

WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT SIN

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"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4).

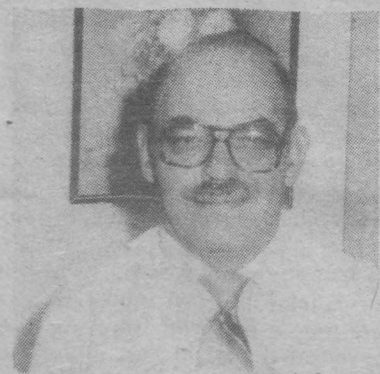
This is the day of divers ideas considering the question of sin, man makes so little of sin. It is denied, joked about and laughed at by men. Many also who believe sin to be a fact, continue in it with little thought of its penalty. It is impossible to deny the existence of sin, when the whole world is in conflict between good and evil. If sin were not a fact, there would be no crime; we would not need jails or prisons. We would not need locks on our doors.

It is a sad thing to know that sin is denied in our modern world. Today, religion defines it as misbehaviour, businessmen call it complacency, while psychologists, being indiscreet, to some the weakness of the flesh, to others, it is the absence from good. To the so-called scholar, sin is ignorance, politics calls it scandal, to educators, narrow minded, man calls it immoral, and in society it is a degradation, and to evolutionists, a nature of the beast.

YE SHALL BE MY WITNESSES

by Chester Powell
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The Lord Jesus Christ had called the apostles together for the last time here upon the earth. They will be witnesses of His ascension into heaven. In verse six we learn that they are still concerned about the political state that they think the Lord had come to set it up. They ask the question "...Lord, wilt



Chester Powell

thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" In the seventh verse our Lord gives a brief answer that corresponds with that of the apostle Paul, as he wrote to the church at Thessalonica. In I Thessalonians 5:1-2 we read these words, "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfect-

(Continued on Page 4 Column 4)

**20 WEEKS
UNTIL OUR
NEXT BIBLE
CONFERENCE
BE THERE!**

The latest theory is that sin is a disease to be treated by science, because man is not a sinner, he is only sick. Yes, there are so many opinions upon the minds of the unregenerate ignoring the fact of it just to lull like the pain



Velmer B. Paler

of a cancer destroying the human race. Whatever man defines it, God calls it sin.

I felt led to bring this message because most errors on the doctrine of salvation stem from an inadequate doctrine of sin. Ignorance of sin of necessity brings in its train ignorance of God, of Christ, of the Holy Spirit, and of all things. The doctrine of sin is directly related to our doctrine of man. If we have a faulty doctrine of man, we will have an inadequate doctrine of sin.

First of all, SIN IN ITS DEFINITION. What is sin, by the way? How do you define

(Continued on Page 3 Column 2)

THE COVENANT OF REDEMPTION

by Wayne Cox
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"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home. After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith,

(Continued on Page 10 Column 1)

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The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

Paid Circulation in All States and in Many Foreign Countries

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

VOL. 59, NO. 1

ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, JANUARY 10, 1987

WHOLE NUMBER 2502

THE TRUTH ABOUT ROCK AND COUNTRY MUSIC

PART II

by Sam Wilson

Madonna, one of the most popular female singers was recently seen nude in both Playboy and Penthouse magazines. The Pointer Sisters, whom I think were raised by a preacher, sing some of the filthiest songs around. Songs such as "I'm so excited"! There is a group of musicians (and I use that term loosely) who cut an album entitled: "Hell comes to your house." This is nothing more than an album worshipping satan. Ray Manzarek of the Doors said: "Hell appears so much more fascinating than heaven." Is it not the Devil's work to try to make hell appear more attractive than heaven? This is the message Rock music delivers. Donovan said: "Rock and roll is the perfect vehicle for religion: I'm of the generation

that has no religion; we have found something finer than Christianity." Frank Zappa says their gestures are purposely obscene. Need I continue? I could give you many more quotes; but if these do not convince you that this is the stuff



Sam Wilson

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST AND RELATED EVENTS PART III

by T.P. Simmons

We have seen that the second coming of Christ consists of two phases, and that these two phases are to be separated by a period of time. The writer has stated his belief that this period of time will be the time of the future great tribulation. Our reasons for this belief will appear in the course of this article. We will study this period under the following heads:

1. The Scriptures that describe this period.

The first Scripture we desire

(Continued on Page 11 Column 1)

you should not be listening to, then neither will a thousand more quotes.

I can hear some of you now saying that you don't listen to that kind of Rock. Don't deceive yourself. You don't turn the radio on and off just to avoid certain songs. Don't deceive yourself either by saying you don't listen to the words. Consciously, you might not be listening to the words; but your subconscious is picking up things, and you don't even realize it. Let me give you an example of this; Have you ever caught yourself singing the words to a song and then realized that you did not know you knew these words? The reason for this is that your subconscious picked up the words.

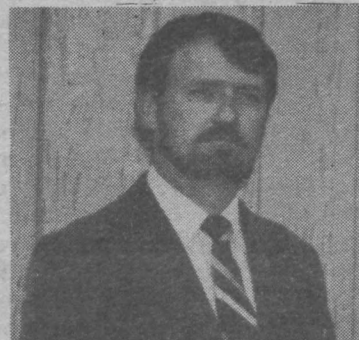
(Continued on Page 5 Column 5)

THE LAME PRINCE

by Bob Belanger
704 Liberty Hall Rt. 22
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Scripture Reading — II Samuel, Chapter 9

Our Scripture reading of II Samuel 9 puts before us two very important Biblical characters, namely, King David and Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan. To better understand the workings of the Lord here, the cause for these events; we should first observe how they came about.

The story of Jonathan and David is perhaps the most beautiful of all love stories in the Word of God, which concerns the great love of brethren in the Lord. We have heard how many



Bob Belanger

of our present day "Sodomite" churches(?) pervert most wickedly the meaning of the love of these two brethren, but we also rest confidently that such evil deeds have not gone unnoticed of the Lord who will one day bring them to light and justice.

Jonathan the son of King Saul had been killed in battle as he loyally fought by the side of his father, Israel's first king. Upon hearing of the death of his beloved friend and brother in the Lord, David in part declared of Jonathan: "I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan;

(Continued on Page 6 Column 4)

(USPS 042-340)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

THE KING'S SON SHALL REIGN PART III

"And all the congregation made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said unto them, Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD hath said of the sons of David" (II Chr. 23:3).

I would suggest that the reader read again the first article on this subject in the last issue, as I will not at this time review what was said there. But such a review is essential to a full understanding of what I say in this article.

Yes, "the king's son shall reign." He was decreed to reign, He was born to reign, and He shall reign. The Bible speaks of a golden age upon this earth. There will, some glad and glad-some day, be prosperity,

holiness, and peace all over this world. All men will have all that they need — that is all the prosperity God promises, or that man should desire. There will be peace in the family, in the streets, in the schools, between individuals, and between nations. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither will they learn war anymore. There will be holiness — holiness in every place and every activity of men. These days shall surely come. Now, men will not bring these days about. The Republicans will not do it. The Democrats will not do it. No other party will do this. The leagues, treaties, and summits of world leaders will not bring about these glorious results. The

Lord, the Lord alone, will bring these halcyon days of precious peace, pleasing prosperity, and heavenly holiness.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor. The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this" (Isa.

(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

One of the greatest evidences of God's love to those who love Him, is to send them afflictions with grace to bear them.

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Editorial Department, located in ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, where all subscriptions and communications should be sent. Address: P.O. Box 60, Zip Code 41105-0060.

PUBLICATION POLICIES: All matter for publication should be sent to the editor. All manuscripts sent should be typed and double spaced. All such material becomes the property of TBE and will not be returned unless requested by the writer. We reserve the right to edit and condense all materials sent to us for publication. Church news items must reach us one month prior to publication.

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PUBLISHED EVERY 2 WEEKS with paid circulation in every state and many foreign countries.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year \$ 6.00
Two years \$11.00

When you subscribe for others or
secure subscriptions each \$ 4.00

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each 10 yearly; 60 to 100 copies to one address
\$25.00 for each 10 yearly.

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Entered as second class matter March 4, 1978, in the post office of Ashland, Kentucky, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Baptist Examiner, P.O. Box 60, Ashland, Kentucky 41105-0060.

KING'S

(Continued from Page 1)

9:6-7). We might call this, "The Peaceful Reign of the Wonderful One." Note that not man or men, but, "The zeal of the LORD of hosts shall perform this." Yes, this will all take place when, "the king's son shall reign."

He was decreed to reign. He was born to reign. He shall reign. Men have and will oppose this reign. Satan has and will do all in his power to keep this reign from taking place. The A-millennialists will preach that this reign will never be, but "the king's son shall reign." As God's power is greater than all other powers combined, so will all opposing powers be defeated; and "the king's son shall reign."

"The kings of earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion" (Psa. 2:2-6) And, Mr A-millennialist and Mr. Post Millennialist, the holy hill of Zion is on this earth and not in heaven. Men gather together in an effort to keep the King's Son from reigning, but God laughs at their puny efforts and brings His eternal purpose to pass, and "the king's son shall reign."

When the King's Son reigns, the enemy shall be destroyed. When Joash came to the throne, wicked Athaliah was put to

death. Oh, she arose that morning, put on her queenly robes and planned her royal doings for the day. But ere that day closed, her queenly robes were stained with her own blood, her body was cold and still in death, and her soul was in hell. The armies of earth shall gather to Armageddon to war against Jesus Christ. "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful" (Rev. 17:14). Revelation 19:11-21 (read it) tells us of that great battle and its resulting in great and total victory for the King's Son. Men shall not always rebel with impunity. Oh, now it looks as if the devil is having his day. The King's Son is hidden away in the Father's house. God's people are the downtrodden of earth.



Joe Wilson

But another day will come. The battle will turn. The King's Son will come from heaven on a white horse, with the armies of heaven following Him; and He will totally defeat the devil and his armies.

When the King's Son shall reign, idolatry and sin will be put down. When Athaliah was killed, and Joash reigned; there was a great revival in Judah. "Then all the people went to the house of Baal, and break it down, and break his altars and his images in pieces, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars" (II Chr. 23:17). Athaliah had introduced the worship of Baal into Judah, but under Joash this was put out of the land. When Jesus reigns over this earth (and "the king's son shall"), all idolatry will be destroyed. There will be no false religions all over the earth. Hinduism, Mohammedanism, Buddhism — even all false religions will be done away with. All false doctrines will be put away. There will be one religion — the true religion — for all the earth. In this age, we would not desire to put down all false religions and false doctrines by law and by force. There is a freedom of religion for and in this age. I do not speak against this except to say that men are free so far as not being forced by other men to conform to their way of religion; but no man is free from God, and men will answer to God for every false religion and false doctrine. But in that blessed age "when the king's son shall reign" men will be forced by law — the law of God — to have one religion and teach only true doctrines.

"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Isa. 2:3). Sin will be put down. Men will live right, according to God's

standard of right. Only saved men will enter this glorious reign of the King's Son. Men will be born during that age. They will be born in sin even as in this day. But Satan will be bound. Sin will be kept in check. There will not be the inducements to sin, even many of the means of sin that exist today. The Holy Spirit will be poured out with exceeding abundance. Though all will not, I believe the vast majority of men will be saved during that blessed age. And those who are not saved will be forced to outwardly conform to the laws of God for, "Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" (Psa. 2:9). The King's Son will rule with a rod of iron. "...he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked" (Isa. 11:4). In that blessed age, when men sin greatly, outwardly, and openly; they will be immediately destroyed. There will be no appeal to another court. There will be no lawyers to get them off. They will die for their sins. Oh, my friend, when the King's Son shall reign, wickedness, sin, idolatry, etc. shall be banished from the face of the earth.

Oh, what a glorious day that will be. Turn on your radio, turn on the T.V. — all will be to the glory of God. Righteousness, holiness, decency, morality — there will be the standards of the day, and all the media will contribute thereunto, praise the Lord! Rock and Roll, and Country Music, will be consigned to the pits of hell from whence they came. The hit parade of that day will be songs that glorify God and magnify the King's Son. There will be none of the slime pits and hell holes of today in that day when "the king's son shall reign." No night clubs, no adult movies, no pornographic book stores, no drinking places, no places of public and outrageous sin of any kind will exist during the reign of the King's Son.

When the King's Son shall reign, the people will covenant to be the Lord's people, as they did in the days of Joash, (II Chr. 23:16). The peoples of the whole world will gladly and willingly covenant to walk in the ways of the Lord. The Lord will be publicly owned and worshipped as the one and only true God. His Word will be the law by which the nations of earth will be governed, and those nations will submit to and obey that law, gladly and willingly. Israel will again be the Lord's people in an open and manifest way. They will be the chief nation on earth at that time. God has a glorious future in store for Israel, despite all the arguments of the A-millennialists. Men may say that God is through with Israel as a special people on this earth, but the Millennium will prove them false prophets. The Gentiles will be God's people in that day. My brother, all people of all nations will be openly and publicly the people of the Lord in that day "when the king's Son shall reign."

There will be peace on earth when the King's Son shall reign. This is a major characteristic of His reign. "In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth" (Psa. 72:7). "...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa. 2:4). Listen to this inspired description of that glorious day, "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child

shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the

(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

FROM THE EDITOR

"I press toward the mark..." (Php. 3:14). There is much room for improvement in The Baptist Examiner. I hear many "amen's." I know this as well, maybe better, than anyone else. I desire this as much, maybe more, than anyone else. I am most sincere in this statement. It is my desire to greatly improve this paper during this coming year.

I ask the reader to pray for me in this endeavor. Pray that God will give me wisdom and grace to do this. The paper is for the reader — for the truth and the glory of God first — but also for the spiritual good of the reader. Many people write to tell me that this paper is a blessing to them. Many write to me that the Bible and The Baptist Examiner are all they have. They have no church near enough to attend that preaches the truth. They have no one near them to fellowship with in these truths. Oh, I do desire to make this paper more of a blessing to people like this, as well as to every reader.

I would welcome, and would consider prayerfully, any suggestions any reader might send me as to ways to improve this paper. Please feel free to send all such to me.

I write an article and an editorial for each issue. I desire to improve this part of the paper. By God's grace, I can and will earnestly endeavor to do this. As editor of the paper, I have the final say as to what goes into the paper. (This is always subject to our church, but, in the main, I have this say) I can do a better job in this part of the paper, and will endeavor to do so. I want to use the best material I have, and to use it in the best way. Doubtless, much improvement can be made in the editing of the paper as to what goes in it and as to the arrangement of the material.

However, I now run into a snag. I run into that which I cannot control. Outside of what I write, I can only use what men send me. I can improve my writing, but apart from that I cannot make the paper any better than the material others send me to put in it. There are some exceptions. I can reprint from former issues, and I have done some of this. I can choose some articles from other printed sources and use them. I can try to improve in doing this. In the main, I would rather do very, very little of this. I have been forced to do more of this than I wanted to do because men send me so little material.

