or judgment, that you were right and they were wrong. This is what happened to Saul of Tarsus.

VERSE 17

"For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing." If in God's providence you suffer as a faithful Christian, be it known it is far better. In fact there is no comparison, than suffering for our own glory or because of our disobedience.

The trail of the Christian has many ups and downs, but if traveled in accordance with God's Word, it has many joys and blessings.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

APRIL 14, 1979

PAGE THREE

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The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P. O. BOX 71 — ASHLAND, KY. 41101

"Had any of those mentioned in Revelations 20:4 who are said to reign with Christ a thousand years been in the Great Tribulation?"—Coeburn, Va.

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Yes, "... They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." These words include all the saints up to that point in time, but it is in the primary sense a reference to the saints which are martyred in the seven year tribulation period (Rev. 12:11).

In the secondary sense it refers to the martyred saints, and the ones which endure the tribulation, escaping with their lives (Matt. 24:22). In the full sense of the reference all saints from Adam to the last elect person called out by the Holy Spirit in the tribulation are included. The tribulation martyrs will be resurrected and glorified at this time, but there will be no rapture; they will meet the Lord in that "great valley" created by the Lord's descent to the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:10).

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What other interpretation could the text have? These saints are carefully identified as having been in the tribulation and they were being eternally blessed and honored because they did not bow to the world power of the Anti-Christ. I think these martyrs are the same of whom Revelation 6:9-11 speaks. They are the ones the martyrs of Revelation 6:9 must wait for in order to be honored during the Kingdom.

It is interesting that the word "beheaded" in 20:4 means to be smitten with an axe, distinctly a Roman form of execution. Even though many modes of execution were common, including crucifixion, wild beasts, and burning, the favorite was decapitation. The French guillotine was but an "improvement" over the old Roman way. Those who die for Christ have a special place in Heaven. In Revelation 6 they are under the altar, in Revelation 20 they are upon thrones. The Lord implies in Matthew 20:22-23 that there will be

degrees of honor in glory and the highest honor will be reserved for those who have actually endured His "baptism" and "cup," i.e. His sufferings. Luke 22:28-30 makes it even clearer.

Indeed, who can read Foxe's BOOK OF MARTYRS with dry eyes? What a debt we owe to our brethren of history who believed so firmly in the doctrines that we believe that they would die violently rather than recant. The Bible pays them the highest honor when it says of them, "Of whom the world was not worthy."

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I don't think that there can be any doubt that those in Revelation 20:4 were in the great tribulation. Chapter 13, verses 16, 17 tells us that those in the tribulation will have a mark. Those who are saved during the tribulation period will refuse to wear the mark and thus will be killed. Yes, those in verse 4 were in the tribulation period.

Please understand that there will be the saved who are caught up in the rapture before the tribulation who will also reign with Christ. The 12 apostles will reign over the twelve tribes of Israel. "... and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (Luke 22:30. Note: See vs. 14). Some of His people will reign over nations (Rev. 2:25-27) and some over cities (Luke 19:16-19).

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They all had been in the great tribulation. These are the saints who had been martyred during that time. If you notice, "And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands." In Revelation 13:15-17 we see that those who would not worship the beast nor his image were to be killed, and that no one could buy or sell anything without his mark in their hand or on their forehead. To be sure these are tribulation saints who refused to worship the beast, or his image.

There is no other time in history that this could happen except during the great tribulation. All other saints up to the tribulation, including the martyrs in the church age are requested before the tribulation begins. Then, too, the church age saints who were martyred during the Dark Ages were killed because they would not accept Roman Catholicism. What we see in Revelation 13 can only take place during the tribulation time, because this beast and false prophet do not come on the scene until that time. When that time comes all the saints up to that time will be in their glorified bodies when the

Going To Breakfast

(Continued from page one)

sation this is! What words these are between the Master and His servant.

I. THESE ARE WORDS OF CHALLENGE.

Now mind you, this is no testimony meeting where the Apostle could stand and piously state his love and express his desire to go to be with Christ. I suspect more lying goes on during testimony meetings than any other time. How many times have we listened to people get up and testify to how much they want to see the Lord and spend the first thousand years just praising Him. But let them get sick. They call the church for her prayers, they spend time and money getting to a doctor, they want the preacher to come and pray and counsel; just so they do not have to go to Heaven. No, this was not a time like that. These breakfast words demand an honest answer to be given to Him Who knows every thought of the heart.

