

Those who trust in riches make riches their god.

WICKEDHAMAN

by Chester Powell
Burghill, Ohio

"And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen" (Esther 7:6). "So they hanged Haman..." (Esther 7:10)

What a powerful and God-inspiring book is the book of Esther! May I suggest to you that if you do not know the story of Esther, that you take the time before reading this article, to pick up your Bible and read this wonderful book. There are some interesting things you will notice



Chester Powell

about the book of Esther. The most prominent is that although the word "GOD", is never mentioned, one can easily see the guiding hand of our sovereign Heavenly Father in the lives of His children. This is such an evident fact — one that is powerfully displayed and awe-inspiring. It is of great comfort to the child of God. It reminds us that God does not forget His own. It shows us that God's promises are true, and should be taken and acted upon by faith. Many Scriptures are testified to by this wonderful story of Esther, and we mean to point out some of them along the way. But if you do not know the story, you will not get all the details in this article, for we do not intend to cover every aspect of it.

We desire to focus our attention upon this wicked man Haman, his plot against Mordecai and the Jewish people, and his reaping what he had sown (Galatians 6:7-8). May we see the Godly example of Mordecai as he exhibits biblical patience; and may we see that it is God alone, who has the proper authority to mete out vengeance to the enemies of His children. Esther must not be overlooked for the great courage she displayed, but let us be mindful that God was in it all, enabling the main characters, Mordecai and Esther, to have patience and courage that was to be the downfall of their bitter enemy, Haman.

The event of this story take place in what is now Iran. The Jews, who had been in captivity for 400 years, were given their freedom by a decree of Cyrus King of Persia. Any Jew who desired could go to Jerusalem to restore the Temple (II Chronicles 36:22-23 and Ezra 1:1-4). A remnant of the people went to Jerusalem, but the mass of the nation preferred to stay in Persia and enjoy the good life to which they had been accustomed. However, God did not forsake them. This is revealed to us in this story.

We see in chapter 3, verse one, that King Ahasuerus promoted a man by the name of Haman. Haman was probably an Amalekite, a bitter enemy of the

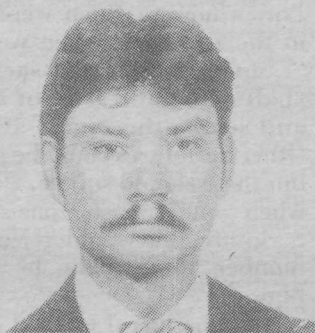
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by Peter Halliman
Calvary Baptist Church

Text: Ephesians 1:4-5, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will." Also, turn with me to I Peter 1:2, "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."

As a way of introduction, let us think about our subject and

what it means in order to get the thought in our mind. The word Elect comes from the Latin Electus which comes from Eligo. The E means "out," and lego means "to choose — to



Peter Halliman

choose out." It literally means to pick out, to choose or to gather out. In the Greek it

means to select. Unconditional means not to be limited to any condition whatsoever. We mean by this doctrine, that God, in eternity chose or picked out of mankind whom He would save through Christ's death and the work of the Holy Spirit — not of their good works for they have none, not because they were better than others, but because He chose whom He would just as He will have mercy on whom He will and whom He will He hardeneth. Just as simple as that, no if's, but's or and's with God. Some one may ask, why did He elect some and not others? First of all, it was of His own will, and secondly, how can the thing made define or question His maker?

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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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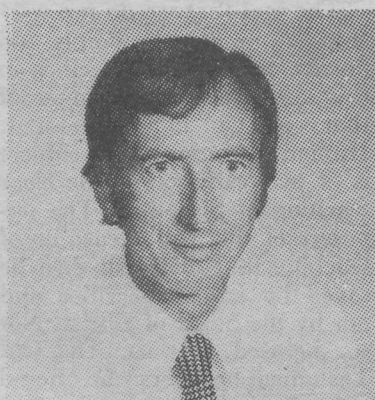
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THE CHURCH THAT SHALL REIGN WITH THE ANTICHRIST

by Ron Boswell
Hagerstown, Md.

"...I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her..." (Revelation 17:7). The Woman in our text speaks of a religious organization known in the religious world as a church. The best of our text speaks of the man of sin, the coming dictator that shall rule the world in the end time. The beast carrying her speaks of her being exalted by him, supported by him and honored by him. As he begins to reign, she likewise shall reign with him like a queen would reign with her husband the king, this church shall reign with An-

tichrist. What is the identity of this mysterious woman?



Ron Boswell

I. I Believe Current Events Reveal The Woman To Be

The Roman Catholic Church. The United States has just appointed Mr. William Wilson as ambassador to the Vatican. The United States of America has bowed to the awesome political and religious power and influence of the Roman Catholic Church. Fifty years ago, such a thing could not have been possible. Many modern Bible commentators had been reluctant to identify the woman in Revelation, Chapter 17 as the Roman Catholic Church, they usually cited her decline in power as the reason. On November 20, 1866, Rufus King reported to then Secretary of State Stewart, that

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

WHY DID TEMPLE WORSHIP AND ANIMAL SACRIFICE CEASE

"...and the name of the city from that day shall be, The Lord is there" (Eze. 48:35). This is a sermon I preached at the April Bible Conference at King's Addition Baptist Church. I did not think much of the subject when I received it, nor when I preached it, nor even now. But I have been asked to run this in The Baptist Examiner, and am complying with that request. When I received this subject from Brother Hobbs, my first thought was, "I'll kill him." But realizing that would be a little drastic, I thought "I can get even with him at my conference." His subject at our conference will show that I did not do this. My next thoughts were that, at least, I

would likely preach the best sermon on my subject at that conference that anyone had ever heard. Then I thought that, since it would likely be the only sermon they had ever heard on the subject, it would also be the worst one. Well, enough of this. It is a Bible subject, and therefore, worthy of being preached.

I suppose that the first reaction most folk would have to the question of my subject would be, because they have been fulfilled (temple worship and animal sacrifice) in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This thought came to my mind, but I rejected it immediately. This cannot be the answer to the question of my subject, and that

for two reasons. This answer proceeds upon the thought that, when types and symbols are fulfilled, they then cease. But, beloved, we still observe Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These ordinances are symbols of the person and work of Jesus Christ. The unleavened bread and real wine represent the sinless body, life, and blood of Jesus Christ. The breaking of the bread and pouring forth of the wine represent His dying for the sins of His elect. The ordinance of Baptism symbolizes the glorious and saving gospel of Jesus Christ; picturing His death, burial and resurrection. Now even though He has fulfilled these symbols and pictures,

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THE SPOILERS PART II

by Ray Hiatt
Ft. Meyers, Fla.

"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him" (John 6:53-56).



Ray Hiatt

"Sir, a woman's preaching is like a dog's walking on its hind legs. It is not done well; but you are surprised to find it done at all" Elbert Hubbard's "Life of Doctor, Samuel Johnson," 1900.

Doctor Johnson's droll wit describes things unseemly and quite absurd. Things unbalanced and displaced are always absurd, yet all such things are not humorous. Absurdities reach beyond the physical and into religious exegesis. The doctrine which would tell us that a man may be made spiritually alive without being granted concurrently a faith in Christ is like a dog walking on its hind legs. It is not "done well" and one finds amazement that it is attempted to be done at all.

II Cor. 11:3 warns us, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." The precious Holy Spirit is as truly God as is the Son. The work of the Spirit in regenerating a soul unto life is not denied. Yet, we must demur when men say that faith in the blood of Christ is not a necessary appendage to the initial giving of spiritual life. Christ is our HOPE. Men, more careless than wise, have said of late that the "Spirit alone" performs the ACTION of regeneration and that faith may dally a good while before it becomes operative in the life of one thus "regenerated." How can this be, when spiritual life is found within the person of the Son of Life? No one person who believes in this metaphysical view of regeneration has ever said in public print to my knowledge, that the blood of Christ is a necessity for the initial existence of spiritual life. Is it possible to be kinsman of our Lord without simultaneously having granted to us faith in the blood of Christ?

I can bear patiently with most error if it does not diminish the work and being of the Christ. Whether or not we should or should not use pianos in our services or padded pews in our buildings is of no moment to me.

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Though idolaters love the false image of God in a picture, they hate His true image in a believer.

The Baptist Examiner

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THE BAPTIST PEOPLE
JOSEPH M. WILSON, EDITOR

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WHY

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we will observe them. Therefore, the fulfilling of a type or symbol does not necessarily mean that it must cease.

The second reason that the fulfillment of temple worship and animal sacrifice is not why they have ceased, is in the fact that they will be restored in the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. This is an unanswerable proof that they did not cease because of Christ fulfilling them. Of course, I would not even attempt to prove such restoration to a Post or A-millennialist. If one will not accept the clear Biblical teaching on Pre-millennialism, he would not accept the restoration of temple worship and animal sacrifice. I preach this for Pre-millennialists. I suppose that all Pre-millennialists believe in the restoration of temple worship in the Millennium. I do not see how one could hold otherwise. Further, I am sure that, if I can prove the restoration of animal sacrifice, restored temple worship will go along with it. Therefore, I shall not attempt to prove the restoration of temple worship, but will show the Biblical teaching as to the restoration of animal sacrifice.

Now, this is a very touchy, argumentative point. The opponents of Pre-millennialism make much of this in their attempt to overthrow Pre-millennial truth. They go to great extremes in ridiculing this. This has led many Pre-millennialists to deny the restoration of animal sacrifices in the Millennium. However, I am sure that the Biblical teaching on restored animal sacrifice and Pre-millennialism go hand in hand, and the opponents of Pre-millennialism seem to see this. I do not, for a moment, believe that this fact is any reason for us to give up the clearly established Bible truth of Pre-millennialism.