I would rather use living men than to use the articles of those now with the Lord. I know that many fine, even superior, articles can be gathered from men now with the Lord. But I cannot publicize or help the ministries of these men. I can use The Baptist Examiner to publicize, and maybe help, the ministry of men now living. I desire to do this. I desire to use this paper to unify, encourage, and publicize our kind of preachers and our kind of churches. This is why I prefer to use sermons of living preachers in this paper.

However, as I said, I run into a snag here. I can only use, in this matter, what the brethren will send me. I can not make this part of the paper (and it is the larger part) any better than that which is sent to me. I thought, when I came here, that I would have a big problem of having so much material that I could not use it all. I thought I would have some dear brethren angry with me over not using their material. This has not been the case at all. One of my major problems in making this paper what I would like it to be has been the fact that so few of the brethren will send me material.

I do deeply appreciate those very few men who send me material regularly. I thank God for them. I do not know what I would do without them. My desire to have more men writing for me, and new men writing for me, is not that I am dissatisfied with those who do write. I think they understand and agree with me on this. I think it would be better to have many men writing for the paper, thus publicizing more men and more churches and better helping out kind of people.

Some who did write have quit, seemingly altogether. I cut one man out who used to write because he would not join a Baptist church. I have recently pulled one man's material from my files because he has publicly, in print, revealed that he just is not our kind of Baptist. I do not know that I am responsible for any other who used to be in our paper not now being therein. I have refused a few articles because of their source or content — but this has been very few. Most who are not now in TBE, who once were — is unknown to me.

My major problem along this line is simply that most of the brethren just WILL NOT write. Many of our preachers are very able men. Nearly all of them could write good, spiritual, God-glorifying, edifying sermons — if they just would. Many tell me they cannot write. I rarely buy this. Most men who can preach — and we have many such — could write if they would. Writing is hard work, but our men could do it — if they would.

So, I can do some of that which is needed to improve TBE during the coming year. I sincerely plan to do this. Pray for me as to this. But much that is needed to improve the paper — I cannot do. The brethren must help me. Men who now write often — keep it up. Men who write now and then — write more often. Men who do not write at all — start writing. Let this editor, and all who write for the paper seek to write better and better, even the best one possibly can. Surely, we should do our best in all we do for the Lord. I do not mean to criticize those who do write. I praise God for them. But I am sure that we all agree that we can do better. I want, by God's grace, to preach better and to write better. Surely, this is the desire of every man of God.

I am nearly finished. Will the preacher brethren help me? Will the reader pray for these things? Will the reader send me suggestions as to ways in which to improve the paper? We will see. May God bless you all. Yours for a better TBE in 1987.

KING'S

(Continued from Page 2)

weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:6-9). I know that the Amillennialist will spiritualize all of this, thus robbing it of its true meaning, but we who bow to the authority of the Word of God will take it as it is; and we will rejoice therein as we look for those halcyon days of peace that shall be over the whole earth when "the king's son shall reign."

When the King's Son shall reign, there will be great joy over the whole earth. "And all the people of the land rejoiced: and the city was quiet, after that they had slain Athaliah with the sword" (II Chr. 23:21). With wicked Athaliah dead and the king's son on the throne, Judah was quiet and joyful. So will it be all over the world when Jesus Christ reigns in Jerusalem. Let us have a good church service today. Let there be great joy in the hearts of God's people because of the blessings of the Lord upon the service. Beloved, this is how it will be all over the world in the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ. So much of that which causes suffering and sorrow today will be non-existent in that day. Sickness will all but disappear from the earth. Men will live long, full, and rich lives. Sin will be at a minimum. Most people will be saved. Oh, it will be a time of great joy. When Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them, and when the power of God accompanied his preaching with saving and wonderful results; "there was great joy in that city." The joy of the whole earth in the day when "the king's son shall reign" will be greater than the greatest times of blessings we have known heretofore.

When the King's Son shall reign, there will be the worship of God in His house. II Chronicles 23:18-19 tell of the joyful restoration of proper worship of Judah in the house of the Lord following the death of Athaliah and the installing of the king's son on the throne. So will it be in the Millennial Reign of Christ. The temple, in a more glorious form, will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. That temple will be the center of the worship of the Lord in that day. All nations will send their representatives to Jerusalem, and thereby, join in the worship of the Lord. There will be one temple, one religion, and all shall joyfully take part in this worship of the Lord.

When the King's Son shall reign, there will be holiness all over the world. "In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts..." (Zech. 14:20-21). Beloved, the troubles in our world today are because of lack of holiness. Sin is to blame for all of our problems. This is why the politicians of this World will never be able to solve our problems. They do not recognize that our major problem is sin. They do not attack the problem of sin. They do not seek to promote holiness. Beloved, problems of drugs, of crime, of

poverty, of foreign relations, of the economy; yea, all problems stem from sin. As long as men deal only with the fruits of sin, and never with the root of sin itself; will these problems continue with us. But when holiness shall blanket this earth even as sin does today, we shall know times of true blessedness.

When the King's Son shall reign; there will be peace, prosperity, and holiness in abundance all over the earth. Beloved, these things will never be until "the king's son shall reign." All of the programs of men, leaving out as they do the Lord Jesus Christ, are doomed to failure. The world will never know peace until the Prince of Peace sits on His throne in Jerusalem and rules over all the world.

Where will you be when "the king's son shall reign"? All of those who are saved prior to the rapture, in glorified bodies, will reign with the King's Son. He will appoint them their places in that reign. Their position in that reign will be according to the life they live and the service of God that they give during their lives on earth. What will your position be during that reign? The unsaved who lived on this earth prior to the establishment of that kingdom will all be in hell during that time when the king's son shall reign." Where will you be at that time? Let me close this article by giving you some good and Scriptural advice, "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him" (Psa. 2:12). May God bless you all. Remember that we who are saved will be here and share in the glory, joy, and blessedness that shall be when "the king's son shall reign."

WHAT

(Continued from Page 1)

sin? Does the Bible give a definition of what sin is? Sin according to Mr. Webster, "is a wilful offense that breaks the law."

Act of Offense. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). Sin is an act of offense. It is disobedience to God's law. Sin is the opposite of righteousness. It means to fall short and to miss the mark imposed by the laws of God. The Bible declares that breaking the commandments of God or breaking the covenant is an act of offense and that offensive act is sin.

"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant" (Isa. 24:5). Law does not have any significance apart from God. It is always the "law of the Lord" (Psa. 1:2). It is the revelation of His will and the transcript of His character. Sin is a matter of despising the Word of the Lord. God is personally offended and insulted.

Alienation. "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled" (Col. 1:21). "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" (Isa. 59:2). Sin is

a condition of estrangement and alienation. It is a disruption of man's God-given fellowship. Man is alienated from Him. The Bible speaks of man as a sinner before the Lord. It is a violation of man's relationship with God, a break in communion with Him. When Adam was no longer subject to God and His fellowship, the earth itself began to bring forth thorns and thistles. When we ask the question: "What is man?" I say to you, man is a rebel, he is separated from God. You may think today that man naturally loves God, he does not. You naturally hate God. You may think that man naturally is a lover of God who has just gone astray — he is not. Man is the enemy of God. He naturally hates God, because man is lost and separated from God.

Abomination. "...and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the Lord thy God" (Deut. 25:16). All sins are abomination unto God and He hates those who work iniquity. By now it should be clear that sin is an abomination unto God and that sin is not just what we do. It is more especially what we are. We commit acts of sin. All our devotion, our service and sincerity toward religion are sins and sin is an abomination from God that we became enemies to Him.

And now secondly, SIN IN ITS TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN. "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). When a person sins, the whole person sins, and the whole person will die for that sin unless he has been quickened by the Spirit of God in repentance and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. When sin is committed, the mind and the body are always participants. What I'm saying here is that man is terribly depraved.

Sinners by nature. The world today tries constantly to depict man as being a creature of free will, of being a creature of basically good intentions. The Bible does not deny that fallen man has free will and has some good qualities or talents. But they are tainted and corrupted by sin. The unregenerate may have good qualities of determination, ambition, imagination, creative genius and leadership. But he may pervert these gifts by using them to glorify himself. Even the good is used in the service of evil. Good traits of character do not mitigate man's evil, but aggravate it.

Short Of The Glory of God. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Fallen man can lay no claim to righteousness before God in any area of his existence. He is totally a sinner. Why? Because he has a mind that is "enmity against" Him; because he has a heart that hates God. Man that which is according to his nature. Before he will ever choose or prefer that which is divine and spiritual, a new nature must be imparted to him; in other words, he must be born again. If the nature of man is sinful, so is the person. If there is one area to reflect God's image fully, the whole man falls short of God's image. To fall short of God's image or in God's glory is sin.

Spiritually Dead. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). Friend, listen to me, man is lost in sins and by this sin he is dead in the sight of God.

Because of man's spiritual deadness, the Bible declares that man is helpless to change. Meaning, he is completely unable to save himself. Man is spiritually dead. He is a depraved creature before God, he is filthy, undone, an outlaw, he is the enemy of God and is the very object of the wrath of God by every standard of justice in the world. Man is totally depraved.

Then thirdly, SIN IN ITS DAMNATION. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die..." (Ezek. 18:20). "For the wages of sin is death..." (Rom. 6:23). Sinners, what will you do in the day of judgment? You are not only without God, but God is against you. If God is against you, who shall be for you? My friend, I think this should go like a danger to your heart, to know that God is your enemy. Where will you go? Where will you shelter yourself?

Iniquities of Men. "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isa. 58:1). Man is entertaining mental impurities from morning to night. Such sin leads to adultery, homosexuality and every practiced abomination that tears down marriages and societies. The lust of the eyes leads to further debaucheries, for sin begins in the eye of the beholder. God says that those who have eyes full of adultery "...cannot cease from sin" (II Pet. 2:14). Lust leads to lust, "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (Jas. 1:15). Christians should be incensed over the filthiness presently permeating our land today, and should cry out against the trash of this world. Lust through magazines, homes and eventually nations. Look at our world's stars, these are the individuals who set the stage, play the role and brain wash the public into glorifying immorality. "Love them and leave them" is their hue and cry.

May God help us! How bad is the current situation in our world today. Christians should be crusaders in the battle against the world, the flesh and the devil. This wickedness of sin implanting filth and false values in the individual minds is present reaping the harvest morally, spiritually and socially. Just as the degenerated nature of Noah's day filled the world with violence, so sin, crime and fear increasingly stalk the citizens of this twentieth century.

Indignation of God. The wickedness that creeps in our world today is through the sinfulness of man. Because of sin the wrath of God abides on you. His face is against sinners. "The face of the Lord is against them that do evil..." (Psa. 34:16). Woe to a man whom God shall set His face against.

Into the Lake of Fire. "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8). You consider diligently whether you are not to be found in one of these ranks, for if this is the case, you are in the gall of bitterness and the bonds of iniquity; for all these are undoubtedly the sins of death. The furnace of eternal vengeance is heated ready for sinners. Can you abide the

everlasting burning? Consider my friend. Think you are standing upon the very brink of destruction. By this time I think you will ask, "Who then shall be saved?" "I am guilty of my sin. What shall I do to be saved?" This will lead me to the last point of my message.

Now lastly, SIN IN ITS DELIVERANCE. "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:3-5). I have good news for you my friend. Christ came into this world to save sinners. Yes, sin is terrible in us. Sin must be stopped. Judgment of sin is a dreadful thing, but man is something else. Man is the object of God's mercy. By God's decree the sovereign pleasure of His will is contained in the mercy and the love of God as the object to man, the sinner.

New Creature In Christ. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). The new birth is the sole ministry of the Holy Spirit and man has no part or lot in it. It is purely by grace. It is a spiritual resurrection, "is passing from death to life" (John 5:24) and, clearly, resurrection is altogether outside of man's province. If you are not saved, I pray you will heed the Saviour's call "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see (nor enter) the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

No Condemnation Of Sin. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:1). How can God behold iniquity and be righteous in justifying an ungodly sinner? This is the problem indeed. But, thank God the answer is to be found in the cross of Christ. The demands of justice are fully satisfied by His blood, and the way opened for God to justify and bless the ungodly sinners without compromising His character as a God of holiness and truth. For the sinner to come to Christ, he must realize the awful danger of his situation; it is for him to see that the sword of the Divine justice is suspended over his head; it is to awaken to the fact that there is but one step between him and death and that after death is the judgment. Since the natural man cannot accept or understand the spiritual things, he will reject it, but it does not relieve him of the command to repent. The truth of the matter is that if you are lost and you will repent of your sins and believe that Christ died for you, then you are saved. To believe this truth is not to detract from God's sovereignty, it is to show His love for man and His matchless grace.

Needed Grace To Enable You. Though you are plunged into the ditch of the misery of sin from which you can never get out, the hand of the sovereign God is there to lift you up. He reached out His

(Continued on Page 4 Column 4)

The Baptist Examiner Forum I

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P.O. Box 60 — ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0060

Where is the ark of the covenant of the Old Testament? Explain
Rev. 11:19.

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Nobody knows where the ark is. Rest assured that when the time comes it will be found and again have its rightful place in the temple.

Jerusalem will again be the Holy City, and the ark will rest in the temple.

As to Revelation 11:19, the day will come when God will reveal the temple in heaven; and the ark's final resting place will be there.

All of this takes place after the rapture of the saints. There will be 7 years of tribulation. During that time the Antichrist will rise and have great power. After about 7 years a great army will rise and march against Jerusalem. Christ will set foot on earth and do battle with this army, which will be destroyed.

Possibly at this time the temple in heaven will be revealed, and the ark will be seen once again.

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"According to all that I show thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof even so shall you make it. And they shall make an ark of shittim wood:— (Ex. 25: 9, 10).

On mount Sinai, God showed Moses the pattern of the tabernacle and all its furniture that was to be made. He began with the ark, for it was first in importance. It was a symbol that God was to be with His people. It was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the children of Israel journeyed through the wilderness the ark led the way; "—the ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them" (Num. 10:33).

It went before them into the midst of Jordan. It accompanied them in all the wars of Canaan, and no might of the enemy could prevail in its presence. But because of the sins of the people God permitted the Philistines to capture it and keep it for a while.

After the ark was recovered from the Philistines it was brought to Jerusalem by king David and placed in the tabernacle. There it remained until the completion of Solomon's temple. In I Kings 8:6-8 we are told that, "the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord unto his place, into the oracle of the house, the

most holy place, under the wings of the cherubim. — And they drew out the staves (that by which it was carried) and there they are unto this day". The last account we have of the ark in the Old Testament is that it was in the temple. According to tradition of the Jews, when the Chaldeans took Jerusalem, Jeremiah took the ark and hid it in a cave and sealed up the opening. Later the place could not be found, but the Jews believed that the ark again would be brought to light when God again would bless Israel. In Revelation 11:19 we are told, "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament; and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

I do not know if this is the same ark which Moses made of shittim wood or the one from which he received the pattern there on Sinai. Many Bible scholars believe this ark to be the same one and that it will be used in the worship of God during the millennium, but can material things such as a box made of wood be in heaven?