The foundation of the law is "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength" (Mark 12:30). When we love the Lord as we ought, we keep His commandments (John 14:23) because we want to. It gives us pleasure to be obedient and we do not count His commands as burdensome (Mt. 11:30). God's people are to be a loving people; it is a virtue that should grace our walk, words, and actions. Our sermons should be dipped in it before they are delivered and love should drop from every word.

Our Saviour has every right to so question the Apostle and us. Love has never witnessed a greater demonstration than is found in what He did in our behalf (John 3:16, 15:13). God's love for His people demanded the life of His Son; He Who is the very jewel of Heaven, the delight of His Father, "my darling." The elect of every age can put their name into the reading of Ezekiel 16 as God there describes Israel when He found her. Dirty, bloodied, unpitied and unloved when God passed by us, as Israel, "thy time was the time of love." We, as Israel, became a trophy of grace in that God has washed us of our sins, anointed us with the earnest of the Spirit, clothed us with heavenly garments, and given us a spiritual beauty that the very angels delight in. Indeed, if we can respond to the Lord's question with the word of Peter, "Yea, Lord, ... I love thee" it is only because "He first loved us."

We serve the Lord because we love Him. Whatever a saint's responsibility in the church, it should be performed because we love the Master. The first requirement that should be looked for in a person when considering them for a teaching job, an usher, an organist is their love for Christ. Whatever they do, they do it because they are in love with Him who loves them. When that is the case they will faithfully perform their duties. They will be on time and they will be prepared. They will even do more than the task requires. There will be no excuses, no "I've got too much to do already," no "Somebody else can do it better," no "Let someone else have a turn." Love for Christ is the greatest motivation to service for the Christian and there is nothing He requires which we will not attempt to the best of our ability, and, as shall be seen in this sermon, that is what God requires.

Would to God every one of us could say with David: "I love the Lord" (Psalm 116:1). The sweet psalmist then takes the psalm to tell why and how he loves the

Lord. To be able to express such devotion without a shred of deceit or pride should be the ambition of God's people everywhere.

II. THESE ARE WORDS OF CONVICTION.

Three times the Lord asks, and at the last question Peter was "grieved." He knew the Lord was reminding him of his presumptuous words on the night of the trials (Mt. 26:33) and his succeeding actions in which three times he denied knowing the Lord and being in the Lord's company. Up to this time, the Apostle had a problem being rash and overbearing. This breakfast changed that. It is a different apostle who is rebuked by Paul and then says: "Our beloved brother Paul."

There is a play on the word "love" in this text that provides a key to its understanding. When the Lord asks the first time, He uses the Greek word love that is used in John 3:16. It is a divine love; the love with which He loves us. The apostle replies and uses another Greek word which is used to describe love between husband and wife, or love between friends. Again the Lord asks, and uses the AGAPA love, and Peter responds by using the PHILEO word. This breakfast becomes a time for soul-searching for the apostle. In effect, the Lord is "rubbing it in." He invites Peter to be presumptuous and extol his love and obedience over that of the other members. The third time the Lord asks, He too uses the word PHILEO, the love between friends, human love. Peter replies, completely chastised and humbled, by using the lesser word the third time.

In the list of things that God hates "a proud look" ranks number one (Prov. 6:17). God's people not only are to be a loving people, they are to be a meek people. We

are spoken of as "sheep," an animal completely dependent upon the Shepherd for our food (fish and bread), our success (Have you caught any fish), ministries (Feed my sheep). Indeed, all we have or hope to be is supplied by our Master. This is a lesson we, as Peter, need to learn. Even our faithfulness depends on Him, not us.

III. THESE ARE WORDS OF CONFESSION.

By giving the reply he did each time, the chastised Peter is confessing his weakness to love and serve his master. No doubt he wanted to love his Lord supremely, but "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." No more boasting, no more presumption, just an honest and forthright statement of the weakness of the flesh.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Lord PERMITTED the Apostle to betray Him thrice on the night before Golgotha. God protects His people in many ways and from many things, including ourselves. One of the ways He protects is what I call His "protective grace." The Devil spoke of the hedge around Job, and God sovereignly removed the hedge to let Satan at Job. He, who was once the proudest of men and one whose presence commanded attention, soon found himself on an ash dump with boils from head to foot and the object of scorn and contempt. God allowed Samson to reveal the source of his strength and he, who at one time was the greatest of Israeli warriors, found himself blinded and doing the work of a common beast. The same with David, and he, who was the sweet psalmist of Israel and a man after God's own heart, found himself guilty of adultery, murder, lying and cover-up. You see, friends, left alone of the keeping (Continued on Page 6, Column 1)