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JUNE 30, 1984
PAGE TWO

Read Jeremiah 33:14-18. This is clearly a Millennial Scripture. It tells us of that time when God will perform the good promises He has made to Israel. It tells us of day when Judah shall be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely. These promises were made after the days of Joshua. I say this because many Amillennialists tell us that God's promises to Israel were fulfilled in the days of Joshua. These promises have not yet been fulfilled, read and see. It impugns the veracity of God to deny that they shall be fulfilled. Yes, there will be a Millennium during which God will make these good things true for Israel. Now, note that in this Millennial context, we have reference to animal sacrifice as taking place then. "Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt-offerings, and to kindle meat-offerings, and to do sacrifice continually" (v. 18). Now, by what law of interpretation, can we apply this Scripture to a literal Millennium, and yet do away with animal sacrifice at that time?



Joe Wilson

Read Ezekiel 20:40-41. Again we have a Millennial Scripture which has not been yet fulfilled, but will be. God says of this time, "...there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your obligations, with all your holy things" (v. 40).

Read the 43rd chapter of Ezekiel. Ezekiel, Chapters 40-48, deal with the coming Millennium. Those who deny this are utterly unable to interpret these chapters, and the absurdities of their attempts go far to establish the truth of the Pre-millennialism of these chapters. These chapters tell of Israel restored to the land and saved. Of the Millennial temple, and the Lord's glory returning to it. Of the dividing of the land among the tribes of Israel. The whole of these chapters is Millennial. The last words of Ezekiel, "...the name of the city from that day shall be, The Lord is there" (48:35), show us the supreme glory of Jerusalem and Israel in the Millennium. Now, in the midst of this Millennial Scripture, chapter 43 has much to say about the altar and animal sacrifice. "...These are the ordinances of the altar in the day when they shall make it, to offer burnt offerings thereon, and to sprinkle blood thereon" (v. 18). Now is these chapters describe the Millennium and its temple worship, (and they do) they surely tell of restored animal sacrifices at that time.

Read Zechariah 14:16-21. Surely, this chapter is a Millennial chapter. We read of the return of the Lord and His victory over the armies of anti-Christ. We read that "...the

Lord shall be king over all the earth..." (v. 9). We read of the nations going to Jerusalem from year to year to worship the King, and to keep the feasts of tabernacles, v. 16. Oh, what glorious things we read concerning this Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. In this description of the Millennium we read of "the feast of tabernacles" which involves animal sacrifice; we read of the pots and bowls of the Lord's house, which were used in the sacrifices. Then we read "...and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein..." (v. 21). Other Scriptures could be given, but these should suffice. Usually when one rejects one plain Scripture, he would reject any number that might be given him.

Now the literal method of interpreting these Scriptures lead undeniably to the teaching of restored animal sacrifice during the Millennium. It is very important that we do not shrink from this conclusion, nor try to interpret them in such a way as to leave out animal sacrifice. Any method of interpretation that gets rid of animal sacrifice in these Scriptures, can also be used to get rid of the Millennial reign of Christ. It takes a so-called spiritualizing method of interpretation to get animal sacrifice out of these Scriptures. And this is the method of interpretation used by the A-Millennialists in doing away with the glorious and blessed Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. So I say, beware of seeking to get around the plain teaching of these Scriptures as to restored animal sacrifice. You could throw out the Millennium in your desire to throw out animal sacrifice.

The fact that we do not worship in one earthly temple and do not offer animal sacrifice in this age is absolutely no proof that such will not be restored. Human reasoning on the subject is of no avail against the clear teaching of Scripture. The opposers of this will accuse us of teaching that men will then be saved by animal sacrifice and not by the blood of Christ. Not so, beloved, not so. The Old Testament believers who offered animal sacrifices were not saved thereby, but by the blood of Jesus Christ; they looking forward to its shedding. Why do men who admit that the sacrifices of the Old Testament had no saving value, insist that, when we teach the restoration of animal sacrifices, we are teaching that men will be saved thereby? No, no! The O.T. believer offered animal sacrifices, looking forward to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary, trusting in Christ for salvation. The Millennial believer will offer animal sacrifices as a memorial, looking back to that same sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary. Neither the one or the other offering of animal sacrifices has any saving value.

...TEMPLE WORSHIP AND ANIMAL SACRIFICE...

To those who insist that animal sacrifices will not and cannot be restored, I ask the question: where is your proof? There is no Scripture which can be cited to prove such contention. Men get this from their misinterpretation of Galatians and Hebrews, not from the teachings of those Books. Men say that the offering of animal sacrifices would dishonor the work of Christ on the cross. Why? Such, offered in the O.T. did not dishonor Christ. Observ-

ing Baptism and the Lord's Supper in this age does not dishonor Christ. Then why would restored animal sacrifices do so? Our opponents cannot give any answer to these questions.

Well, if temple worship and animal sacrifices did not cease because Christ fulfilled them, why did they cease? The answer to this may be learned by observing the following question: During what period of time have they ceased? They were here before this age. They will be here again after this age. They have ceased during this age. There are two characteristics of this age which will help answer our question. This is the church age. God is not doing His work today in one place with great and glorious ceremonies in that place. God is not centering His

work today in one spot on earth. God is doing His work today through His true Baptist Churches, scattered here and there around the world. It is not a large, centered in one spot, appealing and imposing to the eye, type of work that God is doing today. A church (usually very small) here, another one there, and another one over yonder. Simple ceremonies, no imposing ritual, plain and simple; this is God's method in this age.

A second characteristic of this age is that it is the Gentile age. There is, even today, a remnant among Israel according to the election of grace. But God is mainly dealing with the Gentiles today. Not mainly with one nation centered in one locality, but with those chosen out of every

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FROM THE EDITOR

Early in my ministry here I announced that it was my sincere desire to use The Baptist Examiner to encourage, publicize, and unite our kind of Baptists — Sovereign Grace Landmark Missionary Baptists. I have repeated that several times. That is still my sincere desire. I realize that some very sad circumstances have made it well nigh impossible to totally unite our kind. I would this were not true. I know that many, who believe as we do, will not have anything to do with me or our work. I am sorry about this, but know of no way I can correct that situation. I will say that I stand ready to fellowship any and all of our kind as much as they will. My actions here have proved that to be true. There are those who believe as we do — who are our kind — but who are so unfriendly to our work that they just will not allow The Baptist Examiner to encourage, publicize, and unite our kind. I leave this with them and the Lord.

However, there are still many of our kind, who are either friendly to us and our work, or at least are not unfriendly thereto. I appeal to these. Brethren, let me use this paper to do for you and for us what I sincerely desire to do. Let me — help me to use this paper to encourage, unite, and publicize our kind of Baptists. A brother preacher recently wrote me that he would like to see The Baptist Examiner run announcements or articles or statements relative to our kind of churches in different parts of the land — that the paper would publicize these kind of churches. Brother (as I said to him) that is what I want to do, but I cannot do it without help. So I appeal to the brethren once again.

I would be most happy for you to send me material relative to your church. Say a brief history (very brief), a statement that you believe as we do here, your address and time of services, a phone number, etc. I would like to have a picture of the pastor, of the building and of the congregation to run with the article. Such articles would need to be very brief. I would be most happy, in this way to publicize our kind of churches and preachers. I would like to let the readers of The Baptist Examiner know about our kind of churches in different places. This could help us all. Folk could know churches to visit when in the area. Readers might learn of a church of which they knew nothing, and start attending there. We could know of like churches, and pray much for one another. Now, brethren, I am most willing to do this. But I cannot do it by myself. I have written very many preachers, asking them to do this for me. Very, very few have responded. Not one has responded but what I have done as I said I would.

I would also be happy to make announcements of special services such as fellowships, conferences, and revivals for our kind of churches. Due to our printing schedule, I need such announcements at least six (preferably eight) weeks ahead of the time you want such to appear in TBE. I cannot think of one such announcement I have failed to run except when such did not reach me in time. I want to do these things. I must have your help to do it.

Fred Halliman is our missionary. We will, of course, feature him and his work, along with Peter Halliman. But I do not believe that Fred Halliman is the only true missionary in the world. I would be happy to publicize the work of other missionaries (our kind of course) in The Baptist Examiner.

Note two things as to all this. I want such to be our kind of Baptists. I want such to be friendly to our work. I did not say supportive of our work. But I do not feel I should publicize churches, preachers, missionaries, etc., that are unfriendly to our work. Now, it may happen that, through ignorance, I would publicize some church or preacher who does not believe as we teach in this paper. Please do not ask me to do this. But if you do ask me, and I ignorantly do such, I would appreciate readers informing me that such church or preacher is not truly our kind. Upon learning this for a fact, I would apologize for publicizing such and desist therefrom in the future. I fear that some men who are very unfriendly to our work have asked me to make announcements for them which I have done. But, brethren, do not use me in this way, please.

I will be happy to make announcements as to preachers who are available and as to churches who need preachers. But, please do not take advantage of my kindness and my ignorance. Do not ask me to do this if you are not our kind of Baptist. If you desire me to make such an announcement for you, please accompany your request with some sort of statement that you believe basically what we teach in T.B.E.

Brethren, let us work together. Let me help you. Let me do what I want to do with this paper, and to encourage, publicize, and unite our kind of Baptists. Any help or advice as to how I might accomplish this purpose better will be appreciated. May God bless you all!

Trust not to praying and hearing; they are means of salvation, but not saviours.



QUESTION: — What king sentenced his ten concubines to life in prison?

ANSWER: — David, Second Samuel 20:3. "And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood."