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Revelation 11:19: "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament; and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

This question has only two possible answers for me. Either Revelation 11:19 teaches that the ark is in heaven, or I have no idea where the ark is. It seems as if I heard or read that someone thought they had possibly found the ark. Since I have not heard anything since, I have assumed it has not been found. If I am wrong in this, I welcome any additional knowledge you might give me.

Of the two possible answers: I take the latter. I have no idea where the ark is. I would not be dogmatic about it, but I do not believe the ark seen in Revelation is the ark of Old Testament days. One writer argues that this ark meant too much to God for him to allow enemy hands to take it over and possibly destroy it. There were indeed many great events associated with the ark. Miracles took place often times in the presence of this ark. I readily admit that it meant much to God and to Israel. It was a very vital part of their worshipping God. I do not, however, feel that this is sufficient proof that God transported it to heaven. I certainly do not doubt God's ability to get the ark to heaven. I more doubt His desire. If God could get Elijah

and Enoch to heaven, He would have no problem getting the ark there. I cannot in my mind think that God took this ark to heaven because it was so special in the worship of Himself. The temple and the tabernacle were very special in the worship of God, but I do not believe that He has taken them to heaven.

This brings up the question; What is the ark in Revelation 11:19? I believe it is the ark that was used for the "pattern" in building the ark on earth. Read Exodus 25:8-22. The Bible there speaks of a pattern. I believe the pattern was the ark that was already in heaven. I guess I can sum this up the same way I began it. There are only two possible answers for me. I have chosen; I don't know. May God bless you all.

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This question as to the whereabouts of the ark of the covenant has been asked by many curious people for many centuries. It has provoked at least as much curiosity from time to time, as has the vessel of Noah and its whereabouts. Most recently, a man named Larry Blaser thought that he knew where the ark of God was hidden. He assembled an impressive group of professional archaeologists at a site in Ein Gedi on September 7, 1979. The latest "electrical resistivity methods supplemented with seismic refraction and seismic velocity measurements" were employed to locate a hidden cave. It took less than two days to discover that the ark was not there, nor had it ever been. One of the professionals remarked, "We wasted a lot of money and certainly some valuable time...". So have many others. The results were always the same.

The Talmud, which was completed about the fifth century, preserves a tradition that the ark was hidden just before the Babylonian destruction of Solomon's temple. Having destroyed the temple and carried Judah captive into Babylon some 600 years before Christ, Nebuchadnezzar took everything of value as outlined in II Chronicles 36:18 and II Kings 25:13-20. No mention is made of the ark, which possibly was the most valuable piece, and certainly, the most sacred. Neither is the ark mentioned when Cyrus sent back all the temple vessels when the temple was commissioned to be rebuilt in Ezra 1:1-11. The ark was not in the restored temple, nor was it to be found in the temple of Herod. It will not be found in the tribulation temple, nor will it be seen in the millennial temple of Ezekiel found in chapters

40-48 of Ezekiel. Man may surmise and search, but I do not believe that the ark is any longer on the earth. Neither do I believe that God allowed the ark of the covenant to be destroyed after all the years and troubles through which He preserved it. I believe that Revelation 11:19 tells us of its literal whereabouts.

As God revealed the Apocalypse to John, He showed him the ark safely stored in the heavenly temple. A temple in heaven is confirmed by both the Old and New Testaments. Isaiah 6:1 shows Isaiah's vision of it. Hebrews 8:2 speaks of the earthly pattern after "the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." I believe the ark will remain there until after the millennium when the New Jerusalem (itself the true tabernacle - Revelation 21:3) will descend from heaven to the new earth. The sacred ark, I believe, was taken by God and is preserved by Him there in the heavenly temple away from the reach of the pollution and destruction of man; the precious symbol of His righteousness and provision.

WHAT

(Continued from Page 3)

hand for you; and if you perish, it is for refusing His grace. Though you are poor, and wretched, and blind, and naked, Christ, like the balm of Gilead, is a cure for your blindness, His righteousness to cover your nakedness of sins and misery, though you yourself can do nothing, yet you may do all through the Holy Spirit enabling you. God is calling you, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me: and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). God bless you, Amen.

YE SHALL

(Continued from Page 1)

ly the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." So the Lord's answer is brief and to the point. "...Is it not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power."

We notice that the Lord did not linger on this subject, but immediately instructs the apostles that they have a job to carry out.

In verse 8 Jesus says to them, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in Judaea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Being a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest privilege that one can have bestowed upon him. As great as this wonderful privilege is, how miserably man fails the Savior. I believe our failure in this may be traced to the fact that we do not have the power of the Holy Spirit in much of our witnessing. No man has the power within himself (the flesh) to do this holy work. The apostles were told not to pray for power or to seek power, but wait (verse 4) for the promise of the Father. How many times have we attempted to engage in this work of God in the flesh, only to see it fail. It has been because we did not wait for the Holy Spirit to be our

guide in the matter. I do not mean that we should not enter into a witness, and use as our excuse that the Holy Spirit did not lead us to do so. Brethren there is a fine line here, and if you are right with God, the Holy Spirit will direct you and lead you in your witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. But do not be out of fellowship with God, and expect all of a sudden that God is leading you to do a work for Him, without your first getting right with Him. Unconfessed sin is always a hindrance in all parts of our spiritual lives.

The apostles had not yet received the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out this great work, as He had not yet been given to the church. Now that He has been given, we can with confidence go forth under the authority of the church (Ephesians 3:21) to witness for Him, if our fellowship with Him is right.

Notice, Jesus did not say, "It would be nice if you would be a witness unto me", or "when you find time out of your busy daily lives try to be a witness for me." No, not at all; but He clearly said, "ye shall be witnesses unto me." This is not only a command of our Lord, but it is also a prophetic utterance. Read further on in Chapter 2 of Acts and see if this be so. It is the command of Jesus to each of His followers down to this very day. "Ye shall be my witnesses"! We don't have any other choice in the matter, do we? We should not even ask such a question, or dare think that we have not this grand privilege of being a witness for the One who has saved us from our sins. How anxious we can be to witness to earthly things, but how slow to witness for Him. Let the first steps, or the first words of a child escape the witness of Grandma or Grandpa? Oh no! Being a sports fan, I delight to tell others of a spectacular play I may have witnessed. There are many things we delight to share with others. Why is it that we are so slow to tell others of a far greater happening that occurred at Calvary?

Was not this great witness wonderful news to our hearts when it was applied effectually by the Holy Spirit? Then we were excited to tell others, but somehow we have lost the zeal we once had. I would ask you (and myself), what is the problem? Is it fear? Fear of being ridiculed, or persecuted? May the Scriptures be of help in overcoming the problems we have in our witnessing. II Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind." Again in the second chapter verse twelve, Paul reminds Timothy, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." When fear assails us in our witnessing, we may be assured that we are going about the matter in the flesh. Paul says in Philippians, 2:13, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." This is a wonderful work of God, and we have the privilege of being used of Him in it.

I believe that our witness should be within the framework of the church and not a free lance witness. Surely, you don't have to belong to a church to witness for our Lord; however, I believe it will be much more effective if you belong to one of the Lord's churches. Christ gave the great commission to His church, (Matthew 28:16-20,

(Continued on Page 5 Column 4)

If you don't see the bright side of a thing, then polish the dull side.

The Baptist Examiner Forum II

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P.O. Box 60 — ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0060

How important is it for one to know when and where he was saved? Is this necessary?

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This may seem like a silly question to many I'm sure. Really this is not a silly question and I am glad it was asked. I have heard several say throughout the years of my ministry that they were not sure just when they were saved but they knew that they were saved now. Others have said, "I cannot tell you the time or the place that I was saved, but I'm sure that I am saved now." Right away, my question is, were you baptized before you were sure or after?

If one was baptized before he was saved, his baptism is not valid, and he has no church membership. If he was ordained before he had Scriptural baptism, his ordination is not valid. If one was baptized or ordained before they were sure that they were saved they would have to be Scripturally baptized and reordained.

It sure is necessary then to know when we are saved. Ephesians three twenty-one tells us that our Lord receives glory in the church. If we expect the Lord to bless us in our Christian life we must be a member of a sound Baptist Church. If one tries to do Christian work before he is saved he will get in all kinds of trouble. This is how many of the so-called churches came into existence. So it's very important that we know that we are saved and Scripturally baptized in order to enjoy our Christian life and rejoice in the truth.

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"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:" (John 10:27). The time and place of salvation for one of God's elect was determined by Him in eternity past. The sixth chapter of the gospel of John is filled with reference to this event. There is also a blasphemous teaching in the world today that a person can be saved and not know it. It is essential then, that a person know when (the time) he is saved. The where (place) will not play an important role in our memory, it will be the "when" that will never leave us. It is however, of prime importance, that the when (time) be known.

First, we know when we are saved because of the spiritual awakening within us. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;" (Eph. 2:1). The word "quicken" means to be made alive. The quickening is from a death in trespasses and sins. Dead

speaks of a spiritual condition. One would certainly be aware of such a change. The cause of this awakening is not of ourselves; it is because of the preaching of the gospel and the working of the Holy Spirit. "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved);" (Eph. 2:5).

Secondly, this awakening causes us to become aware of the change in us as far as our new life is concerned. "If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:21-24). The word heard has reference to the effectual call issued by the gospel and the Holy Spirit. Renewed means to be made new. Putting off and putting on refers to the manner of life. Our lives are now controlled, not from the old manner of life, but now by the new.

Thirdly, this awakening and change brings forth a confession. The confession is accompanied with belief from the heart and confession with the mouth. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9.

Fourthly, we are never left to wonder about this event in our lives. For one to experience this event and not notice it is impossible. We are given an assurance as to our changed condition. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God;" (Rom. 8:16).

How important is it for one to know when and where he was saved? It is of the utmost importance for it is impossible to be saved and not know it.

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We read in Acts 16:30 "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And the answer that came from Paul and Silas was very clear and plain. Acts 16:31 "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." I am sure that the jailer could remember where he was saved. I am most sure that he could remember the time when he was saved. This was an unusual case of salvation. There are other unusual and particular cases of salvation recorded in God's Word, such as the Samaritan Woman of John 4 and other such cases. I am sure this Samaritan woman never forgot the place of her conver-

sion and probably never forgot the time.

Every time a person is saved it is not like the unusual ones mentioned above. The greater the sinner the more likely he is to remember the time and the place. If one's conversion is attended with unusual circumstances such as in Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus. When Paul heard the voice from heaven and the great light shone round about him and he fell to the earth and said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?..." (Acts 9:6). Paul remembered his conversion as to the time and place. He related it to others as we learn when he began to serve the Lord.

If a person can remember the time and place of his or her conversion, it is well and good. I do say, however, that it is not necessary to be able to remember this. If a person cannot remember the time, it is no proof that he is not saved. The most important thing is to be sure that we are saved. We need to make our calling and election sure. (II Peter 1:10). We also need to be like the man that was born blind that we read about in (John 9:25) "...one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."

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I must assume, in order to answer this question, that the author means by "saved"... as the working of the Holy Spirit which brings conviction of sin and repentance, then saving faith in Jesus Christ. It is indeed difficult for me to imagine one forgetting the place this great work fell upon them, whereas the exact date may fade as the years go by, unless one is in some way reminded from time to time of the date. The time a person steps forward to make public their experience of grace may not coincide with the actual working of the Holy Spirit bringing about the new birth. There may be some time pass before the opportunity arises when they can make their salvation known to others. I have been told by some that they were saved later after hearing the gospel preached. They didn't come forward at the invitation, but as they considered the message they became convicted of their sinful condition, then trusted Christ to the saving of their souls. The actual date thus may be somewhat obscure in such cases.

Is it necessary to know? For what reason? I ask. If for salvation, no. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God;" (Eph. 2:8). As a candidate for baptism you must know that you are saved, and should be able to give an account of your salvation to the church from whom you are seeking baptism.

YE SHALL

(Continued from Page 4)

Acts 1:8, Mark 16:16). To what church will you invite the one to whom you have witnessed, if you do not belong to one yourself? Surely, not one where he or she cannot be fed the truth from the Word of God. Would you invite them to a church that practices sprinkling for baptism, or uses grape juice and soda crackers in the Lord's Supper? Would you ask them to go to a church that preaches good works for the saving of the soul? Or would you invite them to the church of their choice? Surely you would invite them to your church — a Sovereign Grace Landmark Missionary Baptist Church which is the church of the living God; the pillar and ground of the truth. Oh, cannot we see that this is a great work of God?

Sometimes of necessity our witness is silent. I realize not all of God's children have the same abilities.

The gifts of God vary among men, as the word of God makes plain (I Cor. 12). I probably will never influence anyone for Jesus Christ with my singing. Undoubtedly, I would do more harm than good if I were to sing a solo in church, or anywhere else for that matter. There are some things we all can do to be a good witness for Jesus Christ. We can watch our language. We can obey those in authority over us. (as much as we can without disobeying God). We can be faithful in Church attendance. We can be a good worker on the job. There are many more that I know you can think of and put into practice. If you can talk for the Lord, by all means do that too. The above mentioned things are a supplement to your spoken word, not a substitute for it.

Verse 8 of our text gives the places of our witness. Notice it begins in Jerusalem or at home. This is where the church was gathered, and where Peter preached the sermon at Pentecost. It was home to the first Church. This is where we should begin our witness for Christ. In the home. That's where Andrew began his witness. He findeth his own brother Simon (Peter) (John 1:41). So our witness should first be to the members of our own family: father, mother, brother, sister, children, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. Next we see the witness was extended to all Judaea and in Samaria. The witness is now spread out. Notice it includes Samaria. "The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans," the woman at the well told Jesus. They were not even on speaking terms. Christ first sent out the twelve and forbade them to go into any city of the Samaritans, (Matthew 10:5). They were to stay at home; the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Now they are commanded to go to Samaria. After home, extend your witness. Finally, the uttermost parts of the earth. This is why the Lord has burdened the hearts of the missionaries; that under the authority of the Church they might go the world over. Notice the order in which the Holy Spirit has directed the believer.

God's work is to be done decently and in order. Don't imagine God has called you to go off to some remote part of the earth, if you first haven't testified of the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ at home and then round about you.

Someone once said, "Chris-

tians should not be so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good." Verses 10 and 11 of our Scripture in Acts 1, speak along these lines. Spellbound by the sight of Jesus going into heaven, the apostles need to be awakened to the fact that they have an order to follow. We need to be about the Lord's business, and not taken up with a wonderful message we heard, or beautiful singing we were blessed to listen too, to the point that we are spellbound with that and fail to witness for him. The Lord is coming again, and we will have ample opportunity to be enraptured with Him then. Let us not forget His commission to us now. Please do not misunderstand me in this matter. We all need the word of God preached to us and read in our hearing. We need the music of God to encourage and bless us on our pilgrim pathway, and sorry we would be if we did not have them. But be a witness when you could, and I believe most of us know who should. Someone has written the following lines.