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The editor urges our readers to contribute articles to this column. Articles "FOR CHRISTIAN BOYS" should be written by Christian men and boys, and "FOR CHRISTIAN GIRLS" by Christian women and girls. Such articles must be at least one page, typed and doubled spaced, yet it must not exceed two such pages. Each article should be accompanied by your name and address as well as the name of the Baptist church where you are a member.

"THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS"

"Give unto the Lord the glory due his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (1 Chron. 16:29).

This is a Psalm of David after they had brought the ark of God and placed it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched. This verse is also found in Psalms 96:8-9. This verse has been a special blessing to me.

Please notice that we owe a debt to the Lord. A debt that we have no way of paying in full, however we should endeavor to pay this debt which the Almighty Creator has commanded us to do. We must honor our most holy, true and powerful God. "Bring an offering," as we assemble in worship on the Lord's Day. We should bring our tithe and our thank offerings and remember we are to give with humble hearts and not to give begrudgingly. Also notice we are to come before Him. The way that is provided for us to come before Him is through prayer. Praying through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Read Psalms 55:17 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17. These verses show us how we are to pray.

Girls, this last part of our verse in 1 Chronicles is the one that I will dwell upon as this is an important part of our Christian lives. "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Of course the outward sign of holiness is good, but in the Lord's eyes the beauty of holiness consists of moral and spiritual beauty. We must be very careful not to have an outward holiness just to show the world that "I am a Christian," while in our prayers and praise to our Lord we are sinful and slothful. The Lord knows our hearts and minds and if we are earnest, sincere and pure in heart. Please pray that the Lord will give you a pure

heart, and then your inward holiness through the Lord Jesus Christ will shine out in your lives as you live for Him who died for you. A wise man once wrote:

"Oh if so much beauty doth reveal
Itself in every vein of life and nature,
How beautiful must be the
Source itself
The Ever-Bright One!"

All of the Lord's attributes cannot be described by mortal man but if we were to endeavor to, "beauty of holiness" would be about the best we could do. We must worship the Lord and be holy as He is holy.

When Gog Meets God

(Continued from Page Two)
an (Gen. 10:4). Some twenty times in the Scriptures you can read of the ships of Tarshish or merchants of Tarshish (II Chron. 9:21; 20:36; Ps. 48:7; Isa. 23:1,6,14). We know from the story of Jonah that Tarshish was across the waters of the Mediterranean from Palestine (Jon. 1:3), a distant place (Isa. 60:9). Some identify it with Tartessus in south Spain near Gibraltar. The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia says that "Tarshish was the farthest limit of the western world as known to the Hebrews" (Vol. 4, p. 2775). The reference is clearly to people living in the western world from Palestine.

Tarshish is connected with the young lions as if to imply that Tarshish is the old lion. This is doubtless a reference to the British Empire whose national symbol has been a lion as far back as we have a record. The young lions would be the nations which came out of the

British Empire like Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States. Tarshish and the young lions are Ezekiel's description of those countries which would rise to power from the then known world west of the Holy Land.

Since America is one of the young lions under consideration, some interesting thoughts come to mind from the account in Ezekiel 38. First, I notice that America will stand with the nation of Israel in the close of the Times of the Gentiles. Second, I see that England and the United States will not be under Russian domination at the end of the age. Thank God for this truth! Third, it is to be lamented that America and England merely protest the invasion of Palestine. This fits perfectly with the modern policy of both these countries. There was a time when we would fight to protect freedom around the world, but it is no longer true. Under our detente policy we constantly protest but never are willing to fight. Fourth, it would seem from other Scriptures that America and England will finally join the battle in Palestine as all nations are to come against Jerusalem to the battle of Armageddon.

The stage is set for the invasion of Palestine by the northern confederacy. The hours remaining of the times of the Gentiles are swiftly running out. The rapture of the saints could happen at any moment. Are you ready for the coming of Christ? Is your soul sheltered under the precious blood of Christ?

Human Folly . . .

(Continued from Page Three)
is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore, be not anxious, saying, what shall we eat? Or what shall we drink? Or with what shall we be clothed?" (Mt. 6:30-31).