WHY

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nation, and scattered abroad around the globe. In these two characteristics of this age, we see why temple worship and animal sacrifice have ceased for now.

Now, let us note that there will be a change relative to these two characteristics in the Millennium, which will explain why temple worship and animal sacrifice will then be restored. The church age will cease with the rapture. God is doing His proper and properly authorized work in the world today through His churches. But with the rapture, which may, so far as we know, be at any moment of time; true believers will be raptured in glorified bodies to meet the Lord in the air. With this, true churches will cease upon the earth, and the age of God working through His churches will be over. Abraham knew nothing of church truth. Tribulation and Millennial saints will not be baptized, join true churches, and serve the Lord in that way. This is the church age, and it will end with the rapture. Then, Israel will be restored to her place of special favor with God during the Millennium. Israel will be regathered and restored to the Land of Israel. Israel will be regenerated by the power and gospel of God, and a nation will be born at once. (The vast majority of Israelites will be saved people at that time). Now consider these two changing characteristics of these different ages carefully.

The worship of the Lord in the Millennium will be different from this age. It will be centered in one spot of the globe. It will center in Jerusalem and in Israel. All nations will go up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord (likely in their authorized representatives). The law of the Lord will go forth from Jerusalem. Jesus Christ will sit on His throne in Jerusalem, and from thence will rule in power and great glory over all the world. The worship of the Lord in that day will not be plain, simple, in small groups here and there. It will be brilliant, glorious beyond words. It will center in Jerusalem, and from there radiate over all the world. Do you not see that in the different characteristics of the church age and the Gentile age from that which preceded and that which follows this age — that in these things we have the answer to the question of my sermon? It is not God's purpose, in this age, to dazzle the

eyes of men with the glory and beauty of His worship. It is not God's purpose, in this age, to have one glorious religion for all the world, and to rule in glory and power over all the earth. Therefore, in this age we do not have an imposing religious ritual, centered in one spot, radiating its beams over all the earth. But it will be exactly that way in the glorious Millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

Note Israel's chief place in these things. In the Old Testament, Israel should have been the center of a glorious worship of the Lord shedding its radiance over all the earth. Israel failed to be what she should be. God set Israel aside for an age — the church age. God is working differently now. In the Millennium, God will again take up His special dealings with Israel, and make Israel what she should have been in other days. God's glory will be manifested in Israel. The name of Jerusalem in that day will be, "The Lord is there." His glory will be centered there in magnificent, glorious appearance, and will shine forth over all the world. God's glory will be visibly manifested and His worship will be magnificent, imposing, appealing, and glorious, shining over all the earth. Israel's worship will then be what it should have been, but never was.

Oh, there is a glory to come to, on, and over this earth. The glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Do you not see that temple worship and the ritual of animal sacrifice will be appropriate to that age, but not to this church age in which we live? Why did temple worship and animal sacrifice cease? Not because the type and symbol have been fulfilled by Jesus Christ. For we still have the symbols of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and because they will be restored in the Millennium. Why? Because of the characteristics of this age — the church age — contrasted with the characteristics of the preceding and succeeding ages. May God bless you all!

SPOILERS

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Such things do not address our HOPE, so they mean little. Yet, when men would turn our eyes from Christ Jesus our Lord, however innocently or inadvertently this may be done, I must protest most strongly.

Some "spoilers" are predators by nature. We have some among the Baptists (thank God they are few). We have men among us who are dominant personalities and who must dominate all things they touch. They must rule or wreak ruin in their train. They must have an empire to do their bidding with abject serfs to meet their whims. Thank God they only number a few. One is too many. I do not believe that the men who preach this novel view of regeneration are deliberate "spoilers." Yet, the result of their deeds are all one as if the act were deliberate and preplanned. The hurt is just as real and the error just as terrible.

I truly believe that this doctrine came about because of the simplest of all things; the fallacy of not thinking a proposition through completely and following it to its ultimate end. I do not believe that this error is premeditated to cause harm. It is merely the result of scholarly carelessness. It is also the result of a false emphasis on the doctrine of Election. By this I mean

that they attach a more profound meaning to this doctrine than naturally belongs there.

We all abhor Arminianism. We reject the least taint of it, for the least taint gives glory to man, not God. Yet, our abhorrence to this teaching must not lead us to go TOO FAR and take the doctrine of Grace to lengths and degrees unseemly.

The doctrines of Grace are the first things which should be taught to new converts for they are the simplest to comprehend with spiritual eyes. There is nothing profound nor abstruse about the fact that God chose some unto eternal life before the world was. A child can understand such a concept. The first verse of the Bible establishes God's sovereignty. It is not complex. A new born child of God should hear these simplistic truths very soon for they convey to him God's eternal love and care. If God so loved him from eternity, then he can be assured of his love in time. Such things comfort frail converts who are new to the covenant of grace. Yet, we must not believe that such teachings are the only food for the growing Christian. The person of Christ Jesus is the one we partake of to gain sustenance and greater strength. The doctrines of Grace are glorious, and speak of certain deeds which a wise and beneficent God performs to bring sinners from darkness to light. However, we must be far more interested in the doer than in the deeds. We rejoice in the eternal deeds of God on our behalf. However, our spiritual sustenance and greater growth is not found in mere contemplation of the deeds, but rather in the person of the precious doer. Let us exult in God's deeds for us, but let us, at all costs, worship the doer. The person of the Christ of God is our meat and our drink. In Him we find all we need to feed us and uplift our spirits in the trials and joys of this life.

Out beloved Paul has said so well, "For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21). In the person of Christ is found EVERYTHING... our life, our hope, our glory and our praise. We do not slight the glorious doctrines of Grace by worshipping the person of the Son of Life, nor do we diminish in any degree the love and ministries of the Father and the Holy Spirit. Christ our Lord is the fullness of all things, for by Him all things consist.

I believe that the doctrine of "Time Lapse Regeneration" was generated because of a genuine hatred for Arminian doctrine. I credit the men who preach this doctrine with sincerity of purpose but with carelessness of operation. We share their abhorrence for the guileful and dishonoring methods of Arminian ministries. However, they go TOO FAR in an opposite direction. Error is error whether it remains too far back or propels itself too far forward.

The men who preach this doctrine (many noble names among them) remove our eyes, however inadvertently, from Christ Jesus our Lord just as the doctrine of post-tribulationism removes our eyes from the hope of His return. Our focus while on this earth must be upon HIM for in HIM we understand and see the completeness and beauty of God.

This doctrine was begun in scholarly carelessness and continues in scholarly pride. Men who have pronounced fallacy in print are not quick to recant. Pride intercedes. Some who

believe this doctrine are in truth carefully edging away from it. Yet, not all. Some remain committed, though it cannot be proven by any PRECISE reference to any PRECISE Scripture. Thus pride works its full work unto the detriment of us all.

Paul says that "we preach Christ" (I Cor. 1:23) and we do. But why preach Christ if a man may be made alive without being granted a confluent faith in Christ? Why should we preach that a man should repent and believe the gospel if (as it said) many years of time may pass before such an enlivened soul may repent and have God-given faith in the Christ the gospel speaks of? Such a doctrine is shallow scholarship, at its best and criminal at its worst. It moves men's eyes from the Christ of God and no greater offense may be committed. It may not do this by deliberate design, but the result is the same.

The men who are currently preaching this doctrine are not blatant heretics nor classic hardshells, they are merely criminally careless in handling the Word. They have not thought their doctrine through thoroughly, nor seen with clarity where such a doctrine must ultimately lead. But, does it really matter whether this doctrine is produced by ineptness or design? The result is the same. It matters little to a man whether he is slain by his neighbor's carelessness or by his premeditation. His death is as real in either case.

This doctrine was constructed on one false view. Men have looked at the physical birth of a child and reasoned falsely that the spiritual birth of a child of God must be a similar process. The two births are so dissimilar from each other that to compare the physical to the spiritual is to rob the spiritual of its grandeur and majesty. The spiritual birth is so far above a physical operation so as to remove it to ethereal realms. Yet, men say that they are basically the same. Men have seen spiritual birth as a PROCESS like unto the physical birth. Their initial false step demands this. In order to fill in the glaring gaps such a "process" demands they have scurried about to offer definitions and disclaimers which prove nothing.

Most error is intermingled with some truth. Such is Satan's way. The men who declare this doctrine state quite correctly that a man must FIRST be made spiritually alive before he can exercise the spiritual gifts of repentance and faith. We salute this proper ordering of things, but in this case they stop too far short. The sequence of events which God had ordained to bring a soul unto life causes the preaching of the gospel to PRECEDE even the regeneration unto life. Regeneration cannot be severed from God-granted faith in Christ for they are eternally intertwined in one. They are truly separate acts, but they form one single performance instantly in time. To say that they do not is to have the blood of the Son of God made beneficial by some means other than faith.

I now ask the men who preach the doctrine of "Time Lapse Regeneration" two questions; one to which they will say, "yea" and one which they will never answer. "Is the blood of Christ necessary to the existence of spiritual life"? They would no doubt agree to this. But, I must ask further, "How is a man made beneficiary to the blood of Jesus Christ"? HOW?

By what manner and by what means? HOW? PRECISELY HOW? This they will never answer in a PRECISE way. They will generalize and gloss over, but they shall never answer correctly, that it is accomplished by the granting of faith. To do so would nullify their doctrine in its entirety. On these two questions it is not sufficient to ramble and rant. We would know exactly and PRECISELY how the blood of Jesus is "applied" at regeneration by our brethren's view. HOW? PRECISELY. Dare you answer? I trow not.

You see where one false view can lead? When men would build any construction which does not address the person of Christ in a preeminent fashion, they build in vain. Any doctrine concerning spiritual life which does not have Christ and His blood at the very beginning and end of it is, and must ever be, false.