There's a sweet old story translated for men

But writ in the long, long, ago
The Gospel according to
Mark, Luke and John

Of Christ and His mission below

You're writing a gospel, a chapter each day

By deeds that you do, by words that you say

Many read what you write, whether faithful or true

Say, what is the Gospel according to you?

You are writing each day, a letter to men

Take care that the writing is true

'Tis the only Gospel some people will read

That Gospel according to you.

May the Lord richly bless you all is my prayer.

THE TRUTH

(Continued from Page 1)

I read somewhere that our subconscious can pick up 75% more than our minds realize. You may not be purposely receiving the message of Rock music, but if you listen to it you are receiving their message.

That brings us to the second point concerning Rock music. Let us notice the message of Rock music. Much of this will be evident from the quotes I have given you. These quotes, though, are only half the story. Most Rock musicians will admit to trying to get a message across by their music.

The first major message of Rock music is sex. To listen to Rock music and deny this, makes you a liar. So much of their music has to do with sex of all kinds. Adultery, fornication and even homosexual sex is a major part of their music. They only tell the good side of sex. They fail to mention the lives and homes that sex will ruin. They don't mention the diseases that come from sex. They fail to mention that they will destroy the minds of our youth. They don't mention the number of people who are dead because they used drugs just once. It is a fact that much of Rock music

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JAN. 10, 1987

PAGE FIVE

It is not where we are but what we are that makes our happiness.

THE TRUTH

(Continued from Page 5)

advocates drug usage. Their message is to try drugs. As the song said; "Decide to smoke marijuana."

The third message of Rock music is that of rebellion. There are few songs that do not deal in one way or another with rebellion. As I mentioned earlier, it is not a coincidence that rebellion and Rock music came along at about the same time. Think about the rebellion we have had against our country. At many of the rallies there was Rock music playing. In the sixties and seventies many songs were written and sung by Rock musicians against our country. It speaks of rebellion against all forms of authority. Rebellion against parents is propagated. We let our children listen to this and then wonder why they rebel so much. These songs always picture the parents as unreasonable and wrong. They propagate rebellion against the law and our country. Remember when musicians first started wearing the American flag? We were in an uproar and thought it to be a horrible thing and it was. Now this is common and almost accepted. Boy George has a dress made from an American Flag. This does not teach our youth respect for that honorable flag for which thousands have died. They propagate rebellion against God. Their songs are full of God-dishonoring words.

Their fourth message is about religion. The trouble is, that it is not about true religion. It is about Satan worship. It is about the greatness of the beast. If there was one thing that stunned me more than anything else in this study, it was the tremendous amount of songs about Satan and the beast or demons. Could it be that the devil is preparing our children for the beast? That is a very real possibility.

Their fifth message is about death. There was a court case in California recently. A heart broken father took Ozzy Osborne to court. The reason was that he was convinced that his son listening to Ozzy's records for five hours led to his committing suicide. There was a young man in North Carolina who recently jumped off a bridge into traffic below and killed himself. He left a letter to his favorite Rock group. Psychologists will tell you that there is a definite link between many teen-age suicides and Rock music.

The third thing we want to notice about Rock music is its method. First, there is the loudness. Anything above 80 decibels is considered uncomfortable. Rock music averages between 106-108 decibels. At concerts, it will peak at 120 decibels. Compare this with a Concord Jet. If you were standing beside a jet it would be about 130 decibels. Many say this is in order to drown out the conscience and appeal to the sub-conscience.

The second thing I mention about Rock music method is the distinct beat it has. They say there is a distinct beat to be heard in practically all Rock music. They say if you get far away from Rock music where you can barely hear it, this beat will come through clear. I have tried this and found it to be accurate. They say this is also for the purpose of drowning out the

conscience. This beat has a hypnotic effect on its listeners. It does indeed have a brain-washing effect.

The third thing I mention about the method of Rock music is the repetition. There is a constant repeating of the messages they are trying to get across. You do not have to be a genius to write Rock music. Come up with one or two lines and repeat them over and over again. Again, we have the appeal to the sub-conscience. The best way to teach something is repetition. The rockers are teaching our youth in this fashion.

The last thing I mention concerns the Rock concerts. Many of these Rock musicians have made themselves out to be gods. They are worshipped at their concerts. Isn't it amazing the way people will act over Rock stars. Think for a moment about Elvis Presley. Even many years after his death, he is still a hero in the eyes of many. Here is a man who died of a drug overdose and yet he is almost worshipped. These musicians are treated to a mob of howling, cheering, and even fainting listeners. It is a joke to watch. Some of the things that go on at these concerts should be rated XXX. There are those who come out with snakes draped over them. There is one who even bites off the head of a live bat at his concerts. There is exposure. There is a blatant destruction of equipment while the mob hollers their approval. There is excessive sexual gyrations and innuendo. Is this what we want our children to see? Can we wonder why they have no respect for property when they watch thousands of dollars worth of equipment destroyed while people shout their approval? There is a great deal of drinking and use of drugs that go on at these concerts. God's people have no business at these places. We have no business allowing our children to go to these places.

There is one last point concerning Rock music. That is the motivation of Rock music. What influence does it have on those who listen to it? I will be brief with this portion of the message since the motivation is often the same as the message. Do not be deceived, if you listen to Rock music, it has a great influence on the way you think and the way you act. It can control your moods, and your likes and dislikes. It can cause you to do things that you would not ordinarily do. Let us notice some of the influences Rock music has on people.

First, it will influence to promiscuous sexual activity. It is a proven fact that listening to Rock music increases, sexual desires. This comes about by a hormone secretion. Deny it if you will, but facts are facts. How many a young teenager has given in to sexual desires while listening to Rock music. In a survey of girls, ranging from age twelve to twenty-one, a large percentage of them admitted that their first sexual encounter came while listening to rock music. They admitted that the music helped to put them in the mood for sex. I mention one specific case. There was a young couple sitting in the girl's living room listening to Rock music. The young man turned and raped his girl-friend. He said the music aroused him to the degree that he could not help himself. Rock music also produces dances with sexual gyrations that led to lust and sex. Rock music has a very clear message about sex. That message is "the

more the merrier." Is this a message that God's people should be supporting? Is this a message we want our children to hear?

The second thing Rock music will influence to is crime. Criminal records are full of stories relating crime and rock music. Who can forget that the Sharon Tate murders were supposedly the result of one listening to the Beatles' record. I remember reading a story of a mother who blamed alcohol and Rock music for the crime of cutting her baby's heart out and putting a liquor bottle in its place. I read just recently of a ring of thieves who said they would not steal until they had sat and listened to Rock music for a while. They admitted that after listening to Rock music for a while, there was nothing they wouldn't steal. A large portion of teenage rebellion against the law is either directly or indirectly related to Rock music.

The third thing Rock music will do is influence to suicide. Many Rock songs brag about death. They make it seem as if it is the perfect end of life. They paint such a bleak picture of life that it influences teenagers to desire death. They fail to warn these teenagers about hell and eternity. There is a definite link between Rock music and teenage suicide. If your teenagers will be honest, they will admit to many of the things I have mentioned.

The fourth thing Rock music will do is lead to and help in the break down of the family unit. This is another psychological fact. As I said earlier we, tell them to turn it down or close the door rather than telling them to turn it off. I know this would be a very unpopular decision. Who ever said that being a parent was easy? Don't we owe it to our children to protect them from that which is dangerous to them. Believe me parents, rock music is dangerous to your children. What has happened to American homes and families? I don't place all the blame on Rock music, but I think it must carry part of the load. Not just because our children listen to it now, but because of the influence Rock has had on the life of present day parents. Teenagers are not the only ones who listen to Rock music. I know of many people in their thirties and even forties who listen to this trash. If your family means anything to you, give this stuff up. It will lead to having rebellious children and permissive parents. May God save our families!

The fifth thing Rock music will do is influence use of drugs and alcohol. It seems as if this present generation is cursed by drug use. Drugs are used by most Rock singers and advocated in a lot of songs. Boy George was just convicted of heroin use. Mick Jagger and all of his Rolling Stones have faced drug charges. Our children make heroes out of Rock singers. We all know that we try to imitate our heroes. No honest person will deny that there is a tie between Rock music and drugs.

The last thing I mention is that Rock music will lead to an association with the occult. Rock music will lead to a disregarding of true religion. I mentioned earlier that this stunned me more than anything else. I cannot believe all the songs about demons, Satan and the Beast. The number 666 is also popular in a lot of songs. There have been many who say they communicate with demons

through rock music. One rock musician said that it seems like there are times when a force takes over their instruments, and it is not them playing. Could this force be demonic? To me, this is perhaps the greatest danger of Rock music. Demons are real. They are powerful. They can and do influence our loved ones. May we not help them by listening to their music.

Let me make a few closing comments relative to Rock music. I urge you to give serious thought, prayer, and consideration to what I have written. I assure you that I have painted an accurate picture of this music. I ask you if this music can, in any way whatsoever, have any good effect on those who listen to it? If this is what we have to have for entertainment, then we are in sad shape. To young saved people, I urge you to give this stuff up. I know you have peer pressure to listen to this kind of music. Don't give in to your peers. In fact, it might help if you found new peers. You may think this music does not have the effect on you that I have mentioned. To that I say you are not a proper judge. Your eyes are blinded by your prejudice. Time will tell you that I am right. This music cannot give glory to Christ. This music blasphemes God. I know that all of it is not bad. I do not deny that there are some innocent songs. These songs though are few and far between. Give it all up. Why tempt yourself to listen to harder stuff by listening to soft Rock now? Parents, may we pay more attention to what our children listen to? In all the years of growing up, I never heard the radio or record player in our home that it was not playing gospel music. (I mean if it was being played by my parents.) Do you love your children? Then forbid them this evil. May God spare us all the evil effects of Rock music.

PRINCE

(Continued from Page 1)

very pleasant hast thou been unto me; thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of a woman." Basically put, David seems to refer to the great loyalty and dedication that Jonathan gave him. Jonathan would not for any cause betray his love for David, but was ever steadfast in that love. Now Jonathan, by all rights of human law, was to be considered as the next in line to the throne of Israel when Saul died. He was now a prince and heir to the throne, but he knew the wickedness of his father Saul, and that David was chosen of God to be the next King of Israel. Because of Jonathan's love for the Lord and David, he would hazard his own life to protect God's king from his own father who continually sought the life of David. Yet Jonathan was to die in a battle at the side of his father when he may well have had a high position under the rule of David. Yea, such a loyal, loving, and honorable man was Jonathan.

Now, at the time David had gone to battle for Israel and killed Goliath it is recorded that King Saul "eyed David" and sought to kill him. Saul's own son, Jonathan, became David's protector against his father, and thus between Jonathan and David was made a covenant which could not be broken for it had been sworn before the Lord. In I Samuel 20:15-17 we read: "But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house forever: no, not when the Lord hath cut off the

enemies of David every one from the face of the earth. So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies. And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul." Now this covenant was to be fulfilled when Jonathan died, and when David ascended the throne of Israel. When Jonathan knew for certain that his father intended evil upon David, he came to David's appointed hiding place and warned him of the certainty of his father's treachery. I Samuel 20:42 closes with these words: "And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed forever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city." We have here presented these details because they are of great importance to our study, that we might be enlightened as to the thoughts and desires of David here in II Samuel 9.

Many years had now transpired since the death of Jonathan and David had been much cumbered in the affairs of Israel, yet the Lord caused the heart of David not to forget his covenant with Jonathan, and thus we find David seeking out the seed of Jonathan.

Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, was but five years old when Jonathan died in battle, and here in our reading we observe that Mephibosheth is now grown. It yet remained for David to fulfill his promise.

In II Samuel 9:1, 3 we observe that David indeed desired to fulfill this covenant made between Jonathan and him. Thus through his inquiry, Ziba, the servant of Saul's family is sent for. "And the king said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" "...And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son which is lame on his feet." Here we observe the first description given of Mephibosheth. In this description lies a key to the purpose of this wonderful story in the Word of God. What we have before us should not be seen as a mere narrative of the loyalty and goodness of David, but the rather we must observe that it contains a portrayal of the wonderful and matchless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. How may we see this? To reach a certain depth of understanding, we must first consider Mephibosheth and how it so happened that he became "lame on his feet."

II Samuel 4:4 states: "And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame on his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth." Here we have a most touching description as to how Mephibosheth became lame and alas, it was because of the good intentions of his nurse or guardian.

Saul and Jonathan had been killed. The king and prince were now dead. Mephibosheth was next in line to the throne, and in fearful haste to protect this young life his nurse fled with

(Continued on Page 9 Column 2)

REVELATION

John R. Gilpin

(Read Revelation 6 and 7)

As we study through the book of Revelation, we find that the second and third chapters have to do with the church period. In other words, all we find in the second and third chapters has to do with the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then chapters four and five tell us about those who are saved during the church era. After reading Revelation two and three, one is inclined to be discouraged and to think that, in all probability, there will be no gospel results and that nobody will be saved.

However, beloved, it is interesting always to me to notice that all of God's elect are going to be saved. Listen: "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me" (John 6:37).

There isn't any doubt about it, beloved, they are all going to be saved. So in spite of the discouraging aspect that is presented to us in Revelation 2 and 3 concerning the churches, Revelation 4 and 5 shows us that there will be gospel results, and that there will be a multitude of individuals who will be saved.

Now, when we come to the 6th chapter of Revelation, we begin the study of the tribulation period. The tribulation period is that period of seven years that comes between the rapture and the revelation. In other words, the tribulation begins with the rapture of the saints into the sky, and it ends with the revelation of Jesus Christ, when He comes back to this world. The tribulation period, in the Old Testament, is called primarily a time of "Jacob's trouble," meaning that it is particularly a time of difficulty for the Jews. While, beloved, the Jew is the primary sufferer, also, all Gentiles living within the world shall pass through this same period that we know as the tribulation period.

As I say, this 6th chapter is the beginning of the tribulation period.

I. Verses 1 and 2: "And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard as if were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse; and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him; and he went forth conquering, and to conquer."

This comes as a result of the opening of the first seal. In other words, when the first seal is opened, the first thing John saw was a white horse with an individual upon that horse, with a bow in his hand. A crown was given to him and he went forth conquering and to conquer.

Let me say, first of all, this does not represent the Lord Jesus Christ. There are lots of commentators who say that it does. In contrast, if you will read the 19th chapter of Revelation, you will find a picture of the Lord Jesus, for we read: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the ar-

mies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev. 19:11-16).

Now, beloved, that's the Lord Jesus Christ. You will notice that He comes riding on a white horse. The individual we read about in Revelation 6:1, 2 is not



John R. Gilpin

the Lord Jesus, but he is the Anti-Christ—for he is the imitation Christ; therefore, beloved, he comes riding on a white horse, which is exactly in imitation of the Lord Jesus Christ who eventually comes riding on a white horse. He comes to counterfeit and imitate and mimic the work of God, and thus he even imitates the Lord Jesus Christ riding on a white horse.