The pages of history are replete with the truth of the Word, "They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil, which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Tim. 6:9-10). If we heed the palaver from the pulpits of our land today, and from those around the world, we can know that men are indulging a behavioral response very much as Pavlov's Hound, but their response is to the "tinkle of silver" and the "rustle of bills" or the "smack of checks!"

Those who would appear to be in the forefront of the religious hosts so covet after the riches which men and women will send their way, that there is no end to the schemes to which they will resort to keep the money coming in! So very desperate have the most famed of the religious promoters become that they no longer "wreck their brains" for new ideas and new ways with which to separate the people from their money.

Rather, religious fund-raising is now a secular science which men and women apparently use without any conscience! And these have become so calloused in their pseudo-Christian promotions that some are "hired" to make the "regular appeals" to keep their religious organization solvent. Others are "hired" to appeal to those who might wish to direct some of their estate to the organization by way of annuity programs or by means of their wills. Still others are "hired" to appeal to those who would consider making memorial gifts in the name of some living or dead relative or friend. Truly, "which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Tim. 6:10).

Those such as these, certainly, have never heard, "Fear not, therefore; ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matt. 10:31). These have turned from faith! It is as dramatically hypocritical as that one who says, "God . . . you told me to pay as we go in building the City of Faith" while he calls on his credulous, deluded hosts to "give in faith" and "expect a blessing" — perhaps by

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faith? Truly, it has been written, "They bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do to be seen of men . . . and love the uppermost places at feasts and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the market places and to be called by men, teacher, teacher" (Mt. 23:4-7).

Too, they boast of the religious symbolism of their "towers" never realizing that all such may relate to Roman or Babylonian mystery, but not to New Testament Christianity. Too, these may impress the multitudes that God has peculiarly blessed them because they have some monstrous structure of which to boast or some great fund which is available for their use, completely unaware apparently that all such is utterly contrary to New Testament teaching. If these could grasp the truth of the Word of God, they would realize that God's eye on the sparrow is evidence that His eye would be upon them if their faith was, in truth, in Jesus Christ, the God of ages.

Consequently, the cry from the heart of Christ Jesus, "O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the time?" (Mt. 16:3) is the cry I bring to you. Very simply, "Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" (Mt. 6:26).

Turn, then, from material things; turn from things of the moment; and turn from all those things which hinder or prevent your worshipping God Almighty in Spirit and in truth! Turn from your confidence in great metropolitan edifices and even from bold or esoteric religious systems! Turn from your human hope in industrial prosperity! Turn from educational institutions which defy and denounce Almighty God and His only human expression, even Jesus, the Christ! Turn from professors and teachers who are steeped in crisis psychology but who are totally ignorant of the wisdom of Christ Jesus!

Turn from your trust in science which devises ever new and more terrible ways of destroying your homes, your lands, your own lives, and the lives of your children but which cannot restore the lives which it destroys. Though science may create an idolatrous following with a few artifacts for civilization's supposed advance, its ultimate end is its "mastery" of death by which it is enslaved. Tragically, however, scientists devoid of saving faith in Christ Jesus cannot find the victory or freedom of life in their science.

Turn from the functional fallacies of supposed churches which thrive on formality but which are devoid of the felicity of God which was manifested in the blood of Jesus Christ shed at Calvary! Turn from clerics and ministers who appeal to the power of material device and extended pretense, but who have never known the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit of God through simple faith in Jesus Christ. Turn from a hope which is funded in the contents of the vaults of banks. Turn from the artificial anticipation of beauty in old-age which an insurance policy may seem to engender. And turn with haste from social aspiration, hierarchical machinery with which you must part at the bier, and busi-

ness attachments which result in spiritual vacuums in the hearts and minds of your children and the people of the land.

God clearly explains, "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn ye, turn from your evil ways; for why will ye die . . ." (Ezek. 33:11). Turn, then, to Him who is the "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending . . . who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8). Turn to Him who is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

Even now, turn to Jesus the Nazarene who lived, was crucified, dead upon the Cross, buried, and risen from the dead, "The first and the last, who was dead, and is alive" (Rev. 2:8) forever more! Turn from the hopes and fears of temporality and turn to Him who will give "eternal life to as many as" God "has given Him" (John 17:2). Believe even now in Him who said, "He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him who sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24), thereby turning from the frailty, the folly, the failure, and the futility of human device!