I declare that men (many of them great and gifted) who preach this doctrine are not wicked and wanton. They have taken a wrong FIRST STEP which does not embrace a present faith in Christ and this FIRST STEP has led them aside into treacherous bypaths. Let their error counsel us all. Let us never be so swayed by one false view that we are thrust into a position of going TOO FAR to embrace another.

Though it be distasteful, I must declare that those who preach a regeneration without an accompanying faith in Christ are "spoilers". They would steal away precious things from us.

Nothing is more precious to us than our ever-present hope in Christ our Lord. Nothing is more precious than the gospel which we preach freely to all men, knowing that God shall use it wisely unto the quickening of His elect and the granting to them faith in His Son, whom the gospel has revealed to them.

I spoke in the beginning of recording obligations to calamity, so perhaps we may all learn from this experience. Shallowness in dealing with God's Word is never permissible, whether in others or in ourselves. Let us all have a care in our Biblical exegesis lest we, too, become "spoilers" and grasp from our brethren the good things of God, lest we develop unbiblical bias, lest we do great hurt to our kinsmen and do despite to the work of God. Let us have a care in the FIRST STEP in any doctrinal thought and the following steps shall not suffer unduly. Let us say in all things as the first Baptist once said, "Behold the Lamb of God" (John 1:29), for he is the fullness of all things. I point your eyes to the Christ of God in all things. Find in Him everything you require for time and eternity.

CHURCH

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he had proposed asylum in the United States for the Pope. The Roman Catholic Church at that time was in danger of being overrun by the Italian revolutionist, Garibaldi. In 1866 it looked as if the Roman Catholic Church was finished. In view of events which followed, it would have seemed unlikely that the Roman Catholic Church would have been able to be the powerful end-time religion mentioned in Revelation, chapter 17.

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Our nature is prone to image worship as dry wood to take fire. This plague is very infectious.

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P.O. Box 71 — ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0071

There are many saved people who are not members of true churches. Most of them have never been taught church truth. Will there be any rewards for those who, in this age, are not members of true churches?

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Some people in this age who were never in the Lord's church shall receive rewards at the mercy seat of Christ. I do not know if all the family of God "are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb" or not, but am confident all the guests at the wedding supper will bring gifts for the Bride, and the only place they could have gotten them was as rewards at the mercy seat of Christ. The grand finale, as far as rewards are concerned, comes with the throne-sitting "twenty-four elders" of Revelation four falling down at the nail-pierced feet of the King eternal, and casting their crowns before Him, saying: "Thou art worthy, O Lord to receive glory and honour and power..." While there is variance among Bible scholars as to whom the "twenty-four elders" represent, I am persuaded that, in general, they represent all the redeemed of the earth. Can we not in prospect hear ALL THE SAINTS at the Bema reckoning of our nail-scarred Sovereign, say: "We are unprofitable servants, we have done that which was our duty to do" (Lk. 17:10). "...and then shall every man have praise of God" (I Cor. 4:5). Not necessarily the same kind of measure of praise, but praise of God nevertheless.

The "judgment seat of Christ" will reveal who has loved Him much, and served Him most. I doubt not that there will be much astonishment at this awesome gathering, but truth and humbleness will prevail, and God's sacrificial love fully appreciated by all. Yet, is it not true in a God-honoring marriage that the wife loves her husband and serves him more than the rest of the family combined? In such a union the headship of the husband is motivated in its every exercise by loving concern for his wife. Paul says, so it is with Christ and His Bride, the church. A "great mystery," but a soul-edifying and humbling truth to those who have been made, by the abounding grace of God, a member of the Lord's true church (Eph. 5).

Of the various and sundry things an unbaptized Christian may pleasingly do in serving God, there is ever so MUCH MORE he can do as a member of one of the Lord's churches. There is not one thing a saved person can do without the church, that he cannot infinitely perfect within the church. A "crown of righteousness" (REWARD) will be given to

"all" who love the appearing of Christ, and this reward is not conditioned on church membership, but on love for the rapture. No doubt there are many non-Baptists who have an abiding love for the appearing of Christ, and the effulgence of their "crown of righteousness" shall be in proportion to their love for His appearing. But does it not accord with human experience that it is the faithful wife, who above all the rest of the family, lovingly waits for the return of him whom she has publicly declared to love until death do they part? This being true with human experience, it is incomparably moreso with the super-natural relationship of Christ and His blood-bought Bride. The love of the church for her heavenly Groom supersedes, and her vigil for His return has been the means of keeping her house in order (II Cor. 11:2).

From the resurrection of Christ to the rapture of the saints, the New Testament knows nothing of church unattached believers. It is the duty of every saved person to become a member of one of the Lord's churches, and faithfully serve Him therein. While rewards will be granted to many of this age who were never a part of the true church, upon the Bride will be bestowed the most and most precious rewards. For her is reserved that eternal intimacy which the rest of the redeemed can never experience. While the church has provided most of the martyrs for Christ, there has been others who gave their life for the cause of Christ, and shall wear the martyrs crown throughout the ceaseless ages, but they will in eternity carry with them the knowledge they could have best served the Lord in His Church (Eph. 3:21).

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This question has been debated for as long as I have known church truths (and no doubt even longer than that). I'm sure we will not resolve it in this issue of TBE. No doubt the writers of this forum will differ. My answer will probably not be in agreement with someone else's. I am not ready to argue with those who differ with me, nor will I accept arguments from them. My answer will be what I honestly believe to be the correct answer, however, I realize that I could be wrong.

I hold the position that we cannot begin to serve God properly until we have been scripturally baptized. I do not believe, however, that rewards are limited to church members. Jesus, quoted in Matthew

16:27, said, "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." While some may argue that only those in the true church will receive those rewards, I hear Samuel say: "The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness..." (II Sam. 22:21). Isaiah, likewise, says: "Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him" (Isa. 40:10; see, also Isa. 62:11).

It's hard for me to believe that Abraham, David, Joshua and John the Baptist, all of whom were not in the Lord's church, will not receive any rewards.

Please understand that neither salvation nor heaven are rewards, they are gifts. When people say about one who has died that he has gone to his reward, they are mistaken.

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This is a difficult question to answer as there is no record of a Christian in the New Testament who was not a member of a true church. Therefore, what was said concerning rewards was to those in the church.

As the commission to preach the gospel, to baptize, and to teach all things was given to the church (Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15), there would seem to be no reward for one who did this work outside the church. Many years ago I recall an old preacher giving an example of this. He said that if a farmer hired one to cut weeds out of his corn field, that one could expect no pay if he cut weeds along the road or some place else instead of where he was told to work.

But there seems to be rewards promised to Christians as individuals. In Matthew 10:41, 42 Jesus told His disciples, "He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Again, in Mark 9:41 He said, "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."

These promises for reward are to those who render service to or for. His servants would seem to

apply to any Christian, regardless of his church membership.

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Matthew 10:41: "He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward."

This may be one of the few questions in which there is disagreement in the forum. I feel as if I take a position that is different than that of most of our brethren in the truth. I must answer this question in the affirmative. I do believe there are rewards for those in this age, who are not members of a true church. Whether or not they have been taught church truth by another is irrelevant, for the Bible teaches this truth. Those that do not believe the truth about the church are "willingly ignorant." I will also add here, that because God may have revealed some truth to us, this does not mean we were smarter than others; for what we know, we were taught by the Holy Spirit.

I want to take a little time to tell you how I feel about rewards and the Lord's Church. I believe the second most important thing on this earth is to be a member of one of the Lord's true churches. In giving the answer I give, I do not wish to slight the Church in any way. I do not wish to take anything away from those who serve God faithfully in and through a true church. In believing there are rewards for others, this in no way robs church members of that which is theirs. Though I believe there are rewards outside the church, I believe there are far more and greater rewards inside the church. There are rewards you can get by being a faithful member of a true church that you can not get if not a member. There are no rewards outside a church that those inside can not also receive. There is the Bride of Christ. I do not believe those outside a true church will be in the Bride. Beloved, there are many and great rewards to be had by those in true churches. This fact though, does not mean there are not some rewards outside the church. I know the Bible says, "Unto him be glory in the church..." This does not mean He receives glory no place else. Certainly, His greatest glory is in the Church.

Let us now look at my reasons for believing in rewards outside of the church. First, if there are no rewards outside of the church, then it would make no difference how these people lived, their lot would be the same in heaven. One of these people might live a good spiritual life, he might witness and be a good Christian in a lot of ways. Another of these people might live a life of much sin. They might be saved, yet not as concerned with spiritual matters as the first person. One may be kind, loving, and the other not. I cannot see there being no difference in these two in the matter of rewards. Secondly, the passage of Scripture at the beginning of this answer, does not put church membership as a

pre-requisite to this act of kindness, or the receiving of the rewards. Thirdly, the Bible mentions crowns to be given out. I believe some of these crowns can be won outside the Church. II. Timothy 4:8 speaks of a crown of righteousness to "all those that love His appearing." I believe there are people outside the church that love and long for Christ's appearing. Study the rest of the crowns mentioned in the Bible and see if some of them could not exist outside the church. (Space will not allow me to here.) I urge you to unite with a true church. This is where there are the greatest rewards. This is where we can best serve God. This is where Christ receives the greatest glory. The rewards here are greater in quality and quantity, but I do believe there are some rewards outside the church. May God bless you all!