I might say in passing that the devil has always sought to imitate the work of God. Go back to the Old Testament when the Jews were in Egyptian bondage, and when Moses threw down his shepherd staff upon the ground and it turned into a serpent, the magicians threw their shepherd staffs down and they likewise, turned into snakes. When Moses turned the water into blood, and when he caused the plague of frogs to come up over all the land, the magicians did likewise with their enchantments.

I say to you tonight, beloved, the Devil has always tried to imitate God. Go back to the early days of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. You will remember that Jesus established a Baptist church, and then when the Devil couldn't destroy it, and certainly he did his best to do so, but when he could not do so, then he decided to build one in opposition. Beloved, Catholicism and all the Protestant churches which have come out of Catholicism, are nothing else but imitations the devil has given of the true, genuine article that Jesus established in the days of His flesh.

You might notice, also, beloved, that our Lord gave to us some great doctrines, not only when He was here in the world, but after He left the world, through the Holy Spirit, He gave marvelous truths through the sacred writers of the epistles. However, beloved, the devil has given to the world false doctrines in opposition. Listen: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doc-

trines of devils" (I Tim. 4:1). Not every teaching that is promulgated from the pulpit is the teaching of the Lord. Some of it, in fact, much of it, is of the devil—it is the devil's imitation of the Lord's perfect doctrines.

I say then, beloved, that just as the devil has worked all down through the ages in imitating and aping and counterfeiting the work of the Lord, so in these first two verses of Revelation 6, we have the devil's counterfeit Christ—his imitation Christ, or one we choose to call the Anti-Christ.

You will notice his is going to be a peaceful conquest when he comes, for it says that he comes with a bow in his hand. We don't think of a bow being a formidable weapon. Ordinarily, we think of a bow as a child's toy, and when the Anti-Christ comes, he doesn't come with cannonade and with bursting of shrapnel and shell; he does not come with atomic and super-sonic guided missiles; he doesn't come with all the array of war the nations know today; instead, he comes to take over in a manner that is an indication of peace itself—thus covering his real intentions.

Listen to me tonight, the world is ripe for the Anti-Christ to come, and I'll tell you why: we have had wars and rumors of wars, and more rumors of wars, and still more wars. H.G. Wells, the infidel historian of England, says that in six thousand years of earth's history, we have had only 226 years of peace. And now the world is sick of war, and some of these days, an individual will come who is going to espouse the philosophy of Wendell Wilkie, of "One World," and everybody will fall for his philosophy. The world would like to see that individual tonight. The nations of the world are bankrupt. There isn't a nation on the top side of earth tonight but what is bankrupt. There isn't a nation that could pay 10% of its indebtedness tonight, and nobody seems to know the way out. I tell you, beloved, there isn't a king, or a prince, nor a president, nor a dictator, nor a statesman, nor a politician living tonight who can tell us the way out of the difficulties which we are in at the present time. Yet some of these days, there is coming a man, who is going to say, "I have the answer." Who is he? The anti-Christ.

We read about him in Daniel. Listen: "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many; he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand" (Daniel 8:23-25).

Notice that Daniel says that some of these days the Anti-Christ is going to come. He will be an unusual character, for he will be able to understand "dark sentences." That expression is only found three times in the Bible. It is the word used relative

to Samson's riddle. Listen: "And Samson said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you" (Judges 14:12).

It is the word used relative to the Queen of Sheba when she asked "hard questions" of Solomon. Listen: "And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions" (I Kings 10:1).

It is also translated "dark sayings" in Proverbs 1:6. Listen: "To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings."

When the Anti-Christ comes, he can give you an answer to every problem. There is not a problem confronting the world tonight but what the Anti-Christ will have an answer for it, and that's how he will get control. Let a man rise up who knows how to explain riddles, explain all the hard questions, and give meaning of all dark sayings, and he will absolutely make the world believe that he is the Lord Jesus Christ.

In a peaceful manner, he is going to take over and take possession of this world in which we live. He'll do it just about like Absalom took possession in the days when he rose up in rebellion against David. We read of this rebellion against his father, David, in II Samuel 15. Absalom would rise up early in the morning and go out in the market place. He met everyone who came to town. He would take a fellow off to one side, pat him on the back, kiss him on the cheek and listen to his tale of woe. When the man had finished, Absalom would say, "Your cause is right, I know you are right, but there is no one to hear you. The king has made no arrangements to take care of a case like yours. If I were king, I would see that things were done differently." He would send them home with seeds of discord sown in their minds, and with the thought that Absalom is the man who should be the king. Thus, little by little, Absalom undermined his father, until one day he blew the trumpet, and all the crowd to whom he had been talking, rallied to his support.

Listen to me tonight, beloved, that's exactly the way the Anti-Christ is going to get control of the world when he comes to take possession at the beginning of the tribulation period. Oh, beloved, what a contrast between this man who rides this white horse, and the Man who rides the white horse in Revelation 19, for He is my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, whereas the man who rides the white horse in Revelation 6:1, 2, is none other than the Anti-Christ who takes possession and control of the world by deceit, and thus in a peaceful manner, becomes the ruler of the whole world.

II. Let's go on to the second seal: "And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red; and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword" (Rev. 6:3, 4).

The color of this horse is red—the color of blood. Accordingly, this horse and his rider

signify bloody times. Do you suppose there will be times of bloodshed yet for this world before the Lord Jesus Christ reigns here? Actually, beloved, when the tribulation period comes, men will wade through blood. Do you want an illustration of this as it is given to us in the Old Testament? Listen: "Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries. And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity" (II Chron. 15:3, 5, 6).

Let me tell you, beloved, that which is true in the days of the Old Testament, will be exactly what will be true when the Anti-Christ takes over. When he first takes control of the world, there will be peace, but the peace does not last. Can you see tonight a world with no peace in it — a world of international slaughter — well, everything in the world is tending toward just exactly that situation tonight.

Ever since I was a little boy, I have been hearing a lot about peace and attempts for making peace. For example: When World War I ended, we talked a lot about the "League of Nations," amounting to nothing. When World War II came to an end, immediately there was ushered in what we called the "United Nations," but they have been more divided than they ever have been united, and so far as the peace efforts of the United Nations are concerned, we probably would have been far better off if United Nations had never come into existence. Why is it the League of Nations and the United Nations have failed to bring peace? There are two reasons: In the first place, human nature is in a depraved state; and secondly, you can't have peace without the Prince of Peace, and until the Lord Jesus, as the Prince of Peace, comes back to this world, there will never be any abiding peace; but instead, there will be war and bloodshed continually right down to the time when Jesus sets up His kingdom.

These peace efforts remind me, to a great extent, of a man and woman who were always quarreling. Finally they said, "We must do something about it. It's a shame for us to have our home on this basis." The man said, "Whenever I have had a hard day at the shop and I come home in a bad mood, I'll have my hat tilted over on one side and you'll know to be especially nice to me." She said, "When I have had a bad day at home I'll have my apron turned up on the left side and you'll know to be especially nice to me." A few days passed and the man came home with his hat tilted on the left side. She was unusually sweet to him and they got along fine. A few days later when he came home, she had her apron turned up on the left side and he was unusually nice

(Continued on Page 8 Column 1)

REVELATION

(Continued from Page 7)

to her. They got along that way for quite sometime. Finally, one day he came home with his hat tilted on the left side and she had her apron turned up on the left side. They hadn't made any provision for such a situation as that.

That's just exactly like these peace efforts and attempts at peace that the League of Nations and the United Nations have been making. I offer to you a prophecy tonight, based upon God's Word — this world is going to be bathed in blood before the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to set up His kingdom. You and I are not going to be here, for we are going to be in the skies at the marriage of the Lamb when this is taking place on the earth, but it is coming. When we are up yonder in the skies, if we look away from the marriage of the Lamb, and look down on the earth, we will see this world bathed in blood during the tribulation period.

III. Let's notice the third seal: "And when he had opened the the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see, And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine" (Rev. 6:5, 6).

Notice this horse is a black horse. Black is always the color of famine. You can't understand much about the prophecies of Revelation if you don't know a good deal about the Old Testament. Let's turn back to the Old Testament and see that the color of black is an indication of famine. Listen: "Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets; their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick" (Lam. 4:8).

"The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the dearth Judah mourneth, and the gates thereof languish; they are black unto the ground; and the cry of Jerusalem is gone up" (Jer. 14:1, 2).

"Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine" (Lam. 5:10).

All the way through the Word of God, black is the color of famine. What follows war? Always famine. We have never known anything about famine in this country, following any war, since all of our wars have been fought outside this country. The reason for this is we have never had any year but what we could still continue to produce crops. However, look at the war-torn countries—year after year they are unable to raise crops. The result—famine.

After the red horse, comes the black horse. After the period when peace is taken from the earth, comes the period of the famine. Notice how the grain is sold — it is sold by weight. When there is an abundance of grain, it is always sold in gross measure. The very fact that it is weighed, marks it as a time of scarcity and want.

Notice the price: "A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny." The word "penny" is

the word for "denarius." How much is that? It means one quart of wheat for a day's wages. That measure of wheat meant that a man would have to work a whole day in order to get a quart of wheat. Even then, beloved, when he had done so, there was nothing left for his family, for a measure of wheat was just about what an individual himself would eat in one day's time. Talk about famine—that's famine when a man works all day and it takes a whole day's wages to buy enough food for himself, with nothing left for his family.

Did you ever know what it was to be hungry? I do, for I went 26 hours without food when I was unable to get it. In 26 hours you know what the pangs of hunger are. Well, famine is one of the terrible experiences that comes in the tribulation period.

The white horse brings the Anti-Christ. Following his coming is the red horse, which means blood and warfare upon the earth. Following this red horse comes the black horse, which means famine, which inadvertently follows war and bloodshed.

IV. Let's look at the fourth seal: "And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse; and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them, over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth" (Rev. 6:7, 8).

I wish you would notice this horse is of a pale, leprous color. This horse means fright or fear.

You will see this horse's work is actually prophesied in the Old Testament. Listen: "For thus saith the Lord GOD: How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?" (Ezek. 14:21).

In other words, this fourth horse then prophesies that one-fourth part of the world's population is to die from war, from pestilence, from famine and from wild beasts. This is just a continuation of the work of his predecessors. It looked mighty good when the Anti-Christ came on the scene and said, "You just listen to me and I'll take care of all the problems for you." That sounded mighty good. It looked like a "Sunday School picnic" when every nation turned over the reins of government to the Anti-Christ. They all will clap their hands and say, "How foolish we are to ever think about fighting, when we can let one man rule and thus have one world." It looked as though they were going to have a Sunday School picnic right here in the world, but listen, it's over now. The red horse, the black horse, the pale leprous horse, and with the breaking of the seals and the coming of each of these horses, comes more and more trouble upon a world that is just beginning the throes of the tribulation, for all this takes place when the tribulation period is scarcely begun.

V. Let's look at the fifth seal: "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, say-

ing, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled" (Rev. 6:9-11).

That's the story of the breaking of the fifth seal. Listen carefully: Every saved person in the world is going to be caught up into heaven before the tribulation period begins, but, beloved, as a result of this tribulation, a lot of people will be saved. Do you think that saved people will give their allegiance to the Anti-Christ? No. As long as men are unsaved, they will do anything to support the Anti-Christ, but as time passes by, God is going to save a multitude of people during the tribulation period, and when they are saved, they will refuse to bow to the Anti-Christ. Their salvation will only bring more persecution unto them and will be the cause of their martyrdom. If a man gets to heaven during the tribulation period, he will go there as a martyr to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's notice this closely: All of God's children will be caught away when Jesus comes at the rapture. You and I won't be here when this tribulation period begins. There will not be a saved person in the world when everything is turned over to the Anti-Christ—all of God's people will be gone. The people who are saved during the tribulation period will not go along with that beast, the Anti-Christ, and when they rebel, they will be slain. I tell you, beloved, the man who is saved during the tribulation period will seal his testimony with his life's blood.

We had martyrs during the Dark Ages. If you remember Foxe's Book of Martyrs, you will find what happened to Christians in the early days. Can you imagine individuals having their stomachs ripped open with a sword and corn placed inside their stomachs and then hungry hogs turned loose, as those individuals wallow in their blood and the hogs eat their entrails and the corn inside their stomachs? Can you imagine individuals with hot molten lead poured into their ears, with their tongues pulled out of their mouths? Can you imagine women with their breasts cut from their body with sharp shears? Can you imagine the suffering that came when individuals were baptized by immersion in baths of hot boiling oil? That's what they went through in the early days of Christianity at the hands of the pagans and later at the hands of the Catholics. Imagine an individual placed inside the "iron maid" as the iron casket was called, and when the door was slammed, dozens of spikes went through the individual's body. Can you imagine individuals who were butchered piece by piece until their bodies were completely dismembered? Is it possible to imagine priests, in the name of God, taking a believer—a Baptist preacher and cutting off a piece of his body, waiting a few minutes for him to suffer, and then torturing him again by cutting another little piece off his body, and thus continually cutting until all of his body was cut away, or at least until the individual expired from loss of blood to die.

The day of martyrdom hasn't ended yet. When the Anti-Christ reigns, there will be a period of martyrdom again for every believer in Jesus Christ, and not one will escape. Truly a day of suffering is awaiting those who become God's children during this awful period of tribulation.

VI. Now let's notice the breaking of the sixth seal: "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake: and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:12-17).

Now, beloved, this records what happened to the physical world. First of all, a world-wide earthquake. Can you imagine a scene much more horrible than that of the whole world passing through an earthquake?

A man told me many months ago of being in San Francisco when an earthquake occurred a number of years ago. He said it was a horrible thing to be standing in some spot one minute, and maybe the next minute the ground would drop out from under you and you would be standing four or five feet lower than you were a moment before. A man couldn't begin to imagine the fear that would fall upon an individual when a building would tremble, totter and fall right beside you. He said as he passed through the experience of that earthquake in San Francisco, he saw thousands of people lose their lives, while he, as one of the few in the business part of the city, escaped death. He said, "Nobody can imagine the fear that I passed through."

Imagine what it is going to be like when God shakes this entire world—when the whole world rocks like drunken men. Can you imagine what it is going to be like when the sun turns black and the moon appears as blood? Can you imagine what it is going to be like when you look up into the skies, and instead of seeing the sun as a ball of fire, it will turn black; and instead of seeing the moon, you see it as it appears to be blood. Oh, can you imagine what is coming so far as this world is concerned? Not only that, but God says, "the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together." Some of these days, God is going to roll up the heavens like you would roll up a scroll. Some of these days, the mountains and the islands will move out of their places. In other words, what is now ocean will then be dry land, and what is now dry land will then be water.