To know the eternal Son of God in saving faith is to pass from death to life. To know the eternal Son of God in saving faith is to understand with incomprehensible wisdom that the things of earth are of fragile dust, but that the things of God are of enduring, eternal import.

Soul's Direct Relation

(Continued from page one)
stolen wedge of gold and the goodly garment was his and only his. The stones of the executioners might fall upon all alike, but God saw in him alone the culprit. Down through human history the student may discover many similar instances, but always and everywhere God has separated the mass and caused each to stand alone. Ezekiel has right for the whole sweep of human history, "The soul that sinneth it shall die." Not the nation, the tribe, the family, but the soul, it shall die. These are involved with it, but the divine tribunal does not rest until it, and it are reached and the whole mass is judged.

In the bestowment of blessing, as in the distribution of blame, the same analysis is employed and the same result is reached. The exigencies of theological mechanics may at times have demanded the substitution of the household for the units of the same, and the federal covenant may have been thrust in to diminish the necessity or importance of the individual response, but the principle has only been vitiated; it has not been repealed.

Well does E. Y. Mullins say: "Primarily the religious relation is a relation between God and the individual man. Religious privilege and religious duty subsist between men and God, in the first instance, in their capacity as individuals, and only secondarily in their social relations. On the social side of their religious life there is nothing which can properly destroy the freedom of access which all men have to God, or in any way mar that fellowship." (AXIOMS OF RELIGION, p. 93). The definition of "social relations" may be of the widest character, taking in those that are ecclesiastical or otherwise, and the truth of the affirmation remains the same. No human device, however skillfully formed, can destroy the bond God has established, nor bind together that which He has determined to stand alone.

All through the Bible, in its deeper spiritual meaning, this fact of individuality stands forth with a clearness no sophistry can dim. It is Moses the man God calls from his herds, and David from his flocks, and Isaiah amid the glories of the temple vision. (Continued on page 8, column 1)

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Going To Breakfast

(Continued from page four)

grace of God, we will destroy ourselves and our testimonies in a day. Not only are we saved by grace, but we are kept by grace from the greatest enemy we have, ourselves. Our lusts, allowed to run unchecked by God's grace, will ruin us. I think this is the lesson our Lord taught Peter during breakfast by lovely Galilee, and it is a lesson we should be mindful of.

Not only, then, should we be a loving, meek people, but we should be humble enough to recognize the fact that we are completely dependent upon the Lord for our daily lives. Our morning prayer should be "deliver us from evil." At best we are weak, vassalizing worms of the dust who do not even have the right to be the Lord's children, much less to boast of how lucky God is to have us around to help Him.

IV. THESE ARE WORDS OF CONCERN.

Peter "wept bitterly" after his third denial. No doubt he had carried his guilt and burden from that day until this very morning. How abashed he must have felt in the Lord's presence. Have you children who misbehave? How humbled they are when their misbehaviour is found out. One of the elements of chastisement is embarrassment; it is an embarrassing thing to know yourself, as Peter now did. Our Lord makes the lesson sure, and He is rather hard on the Apostle. Is there a preacher alive who has not felt what Peter felt? We are so powerful on the one side of the pulpit facing the flock and so weak on the other side. So demanding are we on the one side and so unfaithful ourselves on the other. No wonder Elijah ended up under the juniper tree. I have a brother who says he spends all of his time either going to or coming from that tree.

I see in the Lord's words an attitude of concern; concern for this weak, denying, proud, presumptuous apostle who would become one of His stalwarts "strengthening the brethren" after his "conversion." Of all the apostles I suspect that Peter was the most susceptible to Satan's wiles. The Lord knowing this spends a little extra time with him.

That which God breaks, He heals; that which He wounds, He binds up. That is a Biblical principle found everywhere in Scripture. While the Lord had been pretty rough on Peter, now He restores him. Lest the apostle get so discouraged and down on himself that he decide to go back to his boat and fishing nets permanently, the Lord appears to strengthen him and to encourage him and commission him. The Lord wants us encouraged and strong in His might.

V. THESE ARE WORDS OF COMMISSION.

Each time Peter confessed his lack of love and his failure to love Christ as he ought, our Lord neither rebukes or exhorts him. He commissions him. "Feed my lambs . . . feed my sheep . . . feed my sheep" are His words. Yea, in spite of weakness, lack of love, and failure to stand firm the Lord can use him. What a wonderful thing this is! Only Christ can take us, like the apostle, and mold us into something useful. I am satisfied that He does so in many cases in spite of what we are rather than because of what we are.