CHURCH

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The woman in our text is held up and supported by the beast. The beast is the Antichrist, the coming satanic dictator. A dim shadow of the past, like a preview of the coming attraction, can be seen in the person of Benito Mussolini. This Italian dictator (he was not the Antichrist but only a dim shadow of the one to come) restored the Roman Catholic Church to power. With the so-called Lateran Treaty he created the Vatican as an independent state. Like the beast in our text, he allowed the woman or church to reign with him. Since that time, the Roman Catholic Church has grown by leaps and bounds and is now the most powerful religion in the world. The United States, the most powerful and richest nation in the world, admits that it needs this religious organization in order to effectively conduct foreign policy. The United States sends an ambassador to the Vatican and the stage is being set for the reign of Antichrist and the woman that shall reign with him.

It is necessary that a church reign with the Antichrist because Satan is an imitator of God. Scripture declares over and over that Christ will reign with His Church on the earth at a future date. For there to be a counterfeit, there must be a genuine. Let me show you, first of all, that there is a genuine—a church that was never a part of the Roman Catholic Church.

II. Christ Built His Church Before The Church That Shall Reign With Antichrist Came Into Existence. In the religious world there are many organizations called churches. There are some started by the Devil himself. There are some started by men, the ones started by good men are obviously better than those started by Satan. There is one started by the Lord Jesus Christ and that during His earthly ministry. Listen: "...I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). This verse tells us that Jesus Himself started a church and that it would never go out of existence. He later gave some instruction concerning His Church that fixed its meaning to be local and visible, able to assemble and conduct business. Listen: "And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church..." (Matthew 18:17). This church started by

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Jesus had Baptist baptism. The apostles were the first church members. They were the charter members, listen: "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles..." (I Corinthians 12:28). All the apostles had the same kind of baptism. In fact, when they met to choose a successor to Judas, they required the man to have the same kind of baptism, listen: "Beginning from the baptism of John..." (Acts 1:22).

Baptist Churches existed long before the emperor Constantine laid the groundwork from which the Roman Catholic Church sprang in 325 A.D., though they did not have a pope until several hundred years ago. Salvation has nothing to do with church membership. Many saved individuals do not belong to the Church that Jesus built. The fact still remains that Jesus built a Church and that was a Baptist Church. The Church that Jesus built does not want political power. It does not want to be a state religion. It does not want to reign without her Lord. To reign with the kings and politicians of the world is to commit adultery with the world. Listen: "...I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (II Corinthians 11:2). With these facts in mind, let us notice the imitation church started by the power and wiles of the Devil.

III. God Calls The Church That Shall Reign With Antichrist A Great Whore. Listen: "...the great whore that sitteth upon many waters" (Rev. 17:1). The word Catholic means worldwide. The Roman Catholic Church is a worldwide church, controlling the lives of a multitude of people. The waters the great whore sits upon are people, listen: "...The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" (Rev. 17:15).

The church started by Christ is an espoused virgin not accepting any political power, not compromising her loyalty to Christ, no secular union with any state—an unholy union for a virgin. The imitation church is called a great whore because she does exactly the opposite. Listen: "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication..." (Revelation 17:2). The hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church believes in being made the state religion. They believe in reigning with and over the kings of this earth. These are historical facts beyond dispute. God's Word recorded in 96 A.D. has come to pass. History has proved the Word of God to be literally fulfilled. There is a church that committed fornication with the kings of this earth.

IV. The Location Of The Headquarters Of The Church That Shall Reign With Antichrist. The Bible gives us the exact location, listen: "...The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth" (Revelation 17:9). Rome is known as the city of seven hills or seven mountains. The woman under consideration is said to sit on seven mountains. The headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church is Rome. The Church is Rome. She had become so identified with Rome that when many speak of the Vatican, they simply say Rome.

The Bible further identifies, listen: "And the woman which thou sawest is that great city..." (Revelation 17:18). Now there was only one great city in John's day in 96 A.D. There were other cities, but there was only one great city and that was Rome. There was no London, no Washington, no Moscow, no Paris, no New York, there was only Rome. Not only do we have the practice of state religion foretold in the Bible, but we also have the location of the one that practices it. Some will say, "But other churches also practice a union with the state, other than the Vatican." That is true, bringing me to the next identifying mark:

V. The Church That Shall Reign With Antichrist Has Daughters. Listen: "...THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS..." (Revelation 17:5). There are churches that came out of the Roman Catholic Church. She is, in fact, their mother. These are the Protestant Churches. They are styled by Scripture as harlots because they practice a union with the state like their mother did. In England, the Church of England became the state religion. In Germany, the Lutheran Church became the state religion. Every Protestant Church that was born in the Reformation, believes in a union with the state, that is, if they can be that church to be so-honored by the government. In this, they inherited the disposition of their mother whom they protest against. I do not say that there were not good and God-fearing men in these movements, but any church supported by law soon becomes a haven for the unregenerate religious people, the kind of religious people that crucified Christ.

It was not long before the murderous disposition of their mother was manifested in the Protestant Churches. Baptists, then known as ana-Baptists, would know what the words "harlot daughters" meant. Noted Roman Catholic historian, Louis Cermenin, writes of the Lutheran Church in Germany in *History Of The Popes, Part II*, page 197: "In Germany it was still worse: The reformed (Protestants) moved by religious fanaticism, pursued the sect of the ana-Baptists with the utmost rigor and exercised such frightful cruelties toward them that the hair rises on the head when we read the recitals that historians have given us. Instead of being intimidated by tortures, these new martyrs surrendered themselves to the executioners; they were seen mounting the funeral piles singing the praises of God: The most delicate females sought the most cruel treatments to give proof of their faith: young virgins walked to punishment more gaily than to the nuptial ceremony. They evidenced not the least sign of fear when contemplating the terrible instruments of torture; they sang psalms while the executioners were tearing off their flesh with red hot pinchers. Even when their bodies were half consumed by fire, their members broken and the skin torn from their skulls was hanging about their shoulders, they exhorted the executioners to become converts to their doctrine." The ana-Baptists existed before the Reformation, hence Baptists are not Protestants. The church that shall reign with Antichrist has daughter churches. She is called by God, "THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS."

VI. The Church That Shall Reign With Antichrist Has A

Murderous Past. Listen: "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration" (Revelation 17:6). During the Dark Ages when the Roman Catholic Church reigned over the kings of Europe, more people died for religious convictions than died in all the wars fought by nations since time began. In the 1,000 years between 500 A.D. and 1500 A.D., there is a conservative estimate that over 50 million ana-Baptists were martyred. On one 30-mile road there were stakes lining both sides of the road and on each stake was the head of an ana-Baptist. One of the crimes that these men and women committed was in refusing to have their babies baptized. On August 4, 1572, St. Bartholomew's Day in Paris, France, the Catholic queen and the Pope conspired and murdered 70,000 in one day, whom they considered heretics.

New and cruel means of torture were invented such as the thumbscrew, the iron maiden for those that refused to celebrate Easter. Ana-Baptist preachers were drawn and quartered. The tongues of God's servants were pulled out with hot pinchers. All of this was done in the name of Christianity and authorized and sanctioned by the Roman Catholic Church. John, who wrote the book of Revelation, was given a vision of all this. He had seen Christians martyred before, but he had never seen professing Christians and an organization calling itself a church do the martyring. The Bible says he "wondered with great admiration" (Rev. 17:6). He was astounded at such a sight. It was more than he could understand. The church that shall reign with Antichrist has a murderous past. There is no organization with a more murderous past than the Roman Catholic Church. I am not saying that there were no compassionate Catholics, or that all Catholics agree with the action of their church, but I am saying that documented historical facts prove the Roman Catholic Church to have a murderous past equal to none.

VII. The Description Of The Church That Shall Reign With Antichrist. Listen: "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication" (Revelation 17:4). Her colors are said to be purple and scarlet. In the day of color television and worldwide communications, none can deny that these are the colors of the Roman Catholic Church. Events televised from the Vatican show these colors to be her colors. She is said to be rich, decked with gold and precious stones and pearls. The Roman Catholic Church is the richest organization in the world. Her hand holds a golden cup. An outward display of splendor and admiration. A display that brings awe to many, a thing of beauty to behold—Rome has no equal for ritual and pageantry. Inside the cup it is a different story. The Bible says it is full of abominations. Behind the ritual and religious show, there is every doctrine that is in opposition to the teachings of the Word of God. Only one organization can fulfill this description fully and that is the church that shall

reign with Antichrist.

VIII. The Church That Shall Reign With Antichrist Will Have A Short Reign. The period known as the Tribulation Period is to last 7 years. For seven years the coming dictator, Antichrist, will reign. During the first part of his reign, the church mentioned in Revelation, chapter 17 will reign with him. Just before he comes to power, the saved of earth and the Church that Jesus built will be removed from the earth by means of the rapture, just as Enoch was taken out of the world without death.

All of those religious organizations left behind will be weak without the presence of the redeemed. There will then be only one strong religious organization that all of the others will rally around, that will be the woman of Revelation, chapter 17. The Roman Catholic Church.

God will remember in judgment all the terrible things that were done to His people. It will be an ironic judgment. All through her existence she has received her power through the governments and heads of state. Now these very instruments of power will be her undoing. The ten kings that have a political union with Antichrist shall be the ones that destroy the Roman Catholic Church. She lived by the unholy union of church and state and she shall die by it. The dateline is sometime in the middle of the Tribulation Period. Listen: "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast" (Revelation 17:12).

"And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire" (Revelation 17:16). Her destruction will be wrought by those that hate her. The actions done in hatred will be cruel, with all the cruelty a depraved mind could plan and execute. She will be humiliated as seen by the phrase "made naked." The judgment will be God's. He will use the ten wicked kings as executioners of His will. Listen.