Listen, beloved, the "Sunday School picnic" is over so far as this world is concerned. God tells us what is going to take place in this physical world—the sun turns black, the moon ap-

pears as blood, the stars of the heavens shoot through the skies as so many meteors, and the heaven itself departs as a scroll; what is dry land becomes sea and what is sea, becomes dry land. What effect does this have upon that ungodly, devilish group that have bowed to the Anti-Christ? Notice, beloved, what they do. They have a prayer meeting, and who goes to that prayer meeting? The kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the chief captains, the mighty men, every bondman, every free man. You couldn't get that crowd to come to a prayer meeting now, could you? Suppose you go out tonight and invite this crowd to come to the service next Thursday night and see how many will come. Beloved, then that crowd will cry to the mountains and to the rocks to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him that sitteth upon the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.

It must be painful when individuals get so emotion-filled that they cry for the rocks and mountains to fall on them and grind them into powder. That's the crowd today, who would turn up their nose at a prayer meeting. Years ago, I preached a sermon on "One of the Last Prayer Meetings That Will Ever Be Held In The World," and I took this passage of Scripture as a basis. Look at this prayer meeting: To whom will they be praying? They will not be praying to God, but to rocks and stones. For what will they be praying? For death and yet they can't find death. Who is attending? The crowd that would turn up their noses at a prayer meeting now. What a difference between the average prayer meeting now and that prayer meeting, for in the average prayer meeting you can't get an "amen" out of the crowd; however, this crowd has so much emotion that they cry to the rocks and mountains to fall on them.

This Scripture asks: "Who shall be able to stand?" Listen to me tonight, beloved, this world has refused God in His sovereignty and has been forever in rebellion against God. In the tribulation, the world is even more rebellious. It is then run by man—God is completely ruled out. Jesus has caught up into the sky all the redeemed of the Lord. The Holy Spirit is gone and the saints of God are gone; in fact, God Himself is ruled out of the world, and for seven years, God turns everything over to man; yet even in doing so, beloved, God sees to it that this earthquake and all the disturbances that come to the physical world—God sees to it that it takes place. In it all, there is no peace for the world. Beloved, you can't have peace without the Prince of Peace. You can't have a world of peace as long as Jesus Christ is ruled out.

Now just a few words about this 7th chapter of Revelation: "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the

(Continued on Page 9 Column 1)

REVELATION

(Continued from Page 8)

servants of our God in their foreheads" (Rev. 7:1-3).

Notice this truth: In judgment, God always deals in mercy. Do not forget that. In six thousand years of earth's history, God has never dealt in judgment but what He has, also, dealt in mercy.

"And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel" (Rev. 7:4).

There are some of God's elect right here in this tribulation period and God's angel will say, "Wait! Hold back judgment until we have put the seal of God in the forehead of God's own." God isn't going to let a one of His elect go to hell. This thrills my heart when I see God even stopping the angels to hold back those disturbing blasts until the elect of God can be garnered out of this world. Does not this make you happy just to know He is going to take care of His elect? God is going to see that all of His elect are saved, even if He has to work a miracle to do it.

This gives me encouragement when I go out to preach. Let me tell you that it is a mighty discouraging thing to preach the Word of God today, with so few people going to church, so few people being saved, and so few people showing any interest in spiritual things—it is discouraging, but the most encouraging thing I know is that God is going to work miracles, if necessary, in order that all of His elect which are here in this world, shall be saved.

How many are thus saved during the tribulation? Without reading the rest of the chapter, I will mention the fact there were 12,000 sealed out of each of the twelve tribes of Israel, or 144,000. Then in addition to those Jews, a multitude of Gentiles are saved, for it says in the 9th and 10th verses: "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands."

Notice this, beloved friends, when the 144,000 Jews were sealed, then there was sealed a great multitude which could not be numbered, of all the Gentile nations of the world. How were they saved? How many saved themselves? They praise the Lord, for they say: "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb" (Rev. 7:10).

How are they saved? They are saved by blood. Listen: "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:13, 14).

Notice how they washed their robes—not in the baptistry, not in the river, not in the millpond, and not in the creek; but they washed their robes in the "blood of the Lamb." That which is necessary to save this crowd during the tribulation period is that which it took to save this sinner who stands before you. God's remedy for sin from the first man saved until

the last man that shall ever be saved, is salvation by blood. I love to think about the blood of my Lord. It means something to me when I realize the fact that Jesus Christ died for my sins. When I recall it, I bow my unworthy head to thank Him that He included my name in the list of those for whom He gave His blood. I say, along with this group, "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."

Beloved, I want you to notice what joy is their's when they are saved. Listen: "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of water, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" (Rev. 7:16, 17).

May God bless you!

PRINCE

(Continued from Page 6)

him. We notice the careful description given in this verse to the condition of Mephibosheth. It was what science calls "cause and effect." You see, Mephibosheth became lame because he fell! He became so that never again would be properly walk or possibly never walk again! Notice that the verse concludes with "And his name was Mephibosheth" which name means "destroying shame." What then, is the spiritual application or meaning to us in the life of Mephibosheth? Can we not see that he was denied a joy of life at the hands of his keeper? Do we not see in his nurse the first guardians of the human race, even Adam and Eve? Can we not see how their carelessness and haste to sin caused the fall of man? Oh beloved, we listen as Solomon of old declared: "Lo, this only I have found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." Oh beloved, how He yet groans over that terrible fall of man! How terribly crippled by sin he has become! Yea, no longer shall he walk upright. So crippled is he that he cannot walk the "straight and narrow." Yea, how deep was that fall, "that he fell and became lame." Uprightness was gone, and as the drunkard, he reels to and fro intoxicated by sin with each wavering step he takes. And to each of his posterity he has passed on this poison of sin, that "destroying shame" of mankind in which he ever delights. Behold Mephibosheth, beloved! This child so trusting in the arms of his guardian, yet ruined for life by that in which he trusted. From that moment of his fall never again would he walk as he ought. Never again would he go upright! From that moment on he would lean on the arm of flesh for support, and thus it ever yet remains among the wretched race of mankind. Yet, we ask further beloved, from what does he flee? Does not the sentence of death abide upon him? How may he flee from the presence of the enemy of his own accord? Picture if you will, Mephibosheth now crippled for life. Picture him freshly wounded. Does he know why they flee? Yet of himself, he cannot go. Behold, the enemy is near! Pain and fear is all he now knows, how darkened is his understanding. What else can he do but put himself in the care of her who had brought harm to him? How was he to flee from the wrath to come?

Where would he go, and what could he do? Many questions are these, yet does man consider them in his own being? Yea though he be crippled by sin and sentenced to death, he "loves darkness rather than light;" thus further plunging in his ever downward course to hell where the fires are never satisfied! But behold beloved, in 2 Sam. 9:1 as light begins to shine on so dark a scene.

"And David said." These three words are what made the difference in the life of Mephibosheth. Proverbs 8:4 tells us, "Where the word of a king is, there is power; and who may say unto him. What does thou?" Yea, the word of the king had gone forth. The word of God's "beloved" had been spoken. Yet what should it declare? David's heartfelt desire was to "shew him kindness" (v. 1). The king had declared "unmerited favor" and that which proved to be "irresistible grace" which would be shed abroad upon lowly Mephibosheth, unto whom the king had desired to send it. Yes! He would show him favor, pity, mercy, and loving kindness. The kindness David declared to be (v. 3) the "kindness of God". Beloved, what is the kindness of God bestowed upon the condemned crippled sinner but unmerited favor, even the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; God's own beloved Son in whom He is well pleased. Yet, it was this wondrous love and heartfelt desire, that caused that He should rescue the condemned, the crippled, and "save his people from their sins" (1 Corinthians 1:4 tells us: "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ." Herewith we observe that whereas Mephibosheth represents the condemned sinner, David represents the Saviour who came to shed the grace of God abroad in our hearts. David, like Christ, is God's beloved. David, like Christ, sent forth his word in power! David, like Christ, would bestow irresistible Grace to the condemned! For "grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" who "in the beginning was the word." We remember that the family of Saul was enemy to the family of David, yet like Christ; David would love his enemies.

But let us notice further the events of verse 2. How was it that crippled Mephibosheth would come to his king? Would he come of his own free will? Was he able to come? How would he come? If David's kindness represents irresistible grace, then in what manner would Mephibosheth be drawn? In verse 2 we see mentioned one name "Ziba", who's name means "planter." Though some may disagree because of his character, we believe Ziba here represents the person and work of the Holy Spirit of God in His going forth to seek out the elect. Observe the following as concerning the Holy Spirit. In John 14:26, "But the Comforter whom the Father will send in my name." In II Samuel 9:5 we read: "Then King David sent." He sent the planter to declare his word and bring the condemned to him. In John 14:26 our Lord further says of the Holy spirit: "He shall teach you all things." In John 15:26, "He shall testify of me." In John 16:7, "I will send him unto you," and in John 16:13 we read: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth; is

come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." Ziba was sent in the name of the king, to declare his word and bring Mephibosheth to him. Verse 5 further states: "Then king David sent, and fetched him..." There has never been, nor ever will be anyone to come to the Lord Jesus Christ without the express work and person of the Holy Spirit drawing them. Thus it is here we see irresistible grace exhibited and responded to. For it is by the Holy Spirit we are made to hear. We are convicted of our sins, and made to be convinced of the "Word of the King"; even the glorious gospel of Christ. Verse 5 tells us that through Ziba, David "fetched" Mephibosheth i.e., he sent and took, drew out, seized and drew away, "and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar."

Here, beloved, "Lodebar" was where condemned and crippled Mephibosheth was made to dwell. Verse 5 states he dwelled firstly, "In the house of Machir." Scholars tell us that the name "Machir" means, "to tumble (in ruins) to perish, to be brought low; decay." Alas, the fall of Mephibosheth ever tended to no good. Does this not portray for us this sin cursed earth? Yea, the whole creation "groaneth and travaileth" in ruin by sin! Though this earth be the house of man, it is but the land of the dead! We behold this vast wilderness called earth, and even in all its beauty, wonder and glory; it yet lies in the sting of death. The newborn child arrives but to greet the dying aged born into a world polluted by sin. Was this where Mephibosheth was to end his days, in the "house of ruins?" Were it not for the wondrous grace of God, we yet likewise would dwell; never knowing what might have been. Oh you young people, be not deceived by the glittering lights and the sounds of the night! For when the music ceases, and the lights go out; what is left but silence and darkness? It is even as the grave! A fitting portrayal of the "house of decay" is it not? And where do we find this "house of ruin" beloved?

II Samuel 9:5 tells us: "King David sent, and fetched... from Lodebar." There we once were beloved, you and I and every elect of God! But praise the Lord beloved, the King sent forth his Servant; He sent forth His Word and dragged us from the place of ruin at His Word! And what of you, oh sinner friend? Will you not heed the command of the King and come forth now or will He come forth Himself to you with a crimson sword of justice? But there in Lodebar made we all our house; there in the land without pasture were we who like sheep had gone astray and are now brought unto "green pastures." We could find no sustenance in this world, but in His deep love He brought us out of darkness and desolation "into His marvelous light." What needs must follow four our learning beloved?

II Samuel 9:6 tells us that when Mephibosheth was brought into the presence of the King. "He fell on his face and did reverence." Why? He was now in the presence of God's beloved and the glory of all Israel. He was very aware of the power of this King, and he yet feared because the sentence

of death was yet upon him, and he could do naught but trust in his mercy. Was he now to meet with the justice he, by all rights, had deserved?

Oh beloved, there be multitudes at this very hour that will not repent, will not come to Christ, will not honor the king, much less in so lowly a manner as ought to be. But indeed, one day soon they shall come and the sword of holy justice and wrath shall bring swift vengeance upon the unrepentant.

What was now to become of poor wretched Mephibosheth? In verse 6 David addresses him by name. In John 10:27 our Lord reminds us, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." And Mephibosheth replied, "Behold thy servant!" He could not have come of his own will; but having been brought to the king, he was now ready to serve. Yea, ready for the will of his king! He bowed before the king now, at this hour, because he was the seed of a covenant made so many years ago. A covenant, a promise made in love. II Corinthians 1:20 tells us concerning Christ: "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen." I John 2:25 adds: "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." In James 2:5 we read further: "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" Mephibosheth was sought because he was loved; and because he was loved, he was shown grace. He was shown grace because he was chosen; and he was chosen because of a covenant which could not be broken. Though poor and destitute he was, he would now be raised up by the king. II Samuel 9:7 David said to him, "fear not." You shall not die for you have been bought by Sovereign Grace. "I will surely shew thee kindness." I have not forgotten the covenant "for thy father's sake."

Do we not observe the great tenderness and love of this King? And does this not teach us much of Christ our King? From the place of ruin and despair, Mephibosheth would come to enter the palace of the king, to dine always with the king, to live ever in the presence of the king. Yea, in all of his days!

David added: "And thou shalt eat bread at my table continually." To Ziba, David said concerning Mephibosheth; "...thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table... As for Mephibosheth... he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons..." "And David's sons were chief rulers." 2 Sam. 8:18. ...So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table and was lame on both his feet." (2 Sam. 9:7, 10, 11 & 13).

In closing beloved, we see that Mephibosheth would remain crippled for life. It is a reminder to us that the effects of sin shall continually hinder us whilst we remain on this earth. It was but a small affliction to him now, for he had his daily sustenance from the king. Yea, just as we now do in feasting on His Word of Life. We can be filled daily and well nourished,

(Continued on Page 10 Column 1)

PRINCE

(Continued from Page 9)

if we would but daily come to the "king's table," we "shall not want." Thus we come to the Bible, we come to the "banqueting house." The pains of sin may often hinder us, but we ever remain sustained by the King's grace. We like Mephibosheth are, by Christ, indeed as "one of the King's sons." for we read in Romans 8:14 & 17, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ"... And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." See those young boys so long ago making a covenant in the field? But look beyond the field into eternity past to an even greater covenant.

Beloved, there is yet an even grander and more glorious day yet to befall us, when face to face we shall see the King in His beauty; and we shall surely dine with Him. Matthew 26:29, "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." In Luke 12:37 our Lord adds: "Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching; verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them." David gave forth his word and kept it. Why should we not believe Christ will do the same for us?

Mephibosheth bowed in humility and subjection to his king. He considered himself as but a "dead dog" (v. 8). Why? This was the very same expression that the King once used of himself before he was made king, when Saul sought to kill him. It was how his enemies saw him. A "dead dog" is considered as worthless and of no account. Thus a useless person, capable of no good. It was what Mephibosheth considered himself to be in the presence of one so great as the king. We notice that in v. 9, David did not rebuke him, nor seek to pacify him with words contrary to Mephibosheth's feelings. Mephibosheth reckoned himself as but an enemy of the king, worthy of death; but above all this he was enabled to see that "by grace are ye saved." He firmly believed in sovereign grace when he observed his Lord the King. And this, when rightfully and truthfully considered, ought to humble every child of God to praise Him! May this be our endeavor this day and every day. May the Lord bless this to your hearts.