How beautifully does the Psalmist put it, "As a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust" (Psalm 103:12-13). When Peter answered the third time, being grieved, he said, "Lord, thou knowest all things;" Lord, thou knowest how much I do love thee and how much I do not. Lord, thou knowest I cannot love thee as I should or want to. Lord, thou knowest my weaknesses and shortcomings. With these words the apostle casts himself upon the mercy of the Lord, and the Lord replies with understanding: "Feed my sheep." How gracious He is

with his chastised apostle. In effect the Lord is saying, "Yea, Simon, I know ALL about you, but I can use you." My friends, I am reminded that the "Word of the Lord came the second time unto Jonah" and it is a good thing that Christ is patient and merciful with us. Sometimes God is much more understanding than many Christians I know.

Indeed, we are a commissioned people. The apostle's SPECIAL work in the early church was to edify and this he exhorts the elders in his writing to do (1 Peter 5:2) and this he does in both of the Petrine epistles. Whatever else the church of the Lord may do, it must evangelize. We may build buildings, have schools, give to the poor and solve the problems of society, but our basic business is evangelism. Our work is to go to the world and with tears of compassion and burden of heart beg mankind to know Christ as Saviour. There is not one doctrine in the Book, not one verse that negates or voids our commission.

CONCLUSION

This is a very rich mine of spiritual gems that cannot be touched in one digging. Note just two things. Firstly, God uses you and me like He used the apostle, foolish things to confound the wise, weak things to confound the mighty, the base things and despised to break to nothing the mightiest bulwarks of unrighteousness. I am glad that my God does not require of me what some people do.

Secondly, the Lord produces in Peter those qualities that He can use and bless. He wanted Peter to be loving, meek, humble, encouraged and commissioned. These are exactly the traits that you find in the Apostle in the book of Acts. He stands among the greatest in God's list of greats. Maybe the Lord pitieth him here at Galilee, but the apostle needs no pity as he thunders "We ought to obey God rather than man." Perhaps he did fail to stand for the Lord in front of a damsel, but, my friends, he stands like a giant in front of Annas and Caiaphas, ignorant and unlearned, to be sure, but a man "Who had been with Jesus." Maybe at one time he thought about going back to fishing (who has not?) but there is no retreat in the Apostle when he says: "Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shown me" (II Peter 1:14; cf. John 21:18). Let us not be too critical of the apostle Peter, rather let us be taught and instructed by this breakfast in Galilee as the Lord deals with one of the greatest saints of all time.

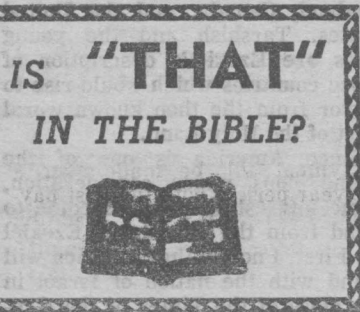
Some Things Outlast

(Continued from page one)

to destroy all vestiges of the nation of Israel. But as long as God remains God, sovereign Supreme of the Heavens and the earth, Satan will never be able to destroy those who are referred to as God's chosen people, the nation of Israel.

In Matthew 1:1-17 we find the lineage of Joseph, the husband of the virgin Mary. Joseph was in his day the legal heir to the throne of David. In Matthew 1:1 we read, "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." Though our Lord's humanity was by the act of the Holy Spirit's power, which overshadowed the virgin Mary and implanted in her womb the seed that became our Lord's human body, and by this we know our Lord was not the physical son of Joseph. But because Joseph never disclaimed Him as his legal first born, our Lord, through the lineage of Joseph is today the legal heir to the throne of David.

In Matthew 19:28 we read, "And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." After the tribulation and at the beginning of Christ's Millennial Reign on earth on the throne of His glory, Israel will yet be a nation consisting of twelve tribes. There-



Question:

WHAT BEAST HAD IRON TEETH AND BRASS TOE-NAIls?

Answer: — The apocalyptic "fourth beast" of Daniel's dream, Daniel 7:7, 19. "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, . . . which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; . . ."

fore, brethren, we should give earnest heed to Paul's words in Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." How many of our churches of today are doing anything for Jewish missions let alone putting them first?