"For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will..." (Revelation 17:17). God avenges His people that have been persecuted and martyred by the Roman Catholic Church. God's people then in heaven will have a ringside seat. They are commanded to rejoice over the judgment of God. Listen: "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her" (Revelation 18:20).

Do you not see the holy throng of saints in heaven? There stands the preacher that said, "There is no saving merit in the Lord's Supper." For such a statement, they had cut his body open and stuffed it with grain and turned hogs loose on him while he was yet still alive.

There stands the ana-Baptist woman that had been pregnant and they had cut her baby out of her and thrown it to hungry dogs in the presence of her husband.

There is yonder preacher that they had tied a horse to one arm and a horse to the other arm and a horse to each leg and made those horses to literally pull him apart. They said he deserved such punishment because he had said it was wrong to baptize babies. Millions of martyrs swell the crowd beyond count.

If you are saved, you will be

in that crowd — a number that no man can number, praising God for the destruction of the church that shall reign with Antichrist. Even a saved Roman Catholic will praise God for the destruction of this church.

If you are a saved individual, then you do not belong in the Roman Catholic Church, listen: "...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).

The sending of an ambassador from the United States to the Vatican is a sign of just how near we are to the end time. I pray that you might by God's Power be made to see Jesus as your only hope for heaven, that you would be found sheltering under His Precious Blood, that you would know Him by faith as the sin bearer that rose from the dead, as your substitute sacrifice. Time is swiftly running out for the lost. May God bless you all!

ELECTION

(Continued from Page 1)

By Election we do not mean that man elects God or elects to be saved. Man does not have that will unless the Holy Spirit intervenes and works with man. Man will hate God and His Church and His people, along with His Word.

Man like to say, "God casts His vote, the Devil casts his, the score is tied now, one to one; and which ever way you cast your vote is the deciding factor." With this kind of God I don't see how one could be saved and be saved forever. If I had a God as this, I would believe that I could be saved one day and the next lose that salvation, for God would be no more powerful than the Devil.

I. God does the electing and not man. God does the choosing, because man cannot, and once God chooses His elect before the foundation of the world, they will always be the elect. They will never lose their salvation, there will never be a time when any one thing will be able to cause you to lose that salvation. The Lord has said that all that come to Him, He will receive and will, in no wise, cast out. Also, that no one will be able to pluck them out of His hand. The natural man loves darkness rather than light, he loves sin, and the filth of this world, the lusts and pleasures and corruptness, because he is blinded and crippled by his nature. He loves this sin like a hog loves slop. John 3:19, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

You say, "What about man's free will? Can he not willfully come to Christ? Will he not come on his own? Will he not make any effort at all?" We must say "No" and then back it up by the Word of God. Christ says, "...ye will not come to me that ye might have life" John 5:40. Again Matthew 23:37 tells us, "ye would not."

II. Nor do we mean that God elects the sinner in time or at the time when the sinner receives Christ as his Saviour. A person does not become one of the elect

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ELECTION

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at the time he experiences his salvation. He has always been one of the elect in the heart and mind of God back throughout eternity.

A person said to me once, "I'm not ready to be saved, I'm having too good a time living like I do." He went on to say that he felt like when he was ready to be saved, then he would be ready to give up his worldly living. First of all, there is no getting ready to be saved. There is nothing that you can do that is good enough to save yourself, or even to help. Many people think in this manner. How sad it is to think that people think no more of their eternal state than to say that they are happy to live in sin! But, as we know, the Word of God tells us this is man's nature and he loves sin. Ephesians 1:4 tells us that God chose a specific number in Christ "Before the foundation of the world." The gospel of John also tells us in John 15:16, "Ye have not chosen me, but I," says the Saviour, "have chosen you."

III. Even though the Elect were predestinated before the foundation of the world, they still must receive salvation from the hearing of the Word. Even though you may be one of the elect, until you experience your salvation, you do not know if you are one of the Elect. That does not mean that God does not know or that it came of a surprise to Him, but that no man knoweth the number of God's elect. Also, that without the hearing of the Word one will never be saved. One must hear about something in order to believe about it. If we were to believe that all of the Elect would be saved, no matter what, and we all sat home, then why would God command us in the great commission to go forth and preach unto every creature in all the world. You say, "Well, I don't believe that's what it is talking about." Then you are saying that you don't believe that is part of God's Word and, if so, then you don't believe the Word of God. If you believe that God elected all men without exception to salvation, then you believe God is a failure, but God cannot fail. Isaiah 42:4 says, "He shall not fail."

IV. Let us note that God did not elect a plan, but persons. II Thessalonians 2:13 says, "God hath chosen you to salvation.. through belief of the truth." Here we see that salvation is personal — that each individual must experience for him or her self. Putting someone in church, or baptizing them, or having them observing the ordinances will not save them. One must repent of his sins and believe in his heart that Christ died for him on the cross.

V. We do not mean that God chose the Elect because they were better, had more faith, or had good works on their part. God chose the Elect because that was His will, not man's. In our natural state we are just as sinful, depraved, wicked, rotten to the core as the lost man. The only difference in us and the lost man is that God, of His own will, saw fit to save you and me. Why He chose us we don't know, but we are so thankful and praise His name. We all must say with the great Apostle Paul, "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no

good thing..." (Rom. 7:18).

So, if there is no good thing in man, then how could he have good works for salvation—all his works would be corrupted. It's as if you take something that has died after a few days, it becomes rotten, decayed, stinking, putrefied and, therefore, you cannot take it and make it into a good thing. Even so, you cannot take a sinful man and make a good man out of him. It must be of the Lord Jesus Christ and His precious blood.

V. Unconditional Election magnifies God's Grace. The Holy Spirit says it is "To the praise of the glory of his grace" (Eph. 1:6). Even though we were born in sin and lived in sin, desperately wicked in heart and totally depraved, God Almighty saw fit to love us, and sent His only Son to die for us, thus making us new creatures, washing away all of our filth forever. Is that not Grace!

Unconditional Election shows grace to the sinner. "Being Predestinated, they are called (Rom. 8:29-30). Verse 30, "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified." God works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure, causing them to repent, giving them repentance and faith to believe (I Cor. 3:5).

VI. Election makes Salvation sure.

I've seen bumper stickers "God giveth, the IRS taketh away." Beloved, God is not an Indian-giver. When God gives something, no one or nobody can take from it or add to it. If God does something, there is no one else that can improve upon it, for there is no room for improvement, there is no fault. Once saved always saved—one cannot be saved one day and the next day lose that salvation. This would be saying that God is not powerful enough to control all things, this would be denying the sovereignty of God. A lot of people believe in works for salvation. Not true! If you are one of the Elect, you will be saved, and nothing or no one can keep you from it.

You know when you are first saved you are full of fire and ready to go. You should be this way all the time for our Lord, but we tend to get in a rut, get backslidden, live in sin and do things we ought not to. But the amazing thing about it is that we don't lose our salvation because of our sin or not being able to keep good works. Let me also say that this is no excuse, or license for us to go out here and live in sin just because we are saved. I think that a child of God will not live this way, and if one does, that God will take him out of this world.

VII. Election makes salvation sure because the Elect cannot be charged to condemnation. God sent His only Son to die on the cross for His elect. Christ died for them, rose from the dead, and so they are holy, because they have been chosen to holiness (Eph. 1:4). They are full of good works because they have been ordained to such (Eph. 2:8-10). Obedient, because they have been elected and appointed to obedience, (I Pet. 1:2). Note again that it was not that they possessed these qualities within themselves, but that they were given them by God, thus making them gifts from God. Sorry to say, a lot of saved people don't act like they were given these gifts, have abused them and misused these

precious gifts.

VIII. As we think about our last point, if we are the Elect, we should wear the proper uniform. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering. Wear the fine cloth of forbearance and forgiveness to others, and over all the warm coat of love" (Col. 3:12).

Let me illustrate: a policeman in his uniform, no one has trouble identifying him. Everyone that sees him knows who he is and what he does, but when he takes that uniform off, unless you know that man personally you wouldn't recognize him in plain clothes. Now he looks like everyone else. The same way with saved people. You should be able to be identified by your life, fruits, who you are, and what you do. You shouldn't be guilty about putting on the wrong uniform, or putting on the Christian uniform to go to church on Sunday, and when you get home you take it off and hang it up in the closet, and the world can tell no difference in you and them. If this is so, you need to check your salvation to make sure you are one of the Elect, to make sure that you do not have the wrong uniform on.

If a survey were taken and someone were to go around and ask your friends and relatives about your salvation, how many would be able to say that they could tell by your life you were a Christian (John 15:16). May God bless each and every one!

WICKED

(Continued from Page 1)

Jews, and his promotion to the "...seat above all the princes..." (Esther 3:1) was not good news for the Jews. It is not long before we see that there is a certain Jew, Mordecai, who "...bowed not, nor did him reverence..." and this made "...Haman full of wrath..." (verse 5). In verse 2 we see that "...All the king's servants that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him, but Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence." These verses show us that there was one who was different, one who stood out in the crowd. The Scriptures abound with examples of this kind of separation from the world, and the gods of the world. Who cannot but remember the three Hebrew children and Daniel, who never backed down one inch; but stood firm, and were rewarded for their fearless courage in the face of death? We can go all the way back to Abel and work our way all the way through the book of Revelation, and find those who would not bow the knee to Baal. See the eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews for a few of these. Secular history also records the martyrdom of Baptists at the hand of Catholics and Protestants alike for adhering to the doctrines of the Word of God. Baptists have a rich spiritual history that should be studied by Baptists. What Baptist can lay to that title and not be concerned about the history of such, beginning with Christ and the Apostles, and even John the Baptist? We need to ask ourselves, "Do we stand apart from the world?" Also, does the world see that we are different? I do not mean that we have to shoot off our mouths, and brag about what we are and what we believe, but

I mean, when situations arise where we should not be found agreeing with the world in things that are spiritually wrong, do they know we are different, and that our reasons are based upon God's Word? "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: 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:" (I Peter 3:15).