COVENANT

(Continued from Page 1)

I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost (or dismissed His Spirit)" (John 19:25-30).

"For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JAN. 10, 1987

PAGE TEN

which we draw nigh unto God. And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made a priest: (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:) By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament" (Heb. 7:19-22).

The discussion this morning is the subject, "The Covenant of Redemption," and the text is found in John 19:30. It is the cry of the Master: "It is finished!"

We want to notice also in the book of Hebrews 7:22 the word "surety," which means sponsor of a better covenant, but let us notice first the cry of the Master in John 19:30. This is not the cry of the defeated. It was a victorious cry, for He had accomplished that which He came to do. Christ had finished the redemptive work. In short, He had completed, He had finished the work the Father gave Him to do. "It is finished," said the Master. Christ had finished the work.

Long before the morning stars sang together, long before the sons of God ever shouted for joy, the first Person, the second and third Persons of the Trinity formed a contract that we designate "The Covenant of Redemption." Over and over Jesus said, "I am come to do the work the Father gave me to do."

In John 18:37,38 when Jesus was brought before Pilate, Pilate said to Jesus, "Art thou a king then?" And Jesus answered, "Thou sayest that I am a king, to this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice."

Jesus said, "For this cause I was born, and for this cause I came into the world."

I tell you, beloved, salvation is not a hit or miss affair; Christ did not come into the world as a by-product; nor did He pour out His blood on Calvary's Hill by accident and just to satisfy blood-thirsty men. Christ died upon the cross to complete the Covenant of Redemption. This is a fact that cannot be successfully denied.

Jesus said in John 4:34 when He saved the woman at the well: "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." Jesus said, "I came to finish the work of the Father," and He finished it; for in John 17:4 we read: "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." And this was prior to His crucifixion; nevertheless, Jesus said, I have finished the work."

Now this isn't a contradiction of other texts in the Bible. In the reckoning of God, Jesus has always stood as the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8). God, therefore, evermore saw the cross upon which Jesus died, and in the reckoning of God the work had already been accomplished.

The text before us presents the age old question of sin. Sin is something that cannot be denied or shrugged away. Men cannot get rid of sin themselves, because sin is a state, and the ugly, ungodly things men do, the unholy, ungodly acts of men's lives are the results of his sinful state. It is his nature to do those things; they are the fruits of the state of man. Sin, therefore, is a state.

Here is a doctrine that cannot be denied, but it is a doctrine

which is despised by the religionist; for this involves man's totally inherent, lost, blinded condition: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

You know, people talk about the tragedy at Calvary. Beloved, that was no tragedy; that was a blessing. The tragedy was when Adam partook of the fruit of the forbidden tree and thereby plunged mankind under the condemnation of God. Romans 3:9: "...For we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin."

When God said that He had proved both Jews and Gentiles alike to be under sin, then all mankind was under the condemnation of God. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Everyone, everyone has sinned in the sight of God.

Romans 3:19: "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."

The world, therefore, is guilty before God, and the law stops the mouths of men; it points the finger of accusation at mankind and says, "You are guilty before God." You cannot deny this fact. In Romans 5:12 the Apostle Paul said this: "...By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

The Bible teaches that man is totally depraved, lost, blinded, ungodly, unholy and guilty before God. "We all have sinned in Adam" (Rom. 5:12), not so much because of Adam, but we sinned in Adam. In the original, in I Corinthians 15, it says that we sinned in Adam, died in Adam. Death came as a result of sin.

You know, the man, woman, boy or girl who denies the total depravity of mankind can't answer the question: why do babies and irresponsible persons die? Why do they die anyway? Because of the state of mankind, that is, sin. Then if babies and irresponsible persons go to heaven just because they are babies and irresponsible, then they ought to be killed in infancy.

"Why," you say, "what an awful thing to say!"

But I repeat, if babies and irresponsible persons go to heaven because they are babies, then they ought to be killed in infancy, because some of them might grow up and go to hell. Now don't you go away this morning and say that Brother Cox preached babies into hell; I didn't say that. But I tell you one thing; babies go to heaven to be sure; but not because they are babies, they go there because of the blood of Christ. That is the reason and the only reason they go there.

In Romans 5:13,14 the Apostle Paul goes a step further and says, "For until the law, sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come."

You know these religionists say that man could not have sinned when there was no law, but the Bible doesn't say that. Here is what the Bible does say: "Until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law" (Rom.

5:13).

Personal sins were not charged when there was no law existing. Paul tells us: "Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression..." (Rom. 5:14).

Why do you die? You died spiritually because of Adam's transgression, and you die physically because of the state of mankind. This old earth is under the curse of God.

I haven't tried this, but I have been told by men who farm that you can go out to a place where nothing will grow, clear and plant something, and the first thing that will come up will be thorns, weeds and thistles. Why? Read Genesis 3:17,19. God said to Adam because he had eaten of the fruit, "...cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

This is why you have thorns and thistles; this is why you have to chop the grass from cotton and corn, and other things you try to grow. The curse of God, the earth is cursed of God.

You stand in the silent city of the dead and read the markers on the tombstones. A man was born on a certain date and died on a certain date: these are the marks of sin. Sin has left its mark upon every man and age in the world. Sin marks can be seen everywhere, not just somewhere, mind you, but everywhere. The marks of sin are stamped everywhere. Every cemetery that has ever been, every jail and penitentiary, all have been built by sin. I repeat, sin has built them all. Every ungodly act that men perform is the result of his sinful nature, and it has left its imprint upon the hearts, souls and minds of men. Lo, for these six thousand years of earth's existence, it has been so. You may say then, "Brother Cox, were they not all lost before Moses, for Christ had not yet come and died? How could they have been saved?"

If I believed like most religious bodies today, I would have to say, "Yes, they were all lost, and they all went to hell."

But many of them were saved, and I'll tell you how they were saved. I told this at a meeting one time, and a few of the men said, "Amen," but some of them looked at me with consternation written all over their faces. I said, "The Old Testament saints were saved on credit; the note was signed by Jesus, and they were saved on credit; for Christ had not yet come and died upon the cross for men's sins."

How in the name of common sense could they have been saved any other way, but saved on the credit of Christ: Jesus signed their note; hence, they were saved. That is what Paul meant in Hebrews 7:22, "By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament."

He was their sponsor because He put His name on the note. He signed the note for the Old Testament saints. Let me illustrate the meaning. You may have heard this before, but please listen quietly for the next five minutes. I thought this was the greatest piece of literature I had ever read, and it blessed my

heart as I read it. It is an illustration in which old Christmas Evans demonstrated how Old Testament saints were saved.

Old Christmas Evans (talking about the Old Testament saints) said, "The whole world, guilty before God, is like a cemetery, a graveyard with a great iron fence built around the whole earth and they are on the inside and cannot get outside, and no one can get inside. There was a great iron gate, and the Sword of Justice stood there guarding the gate and no one could get in. The angel stood with the flaming Sword of Justice raised, and Mercy said, 'May I enter and relieve them?'"

Justice said, 'Thou may not!' The Sword of God's inexorable Justice said, 'Thou may not enter lest thou be struck down.' The inflexible justice and judgment of God keeps the tree of life: 'So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life' (Gen. 3:24).

And after awhile angels came, and Justice was standing there. The angels said, 'May we go in and relieve them?' Justice said, 'Thou may not!' Then the angels stood back and cried, 'Is there no hope?' Then came the answer: 'There is none; there is no hope.' Then one of the Cherubims of God, the angels so holy they burned in their own righteousness, came, but the Sword of Justice was still drawn and said, 'Thou may not enter.' There is no hope; man is left hopeless, helpless, without hope in the world; there is none to help. After awhile the Son of God came, stood and looked, but the angel with the drawn sword said, 'Thou may not enter.'

The Son of God said, 'I will be their sponsor; I will be their propitiation; I'll sign their note, and I will pay their debt.' The angel said, 'When?' The answer came: 'Four thousand years hence.' 'Where?' 'On Golgotha's Hill.'

There was a lapse of four thousand years, and one day Mercy and Justice were conversing. Justice said, 'Where is the One who is to pay the debt? Where is the One who signed the note?' And Mercy said, 'Look! Look yonder coming up Golgotha's Hill! See the One bent beneath the weight of the cross: That is He, that is the One who signed the note, the One who will pay the debt!' But Justice said, 'There is no other way.' The Cherubims said, 'Surely, Surely there must be another way! Surely God will not stand by and see the sword plunged into the heart of Jesus. Surely, there must be another way!'

But there was no other way: and Justice plunged the sword into the heart of Jesus; the flaming sword that kept the way of the tree of life was plunged into and killed the Son of God: and Justice was satisfied. "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities" (Isaiah 53:11).

Christ had paid the debt; He had settled the account on Calvary's tree. When the Son of God lifted His blood-streaked, blood-stained face--the blood that was poured out for you and for me--He said, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). He had com-

(Continued on Page 11 Column 1)

COVENANT

(Continued from Page 10)

pleted the work He came to do, the work of redemption. It was finished; the inexorable sword of justice fell on the Son of God, who took our place, died under our sins to pay our sin debt. You hear me now: Jesus paid the debt that we might go free.

You may ask me this morning, "Brother Pastor, how may I go free?" God's answer to you is: "In Jesus; for there is no other way." Acts 4:12 says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 10:43 "To him (Jesus) give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."

John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Thus, He settled the debt and we can go free.

If you are here without Christ, that is the tragedy. There isn't any tragedy worse than being without Christ, without life, without hope in the world, lost, world without end—lost, I know of no other word in the English language like the word "lost, lost, lost." My brethren, there is no word like it—lost! Men are lost; men are lost, men are lost. It is a terrible thing to be lost. Christ died because of that. He paid the debt and you may go free. How? By faith in Jesus Christ, the Lord, that's how. Just trust in Christ and go free.

Mercy is never given at the expense of God's justice; justice has to be met. Jesus paid our sin debt by dying under the inexorable justice of God—the flaming sword of justice pierced the side of Jesus for our sins. You may become the recipient of this sin payment by faith in the shed blood of Christ (Rom. 5:1). Come to Christ and be saved. Amen.

COMING

(Continued from Page 1)

to notice is Matthew 24:21,22, and reads as follows: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." That these words cannot be wholly referred to the sufferings of the Jews at the time of the siege and destruction of Jerusalem by Titus, A.D. 70, is shown by verses 29 to 31. These verses tell us that immediately after the tribulation of those days Christ will come in power and great glory. This clearly refers to the second phase of Christ's coming. Nothing that attended or resulted from the destruction of Jerusalem can fully satisfy these verses. It is true that according to verse 34 the destruction of Jerusalem brought about either a spiritual or a typical fulfillment of all that is predicted in this part of the discourse. The destruction of Jerusalem struck the death blow to Judaism, and marked the coming of the kingdom of God with power, as Jesus had foretold (Mark 9:1; Mat. 16:28; Luke 9:27). This

was a Spiritual fulfillment of all Christ said about His coming in this chapter. The siege of Jerusalem (A.D. 70) brought about a typical fulfillment of all He said about Jerusalem in this chapter. But the literal fulfillment of that which Christ said about His second coming, and the antitype of the siege of Jerusalem are yet to come. No believer in verbal inspiration can find in the destruction of Jerusalem a full and complete satisfaction of prophecy of this chapter. Its ultimate reference must be to the final siege of Jerusalem in the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:13-21; 19:11-21; Zech. 12:9-9; 14:1-7, 12-15); and to the personal and bodily coming of the Lord, as promised in Acts 1:11.

But in Revelation 6-19 we believe we have a far more extended and detailed description of this period. We take these chapters as descriptive of this period for the two following reasons:

(1) As we saw in the last article, we have in chapter 7 the sealing of the servants of God in the forehead; and only Jews are sealed. This shows that all Gentile believers (and previous Jewish believers) have been taken out of the earth, and therefore, that the rapture of the saints (which will occur at the first phase of Christ's coming—I Thess. 4:15-17) has already taken place. Then the second phase of Christ's coming is clearly pictured in Revelation 19:11-21. Therefore, we take the intervening section of the book as describing the interim between the two phases of Christ's coming. And we relate chapter six to this period because we regard the riders of the four horses (6:2-8) the same as the four angels (7:1-3) whose work is restrained until after the sealing of the servants of God.

(2) Then in Revelation 7:14 we have a reference to the great tribulation in the following words: "These are they who came out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (R.V.). These words were spoken of the numberless multitude in verse 9. The original here is very emphatic. It says literally: "These are they who are coming out of tribulations, the great one." It is not just tribulation in general that is spoken of here; it is a definite and particular tribulation, viz., the great one. In this verse the present participle, "are coming out," shows the great tribulation to be in progress. Thus we assign this section of the book to the great tribulation period.

2. The length of this period.

It is our conviction that this period will be seven years in length. We hold this conviction because the combined time of the prophesying of the two witnesses (Rev. 11:3) and the career of the Beast (Rev. 13:5) is approximately seven years. Note that the witnesses are to prophesy "a thousand two hundred and threescore days" (approximately three years and a half); then the Beast is to arise and kill them (Rev. 11:7), and is to continue "forty and two months" (Rev. 13:5). It is our opinion that the witnesses will begin testifying soon after the rapture, and since the Beast is to be destroyed when Christ comes to judge and make war (Rev. 19:11-21; II Thess. 2:8), we conclude that the length of the intervening period is to be found by the

above method. It will be noted that we take the thousand, two hundred, and threescore days and the forty-two months literally. We do this in harmony with the rule mentioned in our last article. We find no reason for taking it otherwise either in the passages themselves, or in their context, or in any other Scripture.

3. The horrors of this period.

This period is to be the "day" of God's wrath. During this period the God to whom vengeance belongeth will avenge Himself of the treatment this world has accorded His Son and His saints. He will fully avenge His elect (Luke 18:7; Rev. 6:9,10). He will pour out the vials of His wrath to the last bitter dregs upon this old sinned and devil-darkened earth. The earth will be wrested from the devil and his people and given to the people of God (Matt. 5:5).

We regard Revelation 6:12-17 as a picture of the turmoil, trouble, fear, and consternation that shall come upon the world at the time of the rapture of the saints; the beginning of this period. Coming to the realization that Christ has come for His saints and that God's day of wrath is upon them, the inhabitants of the earth are represented as saying to the mountains and rocks: "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (This gives us some idea of the horrors of this period. Then as we see in rapid succession the depiction of war, famine, death, and plagues and torment of every kind, we surely cannot fail to realize something of the horrors of this period. We are told that "in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and death shall flee from them" (Rev. 9:6). The inhabitants of earth in this period will get a veritable foretaste of hell. And here we would speak a word to every lost soul. If today Christ should come for His saints, you would be left here to go through this awful period, whose horrors are indescribable. Christ may come at any moment! Therefore, we urge you "to flee from the wrath to come." Turn from your sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ! (Luke 13:3; Acts 16:31).