In Matthew 16:13-18 we find our Lord speaking of His Church, which He personally would build and guarantee to it perpetuity. In verse 18 we hear Him saying, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Some will protest that this is prophetic and the church, which He promised to build, is a holy, universal and invisible something or other. They go on to say this prophecy was fulfilled when their "universal, invisible something or other," was born at Pentecost. I can't read in the first or second chapters of Acts that anything was born excepting some folk who were born again by the working of the Holy Spirit through the preached Word. A local church, which He started while He was here on earth was baptized in the Holy Spirit for power to carry out the Great Commission on the day of Pentecost.

For those who would still disagree with me on this subject and would still say He didn't build a church when He was here on earth, would you reason with me from the Scripture? Did God the Father send Him, among other things, to build a church? The answer would have to be, yes. If He didn't build it while He was here on earth, then what did He mean in John 17:4 when in His high priestly prayer to God the Father He said, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do?" This church, which God the Father sent Him to build, which He did build while He was here on earth, is a local New Testament Baptist church, to which He guaranteed perpetuity, and there will be some of His churches found here on earth until our Lord calls His blood-bought throng out of this world in the Rapture, and they will, as His Bride, reign with Him in His millennial glory.

In Luke 17:20-21 we find our Lord saying, "And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." God is and shall always be, the supreme sovereign Ruler of Heaven and earth. King Nebuchadnezzar discovered this fact when God took from him his sanity and sent him to the fields to eat grass as an animal for seven years (Daniel 4:28-37). At the end of these seven years, when God gave to Nebuchadnezzar his sanity again, we find a real difference in this famous king's attitude toward the God of Heaven. In Daniel 5:34-35 we find Nebuchadnezzar saying, "And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I

(Continued on page 8, column 3)

Priestcraft

(Continued from page one)

enemy of all good. Let me not be understood as even intimating that there are no sincere, good men in the priestly office—in Roman, Greek or Protestant communions. I write not of men—I write of a system, a pernicious error, which has thrown a dark shadow over the world and corrupted pure religion and all grades of humanity as no other one thing has ever done. My soul compassionates the millions, including the priests, who have been and are today its victims.

In the New Testament view every believer is a priest. Believers are "an holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices," says the Holy Spirit. Each believer can enter into spiritual relations with God through Christ, the Great High Priest. No human can now mediate divine blessing from God to men. Whoever assumes to stand between the human soul and the Saviour is assuming priestly functions, whether he be in a Romish dress or a preacher's coat. The essential element in priestcraft is the mediating element, whether this finds its expression in extreme unction, baptismal salvation, or in any other form. Essence, not name, not ecclesiastical connections, is determinative in this matter. The man who tells another man that, till somebody baptizes him, he cannot have remission of sins and salvation is of the priestly persuasion. There are down at the bottom only two conceptions of vital Christianity. One holds to the competency and right of every soul to make its own approach to God in Christ, with the full assurance of pardon and salvation. The second holds that there is a mediating person between the soul and Christ. This person must

do something—sprinkle, immerse, pronounce absolution—do something, before God receives and blesses the soul. This last is the priestly conception, and it finds expression in one form or another in all the sacramental orders. With the priestly conception goes infant baptism and all forms of proxy religion.

That this conception of religion, that is, that grace and spiritual blessings come through material touch and human mediation, has been the supreme hindrance to the spread of the Gospel and the spiritual enlightenment of the world, can be proven, both by reason and history. By the ministrations of so-called infant baptism, it has been solemnly declared that practically every person in Europe has been regenerated and made a child of God.

Here is what the Episcopal Prayer Book says of the baptism of infants: "Seeing, dearly beloved brethren, that this child is regenerate and grafted into the body of Christ's Church, let us give thanks to almighty God for these benefits," etc. It is with this church, built on this doctrine, we are invited to syndicate Baptist churches under the idea that we have a common task. It is a very large part of the Baptist task in the world reconstruction to sweep the world clean of all such soul-destroying priestcraft. Till this be done by the preaching of the Word of God, humanity will be impeded and cursed. Priestcraft is the main working principle in the Catholic hierarchy. To a distressing degree sacramentalism has made of none effect the evangelical elements in the Protestant orders. In ways past description the sacramental and sacerdotal elements in the great Protestant communions have hindered the cause of Christ. Infant church membership has merged

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