It says of Mordecai in chapter 3, verse 4, "...for he had told them that he was a Jew." The fact that he had to tell this to the others is interesting. He had lived so long in Persia, that he must have become like them. But when the test came, he did not hide the fact that he was not a Persian, but a Jew. The devil hates the Lord's people, not so much because of who they are, but because of what they are. Our Lord said, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:18-19). Haman hated Mordecai! The world hates the child of God! Satan hates the Lord Jesus Christ! What do you think the real motive was behind the hatred of Haman toward Mordecai and the Jews? If the Jews could be exterminated, there would be no Messiah, and Satan would be victorious. So, the battle plans have been drawn up by the enemy; and in verse eight we find Haman planning to destroy the children of God. Verse 13 shows us how all inclusive this extermination was to be "...all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day..." One day they are here, the next day they are to be only a memory.

God sovereignly intervenes! Beloved, if God had not in His sovereign grace and mercy intervened here, there would be no hope for you and me today. Further, if God had not sovereignly intervened in your life and mine personally, we would be lost, and headed for a devil's hell. Verse 5 of Ephesians tells us when that was. "Even when we were dead in sins, hath he quickened us, together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved;)"

Let us notice what Mordecai did not do and what he did do. He did not give up. He did not throw up his hands and say, "It's no use". He did not cower and run away. When we are told in the book of Ephesians to put on the whole armour of God, no provision is made for the back. Mordecai did not run! Mordecai's approach to the great calamity before him is recorded in chapter 4 of Esther. We read that "When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and bitter cry; And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth." Thank God this is not the case with the King of kings. The child of God is bidden to "...come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16). Even though Mordecai could not go to the throne of King Ahasuerus, he went as far as he could. Now the appeal to the king rests upon

good Queen Esther. Our appeal to the Great King rests with our advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous. (I John 2:1). We are told how Esther received the news as to why Mordecai was fasting and mourning. Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains came and told her all the words of Mordecai (verse 9). Mordecai believed in a sovereign God. Listen to his words in verse 14. "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Please note the courage of Queen Esther in verse 16 concluding with the words, "and if I perish, I perish."

As the story continues, we find this wicked Haman building a gallows on which to hang Mordecai. This, of course, was brought about because Mordecai refused to recognize him. Chapter 5, verse 9, also adds, "...he was full of indignation against Mordecai." Sinner, you may think that you are getting away from your sins. Perhaps you think that God will not bring you to judgment. Perhaps you think there is no God, so why worry. It may be that you are angry with a child of God, because he does not conform to your worldly standards, or think like you do. Whatever the situation is, little do you know that it is resulting in praise to Almighty God. Little do you realize that God will only let you go so far in your sins, and that He can restrain you at anytime. You might wish that He hadn't, and surely some day your knee will bow and your tongue will confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of the Father.

Read Esther 5:14. Haman is having a gallows built, about 75 feet high, upon which to hang Mordecai. Probably the reason for the great height of the gallows was to make a public example of Mordecai and to instill fear into the Jews. It says this thing pleased Haman, now he may go merrily with the king to Esther's banquet. You will note that this is the second banquet. The first one more or less set Haman and the king up for what was to come at this one. It was an indication to Esther that she had found favor with king Ahasuerus, and it swelled the pride of Haman because it made him appear important, especially in his own eyes.

The guiding hand of God is seen again in chapter six. Why did the king have insomnia? And why on this particular night? If we reasoned like an Arminian, we might say it was just Mordecai's luck. After all, is not that what the Arminian bases just about everything on? Ask him about his salvation, sometime. He will tell you something like this: He was lucky that on a particular night or Sunday Morning, that he was in church, for he really hadn't planned to be there. He was also lucky that the guest speaker preached on John 3:16, and as luck would have it, it was interesting enough that it held his attention. He was lucky enough that someone took him down to the mourner's bench, and he got saved. How absurd! But this is just about what the Arminian believes, because he doesn't believe in a sovereign God who planned it all from before the foundation of the world. He does not believe that, "For whom

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STUDIES IN EZEKIEL

Willard Willis, Monroe, Ohio

ly, or only by way of the vision which he saw. I'm of the belief that his transfer was a bodily one. I have arrived at this conclusion because of other incidents where God actually transplanted men from one place to another in bodily form. The following Scriptures are



Willard Willis

some examples of bodily transplants from one point to another:

"And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the Lord shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me..." (I Kings 18:12).

"And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing" (Acts 8:39).

It becomes fairly obvious then that Ezekiel was removed bodily from Babylon and carried to Jerusalem where he literally saw the abominable things which were taking place there. The first thing, in fact, which Ezekiel saw when he arrived in Jerusalem was "the seat of the image of jealousy." It was called "the seat of the image of jealousy," because it was an idol of which God was jealous. It is as stated in the following passage:

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me" (Ex. 20:5).

We have, then, a case which is similar to that of the golden calf which Israel constructed. The Jews, according to the Holy Scriptures, are the apple of God's eye; yet they were bowing to and giving reverence to a false God. Israel is referred to as God's wife; yet she was out with a stranger. The result being that God was jealous.

"And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain" (8:4).

The word for "glory" can mean "resplendent," that is, gloriously bright. God's glory, then, was in contrast to that of the graven image. Suppose that the president of the United States would come to your town and yet no one would give him any attention. No attention would be given him because the Pope was in town and all the attention was being given to him.

The glory of the Lord, according to Ezekiel, was there, but the people had made them a strange God — a God which had no glory except that which they gave to it. This is why we read in Ezekiel 11:23 that "...the glory

of the Lord went up from the midst of the city..."

It is important to remember that our God does not change. This fact means that the Lord's churches must be very careful not to bring strange doctrines into His churches. His glory, in fact, will depart from those churches which do not adhere to sound doctrine and practice.

"But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:9).

God will have His virgin (the church) to be chaste, or He will not own her.

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (II Cor. 11:2).

"Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar this image of jealousy in the entry" (8:5).

You and I, out of curiosity, would like to know what image or whose image had been set up, but we are left only to speculation. It could very well have been the image of Baal.

We are informed that this false God was set up at the "gate of the altar", or the place where the people assembled. The people, in fact, always came face to face with this image upon their approach with their sacrifice for the purpose of worship at God's house.

The false God in the entry way meant that all else they did would be wrong. If we are wrong in the entry, then that which follows is also in error. We must begin right if we are to end right. One, for example, cannot worship God properly if their beginning is that of being baptized into a false church.

"He saith furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations" (8:6).

Ezekiel not only saw the terrible things his fellow men were doing, but he also felt the effect of it. This fact is evident from the following passage:

"So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the Lord was strong upon me" (Ezek. 3:14).

"And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall" (8:7).

Little by little, God takes Ezekiel on a tour through the sanctuary so that he could have a first hand view relative to why God was to bring sore punishment upon the House of Israel.

They came to "a hole in the wall" through which, by digging, Ezekiel came upon a door. God, of course, could have shown Ezekiel all of these things without the hole in the wall, but God has made us responsible to dig out the problems and to be instrumental in solving them. We are to study so as to show ourselves approved unto God. We are not to sit in soft rocking chairs and rock our time away, but we are to be active in study,

prayer and exercise.

"Then said He unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door" (8:8).

God gives us a glimpse of truth, or a hole in the wall and bids us to dig deeper. Those who dig deeper will find a door, or abundance of knowledge. It is a door which opens into a treasure of precious truth.

"And He said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall round about" (8:9-10).

Ezekiel came upon a painted collection of all the idols which Israel worshipped. These were idols which they had borrowed from the neighboring nations.

"And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up" (8:11).

This was a very shameful sight which Ezekiel was called to look upon. It was the sight of seventy of the elders of Israel offering incense to those idols which had been painted on the wall.

The Sanhedrin was composed of seventy men, and it is likely that these ancients, as they are termed, made up the Sanhedrin — the Sanhedrin whose duty it was to guard Israel against every thing that was false. The fact that a thick cloud of incense went up, shows how sincere they were in worshipping these false gods.

Ezekiel took special note of one of the fellows. He recognized him as being "Jaazaniah". That which caused Ezekiel to single him out was the fact that he was the son of Shaphan, the great scribe. He, in fact, was the great scribe who had read the forgotten law to King Josiah and brought about a revival in the land (II Kings 22). Ezekiel considered it to be a great shame that his son had now torn down that which his father, by the grace of God, had constructed.

"Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chamber of his imagery? for they say, The Lord seeth us not; the Lord hath forsaken the earth" (8:12).

These seventy men thought their action would not be discovered, but God showed Ezekiel a hole in the wall which led to a door — a door which gave a clear view of all their proceedings. Let us not think that our sins are hidden from God. He will see our sins even if He must peep through a hole in the wall.

The seventy men before us thought that God had forsaken the earth and that He did not see them in their enclosed room. They, however, should have known from nature itself that God had not forsaken the earth. Did they not know that it requires as much to maintain the earth as it did to create it? The rising of the sun, the falling of rain, the growing of grass, the running of water and the blowing of the wind are simply God's

Missionary To New Guinea Eld. Fred T. Halliman



FRED T. HALLIMAN

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means of maintaining that which he has made.

"...hast thou seen what the ancients do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery?"

The natural man has always loved darkness rather than light and such was never more evident than in the passage before us. We still have those today who are in the darkened chambers of their imagery. This is especially true of those today who practice the worship of images.