4. Will the gospel be preached during this period?

This is a much controverted question, but we unhesitatingly give an affirmative answer as our opinion. In chapter eleven, as we have seen already, we have the mention of God's two witnesses. We have stated already that we believe these two witnesses will prophesy during the interim between the two phases of Christ's coming. We believe they will preach the gospel and announce the millennial kingdom, just as Christ and the apostles preached the gospel and announced the Spiritual kingdom (the kingdom of God) and the temporal phase of the kingdom of heaven. We can think of no other message God would have for the world during this period. Then we take the numberless multitude depicted in Revelation 7:9-17 to represent those who are saved during this period, and who, having been martyred or otherwise died, are immediately caught up to heaven, just as it is said the two witnesses will be (Rev. 11:7-12). Also we take the sheep in the

judgment of the nations (Matt. 24:31-46) to be people who have believed and been saved during the great tribulation period. Someone may inquire how people will be saved during this period. We answer that they will be saved exactly like all others have been saved. God has never had, and never will have, but one way of salvation. That one way is by grace through faith. "But," someone may say, "how can people be saved after the Holy Spirit has been taken out of the world?" The answer is that they will be saved just like they were before the day of Pentecost. During the great tribulation period the Holy Spirit will have access to the world just like He did before the day of Pentecost.

5. Who are the two witnesses who will prophesy during this period?

We do not regard the two witnesses (Rev. 11:1-12) as merely two individuals. Two persons could not bear an adequate testimony to the world in three years and a half. And since there are to be a hundred and forty-four thousand saved Jews in the world during the first part of the tribulation period, we take these two witnesses to represent them. We think the significance of the number "two" lies in the fact that the hundred and forty-four thousand are of both Israel and Judah. We are confirmed in the opinion that the two witnesses represent the hundred and forty-four thousand because after the witnesses are killed they are taken up to heaven (Rev. 11:12), and then in chapter fourteen we have the hundred and forty-four thousand seemingly already taken out of the earth. Moreover, we take this hundred and forty-four thousand Jews to be the brethren of Jesus referred to in the account of the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25:31-46.

(Copied from The Baptist Examiner, July, 1931).

PASTOR

(Continued from Page 1)

love of God? For Jehovah says: "I love you" (Mal. 1:2) and then goes on to rebuke you for your sins (Mal. 1: 6, 7; 2:8, etc); as well as commend you for what is good (Mal. 3:16-17; 4:2). And it is this love wherewith your pastor loves you.

Anyone who reads the life or sermons of George Whitefield knows how harshly he thundered out against sin of every kind. Hear now what one historian says of him: "How bold and courageous did he look! He was no flatterer; would not suffer men to settle on their lees; did not prophesy smooth things... He taught the way of God in truth, and regarded not the persons of men. He struck at the politest and most modish of our vices and at the most fashionable and entertainments, regardless of every one's presence." Yet he did so out of love for men, for the same writer also relates: "One great secret of Whitefield's power, was his tender, intense love of souls."

Perhaps you have never been allowed to probe into those moments when your pastor in secret breaks down before God and sighs and cries and dies for you! Do not be too quick to answer: "Not our pastor!" With many shepherds it is too sacred a matter to surrender to before their people, even to any vocal expression of their intense love for them. This may be wrong. Let us hope it is not pride, with some.

It may be that the Apostle Paul (with a true pastor's heart) had that same difficulty in relating his love in person to his beloved Philippians, but when hell was away from them he could no longer contain himself and wrote to them: "God is my witness how I yearn for you all with the affection of 'Christ Jesus himself!'" (Phil. 1:8. American Trans.).

It could be that Austin Phelps was reluctant to tell out all the love of his heart for his congregation of the old Pine Street Church in Boston. After six years he left them to teach in Andover Seminary, but when a few years before his death he received a package containing an album of the photographs of his old Pine Street people, all the living who could be found, all the dead whose portraits could be copied; he took the book, turned the pages, his hands trembled violently, he did not speak. In a moment he broke down utterly, and went sobbing from the room.

II. HATRED

"A mentally — healthy person must be able to hate as well as love," so said Dr. Henry H. Hart, consulting psychiatrist at Yale University. He deplored the attitude of clergymen toward hate, pointing out: "I have never heard of a priest or minister speak of the need of hate from the pulpit." Yet Jehovah commands all who love Him to "hate evil!" (Psa. 97:10).

Expect, therefore, your pastor to show anger, wrath, or hatred when he fires his homiletic barrage against sin. Should he not preach as if he means what he says? Also do not lose confidence in the ministry forever if he should register a degree of wrath against wickedness outside the safer confines of the pulpit. Your pastor is not to remove his convictions as easily as he takes off his pulpit gown (if he wears one).

III. SORROW

The chief Shepherd of God's flock (I Pet. 5:4) was a "man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" when upon earth (Isa. 53:3). "The sorrows of Jesus appear on every page of the Gospels." As the good Shepherd gathers His elect into the fold He will still weep time and again through His undershepherds — even your pastor. Zion will never be built up without a weeping Nehemiah (Neh. 1:4), or at least a Nehemiah with "sorrow of heart" (Neh. 2:2). "I remember your tears," Paul penned Timothy (II Tim 1:4, RSV). In fact, Paul himself oftentimes preached with tears (Acts 20:31).

I fear that some of us have become so hypnotized by the smiling, joking master of ceremonies on TV that we think our pastors should take a page from their book — but, beloved, your preacher and you are in a life and death battle for souls — and there is sin and sorrow all about us!

IV. JOY

With all the sadness in the cure and care of souls there is also gladness. "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing" (II Cor. 6:10). What delight your pastor has in counseling his sheep from the testimony of Scripture (Psa. 119:24). What pleasure to him to visit in your home (Acts 15:36). What great joy for him to give himself to prayer for you

(Continued on Page 12 Column 1)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JAN. 10, 1987

PAGE ELEVEN

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

PASTOR

(Continued from Page 11)

and to the preparation and preaching of God's Word (Acts 6:4; Isa. 61:1-3). And when your pastor sees some of the fruit of his labors in the wayward restored, or the wicked regenerated and baptized into the Church (St. Luke 15:3-7; Acts 2:37-47) — what rejoicing! (Psa. 126:6). But be these changing circumstances as they will your pastor's unshakeable joy (like yours) is in the unchanging Christ! (Hab. 3:17-18).

V. FEAR

Certainly your pastor has fears. Undoubtedly he entered the ministry with fear and trembling — and here he had plenty of company, with Moses (Ex. 4:10), Isaiah (Isa. 6:5), Jeremiah (Jer. 1:4-6), Paul (I Cor. 2:1-3). Let us hope that he still enters the pulpit with the same holy dread.

Phillips Brooks once told some students, in preaching to beware the day when they stood up in the pulpit without shaking knees. When that time came, they would find they would be preaching themselves, and not God. It is not that your pastor does not trust God, but that he does not trust himself. The arm of the Almighty is powerful enough, but the instrument He has chosen may fail. Pray that your pastor may be always like Levi. He feared Jehovah and stood in awe of His name and turned many away from iniquity (Mal 2:5-7). In that fear all other fears will find their proper balance in your pastor to make you mindful of the living presence of the Master.

GEORGIA

by David S. West
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Cross, SC. 29436

Recently I made a trip down into Georgia. I was invited to visit with the Grace Missionary Baptist Church. Aaron West is the pastor of this church. Aaron is my son in the flesh, my son in the faith, and I claim him as my son in the ministry. He is also my brother in the Lord. I am proud of him. He is doing a good job there with the church. I have another son who is in the ministry, Samuel, who is pastoring Pinehill Baptist Church near Summerville, SC. I can say the same about him that I did about Aaron. I am proud of both of them. I have six children, three boys and three girls and I am proud of all of them. They are all working faithful in the churches where they attend.

The church where Aaron is pastoring is a new church. They have recently acquired a piece of property near Savannah, Ga. and also near to a little town by the name of Blitchton, Ga. They had also purchased a trailer in which they had been holding services. They had a struggle in finding a place to park the trailer. They have now moved it onto the property they have contracted to buy.

This property is a wooded area, and there was a lot of work to be done. The church had a day of working on Saturday, Oct. 25th. I was there for this working also. The men and the women gathered with their shovels, their hoes, their axes, and rakes. They cut bushes, piled stump, roots and burned

them. They had rented a small front end loader to move trash and to dig up stumps and what ever came handy with it. You should have seen the enthusiasm of these people. All gave a hand in the work. This was a good day of work.

On Sunday we all met for service in the trailer. Aaron brought the Sunday School lesson. Then, following the singing, I brought the morning message. I enjoyed preaching to these people. At the close of the morning service, the lady folk of the church served a fine meal which we all enjoyed. After a little while of fellowship, we met again. After hearing some good singing, I again preached, and this closed the service for the day.

The church now is struggling to get things in order. They are able to make their payment on the property and also to make the payments on the trailer. They do not yet have lights or water. They rented an outside rest room. But they are not letting this hinder them. This is no drawback to keep them from being faithful. So you can see why they are having to have all their services in the day time.

This church and these people need your help and prayers. Many of you are looking for some place to do mission work in this country, well this is it.

In case you are wondering where this church came from I will give you some information. Grace missionary Baptist Church was set up under the authority of the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, where I pastor; and this church is near Charleston, SC. Landmark was set up under the authority of Ella Grove Missionary Baptist Church near Glennville, Ga. Ella Grove was set up under the authority of Beard's creek Baptist Church, and this church was set up by an arm from a church that predates the Civil War. However, this church was destroyed during the Civil War, and this is as far as we can trace our history. We cannot trace our history back to Christ. I doubt if there is anyone that can. This is not necessary. We know that Christ has perpetuated His churches through the ages and will continue to do so until He comes the second time. (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:21).

If the Lord should move upon any of you to support his work, which is so badly needed, and which will be so graciously received; you may send such to the treasurer of the church, his address is: Wendell Allen, 236 Holiday Dr., Savannah, Ga. 31419. May God's grace be with His churches.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Readers in the Brandon, Fla. area are invited to attend the services at Landmark Baptist Mission. The Church and her pastor are interested in meeting others of like faith. The pastor of the church is Dan Allen. He writes and wants people to know that they preach the doctrines of grace and church truth. They are meeting at 129 N. Moon Ave. Brandon, Fla. They are meeting at the Women's Club. 10:30 Sunday morning, and 7:00 p.m. Sunday night. They also have a Thursday night service at 7:30 p.m. If interested you may contact the pastor at: Landmark Baptist Mission 107 Jeffrey Dr., Brandon, Fla. 33511. Phone 685-0617.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The Baptist Examiner is in need of some equipment, and may soon be in need of even more. At present we are considering and we greatly two typewriters and a copier for our work. Our future needs involve a computer and printer. Our present addressing equipment is very ancient. We would like to have equipment so as to be able to set up the paper ready for the printer, thus doing one major step of the work ourselves. This would give us more control over the actual set up as it appears in print. Technically, we would like to be able to get the paper "camera ready" ourselves. This would save money eventually and would decrease the time between set up and printing. We feel we could do a better job in this way. Any equipment purchased for this work would belong totally and solely to Calvary Baptist Church. No individual would have ownership or control of said equipment. If you would like to give something toward this equipment, it would be greatly appreciated. Mark any such donations as such. They will be so used, returned to you, or disposed of as you would say.

I WANT TO SEE JESUS

How I want to see Jesus,
The one I so adore,
As I travel day to day,
Til time will be no more.

And rest at His dear feet,
Oh what a perfect prize.

I want to see Him
Who can make me smile,
Who holds my hand,
Along that country mile.

When I worship Him
With the Church in song,
I know it is with Jesus,
I really do belong

He cheers my soul
He comforts when I'm sad,
With His precious word
He makes me oh so glad.

When in the world
I have to go, some days,
He is there to help me
Protects and guides my ways.

He gives me strength
As the day demands,
I'm so glad my Jesus
Holds me by His hand.

For all He does for me,
How can I to Him repay
Just believe in Me.
Is all I heard Him say.

When I am sick
I look to Him so much,
He smiles so lovingly
And says I must trust.

Tis such a little thing
You do ask of me,
When for ALL my SINS,
You died on Calvary.

When I kneel and pray,
My spirit seems to rise,

I looked at Him with question,
That isn't very much,
With kindly smile He said again
Just, believe and trust.

BOOK REVIEW

We have a book in our book store. It is Baptist Doctrines And History by D.N. Jackson. This title is very misleading. The book is not in any sense a book covering the doctrines believed by true Baptist churches. The book is about what Baptists believe about the church. Brother Jackson did not know what true Baptists believe about the Doctrines of Grace, but he did know a good bit about church truth. For my part, I am glad that the book limits itself to church doctrine; for in this it is pretty good. The book is seriously marred, in my opinion, by its favorable teaching about Associations, and by its teaching about Associational mission work. For my part, I have never been able to see a great difference between Conventions and Associations, but it seems that Association boys make much of this difference. I believe in absolute independence for each true church — of men, that is, not independent of the Lord. The book is fairly good in its teaching about the church, very good in some points. I would recommend it with the aforementioned reservations and cautions. It is a

paper back book of nearly 100 pages and sells for \$3.50. It may be ordered from our book store.

The Baptist Bookshelf is a ministry of reprinting good Baptist books. It is under the authority of the First Baptist Church of Nappanee, Indiana. Brother Ralph Hawkins is the pastor of this church. Brother Medford Caudill works with Brother Hawkins in this work. They have recently reprinted another Baptist book. It is "The Church In The Wilderness" of "The Baptists Before The Reformation." The book is by W.W. Everts, Jr. Many people think that Baptists are a part — a late part — of the Protestant Reformation. This certainly is not true. In fact, Baptists are not Protestants at all in this sense of the word. This book shows us that there were Baptist churches here before the time of the Protestant Reformation, even back to the days of the New Testament. The book is well written and well documented. I highly recommend this book. It is a paperback. It has over fifty pages. It sells for \$2.25. Order from our book store. You can also order this book from The Baptist Bookshelf, P.O. Box 13, Nappanee, Ind. 46550.

NO PROBLEM

We like to hear "no problem"
The words bring comfort to know
If we think we cannot pay a debt
And our assets register low.

We wonder if our health is good
If there's a deeper cause for pain,
The physician says "no problem there"
And we tend to bless his name.

"No problem" says the evi one,
To many steeped in sin,
"Don't stop to take a second look
At the mess you're getting in."

We do have a "problem"
Says the Judge of all the earth
This weight of sin upon us,
Which began the day of birth.

But God hath decreed a solution
In mercy He sets free,
Those of us who love the Son
And prepare for eternity.

FAITH

Faith is the amount of belief
One has in the Lord,
To be guided to higher ground
Through prayer with the Master's accord.

The roots of one's faith deepens
By submissions to His fortitude,
And the answer He bestows
Is received with gratitude.

The Lord shows forth His creative power
Comprising answers from yonder places,
And we must wait with patience
As he chooses the aspects and interlaces.

We must be willing
To bend to His testament,
And when His aim is attained
Tranquility is our betterment.