"He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the Lord's house which was toward the north; and behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz" (8:13, 14).

Tammuz was a so-called God who came out of Babylon. The worship of this God, in fact, was prevalent all along the coasts of the Mediterranean Sea. Tammuz was the Babylonian term for the Greek God called Adonis. Adonis, according to the Greeks, was the most beautiful man that ever lived. It is said that the image of Tammuz was made to weep. The result being that the worshippers would weep, too. The people bewailed the death of Tammuz and, of course, rejoiced greatly when he was restored to life (so the story goes).

The Jewish women had become worshippers of Tammuz and even sat at the door of the gate of the Lord's house and there shed their idolatrous tears. It is also said by historians that the women would prostrate themselves upon the ground in whoredom in honor of this supposedly most beautiful God. The people, in other words, were given up to vile affections. Many Jewish men, no doubt, were given to the worship of

(Continued on Page 8 Column 1)

TUNE IN TO THE CALL TO CALVARY

Station: WEMM, Huntgn., W. Va. Time: Sun.—7:30-8:00 a.m. Dial: 107.9 Watts: 50000 FM

EZEKIEL

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Tammuz because of the whoredom of the Jewish women.

"And He brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east" (8:16).

The position of these priests, that is, with their backs toward the temple, showed that they were in a state of arrogance rather than ignorance. To make matters even worse, this vile act was being committed in the inner court of the Lord's house at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar. Their vile act was taking place where the most sacred rites of their holy religion used to be performed. These vile men who were performing this act were obviously priests, since such was the court of the priests and the proper place to find them.

These twenty-five priests were men who had been chosen as guards over the holy things of God. They were watchmen who were to watch lest any false thing creep into the worship of Jehovah. They, however, became thieves and robbers. They, in fact, had stooped so low that they were now worshipping creation (sun) rather than the Creator.

Multitudes of so-called church leaders today have also turned their back upon God's truths and have set their faces toward the doctrines of men. The extent of such is described in the following passages:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away" (II Tim. 3:1-5).

"Then he said unto me, 'Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger; and, lo, they put the branch to their nose'" (8:17).

They "filled the land with violence," that is, their daily lives were marked with all sorts of sins. Then, rather than returning to the temple for a proper sacrifice for their sins, they provoked God to anger by worshipping the sun. The result was that God saw their action as putting "the branch to their nose"; that is, thumbing their

nose at Him.

"Therefore, will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them" (8:18).

Keep in mind that the God who spoke this passage is the same God who is in charge of the world today. Open your Bible and study diligently so that you may know what pleased Him and what displeases Him.

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment" (Matt. 12:36).

WICKED

(Continued from Page 6)

he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called, and whom he called them he also justified, and whom he justified, them he also glorified." (Rms. 8:29-30). So if you do not believe that, the only logical thing to believe is the illogical things called luck. Beloved, there is no luck with God. There is no luck in salvation. There just is no such thing as luck. The reason the king had insomnia in chapter six is because God would not allow him to sleep so that it would work out to Mordecai's and the Jews' salvation (physical). It also assures us of the coming of the promised Messiah, who went to Calvary's old rugged cross for sin.

Haman's timely arrival at the king's court is yet another example of God's sovereign working in the affairs of men. Haman's pride soon shows in verse six, "...Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?" The perfect example of Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." However, the king was not speaking concerning Haman, rather it was Mordecai whom the king delighted to honour. Read it in chapter six, majestically placed before us in words that I cannot adequately comment upon. How do you think Haman felt as he guided Mordecai through the streets of the city, on the king's horse, dressed in the royal apparel, and wearing the royal crown (verses 8 and 11)? We see that it was enough to make Haman mourn and cover his head, (Verse 12). Notice as he speaks to his wife about what has befallen him, how differently she answers him concerning his fate, and what he should do, (verse 13). A few hours before in chapter five, she bid him go merrily to the banquet, but in this verse, "...Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him." It does not tell us upon what they based their statement. If they knew all along that Mordecai was a Jew, it seems strange that they said nothing about it before.

Sometimes people are aware of certain things, and yet are unaffected by them until something out of the ordinary takes place. Then all of a sudden their attitude changes. These same ones who urged Haman to hang Mordecai, have nothing but gloom and doom to tell him now. Such talk is characteristic of Satan and his cohorts. They are ready to give advice which guarantees complete success; but when their poor dupes have discovered that things have taken a turn for the worse, there is no message of comfort for them, only words of gloom and despair. Perhaps Satan has promised you much, dear reader. Remember Haman. Did not God say concerning the seed of Abraham, "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee" (Gen. 12:3). My, how this must have come to the mind of Zeresh!

We wish to conclude, with the events of chapter seven, but there is more good study in the remainder of the book of Esther. As chapter six concludes we see Haman whisked off by the king's chamberlains to the second banquet of Esther, apparently before he could conclude his discussion with his wise men and Zeresh his wife. In this seventh chapter, verse three, we see Esther making her request to the king. She requests that her life and the life of her people be spared. Verse 4 explains why, "For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage." This was quite a surprise to the king, even though he gave his ring to Haman to seal the fate of the Jews. Haman had told the king that this certain people did not keep the king's laws, that their laws opposed his and it was of no advantage to allow them to live, (3:9). Apparently the Jews who were captives at that time were not looked upon as slaves. They probably had all the privileges of free men and women. Esther declares she would have held her tongue if they were to be sold as bondsmen and bondswomen. The king's wrath is now beginning to arouse in him as he asks the good queen, "...Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so." (Verse 5). Notice the strong words used by Esther to describe Haman in Verse six. She had not mentioned his name previous to this, but when she does they are cutting words, words that must have pierced Haman's heart, and words which accurately describe him. Verse 6, "And Esther said, the adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman." To begin with, he is the "adversary", a type of our "Adversary the Devil, who as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour;" (I Peter 5:8). He is also the "enemy", or one who hates the people of God, and as the Wicked one, he fits the description of both Satan and the Anti-Christ (I John 2:13 and II Thess. 2:8). Seeing what Haman set about to do, the description fits him well.

Although there is more to incur the king's wrath, we close with Verse 10, "So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified." We would not be unjust in saying that Haman got what was coming to him. Most certainly he did. Today he moans and groans in the flames

of an eternal hell. Neither would we be unjust in saying that all of us deserve the same punishment that this wicked Haman received, albeit, at varying degrees for some. Nonetheless, I say, except for the grace of God, there go I to the gallows — to the flames of hell. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by

grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:4-7). Praise God for His Sovereign Grace! Haman reaped what he had sown (Galatians 6:7-8). Dear reader, what are you sowing? What will you reap?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder David West will be preaching in revival services at King's Addition Baptist Church in South Shore, Ky. These services will be at 7:30 p.m. and during July 9-15. Elder Jim Hobbs is the pastor of the church. Brother West is a very sound and able preacher. I urge all who can to attend these services. ***

Calvary Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas is in need of a pastor. So far as this editor knows, this church is in agreement with the doctrinal position

of The Baptist Examiner. Anyone who is interested may contact George McBrayer at 10336 Estacado, Dallas, Tex. 75228 or call him collect at 214-328-5241. ***

Providence Baptist Church in Kountze, Tex. is in need of a pastor. This is a sound church that has fellowshiped and supported our work for some years. Anyone who is interested may contact Thomas Heinke, Rt. 2, Box 686, Kountze, Tex. 77625. Or call him at 509-246-3542.

APPRECIATED LETTERS

Dear Brother Wilson, Enclosed is a contribution towards the expense of publishing The Baptist Examiner. We appreciate the time, labor, and expense given to the publication of this paper. We know it will always give us good, sound sermons and articles which are so helpful in our spiritual growth. In His love,

John Wolfe,
Williamsport, Pa.

Dear Brother Wilson, I thank the Lord for the Baptist Examiner. It is a great blessing to

my heart. I enjoy reading it. I especially enjoyed the message on "Three Homes We All Need," also "Our Saviour," in the Jan. 28th issue. But every message has a great truth and brings joy and thanksgiving to my heart. I read and am blessed by the Baptist Examiner. I am sending in five names for you to add to your mailing list... May God Bless you all. Keep up the good work. Pray for me and my family. I pray for you to carry on the work God has given you to do.

Name withheld
by request.

A SPECIAL REQUEST

Friends of The Baptist Examiner, I have never asked you for any help before, but I have come to the place that I greatly need your help. Every year, and moreso in the last two years, we of the New Testament Baptist Church of Bristol, Tenn., have had a great problem. The fall and spring rains have caused our building to be flooded. Recently, we have had the worst time yet. Our carpet was soaked and ruined and the water caused our pews to crack. After each such occurrence, we have a terrible odor in our building which we cannot get rid of for several weeks. We had a bad split in our church about two years ago and lost several members. Since then we have been barely getting by on our expenses, and I have taken a salary cut. We need to raise our church floor and do some grade work around the building. This will cost a few

thousand dollars which we do not have. So, I ask you, my friends of The Baptist Examiner, to help what you can. The church address is: New Testament Baptist Church, Rt. 6, Bethel Drive, Box 611A, Bristol, Tenn. 37620. You may phone Dan Phillips. Home: 615-764-3771. Church: 615-323-3281.

Editor's note. Brother Dan Phillips is one of the dearest personal friends I have. He has stood, like a rock, behind our church, this paper, and New Guinea Missions for many years. He has never wavered in this matter. His church has been with him in this. Many of us have been greatly blessed by the ministry of this man and this church, especially in the Bible Conferences they hosted in the past. I would sincerely ask readers of this paper to help this great preacher and this great church at this time.

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